



\$5 Million Childcare and Learning Center Slated for West Dayton



Homefull is eyeing its next major development on its \$50 million development site in West Dayton. The Healthy Start

million centerpiece - a 49,000-square-foot building features a grocery store, healthcare facility, pharmacy, food hub and office space.

Homefull intends to construct a 6,000-square-foot childcare facility with another 5,000 square foot outdoor play area on the 16-acre campus. The center will serve 90 children upon completion, from infants to school-aged children.

Child Care & Early Learning Center is the next phase of Homefull's development at 807 S. Gettysburg Ave. The new project follows the \$20

Minimum Wage in Ohio Going Up on Jan. 1



Ohio employees will see slightly increased paychecks in 2025, when the new minimum wage takes effect. Ohio's minimum wage

will increase on Jan. 1, from \$10.45 to \$10.70 per hour for non-tipped employees, according to the Ohio Department of Commerce. Tipped employee wages will increase from \$5.25 to \$5.35 per hour.

The increase applies to businesses with an income of more than \$394,000. Smaller companies that make less than \$394,000 will pay employees at \$7.25. The wages at these companies is tied to the federal minimum wage.

DNA Testing Can Help Black Americans Reclaim Their Identity and History

Americans with European heritage have long been able to pinpoint their ancestry through DNA testing, but it's only in recent years that those with African heritage have been able to trace their genetic roots with any kind of precision.

Instead of being told their ancestors were from "western Africa," people with African roots are now able to trace their family line back to specific countries and even tribes of origin, testing provid-

ers say. Genetics is also adding to local records' searches to track migrations since a family's Middle Passage arrival in the Americas.

That's why Tisa Joyner-Nance decided to trace her mother's lineage a few years ago through AfricanAncestry.com, and why she spent 10 days earlier this month visiting Cameroon with the company's founder and a small cohort of other customers.

"I really wanted to know specifically who the people were that I was from, not just the region, not just

the country," said Joyner-Nance, 52, of Rahway, New Jersey.

She learned that all of her mother's mothers as far back as the test could show came from the Tikar people of Cameroon. "That landed so much differently and was so profound to me."

The trip was "life changing," said Joyner-Nance, who works for the City University of New York. "I'm literally looking at people who look like they could have been my cousins."

Continued on Page 3



Today's improved genetic testing can help African Americans pinpoint their ancestry with greater precision than ever. Illustration: Andrea Brunty, USA TODAY; and Getty Images

Turning Tragedy into Purpose: Gabby Petito's Father Advocates for Missing Black and Brown People

When Daniel Robinson, a 24-year-old Black man, went missing in Arizona in June 2021, his father, David Robinson, spent months pleading for police to be more aggressive in their search.

Frustrated with the lack of progress, Robinson temporarily moved to Arizona, hired an

independent investigator and assembled a volunteer search team to look for Daniel.

Despite local media reporting Daniel's disappearance as early as July 9, 2021, Robinson also felt the case did not receive the necessary media coverage. At the time, America's attention was captured by the disappear-



Daniel Robinson, and father, David

ance and death of Gabby Petito, a 22-year-old White woman.

"You wish you lived in a world where everything was equal, but it's really not equal," Robinson told CNN then.

More than three years later, Robinson is still desperately looking for Daniel. He plans to travel to Arizona next spring and

assemble a team of volunteers to search new areas and follow up on leads. And he has found a new ally in his efforts - Joseph Petito, Gabby's father.

While searching for Gabby, Petito said he was being tagged in social media posts about the term "Missing White" Continued on Page 3

The Unexpected Crisis - Preparing for the Financial Impact of Alzheimer's During Financial Wellness Month

Alzheimer's Association Offers Free Resources to Help Families Navigate Financial Challenges of Dementia

During Financial Wellness Month this January, the Alzheimer's Association is encouraging individuals and families to make financial plans that will create some security in preparing for an unexpected crisis of caring for someone with Alzheimer's or other dementia.

One in nine Americans the age of 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's disease - that's nearly 7 million Americans across the country and 236,200 in Ohio.

Dementia not only takes a tremendous physical toll on diagnosed individuals, but the costs associated with the disease can be overwhelming and put a huge economical strain on families. Disease-related costs can jeopardize a family's financial security, and many families and caregivers make enormous personal and financial sacrifices.

