

The Sojourner's Truth

Volume 61, No. 6

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

May 13, 2020



Toledo Copes with COVID-19

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You win in the locker room first. Then you play the game.

- Mike Smith

The next executive director of the Lucas County Democratic Party faces many challenges, the least of which, perhaps, are a resurgent local and an entrenched national Republican Party. The local Dems, seen by many as a Party that has lost its way, must first win the battle for its own soul.

Who Will Lead?

The Dems' central committee will meet soon and is likely choose either former legislator Michael Ashford or attorney Keith Mitchell as their next leader.

Ashford seems to have the early advantage, having solidified support in approximately 100 of 192 possible precincts. He has also assembled a

Michael Ashford

The Sojourner's Truth
 Toledo's Truthful African American
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The Congressional Tri-Caucus Statement on the Lynching of Ahmaud Arbery

The chairmen of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) — also known as the Congressional Tri-Caucus — have released the following statement on the racially motivated killing of Ahmaud Arbery, who was targeted by two white men, while jogging in his neighborhood:



Ahmaud Arbery

“On February 23, 2020, a young Ahmaud Arbery’s life was cut short because two White men were uncomfortable with an unarmed Black man jogging in the neighborhood they shared. What the world witnessed on the video that leaked was yet another racially-motivated murder in our country. How many times will we continue to see such heinous acts of White supremacy? And how many times will it take a



U.S. Rep. Karen Bass

national public outcry to result in an arrest? We have come to a critical juncture in our country, where we must be honest with ourselves and call these crimes what they really are - lynchings. Arbery was targeted, harassed, and then killed. His death is a vicious reminder that the past is never that far away. As recently as two years ago, a White man who lynched a Black man was convicted and executed. This is why the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Bill needs to be passed and signed in to law. This bill passed the House in February and is still sitting on the desk of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to

be taken up for a vote. It is unfortunate that at a time when our communities are being devastated by COVID-19, we are also saddled with pain of modern-day lynchings,” said Congresswoman Karen Bass (CA-23), chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

“Were it not for the horrific video that showed two White men deliberately hunting down an unarmed Black man while he was simply out on his daily jog, there might never have been justice for the cold-blooded murder of Ahmaud Arbery. Even now, justice is not guaranteed, as shown by our country’s poor track record of successfully prosecuting the murders of unarmed Black men and boys. Ahmaud was killed solely because of his skin color, just as so many before him have been. This is a fear felt acutely in the Black community and we must take action to address the deep-seated racism and inequities in our society that have enabled these atrocities to happen. Ahmaud’s killers must be brought to justice to send a clear signal that vigilantes and White supremacists who decide to act on nothing but their

own prejudices are criminals who will be held accountable for their actions,” said Congresswoman Judy Chu (CA-27), chairwoman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.



U.S. Rep. Judy Chu

“Justice can never be fully achieved because Ahmaud Arbery, a young black man with a beautiful future, should still be alive. The arrest of his accused killers is delayed and necessary news, but it is merely the first step for holding those responsible for his death accountable for their actions. From Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia to Sean Reed in Indiana to Michael Ramos in Texas, young people of color are not free from persecution and are afraid for their safety. We have all witnessed the injustice, and now we must marshal our collective moral and political will for systemic reform and real change,” said Congressman Joaquin Castro (TX-20), chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.



U.S. Rep. Joaquin Castro

While the father and son duo Gregory McMichael and Travis McMichael have finally been arrested and charged for their crime, history has shown us that this is not enough. For justice to be served for Ahmaud Arbery and his family, all involved parties must be arrested, tried and convicted to the highest extent of the law for their role in his murder. No one is above the law.

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Letter to The Editor

Let's go back to the "B Movie" type of press conference, President Trump had several months ago when he proclaimed he was the "War President." Then, shortly after that President Trump agreed with the Chief of Naval Operations and Acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modley, that Captain Brett Crozier was unfit to command the U.S.S. Roosevelt.



Captain Crozier, made a command decision that personified leadership, integrity and courage by alerting his superiors to the members of his crew testing positive to the coronavirus. He, asked "what he could do for his country" (the 4,800 women and men under his command.)

Subsequently, Acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modley has resigned for unauthorized flight to Guam that cost us taxpayers \$243,000. Thus, Commander-in-Chief Trump must take responsibility for this unauthorized action by Mr. Modley. Therefore, Mr. Trump is no longer interested in being the "War President."

Additionally, Mr. Trump isn't interested nor cognizant that the women and men who are the crew of the U.S.S. Roosevelt, are the first military members to suffer from the Post-Traumatic Coronavirus Stress Disorder.

We veterans have only to wait until the Congress convenes to restore

our coronavirus hero, Captain Crozier, back to command of the U.S.S. Roosevelt as one of our first heroes in the War against the coronavirus.

Best regards,
Clarence Gafeney
2420 Valentine Street
Toledo, OH 43605

Preparing Campus: UToledo Aims to Open Campus in the Fall

Special to The Truth

The University of Toledo is preparing to open campus for the fall 2020 semester with plans to resume face-to-face instruction.

Following the guidance of Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, University officials have been discussing a number of scenarios to safely reopen on-campus operations. Among the considerations are personal protective equipment, the ability to maintain necessary social distancing and contact tracking measures, as well as robust cleaning and disinfecting of all campus facilities.

"We are doing everything in our power to prepare our campuses to open for the fall semester," said Dr. Karen Bjorkman, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. "As the state of Ohio has begun a gradual and methodical reopening of the state, we expect to safely resume in-person education at The University of Toledo this fall."

Teams across the University have been developing plans to reopen the University's campuses following the March closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These groups are reviewing and preparing plans for all facets of campus operations, including research and sponsored programs, public safety, facilities management, information technology, residence life, dining services, etc. The teams will be recommending a number of new measures, guidelines and precautions needed to inhibit the spread of COVID-19.

