



## Ohio NAACP Mourns the Passing of Former State Senate Minority Leader Ben Espy

Columbus, OH — The Ohio State Conference of the NAACP joins the state of Ohio and the nation in mourning the passing of former State Senate Minority Leader, Columbus City Council member, and Ohio State University alumnus, Ben Espy, at the age of 81. Espy leaves a legacy of unwavering service, visionary advocacy, and transformative leadership, inspiring future generations.

“Ben Espy was a trailblazer, a courageous advocate, and a relentless fighter for justice,” said Tom Roberts, President of the Ohio NAACP. “He exemplified the highest ideals of public service with dignity, integrity, and unwavering dedication. He was a class act in every sense, dedicating his life to civil rights and creating opportunities for all Ohioans.”

Espy’s remarkable career included roles as a corporate lawyer, depu-



**Ben Espy**

ty chief of the Civil Rights Division for the Ohio Attorney General’s Office, and a decade of service on the Columbus City Council. Despite a life-altering accident in 1984, Espy’s resilience and commitment to public service never faltered, culminating in his tenure as Ohio Senate Minority Leader from 1996 to 2000.

Beyond his political accomplishments, Espy founded the Columbus Youth Corps, the precursor

to the city’s APPS summer jobs program, and helped establish Columbus’ annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. His lifelong dedication to youth empowerment, civic engagement, and community development set a standard for leadership that continues to inspire.

“Ben Espy’s life reminds us of what is possible through service and resilience,” Roberts added. “The Ohio NAACP

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## Blackshear Sworn Into Office as State Senator

State Senator Willis Blackshear, Jr. was officially sworn into office this week.

He is now the senator of Ohio’s 6th district, which encompasses the greater Dayton area.

Who will replace Sen. JD Vance in Ohio?

Blackshear previously served as the state representative for Ohio’s 38th district. In that role, his office says he helped secure millions of dollars for organizations in Montgomery County, like the Boys and Girls Club.

Blackshear says in his new role, he wants to continue to build up the community.

“Some of the things I’m going to do is reintroduce



**State Senator Willis Blackshear**

some of the bills I introduced last assembly, things such as student mental health for our children; housing policies, trying to lower the cost; and then also, too, economic and workforce development policies,” said Blackshear.

“Just trying to bring more jobs in to the area, but also, too, make sure we have the workforce to fill those jobs.”

Blackshear beat Republican Charlotte McGuire in November to claim the seat.

## Jimmy Carter Passes at the Age of 100 on December 29, 2024

James Earl Carter Jr. (October 1, 1924 – December 29, 2024) was the 39th president of the United States, serving from 1977 to 1981. A member of the Democratic Party, Carter served as the 76th governor of Georgia from 1971 to 1975 and in the Georgia State Senate from 1963 to 1967. He was the longest-lived president in U.S. history and the first to reach the age of 100.

Born and raised in Plains, Georgia, Carter graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1946 and joined the United States Navy’s submarine service. He married Rosalynn Smith, and they worked closely together throughout their lives. Carter returned home after his military service and revived his family’s peanut-growing business. Opposing racial segregation, Carter supported the growing civil rights movement and became an activist within the Democratic Party. After serving in the Georgia State Senate and then as governor of Georgia, Carter ran for president in 1976. Initially a dark horse candidate not well known outside Georgia, he secured the Democratic nomination and selected Walter Mondale as his running mate. They narrowly defeated the Republican Party’s ticket of President Gerald Ford and



**James Earl Carter Jr.**

Senator Bob Dole.

After Carter’s presidential term ended, he established the Carter Center to promote and expand human rights; leading to him receiving a Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for his work in relation to it. He traveled extensively to conduct peace negotiations, monitor elections, and further the eradication of infectious diseases. Carter was a key figure in the nonprofit housing organization Habitat for Humanity. He also wrote numerous books, ranging from political memoirs to poetry, while continuing to comment on global affairs; two of his books are about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Polls of historians and political scientists ranked Carter’s presidency to be below-average. Many generally

view his post-presidency—the longest in U.S. history—more favorably.

James Earl Carter Jr. was born on October 1, 1924, in Plains, Georgia, at the Wise Sanitarium, where his mother worked as a registered nurse. Carter thus became the first American president born in a hospital. He was the eldest child of Bessie Lillian Gordy and James Earl Carter Sr., and a descendant of English immigrant Thomas Carter, who settled in the Colony of Virginia in 1635. In Georgia, numerous generations of Carters worked as cotton farmers. Plains was a boomtown of 600 people at the time of Carter’s birth. His father

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## Silent Crisis: When Bullying Targets Black Students



For more than a year, 14-year-old Kelaia Turner endured bullying from schoolmates and even her teacher at Turner Middle School in Greenville, South Carolina. They teased her about her looks, calling the girl a “roach” and “a man.” They soaked her clothes and dumped them in the garbage.

Her mother, Ty Turner,

repeatedly complained to the school, according to a new lawsuit, but the taunts and harassment continued. Kelaia ultimately decided she could no longer take the abuse. On March 17, 2023, Turner found Kelaia in her room, dangling from a belt wrapped around her neck. The child had tried to kill herself.

“She was gone for eight whole minutes,” Turner

told NBC affiliate WYFF-TV. “Paramedics couldn’t find a pulse, and they couldn’t find her heartbeat. There were grown men in the room crying.”

Kelaia survived but suffered severe brain damage and spent months in the hospital, including 31 days in a coma in intensive care, according to the GoFundMe fundraiser created by her mother. Even

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## Heroic Toddler Saves Mom with Lifesaving 911 Call

In a remarkable display of courage and quick thinking, a 3-year-old girl from New Jersey named Samantha became a local hero when she saved her mother’s life by calling 911.

The incident, highlights the importance of teaching even the youngest children how to respond during emergencies.

### A Calm Voice in Crisis

When Samantha’s mother became unresponsive, the preschooler acted decisively, picking up the phone and dialing 911. Despite her tender age, Samantha managed to communicate vital details to the dispatcher, who pa-



tiently guided her through the call.

During the nearly four-minute conversation, Samantha provided the dispatcher with as much information as she could about her situation, stating:

“My mommy’s sick,” and describing her yellow house.

Though she struggled to give an exact address, her persistence and the dispatcher’s skillful questioning allowed emergency responders to locate her

home.

The dispatcher calmly asked questions about her mother’s condition and assured Samantha that help was on the way. Samantha even tried to wake her mother, saying:

“Mommy, wake up,

mommy,” demonstrating both her love and her determination to help.

Emergency Responders Arrive in Time

Thanks to the detailed information Samantha provided, first responders arrived quickly and were able to assist her mother. The timely intervention prevented a potentially tragic outcome.

Authorities later commended Samantha’s bravery and the dispatcher’s patience, noting that the successful outcome was a testament to the importance of 911 training and public education.

