



Harriet Tubman Commemorative Coins Honor Legacy, Available Until Dec. 31



The collection, celebrating Tubman's historic contributions to justice and equality, includes silver and gold coins that will be available until Dec. 31, 2024.

The coins highlight three defining moments of Tubman's life:

- Silver Dollar Coin: Depicts Tubman as a fearless conductor on the Underground Railroad, extending her hand to symbolize empowerment.

- Half-Dollar Coin: Showcases her role as a Civil War spy and scout, holding a spyglass to represent her tactical expertise.

- \$5 Gold Coin: Features Tubman in her later years, confidently looking ahead, embodying her unwavering dedication to freedom and equality.

A portion of the proceeds from the coin sales supports the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and other organizations dedicated to justice and equity.

The significance of the coins will be celebrated at the Young Women's Financial Wellness Forum on Dec. 11, 2024, at the New York Stock

Exchange's Freedom Hall.

Hosted by Seneca Women in partnership with the Freedom Center, the event aims to inspire financial literacy and empowerment among young women. Attendees include local students, Girl Scouts, and leaders from women's advocacy groups.

"How inspiring it is to recognize Harriet Tubman," said U.S. Mint Director Ventris Gibson. "Her legacy shines just blocks from where enslaved people were once auctioned, reminding us of her strength and vision."

Woodrow Keown, Jr., President of the Freedom Center, added:

"These coins enshrine Harriet among our nation's heroes, continuing her story and supporting the critical mission for justice."

Harriet Tubman's extraordinary legacy includes leading over 70 enslaved people to freedom, serving as a Union spy, and becoming the first woman to lead a military expedition during the Civil War.

The commemorative coins are available individually or as a set. Secure your piece of history at catalog.usmint.gov/HarrietTubman.

Sinclair Community College Graduates its First Three Students in New Bachelor of Science Nursing Degree



(L to R): Kristen Bacon, Dr. Steve Johnson, Melaney Caylor, and Kristen Siler

Sinclair Community College has graduated its very first three (3) Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree students.

The three (3) BSN graduates were recognized last night during Sinclair's Nursing Department's Pinning and Recognition Ceremony held at Sinclair's Centerville Campus. The ceremony was held for Sinclair's Associate of Applied Science in Nursing graduates, as well as the three (3) BSN graduates.

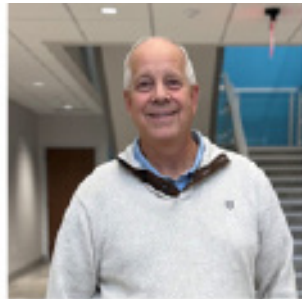
"I've been very fortunate to have a strong

support system here at Sinclair," said Kristen Siler, one of the first three Sinclair BSN graduates and employee with Miami Valley Hospital. "In a lot of my classes we focused on being able to advocate for people of different backgrounds, and I think that's really important in nursing today."

Sinclair launched its Bachelor of Science in Nursing completion program in January 2024 with a mission to support practicing registered nurses (RN) in advancing their careers and enhancing healthcare outcomes.

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Del Mar Encore Fellows Selected to Help Lead Community Efforts



Arnie Biondo



Rosalie Bonacci-Roberts



Steven Box



Debra A. Brathwaite, PhD



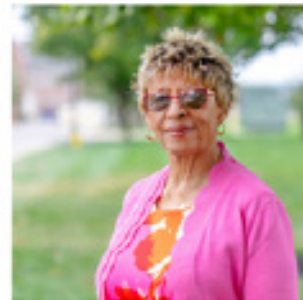
Brenda I. Dewberry



Daniel K. Foley



Jane L. McEwen



Beverly Williams Odon, PhD

Eight highly skilled older adults have been selected as the newest fellows for The Dayton Foundation's Del Mar Encore Fellows Initiative, which deploys retired or career-transitioning older adults to work on significant community issues. Each fellow brings new sources of talent and experience to nonprofit organizations tackling critical needs in Greater Dayton.

Since the initiative launched in 2017, Del Mar Encore Fellows have been placed with 25 organizations and have contributed more than 42,000 hours of work, providing an estimated \$3 million in value to the Greater Dayton

economy. This initiative is made possible thanks to generous grants from the DMH-Dayton Fund of The Dayton Foundation.

Serving for the next year as Del Mar Encore Fellows are the following:

Arnie Biondo is assisting the Miami Valley Age-Friendly Network, an initiative of the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission's Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities, to establish and implement age-friendly strategies for the Greater Dayton region. Biondo's career spans over 40 years in three states and in Arabia and has included leadership positions with organizations focused on

conservation, arts, community recreation and more.

Rosalie Bonacci-Roberts is helping Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHÉ) to promote the inclusion of underrepresented adults in the workplace and assist others experiencing barriers to employment. Bonacci-Roberts has over 30 years of experience in strategic planning, operations and human resource development, including with the civilian workforce at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Most recently, she served as vice president of Business Planning and Operations for Prosperity-Key, a Con-

necticut-based nonprofit marketplace aimed at connecting individuals who are living paycheck to paycheck with discounted products and services offered by businesses, nonprofits and government agencies.

Steven Box is working with the United Way of the Greater Dayton Area to provide a systemic review and development of practices and procedures to support the organization's operational structure. For nearly 30 years, Box has blended his mindset as a promoter with his innate skills as a manager in a

Continued on Page 2

Celebrate the Season with a Historic Twist at a Dunbar Christmas in Dayton

Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park and the University of Dayton's music department presents "A Dunbar Christmas" at the Paul Laurence Dunbar House and Visitor Center.

The annual and free of charge ranger led tour of the Dunbar House will be open to enjoy on December 14, 15, 21 and 22 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Participants will be met with singers performing period songs and the experience includes historical reenactments of Matilda Dunbar, the mother of Paul,



which will share stories that brings the Dunbar house to life. The last tour

will begin at 3:30 p.m. on all days that the event is open to the public.

After the tour, attendees will be able to explore the visitor center to observe how Christmas was celebrated during Dunbar's life. In addition, children can craft turn-of-the-century and Dunbar poem-inspired holiday ornaments.

For groups larger than 10, the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park is asking that attendees RSVP in advance due limited capacity of the house

To learn more about Paul Dunbar and his significance, please visit the National Park Service website.

Toys for Tots Brings Joy to Hundreds of Local Families



Volunteers with Toys for Tots in Huber Heights spent their evening giving away thousands of toys to Miami Valley families.