Regular updates continue to be posted on the University's COVID-19 website. Should state or federal guidance cause a change in the University's plans for the fall, communication will be shared immediately with the campus community as has been UToledo's practice throughout the pandemic.

"It will take all of us — working together — to create and maintain a safe campus environment this fall," Bjorkman said.

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African-American Business Professionals Share Tools and Resources for Small and Microbusiness Owners

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

In the midst of the COVID pandemic, a group of African American business professionals discussed the impact and resources available for business professionals during a 90-minute Facebook Live event on Thursday, May 7, 2020.

Will Lucas, the founder and owner of Creadio, served as panel moderator. The panelists included: Kala Gibson, executive vice president and head of Business Banking for Fifth Third Bank; Jeff Johnson, chief of the Minority Business Development Division for the State of Ohio; Craig Teamer, Finance and Special Projects Manager for Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority and Ambrea Mikolajczyk, owner of Ark Restoration.

"We're going to be talking about a few things, particularly black-owned businesses and small businesses. It's because we're taking a disproportionate hit economically and physically from the pandemic," stated Lucas.

The panelists discussed why African-American business owners, small or microbusiness owners need assistance during the pandemic that has a higher mortality rate in the African-American community.

"When you get hit with coronavirus and your business must shut down for a period of time, it's hard to sustain yourself. It's hard if you're not generating enough cash to keep on hand, because a disturbance like this can be detrimental," explained Johnson.

One common theme among all the panelists was the importance of building banking relationships and outlining specific areas that should become a priority if lacking. For instance, entrepreneurs should update their business plan, work on improving their credit score, understand the difference between personal and company credit, develop a marketing strategy and update financial projections.

"It's incredibly important to have strong banking relationships. We all heard the statistics about how minority-owned businesses were shut out of the Paycheck Protection program (PPP). You should know the names of your teller, banking manager and branch manager. These individuals should know your business plan and how you want to grow your business, so they know how to leverage their capital. Never be afraid to talk to everyone about your business needs, when you're trying to propel your business forward. Look at your banking institution as your business partner who can ensure your growth," said Mikolajczyk.

"Banking institutions like Fifth Third have community bankers, and their job is to assist businesses. We used our community bankers to reach out, grab and bring in those small business owners into our banking locations. And for those who are not bankable now, we want to assist you so you're ready in the future. It's not just about access to capital, but also providing our clients

access to information," added Gibson.

The Toledo area has several available community partners that have loans and grants available specifically to address recovery of local businesses.

"The Port Authority provides financial economic development. The Port Authority has stepped in to provide access to capital for business owners who may not have relationships with bankers. At the Port we are here to help businesses, we don't hold onto capital, and now is the time that institutions need to offer liquidity. Our doors at the Port are open and we understand that this is a tough time, we want to be a part of the solution to make sure that businesses have access to information and capital to make it through to the other side," explained Teamer.

"Once this pandemic hit, we worked with our business partners to provide access to ecommerce training, touchless retail, and incorporating technology into their businesses. We're helping them adjust to this new normal," added Johnson.

The Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce (TAACC) provides resources that can benefit African American small business owners and entrepreneurs. The TAACC offers three distinct programs year-round: a mentor program that pairs a mentee with a seasoned professional who maps out the mentee strategic milestones; a legal assistance program and also the technology education and support program.

"African American entrepreneurs and small business owners should connect with organizations designed to support them, there's many but I'll just name a few like TAACC, Jumpstart and ASSETS Toledo," said Roy Hodge, TAACC president and CEO of REH Systems Solutions. "Those are three in the minority community whose mission is solely developing entrepreneurs. There are also on-going free webinars offered by TAACC and Jumpstart that are available on their websites and Facebook. It's important that entrepreneurs increase their knowledge and skill set so they can pivot to a new model, we characterize this new model as e-commerce. A good example of e-commerce is Amazon. The rest of the world is pivoting to that model and COVID has accelerated that direction."

The Facebook Live event was organized by the Toledo Lucas County Health Department.

Local resources for businesses:

- African American Chamber of Commerce, 419-407-6697
- City of Toledo Minority Business Center Emergency Microenterprise Re-

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UToledo Scientists Discover New Targets for Preventing Damage from Viral Infections

Special to The Truth

When the body faces stressful conditions such as high temperatures or lack of nutrients, cells produce the same large structures they make to combat virus infections.

Scientists at The University of Toledo discovered the connection that could be an attractive bulls-eye to aim for when identifying new antiviral targets and immune modulators to fight diverse viruses.

"In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this is a promising avenue to protect people by enhancing immune response and stop the spread of deadly viral infections," Dr. Malathi Krishnamurthy, associate professor in the UToledo Department of Biological Sciences, said. "There is an urgent need to identify new drugs and new drug targets."

Research published in the Journal of Virology shows how cells in our body use a unique platform that is normally made during stress to combat virus infection. These new targets have potential to lead to new drug therapies to prevent serious damage to human health by harmful viruses.

"Understanding the molecular mechanisms of how the body defends itself is critical for the development of new treatment strategies against viruses," Krishnamurthy said. "Currently available antiviral therapies target viral replication or viral proteins, but high mutation rates of viruses often lead to drug resistance. Therefore, identification of host response pathways identified in these studies that are common to many viruses can be used to combat a broad range of viral infections, including SARS-CoV2, and improve human health."

In this study, the researchers demonstrated how a combination of proteins and RNAs called stress granules produced in response to different types of environmental stress also is produced when an enzyme present in all our cells called Ribonuclease L (RNase L) is "turned on" in virus-infected cells.