### A Lesson for All Parents

Samantha’s actions serve as a powerful reminder of how crucial it is

to teach children emergency protocols, even at a young age.

Simple lessons about how to dial 911, communicate an emergency, and describe their surroundings can make a life-or-death difference in critical situations.

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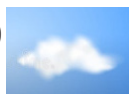


# Around DAYTON

## Miami Valley Weather

### Saturday Sunday

Cloudy  
High 39  
Low 30



Snow  
High 28  
Low 15



### Monday

Snow  
High 28  
Low 15



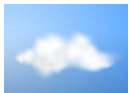
### Tuesday

Cloudy  
High 26  
Low 15



### Wednesday

Cloudy  
High 23  
Low 13



# 5 day Forecast

## THE PATH

1. Register
2. One on One Interview
3. Attend Training Daily
  - Training
  - Forklift Training
  - Warehouse Simulation
  - Financial Strategies
  - Resume Development
  - Record Expungement
4. Graduate & become employed starting at \$18 an hour\*



MIAMI VALLEY URBAN LEAGUE



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## Volunteers Needed for Youth-Focused Panels Aimed at Court Diversion in Dayton



The Dayton Mediation Center is reaching out to community members for an impact-

ful volunteer opportunity designed to support youth and help steer them away from the court system. Volunteers are needed to serve on Community Impact Panels, which aim to provide young individuals with guidance and a second chance.

These panels facilitate

open conversations between a young person, aged 11 to 17, their parents or guardians, and a community volunteer. During these discussions, the youth have the opportunity to reflect on the choices that led to their interaction with law enforcement and discuss their aspirations

for the future.

The program offers significant benefits for participating youth. By completing the process, their case may be closed and sealed, leaving no charges on their record. This initiative serves as a critical step in helping young people make better choices and avoid long-term consequences.

Volunteers are asked to contribute one Saturday morning per month or serve at other times based on their availability. By sharing wisdom and life experiences, community members can make a meaningful difference in the lives of these young individuals.

To apply and get involved, visit the Dayton Mediation Center's website at [daytonmediation-center.org/getinvolved](http://daytonmediation-center.org/getinvolved).

## How to Perform the National Anthem at a Dragons Game



Looking to sing the national anthem at a Dayton Dragons game? Look no further than their annual competition.

Despite frigid temperatures and a forecasted winter storm on the horizon, baseball fans can see the mound approaching in the foreground and can hear the whiz of the pitch incoming.

Some snow today, but much more possible this weekend

The Dragons are hosting virtual auditions to determine who will per-

## Ohio NAACP Mourns the Passing of Former State Senate Minority Leader Ben Espy... Continued from Page 1

is deeply grateful for his contributions and steadfast leadership." Espy's legacy includes numerous accolades, the respect of his peers, and the gratitude of communities across Ohio. The Ohio NAACP extends its deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all who were touched by his remarkable life.

About the Ohio

NAACP: The Ohio State Conference of the NAACP is the state's leading civil rights organization, dedicated to eliminating racial discrimination and ensuring equality in political, educational, social, and economic rights.

For more information, please contact [connect@ohnaACP.org](mailto:connect@ohnaACP.org)

## Main Library Adopts "Quiet Space" Hours

Effective Monday, January 6, Dayton Metro Library has deemed the entirety of the Main Library, located at 215 East Third Street, Dayton, 45402, as a "Quiet Space" between the hours of 2 - 6 pm, Monday through Friday.

DML views this decision to be the best course of action due to several recent events at the Main Library involving violence. "These changes will allow us to remain open and provide services to those who wish to use the Main Library appropriately and in compliance with our Code of Conduct," states Executive Director Jeffrey Trzeciak.

The Main Library's "Quiet Space" policy:

Groups of two or more are not permitted to congregate in any part of the Library.

Group work must be conducted in a group study room. Access to group study rooms is restricted to those with a reservation, or in consultation with a Library staff member.

Video games and other group activities are no

longer available in the Teen Edge area.

The Green Screen Room must be reserved in advance. Access will not be given unless it is booked in advance or in consultation with a Library staff member.

Food and drink are prohibited in all public areas.

From 2 pm to close, Monday through Friday, only 10 additional individuals will be allowed in the Library every half hour unless they are attending a program, event, or meeting, or to use a specific service, such as checking out a book or picking up a hold. Staff will be present at the front entrance to assist patrons with access to the Library.

Anyone violating the new rules will be asked to leave the Library without a warning. For more information and continuing updates, visit [DaytonMetroLibrary.org](http://DaytonMetroLibrary.org) or call the Library's Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665

## Riverside to Install Bicycle Pump Track?



"This would be a cutting-edge, ahead-of-the-curve feature, commission chair says.

A playground and swings at Rohrer Park in Riverside. The city hopes to buy and install a new bike pump track at the park in early 2025. CORNELIUS FROLIK / STAFF

A playground and swings at Rohrer Park in Riverside. The city hopes to buy and install a new bike pump track at the park in early 2025. CORNELIUS FROLIK / STAFF

The city of Riverside plans to buy and install a modular bicycle pump track at Rohrer Park.

Kids who use the park and other community members think a pump track would be a great new amenity, said Ron Brohm, chair of Riverside's Parks & Recre-

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# National

## Mortgage-Free Black Author to Host Free Masterclass



**Mujiba Salaam Parker**

Nationwide -- Mujiba Salaam Parker, who was formerly homeless, bankrupt, and on welfare, but still managed to pay off her 30-year mortgage in less than three years, is excited to announce her upcoming free Masterclass titled

“Mortgage Secrets: How to Save More and Pay Less.” This transformative session is designed to empower homeowners with the knowledge and tools to make informed decisions, slash years off their mortgage, save thousands in interest, and achieve fi-

nancial independence.

For too long, homeowners have been overpaying in interest and mortgage insurance for their homes. In fact, those who take the full 30 years to pay off their homes often pay nearly double and sometimes triple the original

mortgage, depending on the interest rate. Parker will reveal insider strategies every homeowner needs to know to experience significant savings and reduced financial stress.

“This is more than just a Masterclass,” says Parker. “It’s an opportunity to take control of your mortgage, save thousands of dollars, and move closer to financial freedom. As someone who paid off a 30-year mortgage in less than three years, I’m here to teach you how you can pay off your mortgage early too!” This year, Parker explained in her *How I Paid Off My 30-Year Mortgage in Less Than 3 Years!* Report how she overcame being homeless, bankrupt, and on welfare and then

paid off her mortgage in record time. By doing so, she saved nearly \$100,000 in interest and mortgage insurance that would have been paid to the mortgage company for the remaining 27 years.