The 2023 Alzheimer's Association Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures report found:



• In 2022, the lifetime cost of care for a person living with dementia was \$392,874.

• In 2021, dementia caregivers bore nearly twice the average out-of-pocket costs of non-dementia caregivers (\$12,388 versus \$6,667).

• Nearly half (48 percent) of care contributors must cut back on their own expenses - including basic necessities like food, transportation and medical care - to afford dementia-related care, while others must draw from their own savings or retirement funds.

• Nearly two out of three people incorrectly believe that Medicare helps pay for nursing home care or are unsure whether it does.

To help families navigate these and other financial challenges, the Alzheimer's Association Northwest Ohio Chapter offers a free online education program, "Managing Money: A Caregiver's Guide to Finances."

Tips from the program include:

• Plan early - There are

many benefits of planning early when it comes to your finances - both for the caregiver and the person with the disease.

• Start a positive discussion about finances - Bring in trusted family members or close friends for a discussion about what the person with the disease wants for the future.

• Avoid financial abuse and fraud - Individuals living with dementia have a greater risk of becoming victims and may struggle with making good financial decisions.

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What's Inside

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Around DAYTON

Miami Valley Weather

5 day Forecast

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Cloudy High 60 Low 54	Rain High 61 Low 43	Mostly Cloudy High 51 Low 45	Rain High 49 Low 37	Rain High 36 Low 28

600 E. SECOND ST. DOWNTOWN DAYTON

SHOP FRESH & LOCAL

FOR THE HOLIDAYS AT THE 2ND STREET MARKET

Fridays 11 AM to 3 PM
Saturdays 9 AM to 3 PM
Sundays 11 AM to 3 PM

STOCK UP WEDNESDAY
OPEN WEDNESDAY, NOV. 27, 11 AM TO 3 PM

Find everything you need for a healthy, delicious and festive holiday season!

METROPARKS.ORG/LOCALFOOD

Black History Month “Expression Contest”

The City of Trotwood, Ohio, will host a student arts expression contest—including music, visual arts, and performance—to commemorate Black History Month!

Students in grades 3 – 12 from ALL schools within the City of Trotwood are encouraged to submit an original expression piece of their desire, inspired by the theme: “African-Americans and Labor” Submissions will be divided into

three groups: 3rd - 5th grade, 6th – 8th grade, & 9th – 12th grade. There will be 3 winners selected from each group; winners will receive a cash prize and notable public recognition.

- 1st place - \$75
- 2nd place - \$50
- 3rd place - \$25

Contest entries must be submitted to Charles Wheeler III, Parks & Recreation Marketing Co-

ordinator, via email at chwheeler@trotwood.org, by Friday, February 21, 2025. Submissions must be original work and include the student’s name, school, grade, and parent’s contact information.

Please contact Parks and Recreation Marketing Coordinator Charles Wheeler III, at 937-854-7228, with questions regarding the competition.

First Responders Teamed Up with Santa to Bring Cheer to Dayton Hospitals



Operation Santa Sleigh returned to Dayton for its sixth year on Monday, December 23, 2024.

First responders from across the Miami Valley drove public safety vehicles with their emergency lights on to bring cheer to the community. Santa Claus was also in attendance before heading off to the North Pole.

The route began at the

Dayton Airport Expo Center. From there, the parade of first responders traveled through Vandalia, Butler Township, Harrison Township, Dayton, Huber Heights, and Riverside before visiting Dayton Children’s Hospital on State Route 4.

There, they stopped to greet children and spread cheer to those who are in the hospital during the

holidays. This is the sixth year of the event in Dayton, bringing together law enforcement and first responders from across the area. The event is held in conjunction with several other cities doing the same, as part of a Light Ohio Blue initiative.

January 3 First Friday: Ring in the New Year Edition



New year, new memories in the downtown we know and love! Some of our favorite downtown businesses are ready to ring in the New Year during the FIRST First Friday of 2025. Join us from 5-10 p.m. on Friday, January 3, to start your year on the right foot with local shopping, art, entertainment, food, drinks, and more all here in Downtown Dayton.

The start of the new year is the perfect time to find your new style with special savings at unique and independent retailers, take in incredible art and entertainment at downtown’s signature galleries and theaters, raise a toast

and treat your taste buds during happy hour at your favorite downtown bars and restaurants.