During virus infection, double-stranded RNA (dsRNA) molecules are produced that alert the host cells of an infection to activate immune pathways.

Specialized cells in our body sense these dsRNAs, which are unique to a virus-infected cell, and produce a chemical called interferon to protect the

body and clear the virus infection.

These interferons activate RNase L, which is "turned on" by a small molecule that is produced only during virus infection, and its activity produces more dsRNA to produce more interferon to clear the virus.

"In addition to RNase L, several other proteins in our cells orchestrate response to virus infection, and timely expression and coordination of response is critical to fight viral infections," Krishnamurthy said.

Unlike the body's response to conventional stress, these stress granules produced during virus infection orchestrate a more effective and rapid response to increase interferon production to clear viruses.

"Many viruses adapt and evade these host response pathways, and knowledge gained from these studies may help scientists find targets that can prevent serious damage to human health by harmful viruses," Krishnamurthy said.

African American Business... continued from page 5

covery Grant Program for for-profit businesses with five or few employees and priority consider for applicants that didn't receive PPP funding (open for applications May 11-24, visit <http://toledo.oh.gov/emrgrant>)




- Jumpstart, 567-218-1717
- Lucas County Public Library, 419-259-5200
- SCORE, virtual mentoring each Tuesday and Thursday from two to five people, 419-259-7598
- Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority offers Small Business Administration 504 Loan program, Diversified Contractor Accelerator Program, 419-243-8251
- Toledo Regional Chambers of Commerce: Northwest Ohio Business Reboot Initiative, Small Business Development Center, and business-related webinars, 419-243-8191




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City of Toledo Providing Help for Microbusinesses

By Asia Nail

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

One way or another, COVID-19 has likely affected your business — for better or worse.

This week the City of Toledo is quickly providing direct assistance and access to state and national resources on one main objective: saving microbusinesses.

Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, during a virtual news conference accompanied by members of Toledo City Council last Thursday, announced the formation of a new emergency resource created to assist the smallest and most vulnerable businesses within Toledo. The initiative, titled the Emergency Microenterprise Recovery Grant (EMRG) Program, will provide up to \$5,000 grants to qualifying local businesses with five or fewer employees.

Microenterprises contribute greatly to the vitality of our neighborhoods, support families, create jobs and are essential to the economic health of the City of Toledo. "While they are small in size, they have an outsized importance to our economy," said Kapszukiewicz.



Toledo Councilman Tyrone Riley

Yvonne Harper, District 4 City Councilwoman, shared her excitement stating, "I know a lot of small businesses this will positively affect. More importantly, I am proud that it will be very simple for those businesses to follow the guidelines of this opportunity and apply."

Applicants must meet at least one of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's eligibility requirements: owns a business located in a low-to-moderate income census tract or business owner's household income does not exceed 80 percent of HUD area median income. This is great news for local black-owned businesses who account for more than a third of businesses located in these areas.

Councilman Gary Johnson, vice chairman of Economic Development, said: "I really do feel our city is only as strong as its weakest link. If we are out helping micro businesses EMERG it only makes Toledo stronger!"

Johnson understands from his personal experience as a local business owner added: "I started exactly the way many micro businesses do, with one person inside the office and two of us out in the field working to get our business going. I can see a lot of these micro businesses emerging to larger businesses and being an intricate part of Toledo's tax base."

Throughout the U.S there is mounting evidence that the coronavirus pandemic disproportionately affects African Americans, both economically and physically.

Rosalyn Clemens, Housing Commissioner for the City of Toledo explained, "These are hard times for our city. This program shows that the

... continued on page 8



Toledo Councilman Gary Johnson



Toledo Councilwoman Yvonne Harper

For those businesses unable to qualify for the Small Business CARES Act, this relief is right on time.

EMRG is specifically designed to assist for-profit microenterprises in maintaining or restarting their operations, by providing up to \$5,000 for eligible operating expenses incurred between March 1 and June 30. The program is funded with \$1 million of the \$4.4 million

COVID-19 CARES Act Community Development Block Grant Funds and awards are subject to federal requirements.

Councilman Tyrone Riley, vice chairman of City Council's Neighborhoods Committee thanked both the mayor and fellow members of Council explaining, "Without this relief many small businesses simply will not make it. They would not reopen their doors and that would be tragic. For these businesses, \$5,000 will go a long way in helping their doors stay open."

Access to capital is a critical element of driving small business and its economic growth in urban markets. With this in mind, there is a relatively tight window for applications to be accepted, so owners are urged not to delay. The grant application period begins Monday, May 11, and closes at midnight, Sunday, May 24.

Sandy Spang, Toledo's Small Business Services Commissioner, shared her optimism for owners explaining, "So many of the pieces in this program came out of conversations with small businesses expressing the struggle they are having with the effects of Covid-19. I'm so grateful we were able to put together a program that can support them as they use the same creativity and tenacity that they used to build their businesses and help them to emerge."

Truthfully, there is no individual city or state that has the resources to fully address the economic crisis we're facing. Yet these provisions are designed to ensure that businesses emerge, stay afloat and that, once coronavirus subsides, our city will be able to quickly get its economy back up and running.

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COVID-19 Update: Reopening of Restaurants, Bars, and Personal Care Services

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, Lt. Governor Jon Husted, and Dr. Amy Acton, MD, MPH, last week announced the next phase of the Responsible RestartOhio plan as it relates to restaurants, bars, and personal care services.

As part of last week's announcement, Governor DeWine reminded Ohioans that COVID-19 is still incredibly dangerous and stressed the importance of continuing to exercise safe health habits as different sectors of the economy begin to reopen.