In the free Masterclass *Mortgage Secrets: How to Save More and Pay Less*, Parker will explain the mindset needed to pay off mortgages fast, how mortgages are structured for homeowners to overpay for their homes, how to calculate how fast and how much individuals can save by paying off their mortgage early, strategies to build equity quickly, and the benefits of being mortgage-free. Attendees will also learn practical steps they can take to reduce their mortgage bur-

den.

How to register:

The free Masterclass will be held live, online on Monday, January 6, 2025, at 8pm EST. To register, visit [OnlineMortgageSecrets.com](https://OnlineMortgageSecrets.com)

About the host:

Mujiba Salaam Parker, the “The Empowerment Queen,” is a financial empowerment coach, author, and motivational speaker dedicated to helping individuals achieve financial freedom and peace of mind. Drawing from her personal experience of overcoming financial hardship and mastering her own mortgage, she inspires others to take control of their finances and receive their desires.

## Congressional Black Caucus Marks Historic Firsts as it Membership Hits Record

WASHINGTON, D.C. – With a record 62 elected Black officials, including historic firsts of two women senators and two representatives from Alabama, the Congressional Black Caucus held a swearing-in ceremony Friday morning before members took the oath of office for the 119th U.S. Congress.

Democrats Angela Alsobrooks of Maryland and Lisa Blunt Rochester of Delaware will represent the first time two Black women will serve together in the U.S. Senate.

The caucus also marked the historic election of two Black U.S. House members from Alabama serving at the same time. Incumbent Rep. Terri Sewell has been joined by Shomari Figures, who was elected in November to represent the new 2nd Congressional District. Following a lawsuit, a federal court ordered the state in 2022 to draw a



*Members of the Congressional Black Caucus raise their right hands as they are being sworn in by New York Attorney General Letitia James on Friday, Jan. 3, 2025, in Washington, D.C. (William J. Ford | Maryland Matters)*

second “opportunity district” to provide a chance for Black voters to select their preferred candidate. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the lower court’s ruling in 2023.

Sewell, a Democrat, recalled how the caucus was first established in 1971 with 13 members – 12 men and one woman. Today, a total of 67 Black lawmakers serve in Congress, the largest contingent ever on Capitol Hill.

But the five Republicans – Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina and Reps. Byron Donalds of Florida, Wesley Hunt of Texas, John James of Michigan, and Burgess Owens of Utah – are not members of the Congressional Black Caucus and didn’t attend the ceremony. All are ardent supporters of Republican President-elect Donald Trump. With the GOP in control of the House and Senate, they

have stated their support for Trump’s future policies and even a few of his controversial statements.

Although the Black caucus isn’t tied to a political party, the Democratic members said they will continue to challenge legislation they deem will negatively affect Black Americans.

“Today, we renew our pledge to fight racism where it exists, to weed out inequities in health

care, the criminal justice system, education, voter access, and so many rights and benefits that are part and parcel of what it means to be Americans,” said Sewell, who serves as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation’s board of directors. “We, in the Congressional Black Caucus, stand ready for the task ahead.”

Rep. Glenn Ivey, a Maryland Democrat, said he’s concerned about the Trump administration or his appointees using the U.S. Justice Department to get back at people they think are enemies. “That’s not the role of the Department of Justice,” he said. “Protecting the rule of law is what we’ve got to make sure happens now and going forward.”

Ivey said that one way to combat Trump and his congressional allies is looking ahead to the 2026 midterm elections.

“I can remember back a few years ago where the Republicans controlled the White House, the

Senate and the House. A few years after that, [then-U.S. Sen.] Barack Obama got elected president, and we took back control of the Senate and the House,” Ivey said after the ceremony. “So a setback is a set up for a comeback. We’re ready to come back.”

Hundreds of family members, friends, and supporters attended the ceremony at The Anthem including Marc Morial, president and chief executive officer of the National Urban League.

Morial said in an interview just because Trump will be president doesn’t mean the caucus stops its advocacy work.

“They should say to the president, ‘if you want to meet us halfway on important priorities like voting rights, elimination of poverty, we will not say no,’” Morial said. “But if your plan is to administer solely to your MAGA base, we will lead the resistance.”

### Jimmy Carter Passes at the Age of 100 on December 29, 2024... Continued from Page 1

was a successful local businessman who ran a general store and was an investor in farmland.[6] Carter’s father had previously served as a reserve second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps during World War I

Carter was sworn in as the 76th governor of Georgia on January 12, 1971. In his inaugural speech, he declared that “the time for racial discrimination is over”, shocking the crowd and causing many of the segregationists who had supported him during the race to feel betrayed. Carter was reluctant to engage with his fellow politicians, making him unpopular with the legislature. He expanded the governor’s authority by introducing a reorganization plan submitted in January 1972. Despite initially having a cool reception in the legislature, the plan passed at midnight on the last day of the session. Carter merged about 300 state

agencies into 22, although it is disputed whether that saved the state money. On July 8, 1971, during an appearance in Columbus, Georgia, he stated his intention to establish a Georgia Human Rights Council to help solve issues ahead of any potential violence.

On December 12, 1974, Carter announced his presidential campaign at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. His speech contained themes of domestic inequality, optimism, and change. Upon his entrance in the Democratic primaries, he was competing against sixteen other candidates, and was considered to have little chance against the more nationally known politicians such as Wallace.[98] His name recognition was very low, and his opponents derisively asked “Jimmy Who?”.[99] In response to this, Carter began to emphasize his name and what he stood for, stating “My name is Jimmy Carter, and I’m running

for president.”

This strategy proved successful. By mid-March 1976, Carter was not only far ahead of the active contenders for the presidential nomination, but led incumbent Republican president Gerald Ford by a few percentage points.

As the Watergate scandal was still fresh in the voters’ minds, Carter’s position as an outsider, distant from Washington, D.C. proved helpful. He promoted government reorganization. In June, Carter published a memoir titled *Why Not the Best?* to help introduce himself to the American public.

Carter and his running mate Walter Mondale at the Democratic National Convention in New York City, July 1976

Carter and Mondale ultimately defeated Ford and his runningmate (Senator Bob Dole), receiving 297 electoral votes and 50.1% of the popular vote to Ford’s 240 electoral votes and 48.0%

of the popular vote. Carter’s victory was attributed in part to his overwhelming support among black voters in states decided by close margins, such as Louisiana, Texas, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Mississippi, Wisconsin, and Ohio. In Ohio and Wisconsin, where the margin between Carter and Ford was under two points, the black vote was crucial for Carter; if he had not won both states, Ford would have won the election.

Ford phoned Carter to congratulate him shortly after the race was called. He was unable to concede in front of television cameras due to bad hoarse voice, and so First Lady Betty did so for him. Vice President Nelson Rockefeller oversaw the certification of election results on January 6, 1977. Although Ford carried Washington, Mike Padden, an elector from there, cast his vote for Ronald Reagan, the then-governor of California and Carter’s eventual successor.