Their goal was to impact more than 3,200 families. Around 1,300 have already received their gifts.

"Even though it's a Marine Corp-operated thing, it's a community-run

thing," Xavier Montae, Toys for Tots coordinator, said. "All these donations came from companies all around Dayton."

Montae grew up in Dayton and has seen the impact of the program firsthand.

"I actually benefited from it as a kid. And then 13 years later, be able to cut back and be the su-

pervisor, it's a full circle thing," Montae said.

A group of just 30 people handed out hundreds of bags Wednesday and Friday while in freezing conditions, but not without thanks.

"God bless y'all for helping the community," Todjanaye Smith said.

Visit this website for more information.

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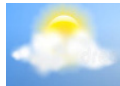


Around DAYTON

Miami Valley Weather

Saturday Sunday

Cloudy
High 44
Low 25

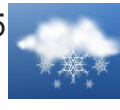


Rain/Snow
High 47
Low 47



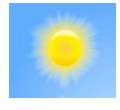
Monday

Rain/Snow
High 55
Low 39



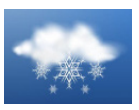
Tuesday

Sunny
High 47
Low 36



Wednesday

Rain/Snow
High 44
Low 30



5 day Forecast

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Resume Development
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MIAMI VALLEY URBAN LEAGUE



Del Mar Encore Fellows Selected to Help Lead Community Efforts... Continued from Page 1

variety of fields. He has worked for a wide array of businesses across the county, lending his strategic and creative thinking to a diverse group of nonprofits, centers of education, Fortune 500 companies, professional entertainers and more.

Debra A. Brathwaite, PhD, has joined the Miami Valley Urban League to collect and analyze data to identify trends in the issues facing Black communities and advocate for policy changes to achieve equity. Brathwaite brings more than 50 years of experience as an educator in school systems in New York City, New

York, Cleveland, Ohio, Dayton, Ohio and Columbia, South Carolina. In Dayton, she served from 2003 to 2008 as the deputy superintendent/ chief academic officer for Dayton Public Schools. She has been an adjunct professor at the University of Dayton and is the president and CEO of her own education consulting firm. She also previously served as a Del Mar Encore Fellow for the YWCA and Preschool Promise.

Brenda I. Dewberry is working with Brigid's Path to conduct a comprehensive study on the need for housing, childcare and workforce development services for mothers struggling with substance abuse and trauma. Dewberry has over 30 years of experience in higher education, most recently serving in administrative roles at Central State University, Wittenberg University and Wright State University. As an accomplished grant writer, Dewberry secured external funding to support the creation of new, pre-college programs for students in grades K-12 designed to promote college attendance.

Daniel K. Foley is supporting the Employers' Workforce Coalition, a Dayton Foundation leadership initiative, to develop and implement strategies to enhance regional workforce development. This initiative addresses the critical challenge of bridging the gap between the supply

of skilled workers and the demand from employers in the Greater Dayton region. Foley served as an elected official for over 18 years, including as the Montgomery County Clerk of Courts and as a three-term Montgomery County Commissioner. Most recently, he directed the Great Miami Riverway Initiative for the Miami Conservancy District to drive public and private investment along the Great Miami Riverway.

Jane L. McEwen is partnering with Sinclair Community College's Fast Forward Re-Engagement Center to devise innovative transportation solutions for Dayton Public Schools' high school students, aiming to improve equitable access to education and increase graduation rates. McEwen's passion for community service stems from her roots in South Bend, Indiana, where she was a prominent church and community leader. Her initiatives included founding a youth choir and department at Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church in Elkhart and establishing a city-wide Kwanzaa celebration in South Bend. After moving to the Dayton area in 1988, McEwen founded PALS (Positive Parenting and Life Skills) for Young Moms (formerly known as Omega Teen MOPS), an inner-city, teen mother support group.

Beverly Williams Odon, PhD, has joined Learn to Earn Dayton to collaborate with criti-

cal educational, governmental and community organizations to launch a year-long academy to inform residents about the function of schools and local governments to become advocates who drive systemic change. Odon's career includes a myriad of institutions and organizations that address community needs through comprehensive services to children, youth and families. For more than 40 years, she has worked on behalf of abused and neglected children at Montgomery County Children Services, supported Dayton Public Schools' early childhood education services, administered a first-diversion program for female status offenders through a federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration grant to the National Council of Negro Women and delivered social services to Head Start children and families through the Miami Valley Child Development Centers. She also was the first center director for the Dora Lee Tate Service Center, promoting local collaboratives, advocacy initiatives and support for the local non-profit sector through the United Way of the Greater Dayton Area.

These eight new fellows join current fellows Brett Hart and Sharon Hawkins, who have been working for the past year on the Foundation's community leadership initiatives. Hart is supporting the Brain Health Collective, a partnership with

DML Introduces New Database

Dayton Metro Library has added a new database to its vast collection: The HistoryMakers. This database is free for patrons to use and can be accessed from a DML location or from home. The HistoryMakers is currently the nation's largest African American video oral history collection.

Patrons can view over 150,000 oral interviews from approximately 2,700 (to date) historically significant African Americans. According to the database, The HistoryMakers "is a non-profit whose purpose is to record, preserve, and disseminate the content of video oral history interviews highlighting the accomplishments of individual African Americans, African American-led groups, and movements. Its aim is to provide a unique schol-

arly and educational resource for exploring African American history and culture."

With this new database addition, patrons have access to approximately 105 different databases through DML's website - databases that offer valuable research opportunities into careers, literature, history, newspapers/magazines, grants, how-to, and much more - all with a free DML Library card.

To obtain a physical Library card, patrons can stop by any of their neighborhood Branches. For an eCard, patrons can apply online. For more information on the benefits of both cards, visit apps.DaytonMetroLibrary.org/ecard/. For a complete list of DML's free databases, visit DaytonMetroLibrary.org.

Additional Festive Programs @ DML



Dayton Metro Library's December programs for all ages continue with a little bit of everything from coloring and crafting homemade gifts to Mrs. Claus and Dianne Coble.