"Reopening Ohio is a risk, but it's also a risk if you don't move forward. We're on a dangerous road that has never been traveled before in Ohio and the danger is that we relax and stop taking precautions," said Governor

DeWine. "All of us collectively control this. I ask you to take calculated risks and make good judgments. Continue social distancing, washing your hands, and wearing face coverings. If you aren't concerned with what happens to you, do it for others."

RESTAURANTS/BARS:

Restaurants and bars in Ohio will be permitted to reopen as follows:

- * Outdoor dining: May 15
- * Dine-in service: May 21

... continued on page 11

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administration and the council can rise to the occasion and quickly come up with an initiative that helps our most vulnerable businesses." Most notably she also stated, "We will be bringing the COVID-19 legislation before the Mayor by May 19th to review all of the other proposed initiatives that we will be hoping to use the 4.4 million of COVID funding that the city has been awarded. Our goal is the passage of the legislation by May 26th so we can then get it to HUD for quick approval."

The coronavirus is showing us all how interconnected we all are, as the contagion is infecting people across race, class, gender, and age. Black businesses have historically struggled to obtain capitalization resources far before this national crisis, making them more vulnerable to inevitable shocks to the market.

Councilman Rob Ludeman, chairman of the Economic Development Committee, reminded: "Drastic times call for drastic measures and this is the perfect example of drastic times. This is an integral program to get

things jump started."

The political leaders emphasized they will continue to address these systematic failures with programs like EMERG.

If long term recovery is a priority, they said, spending bills must continue to address the needs that still exist. If area residents are all in this together, then various local elected officials believe they must address the legislations that have kept black owned and microenterprises behind the eight-ball even before the emergence of coronavirus.

A special thank you, they noted, to Fifth Third Bank, which was instrumental in creating the grant program by donating banking services and disbursing funds to grantees.

EMRG is a one-time program that will terminate once the grant funds are disbursed. Apply at <https://toledo.oh.gov/emrgrant>

Please share this information with business owners who may qualify. Contact the Department of Economic Development at emrg@toledo.oh.gov or 419-245-1614 with any questions.

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Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Announces Book Scholarship Awards

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter provided \$500 for book scholarships to area students. Andrea Price, president; Treva Jeffries, EdD, vice president and Marie Bush, PhD, Scholarship Committee chairman announced awards given to the following:

1. Cassidy McClellan graduates from Toledo Early College with a GPA of 3.6. She plans to attend Tennessee State University or Alabama A & M University.
2. Jada M. Collins-Whiteside graduates from Bowsher High School with a 3.5 GPA. She plans to attend Lourdes University.
3. Jordan M. Collins-Whiteside graduates from Toledo School for the Arts with a 2.9 GPA. He plans to attend the NY Fashion Institute of Technology.
4. Jadyn Dawson graduates from Findlay High School with a 3.56 GPA. She plans to attend The Ohio State University.
5. Marial K. Jackson graduates from Toledo School for the Arts with a



Cassidy McClellan



Jada Collins



Jadyn Dawson

GPA for 3.86. She plans to Alabama A & M University.

The Annual Jazz Brunch for Scholarships and Community Service for June 2020 was canceled due to COVID-19 and the governor's gathering restrictions. Next year the event will be held on June 12, 2021.



Marial Jackson



Jordan Collins



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United Way Awards Nearly \$230,000 in Grants to Fight Food-Insecurity

Special to The Truth

This week, United Way of Greater Toledo (UWGT) is announcing that \$228,590 in grants will be awarded to 17 community-based organizations across Lucas, Wood and Ottawa counties who are working to combat food-insecurity in the region.

"COVID-19 has created an unprecedented demand for food resources locally," said Wendy Pestrue, president & CEO of UWGT. "Countless entities who supply children, individuals and families with nutritional support are doing their best to serve those struggling, despite rising unemployment rates. What these organizations truly need are dollars to move their work forward, and I am proud to say that United Way is here to help in that effort."

The following organizations will be receiving monetary grants through UWGT's Emergency Response Fund, established shortly after the COVID-19 outbreak. The goal of this fund is to address ongoing, emergency community needs in the health and human services space.

Mobile Meals of Toledo \$25,000 – YMCA of Greater Toledo \$25,000 – The University Church \$21,000 – Toledo GROWs \$20,000 – Perrysburg Schools / Perrysburg Heights Community Center / Islamic Center of Greater Toledo collaboration \$20,000 – Greater Grace Christian Church \$18,000 – The Mareda Center \$16,650 – ProMedica's Ebeid Institute \$16,380 – Mosaic Ministries of South Toledo "4-1-Dine" \$12,000 – First United Methodist Church (Bowling Green) \$10,560 – Food For Thought \$10,000 – Brown Bag Food Project \$10,000 – Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio \$7,500 – Ottawa County Family Advocacy Center \$5,000 – Church of Truth Ministries \$5,000 – Down Syndrome Association of Greater Toledo \$4,500 – Sofia Quintero Art & Cultural Center \$2,000.

Programs that dollars will help expand include emergency food boxes, distributing vegetable plants, meal kit delivery for Seniors and increased pantry-food support to name a few.

"One of our most-treasured assets here at United Way is our volunteers. Our Collaborative Impact Cabinet is a collection of residents, with varying professional expertise, who represent the interests of those we serve across Lucas, Wood and Ottawa County," said Pestrue.

"United Way simply provides the table for discussion, but our amazing and dedicated Collaborative Impact Cabinet volunteers make the official funding decisions. This approach is more than a policy at our organization – it's a best practice. To truly serve the community well, we need their input."

In addition to the \$228,590 outlined above, UWGT has also allocated \$83,500 for weekend snack bags, which have been given directly to Connecting Kids to Meals. As of today, UWGT's volunteers (in small, socially

distant groups) have packed 26,000 weekend snack bags, via 6,000+ service hours, since March 17.