A few weeks before

his inauguration, Carter moved his peanut business into the hands of trustees to avoid a potential conflict of interest. He also asked incoming members of his administration to divest themselves of assets through blind trusts.

Carter was inaugurated as the 39th president on January 20, 1977. One of Carter’s first acts was the fulfillment of a campaign promise by issuing an executive order declaring unconditional amnesty for Vietnam War-era draft evaders, Proclamation 4483. Carter’s tenure in office was marked by an economic malaise, a time of continuing inflation and recession and a 1979 energy crisis. Under Carter, in May 1980, the Federal Trade Commission became “apparently the first agency ever closed by a budget dispute”, but Congress took action and the agency opened the next day.

At 100 years old, Carter was the longest-lived former U.S. president, a title

he held until his death. He was the second presidential candidate from a major political party to achieve this age, following Alf Landon, who was the Republican nominee in the 1936 United States presidential election.

President Joe Biden delivering remarks on the death and legacy of Carter

Carter died at his home in Plains, Georgia, on December 29, 2024, at the age of 100. This followed his February 2023 decision to enter hospice.

Shortly after the announcement, President Joe Biden released a statement honoring Carter’s legacy, calling him a “man of principle, faith, and humility.” The Biden administration also announced plans to hold an official state funeral, and a day of mourning for him on January 9, 2025.

# Arts & Entertainment

## Vanessa Williams Mother Dies After Flying to London



Acting and singing sensation Vanessa Williams has shared of her heartbreak after her beloved mother died shortly after flying to London to see her show.

The 61-year-old Ugly Betty actress said her mother Helen died aged 85 at The London Clinic due to complications from "acute liver failure".

Helen had flown to see her talented daughter perform in the musical adaptation of the movie, *The Devil Wears Prada*. Vanessa is starring as fashion villain Miranda Priestly in the West End show - the role made famous by Meryl Streep in the film.

Netflix *Missing You* viewers all say same thing as Harlan Coben's new series lands

Johnny Depp's daughter Lily-Rose Depp says one of his movies 'traumatized her'

Helen had come to see her daughter perform as part of her 85th

birthday celebrations before she tragically passed away shortly thereafter.

Vanessa confirmed the heartbreaking news in a post on her Instagram page, as she paid tribute to the "loyal friend and powerhouse".

She wrote: "On December 28th, the world lost a powerhouse, dynamo and force of nature packed into a 5ft frame.

"Our mom, Helen Williams, aka Gaga to many, took her final bow in London 20 days after celebrating her 85th birthday surrounded by family and friends."

Vanessa added: "It's impossible to describe all she meant to everyone because each person saw a different facet of her. Loyal friend to many, icy stares to a chosen few.

"We will miss it all. During her visit [to London] she suffered a major decline in health which ended her life." Vanessa's loving statement also reflected on her mom's work as a teacher as she gushed over her "remark-

able life".

She explained how Helen would always tell her students: "Work the best you can and don't let anyone tell you that you cannot do something - ever! Make up your mind, prepare yourself, study hard, and be very, very confident."

The *Devil Wears Prada* stage show also issued a statement following Helen's passing. Taking to their Instagram page, they penned: "Due to a sudden loss in her family, Vanessa Williams will not be appearing from Wednesday 8 to Wednesday 15 January. During this time, the role of Miranda Priestly will be played by Debbie Kurup. Vanessa will return to *The Devil Wears Prada* from Thursday 16 January."

As well as Vanessa, Helen is also survived by son Christopher. Her husband Milton had died in 2006.

Helen will be remembered in "intimate private memorial services" later this month.

## Anime Convention Coming to Dayton



If you're a fan of Anime, you might consider visiting downtown Dayton in early 2025.

From Friday, Jan. 31 to Sunday, Feb. 2, Ohayocon, a popular anime event, will be held at the Dayton Convention Cen-

ter, located at 22 E. Fifth St. in Dayton.

In the event's "vendor room," guests will have the chance to browse items like DVDs, make-up, wall scrolls and more.

Cole Feuchter, John Swasey and Reba Burh

are just some of the voice actors who will be in attendance. Musical and performing guests in the lineup include Industry Speakers, Kyle Jones, Salem Moon and more.

## Troy-Hayner Cultural Center to Show *Monsters, Inc.*



Everyone needs something to do on a Friday night. Why not go to the movies? Friday Night Movies at the Hayner Center features classic movies with café style seating, popcorn and soda. All films are free and open to the public.

*Monsters, Inc.* is a 2001 American animated comedy produced by Pixar Animation Studios for Walt Disney Pictures. The film features the voices of John Goodman, Billy Crystal, Steve Buscemi, James Coburn, Mary Gibbs, and Jennifer Tilly. The film centers on two monsters, James P. "Sul-

ley" Sullivan (Goodman) and his best friend Mike Wazowski (Crystal). They are employed at the energy-producing factory *Monsters, Inc.*, which generates power by scaring human children. The monster world believes that children are toxic. Boo (Gibbs) is a toddler who follows Sulley and Mike back to the factory, where the frantic monsters must get her back home before it is too late. This family friendly film won the Academy Award for Best Original Song.

The Troy-Hayner Cultural Center is proudly supported by the citizens

of the Troy City School District through a local tax levy and generous gifts to the Friends of Hayner.

Troy-Hayner Cultural Center is located at 301 West Main Street, Troy, OH 45373. Hours of operation are Monday 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Tuesday – Thursday 9:00 am – 9:00 pm, Friday and Saturday 9:00 am – 5 pm, and Sunday 1:00 pm – 5 pm. The Hayner Center is closed on holidays. For more information, visit our website at [troyhayner.org](http://troyhayner.org) or call (937) 339-0457.

## The Troy-Hayner Cultural Center to Host Order and Fire

The Troy-Hayner Cultural Center is pleased to present *Order and Fire*. The exhibit of pottery by Troy artist Philip Matthews will be on display January 10th through February 23rd. A reception honoring the artist is scheduled for Sunday, January 12th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Attending the reception is a wonderful way to meet the artist and

gain insight into his work and process. The reception and exhibit are free and open to the public.

Artist Philip Matthews has always been interested in the intersection of art and functionality, specifically everyday ceramic objects as a canvas for visual exploration including bold graphics and clean lines. Spontaneous color and dramatic con-

trast. *Order and Fire* was inspired by the juxtaposition of these visual languages on a functional surface. A combination of Raku and traditional techniques, as well as vinyl resists and open flame were used to produce visually rich and tactile surfaces that value pleasing forms and utilitarian functionality.

## Celebrate Year of the Snake with DML

Dayton Metro Library has several programs taking place so that patrons of all ages can experience the rich culture of Lunar New Year.