Coloring for Adults, Wednesday, December 18, 10-11 am, Northwest Branch: Color vintage winter scenes while listening to Christmas music. Supplies are provided but patrons can bring their own as well. Registration is required - limited space remains. (Adults)

Family Storytime: Holidays and Celebrations, Wednesday, December 18, 4-4:45 pm, Burkhardt Branch: Enjoy stories about Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. (Families)

Craft-a-palooza for Gift Giving, Monday, December 16-Wednes-

day, December 18, 4-5 pm, West Carrollton Branch: Make a gift for someone with provided supplies. (Families)

Family Program: Winter Crafts, Wednesday, December 18, 4-5 pm, Main Library, Children's Creativity Space: Explore and create together with winter craft activities geared for children ages 3-12. (Families)

Westside Winter Wonderland, Wednesday, December 18, 4-5 pm, West Branch: Enjoy fun winter activities and more, with a special giveaway. Registration is required. (Families)

For more information and to register if required, visit DaytonMetroLibrary.org or call the Library's Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

the University of Dayton to coordinate care, education and community outreach for individuals inflicted with traumatic brain injuries. Hawkins is leading an effort through the University of Dayton's Fitz Center for Leadership in Communities' Health Equity Activation Think Tank (HEATT) to increase Black infant and maternal vitality in Montgomery County.

For more information about the Del Mar Encore Fellows Initiative, please contact Leigh Sempeles, senior fellow, at lsempeles@daytonfoundation.org or (937) 225-9949.

About The Dayton Foundation

The Dayton Foundation has been the trusted charitable giving resource for thousands of individuals, families and organizations since 1921. Ranked among the oldest and largest community foundations in the nation, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1.37 billion in grants since its founding, with current assets from all funds exceeding \$1.12 billion. For more information about The Dayton Foundation, visit daytonfoundation.org or follow the Foundation on Facebook, X or LinkedIn.

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National

Bakery Owner Discovers Her Longtime Customer Is Her Biological Son



Lenore Lindsey with her son Vamarr Hunter – Family photo

From Chicago comes the story of a sweet reunion between a mother and son, who despite having met many times, never knew of their relationship.

At Give Me Some Sugah bakery, recently-hired employee Hunter

Varmarr is particularly proud of his pound cake. He had always loved stopping in for a sweet treat or breakfast at the cafe, particularly because of the service from the baker behind the counter.

Her name was Lenore Lindsey, and though she

didn't know Varmarr's name, she knew him as a valuable customer.

But their relationship went far deeper than that. Though neither knew it, they were mother and son.

Lindsey gave up her newborn son for adoption when she gave birth to

Varmarr at just 17 years old. Varmarr for his part didn't know he was adopted until 34. After finding out, he gradually became interested in finding out who his birth mother was, and so submitted DNA for a test.

One day, he received a strange call.

"I was on the phone talking to my friend when a call came through from the bakery," said Varmarr to the Washington Post. "I was like, 'Why is Give Me Some Sugah calling me?'"

THE FATHER SHE NEVER KNEW: Woman Looking for Birth Parents Learns That Dad Was a 'Friend' on Facebook

Even though he was told to expect a call from his biological mother, he didn't suspect even for a moment any connection

between it and the bakery.

The Post heard from Lindsey, who said if she had seen Varmarr's photo, the shock would have been immediate. Instead, with only a name, the call began with a slow awkwardness that eventually shattered with loud enthusiasm when the lost family members connected the dots.

"When I knew who he was, we just started screaming on the phone," Lindsey said. "We were beside ourselves," with Hunter adding "It was just so unbelievable."

LONG-LOST SISTERS: Sisters Who Found Each Other Through DNA Discover They Had Mysteriously Named Their Kids After Each Other

"When I called him, that connection was so im-

mediate. I can't even explain it. It was just like everything in my heart just broke open," she said, this time to ABC 7 Chicago.

After a bout of health issues, Varmarr even started working there while Lindsey recovered, having no prior baking experience.

"It's been a great experience. It further strengthens my faith. You can't make up for time and days gone by. What you can do is properly utilize the time that you have," he said.

Along with Lindsey, Varmarr got to meet a long-lost sister, and an extended family to boot, incorporating his own four children into a new network of sweet, sweet, affection.

Black Women Transform Federal Courts in Wave of Judicial Appointments



tenure — a dramatic increase that has reshaped the justice system's demographics. This surge in representation builds upon a legacy where previously only eight Black women had ever served at the appellate court level.

A new era of judicial leadership

The administration's commitment to diversifying the federal bench extends beyond statistics.

These appointments bring decades of varied legal experience from civil rights advocacy to corporate law, enriching judicial perspective at every level of the system.

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson's elevation to the Supreme Court stands as perhaps the most visible symbol of this transformation.

Continued on Page 4

President Joe Biden's administration has fundamentally transformed the federal judiciary landscape, marking a revolutionary shift in who sits behind the bench in America's courtrooms.

The changes are striking: 40 Black women now serve as federal judges under Biden's

President Biden Historically Names 40 Black Women as Federal Judges



President Joe Biden has named 40 Black women to become federal judges, shattering records and creating a new legacy on the bench.

In the final days of his administration, President Joe Biden is following through on one of his campaign promises to make the federal judiciary

more diverse, appointing 40 Black women to the bench. That mark was reached when the United States Senate confirmed Tiffany Johnson on Monday (Dec. 9), to replace U.S. District Judge Steve Jones in the Northern District of Georgia.

The appointment means that Biden has named

more Black women to the federal judiciary in history, more than the 26 confirmed during the two terms of President Obama. This also includes his nomination of Ketanji Brown-Jackson, the first-ever Black woman named to the Supreme Court. During President Donald Trump's adminis-

tration, there were only two Black women who were among the 234 judicial appointees confirmed, making it seven Black people overall. The numbers are highly significant as Trump is making his return to the White House in January, determined to dismantle government agencies such as the Department of Education and the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. Having Black women judges means that "there is a different kind of voice that can come from the Black female from the bench," said John Jay College of Criminal Justice Professor-emeritus Delores Jones-Brown.

Having this many Black judges on the federal level is also highly important due to their "cultural presence" in places such as the South. "There are still courts in the Southern states that still don't look like ... the people they serve because Republican senators have blocked all kinds of diverse nominees, or any nominee from the Democratic president," said Alliance For Justice Vice President of Communications Carolyn Leary Bobb. The confirmation of Johnson makes her the fifth federal judge in the state of Georgia.