"On March 13, I began receiving calls from a handful of community partners who were very worried about food stability in our region, as whispers of layoffs and school-closures began circulating because of COVID-19. Since then, our staff and volunteers have been hard-at-work helping those in need," said Pestrue.

Since the Emergency Response Fund's establishment, hundreds of individual donors and nearly 40 corporate partners, businesses and community institutions have given to UWGT, totaling just over \$650,000.

"I can't thank our community enough for the generous support. Food is just phase-one of our approach. Soon, we will need to work towards addressing the next most-pressing issue, which will be done through data, community studies and gathering expertise from our partners."

Legislators Call for Immediate Forensic Audit of UT

This week, State Senator Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) and State Representatives Paula Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo), Lisa Sobocki (D-Toledo) and Mike Sheehy (D-Oregon) called for three measures to protect the University of Toledo Medical Center.

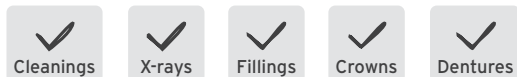
"We agree with Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur's call for a forensic audit. This will answer many questions around the financial viability of UTM, starting with the \$50 million it receives each year from ProMedica," the lawmakers said. "Following the money will allow us to find sustainable solutions to the hospital's current financial situation. Ultimately, the General Assembly must pass legislation to authorize the transfer of a public asset."

In addition, the lawmakers agreed with what the editorial board of The Blade said on Sunday in an opinion piece.

"We agree that the board must act now to 'recommit to the future of the medical college by stabilizing the university hospital.' To ensure the growth of both the campus and the community, the board must maintain UTM's designation as a research and teaching hospital," the lawmakers said. "Additionally, the board must be transparent with the public throughout this process instead of denying them a voice by holding meetings behind closed doors."

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Unemployed Due to Coronavirus? Find Available Benefits

Special to The Truth

Self-quarantines and stay-at-home orders as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic are having an impact on employment right now, and that may continue for some time. During this period of uncertainty, finding ways to pay bills or keep medical benefits are top concerns for many. Here are some tips from Janine Nowatzky, managing director of Inside Rx.

What is unemployment insurance and how do I sign up?

Unemployment insurance is a program between your state and the federal government that provides money when you've lost your job. With the federal government's passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, you can receive an enhanced benefit. It authorizes:

- Self-employed and gig workers to receive benefits
- An extra \$600 a week for up to six months
- An extra 13 weeks of benefits beyond what your state currently provides

Each state's rules are different. Review your state's unemployment insurance program to learn about how to apply for benefits. Or learn more by visiting www.usa.gov/unemployment.

How much money will I get?

It will vary by state. But remember, under the CARES Act, you will be able to get an additional \$600 a week for up to six months. The program's start date was set to Jan. 27. So if you lost your job due to COVID-19-related reasons between the end of January and now, then you should be able to receive the additional benefit.

What about health insurance?

It's scary to think about getting through this pandemic without health insurance. What benefits you're able to keep all depends on who you work for. The first step is to ask your employer. They may allow you to continue your health coverage for a short period of absence.

If your employer is allowing you to keep your insurance, be sure to clarify if your missed premium payments will be:

- Covered partially or fully by your employer
- Deducted when you come back to work
- Have to be paid now to continue getting insurance

Your employer may also offer health care coverage through COBRA, but that can be very expensive.

A limited number of states have also opened enrollment to their own Affordable Care Act (ACA) health insurance exchanges. You may be able to

sign up for a health insurance plan – even without a life-changing event, which is the usual exception to the standard open enrollment periods.

What about prescription medications?

It's so important to keep taking your medications to stay as strong and healthy as possible. If you weren't able to get health insurance with prescription benefits, there are prescription drug savings programs like Inside Rx that can help. The program offers access to thousands of brand and generic medications for you, your family, and your pets at a fraction of the cost, helping you save an average of 40 to 80 percent. You can fill your prescription at over 60,000 pharmacies in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Or, you can continue to socially distance and stay safe by getting your medications delivered right to your home through the Express Scripts Pharmacy with no delivery fees.

While losing one's primary source of income is stressful and scary, taking advantage of available benefits can help you and your family stay healthy.

Courtesy StatePoint

COVID-19 Update... continued from page 8

To ensure that these establishments operate in the safest manner possible, Governor DeWine's Restaurant Advisory Group created a detailed list of guidelines and best practices for restaurant and bar owners to follow. The full list of mandatory and recommended best practices can be found at coronaviurs.ohio.gov.

PERSONAL CARE SERVICES:

Personal care services such as hair salons, barbershops, day spas, nail salons, and tanning facilities may reopen on May 15.

To ensure that these establishments operate in the safest manner possible, Governor DeWine's Personal Services Advisory Group created a detailed list of guidelines and best practices for personal care service providers to follow. The full list of mandatory and recommended best practices can be found at coronaviurs.ohio.gov



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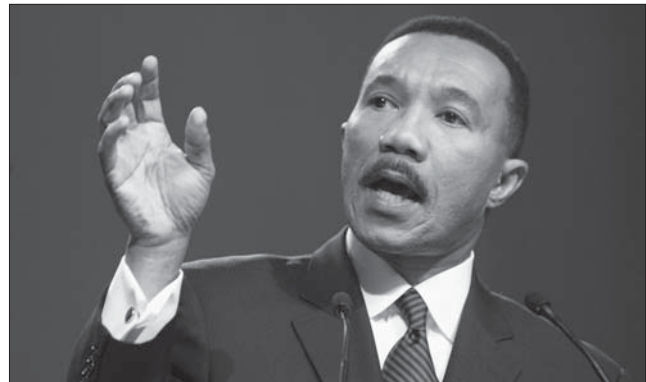
The Congressional Black Caucus Welcomes Rep. Kweisi Mfume

Last week, Kweisi Mfume was sworn in as the newest Member of the U.S. House of Representative for Maryland's 7th congressional district, succeeding Elijah Cummings, who died last October.