Between the Sheets: A Romance Book Club, Saturday, January 11, 1-2 pm, Miami Township Branch: Read *Lunar Love* by Lauren Kung Jessen, then gather with others to discuss. (Adults)

Crafty Critters: Lunar New Year Edition, Monday, January 13, 4:30-6 pm, Miami Township Branch: Make norigae, a traditional Korean decorative pendant and fashion accessory to celebrate Lunar New Year. (Grades 1-4)

Coloring for Adults, Wednesday, January 15, 10-11 am, Northwest Branch: This session's coloring and music theme correlates with Lunar New Year. Registration is required. (Adults)

Preschool Storytime: Lunar New Year Celebration, Wednesday, January 15, 10:30-11:30 am, Miami Township Branch: Celebrate Lunar New Year with related books and a craft. (Families)

Lunar New Year Scavenger Hunt,

Wednesday, January 29, 3-6 pm, West Carrollton Branch: Learn about Lunar New Year by looking for pictures around the Library, find everything, and win a prize! (Families)

Lunar New Year Craft, Wednesday, January 29, 3-4 pm, Electra C. Doren Branch: Make a simple paper lantern to usher in the Year of the Snake. (Teens)

Lunar New Year Lanterns, Wednesday, January 29, 3-5 pm, Southeast Branch: Make light-up paper lanterns to take home. (Teens)

Family Program: Cele-

brating Lunar New Year!, Wednesday, January 29, 4-5 pm, Main Library, Children's Creativity Space: Paint plum blossom trees for good luck or create dragons that symbolize good fortune and strength. (Families)

Lunar New Year Craft-ernoon, Wednesday, January 29, 4-5 pm, Trotwood Branch: Create crafts to celebrate Lunar New Year. (Grades 1-4)

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# Education

## Principal Takes Night Job to Help Students



The principal would take night jobs at Walmart to earn a little extra to help his students. Cover Image Source: YouTube | TODAY

The principal would take night jobs at Walmart to earn a little extra to help his students. Cover Image Source: YouTube | TODAY

Some educators go way beyond their actual work to help their students. Their work isn't just restricted to how the person is doing at school; they try to ensure their overall well-being as well. A high school principal who took up a second job at Walmart during the night to help his students is a shining example. The principal of North Charleston High School in North Charleston, Carolina, Henry Darby, saw his students and the community struggling after the pandemic and hence decided to do something about that, as per TODAY.com and received a wholesome surprise from Walmart in exchange.

The man took up the job of stocking shelves from 10 PM to 7 AM and decided that every paycheck he got from the job would go towards helping his students in need of financial aid. Nobody knew about what Darby did during the day or his purpose of being at the job. "The attention, I'm not used to it. I don't think that I've done anything worthy of distinction to warrant the attention," the principal told the outlet. Ninety percent of the student body at the school lives below the poverty line.

"I get a little emotional because when you've got children you've heard, sleeping under a bridge, or a former student and her child, they're sleeping in a car, or when you go to a parent's house because there are problems and you knock on the door, there are no curtains and you see a mattress on the floor," the man shared with tears in his eyes.

He went on, "And these people need — and I wasn't gonna say no. And at my age, you know, we don't ask for money. We just don't. You just go ahead and do what you need to do." The store manager, Cynthia Solomon, pointed out, "Even before we knew, there was something special about him. I would be so happy to have Mr. Darby for as long as he will have us as a part of his family and beyond." Several students recounted how Darby has always been a helpful person and way beyond his duties. The man wants his students to pay his kindness forward someday. "It's quite simple, simplistic: Just learn to help others. That is one of the greatest things that we could do in terms of human beings."

The principal continued, "I am an optimist. But I'm also a determinist." He explained, "I know that it's going to get better. I know that these times will not always be with us. I know that my students will not always be in poverty. I know that because that's what we are. America makes it better for everybody." The principal's selfless act to make his students' lives better prompted Walmart to extend surprise help for the principal at an unlikely spot. Solomon reached out to TODAY

and decided to present the man with a \$50,000 check for his school to help the students.

The money was presented to the man during a live broadcast as his students cheered for him. "You're awesome and we appreciate you here at Walmart for all you are doing to serve your community," Solomon expressed. "Thank you so very much. This is going to go a very, very long way with our students, sir," Darby admitted. When asked whether he would continue his job or not, the principal said that he would keep working and giving his check to his students till the time Walmart would have him. As per NPR, the man also received the highest civilian honor from the state, the Order of the Palmetto and a crowdfunding of over \$1,95,000.

## DML Promotes Early Literacy with 1,000 Books

Dayton Metro Library is proud to be part of a nationwide initiative, 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, which promotes early literacy by encouraging kids and their caregivers to read 1,000 before Kindergarten.

Caregivers can register their child in person at a DML Branch or online with the free Beanstack app. When a reading

activity is completed, scratch off a circle on a paper tracker (obtained at a Branch) or update progress online via Beanstack.

Reading activities that count toward the 1,000 include books that are read at bedtime, at the Library, and at school; listening to DML's Dial-a-Story or audiobooks; and even reading the same book over and over!

Prizes are awarded at 250, 500, 750, and 1,000 activities completed and can be picked up at any DML location.

For more information and to register online, visit [DaytonMetroLibrary.org/1000books/](http://DaytonMetroLibrary.org/1000books/) or call the Library's Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

## School Suspensions and Expulsions Can Lead to a Lifetime of Depression

Each year, nearly 5 million children in the U.S. are suspended or expelled from school. New research from the U of A found this type of school discipline can lead to higher rates of depression through adolescence and into early adulthood.

The findings were published in the latest issue of *Advances in Life Course Research*. The study provides empirical evidence for previous suggestions by scholars that school suspensions and expulsions can have long-term effects on mental health.

Driven by zero-tolerance policies, school suspensions and expulsion rose by roughly 50 percent from the 1970s through 2010. Exclusionary discipline, once reserved for violent acts, drug use or possession of weapons,



Sociology and criminology professors Michael Niño and Alexia Angton. Photo by Whit Pruitt

has increasingly been imposed for less serious behaviors.

very clearly problematic behaviors to more subjective things, like

"It evolved from these *Continued on Page 6*

# Editorial & Comments

## Something To Consider:

### What Is Forgiveness?

By: Brenda Cochran  
Contributing Writer

Those who are psychologists define forgiveness as a conscious, deliberate decision to release any feelings of resentment or vengeance toward a person who has harmed you. It can also be receipt of harm from an organization.

There is one thing about forgiveness that is important. The reason it is important is that it can significantly improve your mental and emotional well-being and it does this by reducing stress, anxiety, and depression by fostering peace of mind and healthy relationships.

In terms of the Bible, we find that it provides some

possible explanations.