Among the 40 Black women federal judges, there is also the first openly LGBTQ judge, Melissa R. DuBose, who will serve the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island, and Cristal C. Brisco who will be the first Black judge to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana. "Those very district court judges are usually the first ones to hear cases, and they hear many, many, many more than our circuit courts," said legal scholar Lena Zwarenstejn, who noted that even their dissenting opinions carry so much weight.

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Arts & Entertainment

Rest In Eternal Peace: Nikki Giovanni, Beloved Poet & Activist, Dies at 81



Iconic poet Nikki Giovanni, renowned for her trailblazing voice in American literature and activism, has died at the age of 81.

A rep for Giovanni confirmed that she passed away peacefully on Dec. 9, surrounded by her lifelong partner, Virginia Fowler, family, and friends.

The news was shared with local Virginia news station WDBJ, which received a statement from Allison Ragan on behalf of Giovanni's family.

"We will forever feel blessed to have shared a legacy and love with our dear cousin," said Ragan.

Giovanni served as a University Distinguished Professor in the English Department at Virginia Tech before her passing. Her cause of death is cancer, which she battled three

times.

Remembering Nikki Giovanni

Giovanni was a luminary of the Black Arts and Civil Rights Movements, forging friendships with cultural and historical icons such as Rosa Parks, James Baldwin, Nina Simone, Aretha Franklin, and Muhammad Ali. Her poetry and activism inspired generations of students, artists, and activists to strive for justice and creativity.

NewsOne reports that Giovanni's first book of poetry, *Black Feeling, Black Talk* was published in 1968 and firmly established her as a necessary part of the movement in which artists used their works in part as an arm of their activism. It is now

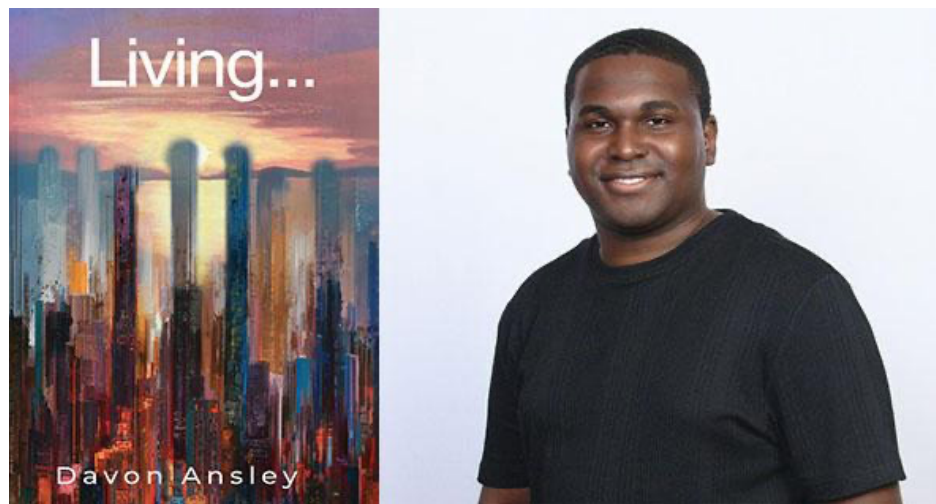
featured in the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History & Culture.

Her work includes the poems "Ego Tripping (There May Be a Reason Why)," "Revolutionary Dreams," and "Knoxville, Tennessee."

Giovanni's best-known work is arguably the 1968 poem "Nikki-Rosa," which addresses her upbringing in suburban Cincinnati. Her forthcoming book of poetry, *The Last Book*, will be published in fall 2025.

Nikki Giovanni's legacy lives on in her groundbreaking poetry, her tireless advocacy, and the countless lives she touched.

Black Writer/ Poet From Florida Releases Collection of 100 Poems Inspired By Tupac Shakur



Davon Ansley

Nationwide -- Rising author Davon Ansley has officially launched his debut poetry collection, *Living...*, a heartfelt compilation of 100 poems that resonate with readers around the globe. Released on July 2, 2024, the book captures themes of self-discovery, joy, and resilience, offering an uplifting experience that embodies the vibrant and lighthearted spirit of summer.

A Florida native, Ansley is no stranger to the power of words. A graduate of Saint Leo University, where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies in June 2020, Ansley began honing his writing craft while still a student. He initially

explored fiction writing with his novel, *Self-Control*, which he ambitiously pitched to publishers and agents nationwide. Though met with challenges, he remained steadfast in his dream of becoming a published author, a journey that now sees him independently sharing his voice with the world.

Ansley credits legendary artist Tupac Shakur as a profound influence on his poetry. Inspired by Tupac's poetry collection and his ability to craft moving, lyrical works, Ansley felt compelled to dive into the genre himself. *Living...* became the title of his book, a testament to his belief that life is what we make of it, regardless of race, gender, or background. The title

reflects a universal message of empowerment and embracing life's opportunities.

"When I first conceived the idea for *Living...*, I knew it had to be a work that came from my heart," Ansley explains. "I want people from all walks of life to read these poems and find something they can connect to. It's about living fully and authentically."

With a professional editor fine-tuning the manuscript, Ansley brought his vision to fruition in less than a year. The result is a compelling and accessible work that invites readers into a journey of introspection and shared humanity.

His book is available for purchase on Amazon

Celebrate the Holidays at the Paul Laurence Dunbar House

Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park and the University of Dayton Department of Music are proud to present "A Dunbar Christmas" at the Paul Laurence Dunbar House and Visitor Center.

This is a free event that will be open to the public on December 14, 15, 21, and 22 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The last tour of the Dunbar House begins at 3:30pm.

Join this once-in-a-year ranger led tour of the Dunbar house brought

to life with holiday merriment. Participants on the tour will be greeted by singers performing period songs. Historical reenactors, performing as Matilda Dunbar, Paul's mother, and the poet Paul Laurence Dunbar, will share stories that brings the home to life.

After the tour, explore the visitor center to learn about how Christmas holidays were celebrated during Dunbar's life. Children of all ages will be able to craft turn-of-the-century holiday orna-

ments that are inspired by Paul Laurence Dunbar's winter poems.

This is a free event that will be open to the public on December 14, 15, 21, and 22 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Tours will start at the Dunbar Visitor Center located at 312 Edison St. The last tour of the Dunbar House begins at 3:30pm. Any groups larger than 10 please R.S.V.P. in advance as the house has limited capacity.

Brick Fest Live



The top family event for brick fans will soon "assemble" in Dayton! Brick Fest Live is a can't-miss experience for young LEGO and brick-building fans at the Dayton Convention Center from Jan. 11-12.