The return to Congress comes full circle, as Mfume reclaims the same seat that he held for 10 years before stepping down to become the President of the NAACP. During his tenure in Congress, Representative Mfume also served as the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus from 1993-1995.

Mfume's return to the Congressional Black Caucus comes at a critical time in our nation during this pandemic. The CBC looks forward to working with Rep. Mfume during this historic moment to identify, fight for, and win the best legislative change to help the black community not just survive this pandemic but to prepare to thrive in the aftermath.

The Congressional Black Caucus welcomes Representative Kweisi Mfume back to the U.S. House of Representatives and his leadership in Maryland's 7th district.



U.S. Rep. Kweisi Mfume

How to Make the CARES Act Part of Your Financial Plan

Special to The Truth

For many Americans, the current state of the economy is creating real financial challenges and concerns. However, the federal government's recently enacted CARES Act is intended to provide some financial relief to families and business owners who may be struggling to manage their finances, using cash disbursements, expanded unemployment benefits, and different loans and tax credits.

In addition to reading up on CARES Act programs, experts say there are several ways to make sure you get as much financial support from the bill as possible. Here are three things to think about:

- Estimate the value of your economic impact check and plan how you will use the money. The Internal Revenue Service may send up to \$1,200 to individual taxpayers and \$2,400 to married couples, plus another \$500 for each qualifying child. Tools such as The Washington Post's stimulus check calculator can help you determine the amount you may receive. Then you can decide what to do with your check: e.g., pay your bills, buy essential goods, save it or even invest it.

- Check your eligibility for unemployment benefits. The CARES Act created a new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program to provide benefits to people who lost their jobs, had their hours reduced or are unable to work for reasons related to COVID-19. You may qualify for these benefits even if you are self-employed or an independent contractor. Unemployment benefits have also been increased by \$600 a week and extended to up to 39 weeks of coverage. The Department of Labor's website (www.dol.gov/coronavirus) has more information on these changes, as well as guidance on applying for unemployment.

- If you own a small business, consider applying for a federal loan. The CARES Act set aside hundreds of billions of dollars for the Small Business

Administration and the Treasury Department to provide financial

relief to business owners and their employees. Loan options include the Paycheck Protection Program to help businesses keep workers on their payrolls and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan to help cover a temporary dip in revenue. Visit the SBA's website (www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options) to learn more and apply.

A Certified Financial Planner (CFP) professional can help you understand these programs and make sound decisions about how to use your stimulus funds. A CFP professional can also provide competent, ethical advice on maintaining your financial well-being during this period of uncertainty. And, this advice can be provided remotely via phone calls, emails and video conferencing technology. To find a CFP professional near you, visit www.letsmakeaplan.org.

With thoughtful planning, you can make the most of these and other financial resources to weather the economic storm.

Courtesy StatePoint

Community Solidarity Response... continued from page 16

To all of our fellow activist and freedom fighters; raising awareness during the pandemic has been a challenge for most if not all of us. However, we have to stay vigilant and consistent in exposing the systematic and unequivocal imbalance of the system of white supremacy and those charged to uphold it. Join us by donating via our CSRN CashApp or CSRN PayPal. You'll find the links on our page as well as with this short video.

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Southwest Sunrise by Nikki Grimes, illustrated by Wendell Minor

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

You don't wanna.

c.2020
Bloomsbury
\$18.99 / higher in Canada
40 pages

Your favorite toys are in a box and you don't wanna leave them there. All your games, your stuffies, your outside toys, packed away. You said goodbye to your friends and teachers because your family is moving and you don't wanna. But as in the new book *Southwest Sunrise* by Nikki Grimes, illustrated by Wendell Minor, just wait. When you get there, you might see things in a different color.

Jayden was not happy one little bit.

His father had gotten a new job in another state, in another part of the country, and Jayden hated everything about it. He loved New York and its skyscrapers and lights and busy-ness. From the airplane, he looked down at New Mexico and all he could see was shadows. It almost made him want to cry, except he was too big for that.

He went to bed, feeling really sad. In the morning, though, there was a sliver of sunshine peeking through a window that had no bars on it. Jayden saw a mountain that looked kind of like a rainbow, and that was a big surprise! He figured that would be just about the only color he'd see all day because "browns and tans are the only colors deserts are good for."

He grabbed the field guide his mother gave him, he opened the door, and got another big surprise!

In the grass behind his house, there were wine-colored flowers and "yellow bells" and orange and yellow and red and orchid all "dancing... in the wind." His house was kind of pink. There were green trees nearby and colorful birds on the branches. And the sky? It was a color of blue that Jayden didn't quite understand. He found lizards and bones and shells and all kinds of interesting things to look at.

Still, he missed the "wow" of New York and the size of the skyscrapers – until he saw that the desert had another surprise for him...

If there's one thing we adults have learned lately, it's that change is hard.

When you're small and your world has turned opposite, it's doubly difficult. Southwest Sunrise may be able to help.

Right at the beginning of this story, author Nikki Grimes acknowledges that Jayden is unhappy and a little uninformed, both of which are validations that might get kids and parents talking. There's no minimizing of the main character's concerns, neither in story nor in the telling of it; instead, Jayden's concerns are taken seriously but with no drama on the part of his parents. That matter-of-factness steadies this tale, never letting it get out of hand on either side. Parents may also appreciate the leeway that Grimes gives her Jayden: in his new home, he's allowed the freedom to explore, which is another nice change.