One of them is the possibility of tension in a relationship with a spouse, a child, a parent or another person in your life. You might be feeling badly about something you have done and you are wondering how you deal with this lingering guilt that you have, or the unintended consequences.

Another scenario that you may have if someone has wronged you, is do you find that you struggle to move beyond that hurt and anger? Or, have you wronged someone else? Regardless of the specific situation that you are facing, there is good news — thanks to a beautiful gift that is a foundational understanding to Christian faith.

Understanding toward — good relationships requires giving and receiving forgiveness. When you think about it, to be human means messing up in one way or another and these failures can have an impact on our relationships with God and with others. This is why forgiveness is important and is an essential part of the Christian faith. Remember -Jesus did not come to create perfect people; He came to restore those broken relationships.

Obtaining forgiveness does require a simple step and this is one step that makes it so difficult. Once we try over and over to fix



Brenda Cochran

any consequence of your wrong actions, you could spend every minute wallowing in guilt or shame, but there is nothing wrong with trying to correct those mistakes or even feeling badly, when you sin, neither one of them can really fix that broken relationship.

This only happens when we do something much less complicated, but far more difficult. Forgiveness can only be received when we ask for it. That is the hard part since it requires us to admit that we have done something that needs to be fixed in the first place.

There is an important step for Christians in forgiveness and this is called repentance. The meaning for this word is- turn around and go the other way. It requires turning away from that all too human propensity to see yourself as a victim or to pretend that nothing has happened, or you can

blame the other person to be overly sensitive. To restore the relationship, we have to own problems that we caused or contributed to it and turn back towards a relationship.

Some people realize that forgiveness is something like torture. It can make us angry, cold, hard, bitter and also resentful. The impact of forgiveness can be physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual. You might feel justified in your anger, but you have to choose what you desire. Do you want to have your anger or freedom from this anger?

When we don't forgive, we are deciding to hold on to the offense. We focus on our pain and then we choose to relive the moment that offended us whenever the offender comes close to us or nearby.

The following are a few categories of the reasons why we might consider forgiving someone: "Forgiveness are the attribute of the strong." (By Mahatma Gandhi) "To ere is humane; to forgive, divine." (Alexander Pope) "Forgiveness is not an occasional act; it is a permanent attitude." (Martin Luther King) "Forgiveness is the fragrance the violet sheds on the heels that have crushed it." (Mark Twain)

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Sunday Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.  
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# Religion

**School Suspensions and Expulsions Can Lead to a Lifetime of Depression...**  
*Continued from Page 5*

disrespect or defiance," said first author Alexia Angton, assistant professor of sociology and criminology at the U of A.

In the U.S., six out of 10 schools still use exclusionary discipline, even though researchers have questioned its effectiveness. Boys, economically disadvantaged young people and Black, Latino and Native American students more often receive suspensions and expulsions.

Using the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health), an ongoing study of 20,000 people who were adolescents in the mid-1990s, Angton and her colleagues were able to track how often students who were suspended or expelled reported depression later in life.

Adolescents who were suspended or expelled showed "significantly higher depressive symptoms," the researchers found. This group's self-reported rates of depression decreased slightly in their late teens and early 20s, and then rose again as they reached their early 30s, the most

recent data available in the Add Health survey.

Scholars have established that early exposure to stress can lead to physical or mental health problems in adulthood. Most of that research, however, has focused on adverse childhood experiences at home, such as physical abuse or substance use by parents.

"We know very little about how these stressors in school shape long-term physical and mental health outcomes. So, this really is an entirely new line of research," said co-author Michael Niño, U of A associate professor of sociology and criminology and director of the Arkansas Health Equity and Access Lab.

Another study by Niño, published early this year in the journal Socius, showed that students who were suspended or expelled reported poorer physical health from adolescence through middle age.

"Broadly speaking, we definitely need discipline reform," Angton said. "What can we put into place towards lessening the effects of suspension and expulsion down the line?"

Shauna Morimoto, U of A professor of sociology and criminology and associate dean of the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences, and Kazumi Tsuchiya, assistant professor of public health at the University of Toronto, were also co-authors on the paper.

About the University of Arkansas: As Arkansas' flagship institution, the U of A provides an internationally competitive education in more than 200 academic programs. Founded in 1871, the U of A contributes more than \$3 billion to Arkansas' economy through the teaching of new knowledge and skills, entrepreneurship and job development, discovery through research and creative activity while also providing training for professional disciplines. The Carnegie Foundation classifies the U of A among the few U.S. colleges and universities with the highest level of research activity. U.S. News & World Report ranks the U of A among the top public universities in the nation. See how the U of A works to build a better world at Arkansas Research and Economic Development News.

**Silent Crisis: When Bullying Targets Black Students...**  
*Continued from Page 1*

in the hospital, though, the bullying continued: a classmate visited Kelaia in the ICU and took photos of her, which ended up on social media.

In a statement to The Washington Post, Greenville County Schools denied the allegations. "The school and district administrations investigated and addressed each of the reported incidents in accordance with policy and law," according to the statement. No parent concerns or reports of bullying were ignored, and all were directly addressed with the student's mother. While we do not agree with the allegations, our hearts go out to Kelaia Tecora Turner, her mother, and their family."

Kelaia's heartbreaking story, detailed in a lawsuit against the Greenville County school system, reflects a national crisis: studies show 4 in 10 Black K-12 students face bullying in school, much of it is based on their race, and most school districts lack the resources to help or protect them.

Bullying Black Students Is a National School Crisis

A 2023 report from The Public Health Post found that although Black students make up 15% of all students in the nation's K-12 public school system, they account for 37% of students who experience bullying. Experts believe the percentage is likely wider than reported, given that students of color are less likely to report being bullied due to mistrust of the school system.

Often, schools' re-

sponses to racial bullying against Black students fail to address the severity and prevalence of the abuse. A 2021 policy brief from The Intercultural Development Research Association found that schools frequently lack the resources to recognize and respond to the specific type of trauma bullied Black students suffer.

Additionally, the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights has identified instances where schools have turned a blind eye to known acts of racial harassment.

At the same time, studies show an alarming rise in suicide rates among Black youth. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported in 2023 that while the suicide rate between 2018 and 2021 among Black school-aged kids fell from 14% to 10%, it was still increasing faster than any other racial or ethnic group. Their study also found that more than 6 in 10 Black youths who attempted suicide did so due to racism and school bullying.

These incidents not only perpetuate hostile school environments but further exacerbate mental distress, which can disrupt their education and academic achievement.

The Mental Health Toll in the Classroom

Persistent bullying, especially, can lead to decreased academic performance, increased absenteeism, and higher dropout rates. A 2024 report from The Journal of Early Adolescence found that students who are sub-

jected to bullying scored lower on standardized tests and received poorer grades than their non-bullied peers.