Brick Fest Live is all in on imagination with stations and attractions designed to inspire creativity and play! Families can get hands-on with different brick challenges throughout the event as well as explore community collab builds and master creations from all over the world. Families can get 30% off tickets online in advance with the promo code BFL30 at www.brickfestlive.com.

Little brick builders won't want to miss these highlights:

Join a Guinness World Record Challenge: Help create a massive floor

mosaic!

Giant Brick Pit: Explore a play area filled with over 200,000 colorful bricks.

Life-Size Models: See awe-inspiring builds from around the world.

Brick Derby Races: Build, race and win on thrilling 35-foot tracks!

Glow Zone: Create in an exclusive glow-in-the-dark building area.

Hands-On Build Zones: Build your way at interactive stations and mosaic walls.

Meet the Masters: Get up close with LEGO Masters from the hit TV show.

Photo opps, rare official LEGO merchandise, and more!

Founded a decade ago by LEGO-loving dad Chad Collins, who was inspired by his own children's love of building, Brick Fest Live was created to build family connec-

tions through collaborative play. "At Brick Fest Live, families build together to accomplish their goals and find creative solutions—all while inspiring the next generation of artists, engineers and leaders," said Brick Fest Live COO Joe Boerner.

The Brick Fest Live will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2025, 9am-5pm and Sunday, January 12, 2025, 10am-4pm at the Dayton Convention Center (22 East Fifth Street Dayton, OH)

Tickets and Info: <http://www.brickfestlive.com/> (SAVE 30% WITH PROMO CODE BFL30)

Paid admission starts at \$20 for attendees ages 3+ / children 2 and under are free.

Black Women Transform Federal Courts in Wave of Judicial Appointments... Continued from Page 3

mation. As the first Black woman to serve on the nation's highest court, her presence signals a decisive break from historical patterns of exclusion.

The wave of appointments includes several groundbreaking "firsts" across the federal judiciary. Tiffany Cunningham became the inaugural Black judge on the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, while Dana Douglas broke barriers as the first Black woman to serve on the Fifth Circuit. Jerry Edwards Jr.'s appointment as the first Black judge for Louisiana's Western District further demonstrates the administration's commitment to representation across all regions.

Looking toward the future

These appointments carry particular weight given the current political climate. With President-elect Donald Trump positioning for another term, these lifetime appointments could prove crucial in maintaining judicial independence and protecting civil rights.

The pace of transformation faces hurdles, however. A congressional deadlock over creating new judgeships threatens to slow future progress. While the Senate has approved adding 66 new positions, House Republicans propose spreading these appointments across the next decade — a timeline the president opposes.

The impact of these appointments resonates beyond the immediate

term. These judges — many in their 40s and 50s — will likely shape judicial precedent for decades to come. Their presence ensures that federal courts better reflect the communities they serve while bringing fresh perspectives to constitutional interpretation and civil rights protection.

As the administration moves into its final months, these appointments stand as a testament to what intentional change can accomplish. More than just diversity for diversity's sake, these appointments represent a fundamental shift in who holds power in America's justice system — and whose voices help shape its future.



Classified

Legal Notice

2025 Annual Budget

Copies of the 2025 Annual Budget adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority (RTA) in Montgomery County, Ohio, are available for public inspection in the office of the Chief Financial Officer at 4 South Main Street, Dayton Ohio 45402.

2023 Annual Financial Report

Copies of the 2023 Annual Financial Report of the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority (RTA) in Montgomery County, Ohio, are available for public inspection in the office of the Chief Financial Officer at 4 South Main Street, Dayton, Ohio 45402.

Ms. Mary Kay Stanforth
Chief Financial Officer
Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority

GD 24-70 New Hire Background Checks

The Greater Dayton (RTA) is seeking bids for a five (5) year contract to provide comprehensive background check services for new hire applicants. It is imperative that all individuals employed by RTA are thoroughly vetted to ensure the safety and security of our operations and the communities we serve.

INVITATIONS FOR BID

Solicitation details and contact info are available at: <https://www.irderta.org/about/doing-business>

Legal Notice: IFB GD 24-62

Title: Overhead Infrastructure Parts

Due Date: 1/9/2025 at 10:00 a.m. EST

All bids must be submitted in accordance with the requirements set forth in the solicitation package.

Deborah Howard
Director of Procurement

Education

Sinclair Community College Graduates its First Three Students in New Bachelor of Science Nursing Degree... *Continued from Page 1*

“This program has given me confidence and new skills,” said Kristen Bacon, an employee with Miami Valley Juvenile Rehab Center and one of the first three Sinclair BSN graduates. “I was kind of doubting myself at first, but with all the classes I’ve taken over the last year (through Sinclair), it’s really given me a new look on nursing. I wasn’t a traditional student, I got married and had kids, and didn’t think that I needed school anymore. I never thought I could do it, and now, I’m doing it!”

There are 56 students currently enrolled in the BSN program. This is in addition to the roughly 300 students enrolled in

Sinclair’s Associate Degree Nursing program.

“We’re proud of the support we have received from our esteemed Nursing faculty who worked alongside eLearn instructional designers to create an online curriculum that meets rigorous academic standards,” said Dr. Rena Sebor, Sinclair’s Dean of Health Sciences.

Sinclair’s BSN program is designed to empower RNs with the knowledge and leadership skills needed to deliver evidence-based and culturally responsive care, improving health, and preventing disease for individuals and communities.

“Being in this program

has helped so much to provide a very strong foundation for me,” said Melaney Caylor, Sinclair BSN graduate and employee with Kettering Health. “Having more confidence in my skills has provided me more knowledge so that I can continue to grow.”

Aligned with Sinclair’s commitment to providing high-quality and affordable education, the BSN program meets the growing needs of healthcare employers across our region. In one year alone, it is estimated Sinclair could fill 7% of the overall regional BSN gap. The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing

(ACEN) affirmed the quality of the program during a recent site visit.

“Sinclair is committed to our region’s healthcare needs, and with a 90% job placement rate in healthcare fields, we are confident that our graduates will continue to make a significant impact on the communities we serve,” said President and CEO Dr. Steve Johnson. “The trust our students place in us to help them achieve their academic and career goals is a testament to the quality of education provided at Sinclair.”