Add in the soft illustrations by Wendell Minor, and you've got a soothing book for trying times. If that's what your child needs now, *Southwest Sunrise* is pretty and pretty perfect.

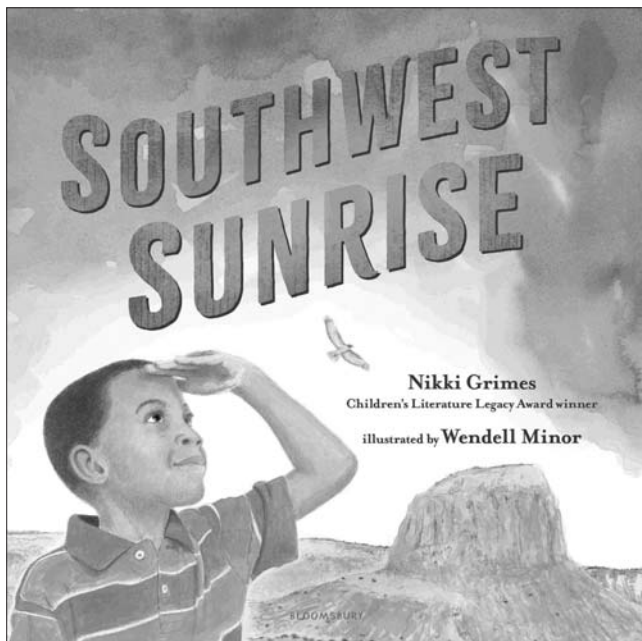
Miss it? Your child won't wanna.

Fedor Alarmed By Large Budget Cuts To K-12 Schools

This week, State Senator Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) released the following statement in response to Governor DeWine's announcement that he will cut funding to public schools to balance the state budget amid the Covid-19 pandemic:

"Governor DeWine's decision to slash more than \$300 million from Ohio's K-12 funding is an alarming divestment from our public school system during a time when schools need more support than ever. Nearly half of the \$775 million total in cuts to General Revenue spending will be stripped from Ohio's public schools, which continue to serve more than 90% of children in our state.

"Public schools have become lifelines to communities throughout the pandemic. With only a few days' notice, educators found new ways to provide students with free meals, Wi-Fi hotspots and so much more. Our public schools are already being asked to do more with less and announcing these drastic cuts on Teacher Appreciation Day was a devastating blow to the professionals who are heroes to Ohio's students."



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COVID-19 HOTLINES OPEN

Effective Friday, May 1, Mercy Health and Pro-Medica will operate their Nurse COVID-19 hotlines to answer medical questions related to the virus from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, the two health systems announced in cooperation with the Northwest Ohio Healthcare Emergency Management Coalition and Lucas County Emergency Operations Center. The hotline phone numbers are 419-251-4000 (English only) and 419-291-5355 (multilingual). After hours and weekend callers may leave a message, and their calls will be returned on the next business day. The Ohio Department of Health also operates a COVID-19 hotline, and the number is 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

INVITATION FOR BIDS MAINTENANCE & SMALL GENERAL CONSTRUCTION IFB20 – B015

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive bids for Maintenance & Small General Construction. Received in accordance with law until June 2, 2020, 3:00 PM ET. see documents: www.lucasma.org; 201 Belmont 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.



PARK TECHNICIAN

Metroparks Toledo has an opening for a full time Park Technician to provide maintenance of grounds, facilities and equipment at assigned park.

HS degree or equivalent required. Entry level experience in general turf, grounds and building maintenance. Valid driver's license required. Work schedule may include evenings, weekends and holidays. 40 hrs/week. \$13.50/hr. Full benefits. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com <<http://www.metroparkstoledo.com>> to view detailed position description, job requirements and to apply. EOE

Call to place your ad:

419-243-0007

www.TheTruthToledo.com

HORTICULTURAL TECHNICIAN

Metroparks Toledo has an opening for a full time Horticultural Technician to provide operational support and encourage community involvement for Toledo Botanical Garden. HS degree or equivalent required. Associate's preferred. Moderate level of hands-on horticulture experience required with some experience directing volunteers or leading group activities. Valid driver's license required. 40 hrs/week. \$13.50/hr. Full benefits. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com <<http://www.metroparkstoledo.com>> to view detailed position description, job requirements and to apply. EOE

PUBLIC NOTICE

2020-2021 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

To all interested agencies, groups, and persons:

The City of Toledo is seeking comments on its **Draft** July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 One-Year Action Plan to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on or before July 10, 2020. The One-Year Action Plan will be included in and is based on the HUD-approved Five-Year 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan submitted by the City of Toledo for housing, community, and economic development.

The One-Year Action Plan includes a description of the federal funds anticipated to be received, as well as other resources expected to be available within the City of Toledo during the 2020-2021 program year. The Action Plan provides a description of the activities to be undertaken when using these resources and the expected results of those activities. Also, the Action Plan depicts a geographic distribution of assistance, special needs activities, general and public housing actions, and activities specific to the 2020 46th Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), 34th Year Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), 29th Year HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and the Neighborhood Stabilization Programs (NSP). In addition, the Plan will contain HUD-required certifications, as well as a summary of the community input received at the public hearings regarding the Action Plan.