The compounded stress from bullying can trigger anxiety, depression, and self-harm, including thoughts of suicide. But without culturally competent mental health resources — psychologists and counselors who understand racism and the Black experience — students are often left without the support that can help them.

A Strong Call for Change

Kelaia, now 14, is unable to speak or feed herself and can't breathe on her own, according to the lawsuit. Her parents provide the bulk of the around-the-clock care she requires, beginning at 2 a.m. and with little respite.

Turner, her mother, says she believes that, despite the excruciatingly painful circumstances, her child has a purpose and can help others.

"Kelaia advocating for Kelaia should have been enough, and it wasn't," Turner told The Washington Post. "Me advocating for Kelaia wasn't enough. So now what we want to do is make sure that we are shining a light on [bullying] and trying to set a precedent so that these schools are compelled to address this."

The post Silent Crisis: When Bullying Targets Black Students appeared first on Word In Black.

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# Central State Gets \$1.2 Million to Plant Trees in Cities, Educate About Their Care

Central State University runs peer-to-peer learning on forest management in southeast Ohio. The university recently got a \$1.2 million grant to improve tree planting in urban areas. Courtesy of Central State University.

Central State University runs peer-to-peer learning on forest management in southeast Ohio. The university recently got a \$1.2 million grant to improve tree planting in urban areas. Courtesy of Central State University.

Central State University received \$1.2 million for an urban forestry initiative that the university says will help improve environmental inequality in areas with fewer trees.

The project includes hiring an urban forestry educator, who will work with cities and villages across Ohio to improve urban forestry, according to Marcus Nagle, the lead professor on the project and a research associate professor of horticulture at Central State.

The project is also focused on researching the effects of air and soil quality when more trees are planted and work-



ing closely with the community to take care of the trees and collect research information. Other professors involved in the project include research associate professor of soil science and agronomy Sakthi Kumaran and research associate professor of entomology Hongmei Li-Byarlay.

Nagle said the project grant is for three and a half years. It is funded by a stewardship agreement from the U.S. Forest Service through the Inflation Reduction Act and was awarded through the 1890 Foundation.

Nagle said it was important to engage the community in this project, since

other forestry projects have found that simply planting trees in an area doesn't mean they will be taken care of.

"So often the model is just to come and plant a tree, and then just to effectively leave it up to nature to decide whether it lives or not," he said.

In discussions with local experts and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Nagle said the groups have found engaging the community can help ensure the success of the trees long-term.

What is urban forestry? Urban forestry is the formal name for the work done with trees that grow near homes and businesses

in areas like Dayton and Xenia.

Trees help divert water that would otherwise flood stormwater drains into their root system. Trees also absorb pollutants, give off oxygen and provide habitats for animals that live in the city.

Improving tree cover within the city can help reduce stress, improve physical and mental health and decrease crime rates.

Li-Byarlay said more trees can have a big impact on bees, butterflies and birds. The project will focus on pollinator trees, Nagle said.

"In cities, there aren't always a lot of wild spaces," Li-Byarlay said. "But add-

ing trees gives pollinators more places to live, rest and find food."

Areas with more trees can also reduce heating and cooling costs for buildings, according to Central State officials.

Urban areas with inadequate tree cover can experience poor air quality and lack of shade and are more vulnerable to extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change. Having a diverse amount of trees in the area can also help keep the community healthier.

"Urban and community forest diversity is especially important to minimize the spread of tree pest and diseases,"

said Kumaran. "We all are well aware of what Dutch Elm Disease and Emerald Ash Borer did to our trees in our streets."

Other programs Central State is not the only local organization trying to increase the number of trees in the area.

The Montgomery County Land Bank, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry, offers free trees to homeowners and renters who live in areas of "inequity." More information is available on their website or by calling 937-531-6921.

Last summer, the city of Dayton received a \$2 million federal grant from the Forest Service to pay for an urban tree inventory and tree canopy assessment.

Five Rivers MetroParks also was awarded more than \$1.4 million from the Forest Service to assess tree and forest inventories, remove invasive plant species, and to plant native trees and shrubs to expand the urban canopy at Spring Run Conservation Area and Possum Creek MetroPark.

## 7 Surprising Ways to Make 2025 Healthy



Some standard health tips are timeless, aren't they? The basics of living a healthy life don't really change. Get lots of sleep and rest, exercise, and nutrient rich food. Manage stressors and symptoms.

But as basic as those rules can be, it is still hard to practice them consistently. What's more, wellness is more about enhancing your life than following rules. As a new year dawns, UCLA Health experts share some of their most practical and not-always-obvious feel-good advice. Here, seven smart tips from seven different health and wellness experts.

### 1. Keep Doing the Good-for-You Things You Already Do

"Most of what people can do to have a healthy 2025 is not much different than what they could do to have a healthy 2024: exercise; don't smoke; drink alcohol in moderation, if at all; stay engaged; and keep your mind stimulated.

Be decent in every interaction and seek optimism every day. You may not find something to rejoice about but you may find something meaningful that may

help others and yourself." -- Dr. David B. Reuben, geriatrician.

### 2. Honor and Nurture Your Feet

"Our feet take a pounding every day, but most of us don't take care of our feet.

Give yourself a foot massage. It's a simple, easy thing that anyone can do -- very low cost, low investment and high yield.

There is a whole body of knowledge about reflexology, which is really acupressure points, and how you stimulate a lot of these points when you massage your feet. Get a simple golf ball or a roller, and roll each foot over it. It can be relaxing, especially if you combine it with closing your eyes and deep breathing.

I usually tell patients to massage their feet daily, but the best time to do it is at night before you go to bed." -- Dr. Lawrence Taw, director of the UCLA Center for East-West Medicine, Torrance.

### 3. Integrate Your Health Goals

"To me, health refers to body, spirit and mind.

For the body, it's best to eat whole foods and incorporate some type of physical activity on a routine basis. Give yourself permission to indulge, in

moderation, in foods that bring you joy.

With the mind, it's making sure to increase awareness of helpful versus unhelpful thoughts. You need to have access to social support and to give the mind some rest by unplugging from social media and becoming intentional about focusing on present-moment interactions.

With the spirit and heart, it is finding and connecting to people, activities, hobbies, interests that nourish the soul -- anything that brings connection and can foster meaning. It can be spending time with loved ones, finding connection through music, literature and art, prayer, meditation and spirituality, or community-based activities." -- Dr. Valentina Ogaryan, clinical director of the Simms/Mann UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology.

### 4. Prioritize Stress Management

"To have a healthy 2025, individuals should focus on managing stress through mindfulness practices, quality sleep, and strong social connections which can significantly enhance mental health and resilience. This is in addition to maintaining a healthy diet and regular exercise, of course.