Editorial & Comments

Something to Consider:

Living in the Present

By: Brenda Cochran
Contributing Writer

If you are wondering what the commentary – “Living in the Present” means – It means being aware of what is happening right now, and not getting caught up in thoughts about the past or the future. It can also mean the following:

1) Being aware that thoughts about the future are just thoughts not reality.

2) Enjoying what is happening now and living for today,

3) Living your life consciously aware that each moment you breathe is a gift.

When we think of eliminating the non-essential possessions has freed us from many of the emotions that are associated with past lives that were keeping us stuck. And clearing our homes has allowed us the freedom to shape our lives today around our most important values.

Living in the present moment means that you no longer worry about what happened in the past and not fearing what will happen in the future. It means that you will be able to enjoy what’s happening now and also live for today,

Choosing to live in the past or the future not only robs you of enjoying today, but it also robs you of truly living. The only important moment is the present moment.

When you are able to keep this goal in mind, you can consider a list of ten tips that will help you on how to live successfully every day.

• The Removal of those unneeded possessions enables you to live in the present. When you remove the things that are associated with those memories in the past al-



Brenda Cochran

lows you to not live in the past. Once the past no longer has power, you can begin to live in the moment.

- Smile each day is full of endless possibilities. When you are able to start your day with a smile, you are in control of your attitudes every morning.

- Forgive past hurts. If you are holding on to resentment towards another person, you can choose to forgive and move on. The harm may be their fault, but allowing it to impact your mood now, is yours. Decide to let go and choose to be present in the moment instead.

- How About Loving Your job. If you find that you are just surviving the work week, waiting for the next weekend, you are really wasting seventy- one percent of your life. There are two things that will help. One is to find a new job that you will enjoy, or find something that you can appreciate about the job you’re in now.

- Try to fully appreciate the today moments. Look at the sights, sounds, smells, the emotions, the triumphs and the sorrow. These things are in our daily lives, but we sometimes, forget to really appreciate them.

- Dream about the future, but work hard today. You can set those goals and plan for the future, but don’t allow dreaming about tomorrow to

Continued on Page 6

Groundbreaking Study Exposes the Hidden Cost of Segregation on HBCUs

A new book by Crystal R. Sanders, an associate professor of African American studies at Emory University, unveils the lasting financial damage inflicted on historically Black colleges and universities through discriminatory state policies, highlighting a debt that remains unpaid decades later.

The calculated dismantling of Black higher education

During the Jim Crow era, southern states developed a deceptively elegant solution to avoid integrating their white universities: they would pay for Black students to attend graduate programs anywhere else. This practice — known as segregation scholarships — appeared generous on the surface but masked a sinister reality: the money came directly from HBCU budgets, systematically draining resources from institutions built to serve Black communities.

In her groundbreaking work *A Forgotten Migration: Black Southerners, Segregation Scholarships, and the Debt Owed to Public HBCUs*, Sanders meticulously documents how 16 states implemented these programs, with nine explicitly diverting funds from Black colleges to finance them. This revelation provides a crucial context for understanding the persistent financial challenges facing HBCUs today.

A legacy of economic inequality

The financial impact of this historical theft continues to reverberate through halls of HBCUs nationwide. While these institutions generate an impressive \$16.5 billion in annual economic impact across the United States, they operate with severely



limited resources. Not a single HBCU has achieved a billion-dollar endowment — in fact, the combined endowments of all HBCUs total less than \$5 billion.

Tennessee State University stands as a stark example of this systemic inequality. As the state’s only public Black college, it has suffered decades of severe underfunding traced directly to these discriminatory practices. Current estimates suggest Tennessee owes the institution between \$7-8 billion in historical funding — a debt that remains unpaid.

Resistance and resilience in the face of segregation

Before 1936, only seven institutions across the entire South offered graduate programs for Black students. Even after the 1938 Supreme Court ruling in *Missouri ex rel. Gaines v. Canada* mandated equal access to legal education, southern states found creative ways to maintain segregation while technically complying with the law.

The segregation scholarship system forced countless brilliant Black scholars to leave their communities to pursue advanced degrees. Many faced discrimination and isolation at northern institutions, yet showed remarkable resilience by returning south to support HBCUs and men-

tor future generations.

Civil rights attorney Fred Gray exemplifies this spirit of resistance. After experiencing firsthand the barriers to legal education in his home state, he made it his mission to return to Alabama and dismantle segregation through the courts. His subsequent legal victories played a crucial role in desegregating public higher education throughout the state.

The global impact of HBCUs

Despite systematic attempts to limit their reach, HBCUs have produced leaders who shaped not just American society but global movements for justice and equality. From Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and Chadwick Boseman to countless other innovators and changemakers, these institutions have consistently punched above their weight in terms of impact and influence.

Sanders’ research continues to explore these connections, including upcoming work on the experiences of African students at Black colleges and their subsequent influence across the diaspora. This broader perspective helps illuminate the truly international significance of these institutions.

A call for recognition

and restitution


The publication of *A Forgotten Migration* comes at a critical moment for HBCUs. As these institutions face ongoing funding challenges and political pressures, understanding their historical context becomes increasingly important. The documented pattern of systematic resource denial provides a crucial context for current debates about education funding and racial equity.

The research makes clear that the current struggles of HBCUs are not accidental but result from deliberate policies designed to undermine Black higher education. This history demands more than acknowledgment; it requires concrete action to address the massive funding disparities that continue to impact these vital institutions.

For supporters and alumni of HBCUs, this work provides powerful ammunition in the ongoing fight for equitable funding and recognition. It transforms what might have seemed like isolated budget issues into evidence of a broader pattern of discrimination that requires systematic remedy.

As debates about educational equity and reparative justice continue to evolve, Sanders’ work serves as a crucial reminder that the legacy of segregation remains deeply embedded in our educational system. The question now is not whether HBCUs deserve additional support, but how to properly account for and address decades of intentional underfunding that continue to shape educational opportunities today.


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Sunday School - Sunday 10:30AM

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Bible Study.....11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Saturday
Bible Study.....11:00 a.m.

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Worship Services 10:00 a.m.


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Email: greater_allen_ame@att.net



SUNDAY
Church Sunday School.....9:15 a.m.
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Noonday Bible Study - Wednesday.....12:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting - Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.
Bible Study - Wednesday.....7:30 p.m.

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Rev. Dr. William E. Harris, Jr. Senior Pastor

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Tues. Bible Study.....6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meeting.....6:00 p.m.