The **Draft** One-Year Action Plan will be available for review beginning Friday, May 15, 2020, on the website of the following entities:

Department of Neighborhoods
One Government Center, 18th Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets
website: <https://toledo.oh.gov/services/neighborhood-and-business-development/>

Office of the Mayor
One Government Center, 22nd Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets
website: <https://toledo.oh.gov/government/mayors-office/>

Clerk of Council
One Government Center, 21st Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets
website: <https://toledo.oh.gov/government/city-council/>

The Fair Housing Center
432 N. Superior Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.toledofhc.org

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority
435 Nebraska Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.lucasma.org

Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board
1946 N. 13th Street, Suite 437
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.endinghomelessness Toledo.org

Toledo-Lucas County Public Library
325 Michigan Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.toledolibrary.org

Lucas Co. Board of Developmental Disabilities
1154 Larc Lane
Toledo, Ohio 43614
website: www.lucasdd.info

Public hearings on the **Draft** One-Year Action Plan are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, June 4, 2020, 5:30 p.m. by Virtual Hearing
Virtual Link: <https://toledo-oh.gov.zoom.us/j/91949713607>

Thursday, June 11, 2020, 5:30 p.m. by Virtual Hearing
Virtual Link: <https://toledo-oh.gov.zoom.us/j/94909289264>

The City of Toledo will also receive comments from the public in writing beginning Monday, May 18, 2020 through Wednesday, June 17, 2020, at the following address:

CITY OF TOLEDO
DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS
2020-2021 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN
ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER, SUITE 1800
TOLEDO, OHIO 43604

For reasonable accommodations or additional information, please contact Monica Brown, Administrative Analyst IV, Department of Neighborhoods at (419) 245-1400.

ABUNDANT LIFE OF PERRYSBURG ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Abundant Life of Perrysburg is accepting applications for its subsidized apartment communities. Abundant Life #1 offers independent living for senior citizens 62 years of age or older and individuals 55 or older with a physical impairment. Abundant Life #2 is a supportive living complex for people 62 and older. To apply individuals must meet the age and annual income requirement of no more than \$25,200.00 for one person or \$28,800.00 for two people.

We are located in the Three Meadows subdivision near the Manor of Perrysburg. Our garden style apartments offer an open floor plan, one bedroom, secured buildings with private patios and individually controlled heat and air conditioning.

We have a bus that transports all residents to area grocery stores and monthly outings. We offer exercise, worship services and a variety of opportunities for our active and not so active seniors. Please call (419)874-4371 to find out more about our fabulous communities and our availability for apartments. You may also visit us on the web at abundantlifeperrysburg.org.



The Community Solidarity Response Network Celebrates Mothers Day by Seeking Bail for Moms Inside

A Manifesto

ALL Black Lives Matter: Queer Black Lives, Trans Black Lives, Formerly and Presently Incarcerated Black Lives, Poor/Working Class Black Lives, Differently abled Black Lives, Black Men and Women's Lives, Immigrant Black Lives, Black Elderly and Children's Lives. ALL BLACK LIVES MATTER and are creators of this space. We throw no one under the bus. We Rise Together.

Revolutionary Greetings, I'm Ruth Leonard, Lead of the Administrative Core for the Community Solidarity Response Network of Toledo.

The Community Solidarity Response Network of Toledo was formed on November, 25, 2014, the day after it was announced that the killer (a Ferguson, Missouri police officer) of Michael Brown (an unarmed teenager) would NOT be indicted.

We Bring Awareness to the Injustices experienced by Black men, women and children who are disproportionately murdered, attacked, provoked and harassed by law enforcement. Police Brutality has to end. We bring awareness to the fact that most often; police brutality goes without consequence and accountability. Police Impunity has to end.

We utilize the tactics of Protest, Civil Disobedience, Event-Disruption, and Citizen Advocacy to give voice to those who are otherwise voiceless.

We facilitate progressive community-based events that help to foster self-development, and we discuss measures to hold local leadership accountable to their sworn duties, be they politicians, clergy, law enforcement, educators, etc.

It is our duty to fight for our freedom...it is our duty to win.

#FreeBlackMamas or #BlackMamasBailOuts is an annual campaign by National Bail Out. Seeking to raise awareness about the human and financial costs of money bail and emphasize its impact on Black mothers and care-

givers. The National Bail Out Collective is a Black Centered Black Led collective of abolitionist organizers, lawyers and activists building a community-based movement to support our people and end system of pretrial detention and ultimately mass incarceration.

Every year since 2017, this movement coordinated tactical bail outs nationwide – called #BlackMamasBailOuts – to free Black Mothers and caregivers so they can spend Mother's Day with their families where they belong.

We at CSRN support this effort and we plan to do the following: Starting today we're contacting our supporters, sympathizers and fellow activists to help us raise \$2500.00 to bail out five (5) Black moms by Juneteenth.

We've already begun the process of planning how this will happen and how the funds will be distributed and to who.

This is also part of a much larger issue. The issue of cash bail. The most fundamental criticism of the bail system is that it needlessly imprisons poor people. In 2010, when he was 16, Kalief Browder was accused of stealing a backpack and to be released on \$3,000 bail, which his family could not afford.

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Ruth Leonard

THE TRUTH ART GALLERY PRESENTS

"Everlasting Colors"

An Exhibit



Portraits, colors and nature! The Truth Art Gallery is presenting an exhibit by two of the Gallery's favorite artists over the last few year – Mack Walton and Gabriele Art – May 1 to June 30!

Toledo artist Mack Walton has been presenting his portraits and scenic displays of the world around him for decades. It's his life, it's his passion. And it has been for over 50 years.

Mack eventually ventured into street scenes, landscapes and still life – all of which are on exhibit on The Truth Gallery website and in the Gallery itself by appointment.

Gabriela Art, a Detroit-area resident is a native of Romania who developed her skills and talents studying for a masters degree in art at the Academy for Visual Arts in Cluj, Europe.



Recently, inspired by the work of Spanish painter Jose Royo, Gabriela has been increasing her art repertoire by working, as does that Spanish master, with light and bursts of color somewhat reminiscent of the French impressionist, Renoir.

The online video and exhibition catalogue and price list for "Everlasting Colors, are posted on The Sojourner's Truth website at thetruthtoled.com

Call 419-243-0007 for more information or to make an appointment!