When it comes to sports and athletics, focus on injury prevention, mix up workouts with cross-training, and support the body with proper nutrition and hydration." -- Dr. Marissa Vasquez, lead team physician for the LA Dodgers.

### 5. Savor, and Strive For, Mindful Rest

"Make time for rest. This means unplugging from time to time and just being rather than constantly doing. Practice gratitude. Even brief moments recalling things that you are grateful for can shift your day from resentment and overwhelm to a sense of peace and appreciation.

Savor the joyful moments. In addition to gratitude, there are many moments in the day when we experience joy or pleasure. Don't skip over them. Take a moment to savor the experience, even for a few seconds. We need to build up our joy resources.

When you're stressed, remember STOP: Stop; Take a breath or two; Observe how you're feeling inside; and Proceed with a bit more awareness and calm." -- Diana Winston, director of UCLA Mindful.

### 6. Monitor Your Energy Levels

"Check in with your internal energy just like you approach your phone battery: How charged are you? Do you start the day at 100%? What depletes you and what energizes you?"

Lean into the energizing practices and minimize the depleting ones. Tuning into how you moderate your energy permits you to make better choices about how you move through your day.

Take pauses and slow down. Life tends to feel loud and fast. Give yourself permission to dial down the volume and

speed."

-- Dr. Elizabeth Ko, medical director of the UCLA Health Integrative Medicine Collaborative

### 7. Move and Connect

"Put down your iPad, stand up and move.

Whatever you did yesterday -- if it was walking a block, walk two today, four tomorrow; if it was a mile, walk two today, three tomorrow, and so on. Humans are great at building endurance -- it's in our DNA! Be true to your genes and move!

Be purposeful. Outside of your job, find something to do that matters: volunteer, learn a new language, put down your news and social media feeds, and pick up an instrument and learn to play." -- Dr. Jesse Mills, director of the Men's Clinic at UCLA Health.

### Riverside to Install Bicycle Pump Track?... Continued from Page 2

ation Commission.

"We really think this is the best bang for the buck," he said.

Rohrer Park is a roughly 22 acre park at 720 Rohrer Ave. that has a walking path, playground, picnic tables, benches, basketball courts and a baseball diamond.

The park, one of four that are owned by the city, used to have to have a building for concessions but that was destroyed by a fire in March 2023.

Riverside received a \$211,000 insurance payment after the fire that the city hopes to put toward

the new pump track. The track would be placed on the concrete pad where the concession building once stood.

Brohm said constructing a bike park can cost millions of dollars. But he said modular pump tracks cost far less and can be assembled pretty quickly, sometimes in about eight to 12 hours.

"This is a fraction of the cost ... and it's comparable to (the cost of) a playground set," Brohm said. "This would be a cutting-edge, ahead-of-the-curve feature."

Pump tracks are com-

pact loops featuring rollers and berms that people can ride on without having to pedal. Tracks allow riders to practice their balance and riding skills.

Beth Moore, Riverside's service director, said the modular pump track will be ordered this month if Riverside City Council approves the purchase. The track would arrive about in 12 weeks.

"We'd like to have a nice, little ribbon-cutting party in the park in the spring," Moore said.

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# Health



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## Schedule a Screening Mammography Near You in January

Premier Health is making it easier for busy women to get their annual mammogram screening with its mobile mammography coach that travels to businesses, public venues, and events throughout Southwest Ohio.

The following dates and times are open for appointments in January:

- Thursday, Jan. 9, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Jamestown Emergency Department, 4940 Cottonville Road, Jamestown, OH 45335;
- Friday, Jan. 10, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Monroe Medical Center, 35 Overbrook Drive, Monroe, OH 45050;
- Friday, Jan. 17, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Dulan and Moore Dulan Family Wellness, 1000 Columbus Ave., Lebanon, OH 45036;
- Tuesday, Jan. 21, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Stillwater Family Care, 471 Marker Road, Versailles, OH 45380;
- Wednesday, Jan. 22, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Miami County Internal Medicine, 2600 Mote

Drive, Covington, OH 45318;

- Friday, Jan. 24, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Miami Valley Hospital Imaging – Springboro, 630 N. Main St., Springboro, OH 45066;
- Monday, Jan. 27, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Monroe Medical Center, 35 Overbrook Drive, Monroe, OH 45050;
- Wednesday, Jan. 29, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at SureCare Medical Center, 360 W. Central Ave., Springboro, OH 45066; and
- Friday, Jan. 31, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Trenton Family Medicine, 3590 Busenbark Road, Trenton, OH 45067

Mobile mammograms can be scheduled by calling (855) 887-7364. For more information about the process and locations, visit [www.premierhealth.com/mobilemammo](http://www.premierhealth.com/mobilemammo) or email [MobileMammo@premierhealth.com](mailto:MobileMammo@premierhealth.com).

Premier Health welcomes partnerships with area businesses and event organizers to bring the mobile mammography coach to their locations in the community. For more

information about how to bring the coach to your event or site, email [MobileMammo@premierhealth.com](mailto:MobileMammo@premierhealth.com) or call (844) 453-4199.

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About Premier Health  
Based in Dayton, Ohio, Premier Health ([www.premierhealth.com](http://www.premierhealth.com)) is committed to support the community through its mission: To Care. To Teach. To Innovate. To Serve. Home to the region's only adult Level I trauma center and the largest locally based clinical laboratory, Premier Health continues to build upon a more than 130-year legacy of providing clinical excellence and compassionate care to friends and neighbors across Southwest Ohio. The health system offers award-winning care at five hospital sites: Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton with additional inpatient sites at Miami Valley Hospital South in Centerville and Miami Valley Hospital North in Englewood; Atrium Medical Center in Middletown; and Upper Valley Medical Center in Miami County.

## Two Boys Become Best Friends While Battling the Same Cancer



Two young boys share a special connection. They became friends while battling the same cancer and then undergoing the same ultra-rare surgery.

Noah, 11, and Wallie, 10, share a spirited friendship rooted in competition and resilience. Meeting at Children's Hospital Los Angeles while undergoing treatment for osteosarcoma, a rare bone cancer, the duo bonded over shared challenges and victories. Their treatment included chemotherapy and a spe-

cialized surgery called rotationplasty, which reconstructs the ankle joint to function as a knee, allowing greater mobility with prosthetics.

Despite the cosmetic and physical challenges, Noah and Wallie thrive with support from their families and each other. Their camaraderie transforms therapy sessions into friendly contests, keeping spirits high as they navigate life after cancer.

Dr. Alexander Christ, their orthopedic oncolo-

gist, praised their courage, explaining that rotationplasty offers long-term benefits by minimizing future surgeries. Noah's mother, Ivy Oliveros, highlighted the vital role of community and shared experiences in coping with such a rare diagnosis and treatment.

Their journey is a testament to the power of friendship and resilience in overcoming life's toughest trials.