Other Ministry
email: rockney.carter@gmail.com
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Rev. Xavier L. Johnson, Senior Pastor
937-222-4373 - Office - Email: offices@bmbcd Dayton.org




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WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 12:00 noon
Word & Worship 6:30 p.m.

Bethel services are aired on DSTV Time Warner Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 9:00 p.m. Time Warner Cable 992

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Rev. Dr. Marcettes Cunningham, D.Min., Pastor
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Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study, 12:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Evening Prayer, 6:30 p.m.

Dixon United Methodist Church
1691 Infirmary Rd. - Dayton, OH 45417



Church Phone: (937) 835-3366
Email: Dixonumc1691@gmail.com
Website: Dixonumcdayton.org

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.
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Something to Consider: Living in the Present... Continued from Page 5

place living the moment. Dreaming about the future is only productive when combined with action taken.

- Don't dwell on past accomplishments- Suppose you continue to talk about what you did yesterday, this means that you haven't done too much today.
- There is plenty of time to build upon past successes and then create more memories and achievements for yourself today. In the future, you'll be cherishing these.
- Stop Worrying. You really can't fully appre-

ciate today if you worry too much about tomorrow. Realize that tomorrow is going to happen whether you worry about it or not. Since worrying has never accomplished anything for anybody, decide to redirect your mental energy someplace else.

- Think beyond those old solutions to problems. Most would agree that our world is changing so fast that most of yesterday's solutions are no longer the right answers today. Try not to get locked into a "but that's how we've always done it" mentality. Yesterday's solutions are not today's solutions and

they are certainly not tomorrow's solutions.

- Conquer addictions. - If you have addictions in your life, you are being held hostage. They keep you from living a completely free life and remove your focus from the moment. The best solution is to find some help. Take the steps and remove their influence over your life. Decide to allow yourself to live in the moment addiction-free.
- Think about this. If you can only live one moment at a time, you might as well make it the present!!

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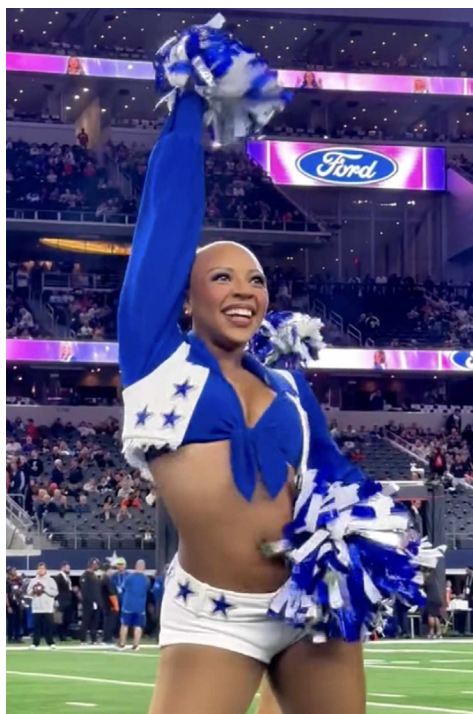
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Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders Dances Without Wig



Armani Latimer

Dallas Cowboys cheerleader Armani Latimer is speaking out after she shared a video clip of herself performing at a Cowboys game with a bald head, a moment that went viral.

The 26-year-old from Anderson, South Carolina, has alopecia areata and typically cheers publicly while wearing a wig. During this week's Monday Night Football game, however, she decided to cheer without one, dancing confidently on the field alongside her teammates.

Latimer's joint video post with the official Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders Instagram account has garnered over 375,000 likes and over 5,000 comments, sparking a conversation about the autoimmune disease.

According to the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, alopecia areata is a condition where hair follicles are attacked by the body's immune system, causing hair loss. The disease causes patches of

hair loss throughout the body but typically affects the face and head.

"Researchers do not fully understand what causes the immune attack on hair follicles, but they believe that both genetic and environmental (non-genetic) factors play a role," NIA-MS states on its website.

Alopecia can affect anyone. According to NIAMS, for many people, "hair grows back without any type of treatment. For people with milder cases, no treatment may be needed. Some people with severe cases choose to decline treatment as well, and may instead consider products that hide hair loss, such as hairpieces or wigs."

"Medications called Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitors are approved to treat adult patients with severe alopecia areata," the institute states. "In addition, medications that have been approved for other conditions may be used to treat the disease."

Latimer opened up about her personal journey with alopecia, a condition with which she was diagnosed at the age of 12, in an interview with ABC News this week and discussed why she was emotional before heading out onto the field and what led her to perform without her wig.

"I always knew that I wanted to eventually dance in some capacity without my wig, just to make [alopecia] not a stigma anymore," Latimer said. "I just wanted to take it a step further, wanted to get the conversation out there a little more, and I thought, well, what better way than to go out on the field and just show the world who I am?"

Latimer, who was caught on camera wiping away tears before she stepped onto the field, said she was surprised she became so emotional.

"I knew I had a lot of emotions inside, but the main one that I was feeling was excitement right before we went out," Latimer recalled.

"There's a lot of people that you know they're gonna say, 'I look up to you,' 'You're a role model,' and that kind of weighs heavy on you," she continued. "And I think just the emotions from that, from knowing that it was going to make an impact on people, those were the emotions that you were seeing,

and also just the love of my teammates."

Latimer said in the past, before she lost her hair completely, she would wear hair extensions, such as sew-ins, weaves and wigs, and she danced with a wig as a Dallas Cowboys cheerleader. She said she woke up one day during her second season with the team and completely lost her hair before a wig appointment.

By her third season, Latimer said she decided to share her diagnosis with her fellow Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders and decided to make the condition a cause she would champion as a public figure.

"They immediately accepted me for who I am," Latimer said of her teammates' instant support. "The amount of love and support that I received from them was really special to me, because we see each other so often ... their support meant the world to me."

Latimer said she hopes by speaking out about alopecia, she can also help break some of the stigma fellow Black women face when it comes to their hair.

"There's a lot of stigma in history that involves our hair. So, I think even with the support that I had, the extra layer of being a Black woman without hair was always there," Latimer said.

"If you were a little Black girl and you didn't have a whole lot of hair, then you were kind of made fun of," she said of the climate she grew up in. "So I think all of those memories from when I was younger kind of came flooding back into my brain in that initial moment of losing all of my hair. So that's something that I've had to work through as well."

At the same time, Latimer said she wanted to also celebrate differences and raise awareness about the power of making an impact.

"Just because you're different, just because you may look a certain way or you're going through something in your life personally, don't let that hold you back from going out and trying out for your dream team [or] achieving your goals," Latimer said.

Black Female Athletes Fight For Fair Pay Despite Record Earnings

The sports world in 2024 marks a pivotal moment for women athletes, with unprecedented viewership and revenue growth. However, even as top performers like Coco Gauff earn \$30 million annually, the stark reality of gender pay inequality remains evident when compared to male counterparts like LeBron James's \$128.2 million earnings.

Historical context
The journey of Black female athletes in professional sports reflects a long struggle for recognition and fair compensation. From Althea Gibson's groundbreaking tennis career to the Williams sisters' transformation of the sport, each generation has pushed boundaries while facing systemic barriers to equal pay.

Breaking new ground
Whoopi Goldberg's launch of the All Women's Sports Network (AWSN) and the establishment of the Unrivaled Women's Basketball League represent significant steps toward



recognizing female athletes' value. These initiatives aim to create new opportunities and platforms for women in sports, with unprecedented salary structures and media coverage.

Top earners and sponsorships

According to Sportico's latest report, tennis sensation Coco Gauff leads Black female athletes with approximately \$30 million in combined earnings. Her success stems from both tournament winnings and lucrative endorsement deals with companies like New Balance and Head. Naomi Osaka follows with nearly \$15 million, leveraging her global appeal for partnerships with luxury

brands and tech companies.

The entrepreneurial advantage

Many athletes have expanded beyond traditional sports earnings through business ventures. Serena Williams' venture capital firm, Serena Ventures, exemplifies how athletes can create wealth beyond their playing careers. This entrepreneurial spirit has opened new avenues for financial success in women's sports.

Digital influence and earnings

Social media has revolutionized how female athletes monetize their popularity. Platforms like Instagram and TikTok enable direct fan engagement and additional

revenue streams through sponsored content. Athletes like Angel Reese have built substantial followings, transforming social media presence into financial opportunities.

League structures and salaries

The wage disparity becomes particularly evident in professional leagues. While the average NBA player earns millions annually, WNBA salaries often require players to seek additional income sources. The new Unrivaled League's \$100,000 minimum salary represents a significant step forward but still falls short of male counterparts.

International market impact

Global opportunities have become crucial for female athletes' earning potential. Many players compete in multiple leagues internationally to maximize their income. This global presence has expanded their marketability and opened doors to diverse sponsorship opportunities.

Broadcasting revolution

Continued on Page 8

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Black Female Athletes Fight For Fair Pay Despite Record Earnings... Continued from Page 7

tion
The rise of streaming platforms and dedicated sports networks has increased visibility for women's sports. Enhanced media coverage drives higher viewership numbers, leading to better broadcasting deals and potentially increased athlete compensation. Corporate partnerships Major brands increasingly recognize the value of women's sports sponsorships. Companies like Nike and Adidas have expanded their investment in female athletes, though significant gaps remain in sponsorship values between male and female athletes. Advocacy and collective action Athletes increasingly use their platforms to advocate for equal pay. Through players' associations and public statements, they challenge existing payment structures and push for

reforms. This collective action has led to policy changes and increased awareness of wage disparities. Success metrics Recent data shows promising growth in women's sports viewership and attendance. The 2023 Women's World Cup drew record audiences, while college women's basketball continues to see surge in popularity. These metrics strengthen the case for better compensation. Technology and innovation Digital platforms have created new revenue opportunities through NFTs, virtual meet-and-greets, and personalized content. Athletes leverage these technologies to build personal brands and generate additional income streams. Future projections Industry analysts predict continued growth in women's sports markets. Increasing corporate investment, expanding media coverage, and grow-

ing fan bases suggest positive trends for athlete earnings, though achieving true parity remains a long-term goal. Investment landscape Venture capital and private equity firms show growing interest in women's sports properties. This influx of capital could accelerate the development of new leagues and opportunities for athletes. As we witness the evolution of women's sports, the financial landscape continues to transform. While significant progress has been made, particularly for top performers like Gauff and Osaka, the broader challenge of achieving equitable compensation remains. The combination of new leagues, media platforms, and business opportunities offers hope for future generations of female athletes, but sustained effort and investment will be required to close the persistent wage gap in professional sports.

Considering the Flu Vaccine? It Could Reduce Your Risk of Alzheimer's

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the highest month for flu activity are December through March. That means those who have not received their vaccines should consider doing so. Annual flu vaccines may not prevent someone from getting the flu, but it will lessen symptoms and reduce hospitalizations. Annual flu vaccines protect against four different viruses, based on the strains that are expected to be dominant this season. Some flu seasons are worse than others depending upon which viruses are circulating. There is a hidden benefit to getting annual vaccines, such as the one for the flu. According to published research of nearly 2 million participants, data shows that people who do not get vaccinated against influenza have a 60% higher chance of developing Alzheimer's or another dementia, compared

to people who do get their flu shot. "Annual flu vaccinations offer protection against the flu virus, but we are discovering that they also improve long-term health outcomes such as reducing our risk for Alzheimer's, cardiac arrest and hospitalizations due to diabetes," said Dayna Richey, program director of the Alzheimer's Association Greater Cincinnati and Miami Valley Chapters. Research reported during an Alzheimer's Association Annual International Conference (AAIC) found: At least one flu vaccination was associated with a 17% reduction in Alzheimer's incidence. More frequent flu vaccination was associated with another 13% reduction in Alzheimer's incidence. Vaccination against pneumonia between ages 65 and 75 reduced Alzheimer's risk by up to 40% depending on individual genes.

Individuals with dementia have a higher risk of dying (6-fold) after infections than those without dementia (3-fold). People living with dementia have elevated mortality rates for 10 years after an initial infection-related hospitalization. There are 236,200 Ohioans 65 and older living with Alzheimer's disease, according to the Alzheimer's Association 2024 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures. More than 4,900 Ohioans died from Alzheimer's in 2021. A total of 414,000 Ohio caregivers provide 624 million hours of unpaid care each year valued at over \$11.4 billion. To learn more about Alzheimer's or other dementia and to access free support and resources, visit alz.org/dayton or call the Miami Valley Chapter at 937.291.3332 or the 24/7 Helpline at 800.272.3900.