Even though winter is here, don’t forget that the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) is in effect all year long! Guests 21 and older are invited to carry a beverage served in a DORA cup around the boundary to explore more of downtown. Several businesses now offer DORA cups made for hot beverages to keep you warm on a chilly January evening that’s sure to be full of fun! Learn more about DORA, see the boundaries and participating vendors at downtowndayton.org/DORA.

Check out the individual First Friday listings below, and remember the most up-to-date event listings can be found in the online calendar published on the Downtown Dayton Partnership’s website. Subscribing to the weekly e-events email newsletter also keeps one up to speed. For more information about First Friday, or to find business addresses, parking, upcoming activities and more, visit the DDP website at DowntownDayton.org. Invite friends and family to partake in First *Continued on Page 4*

Kwanzaa 2024 Highlighting African-American Culture And Unity

Kwanzaa, the annual celebration of African-American culture, started the day after Christ-



mas and ends on Jan. 1 in the new year. The name Kwanzaa comes from a Swahili phrase "matunda ya kwanza," which means "first fruits." It is based on harvest festival traditions from parts of Africa. Kwanzaa is also a time to honor African culture, families and communities by focusing on seven principles. These principles include Umo-

ja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity) and Imani (faith). Kwanzaa is traditionally celebrated with the lighting of the kinara – a candleholder with red, black and green candles – as well as performances, a feast and a gift exchange.

The Dayton Weekly News

Published By
Dayton Weekly News
PO Box 1895
111 E. Fifth St.
Dayton, OH 45401
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National

DNA Testing Can Help Black Americans Reclaim Their Identity and History... Continued from Page 1

Still, when considering both parents, the ancestry of most Americans, particularly African Americans, isn't totally from one people or another.

"The whole notion we have of someone being 100% of something is decently rare," said Nicka Sewell-Smith, senior story producer with Ancestry.com, which analyzes complete DNA rather than just the maternal line. "We need to stop with our buckets. There's way more going on."

Expanding databases

In the African American consciousness, Ghana is the African nation where most enslaved people originated and feel most welcomed.

But by collecting the largest database of African lineages, Gina Paige, president and co-founder of AfricanAncestry.com, said she's been able to show other countries were actually far bigger origin points.

"The slave dungeons are well known and well visited. People expect that Ghana would be higher up on the list, but it's not," she said. Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau, Nigeria and Cameroon are the ancestral homes of far more African Americans, said Paige, reached by phone earlier this

month while in Cameroon.

When her customers learn new things about themselves, such as countries of origin they didn't know, "what we find is awe and pride and overwhelm," Paige said. "It's a sense of being overwhelmed by getting information that you never thought you'd know."

Although identity information is important for everyone, it carries extra weight for African Americans because of their history, she said.

"As African Americans, we're the original victims of identity theft," Paige said. African Americans' ancestors were torn from their homes, their families, their languages, their freedom. "If you don't know these things, you can't know who you are. When you get that back, it's incredible. Literally incredible."

How DNA can tell the past

Every cell in the body contains each person's distinctive DNA, as well as mitochondria, which provides the cell its energy. DNA is a mixture of genetic material — some inherited from one parent, some from the other — so it can reveal the full make up of someone's genetic inheritance.

Everyone inherits mitochondria exclusively from



Tisa Joyner Nance at the Royal Museum of Bamoun with Dr. Paige and also wearing the traditional garments given to us by the King. Provided by Tisa Joyner Nance

our mothers, so it can be used to show maternal ancestry; the DNA's Y chromosome is only present in men and only comes from fathers, so it can be used to trace a man's paternal line. (Women can't trace only their father's lineage.)

By comparing an individual's DNA, mitochondria or Y chromosome to tens of thousands of others in a database, computers can identify similarities and differences. The closer your DNA is to DNA from a group of people who currently live in

said Sewell-Smith, of Ancestry.com, because they might have information you don't have about your ancestry, or vice versa. At Ancestry.com, they also link genetic databases to other records to simplify research.

For instance, Sewell-Smith said, finding a distant cousin in Jamaica — which is not uncommon among African Americans because of the slave trade — could be helpful for tracing roots, because Caribbean countries kept national slave lists, while American records were spottier.

If you took a genetic test many years ago and again now, the result might be different, because of expanded databases and improvements in algorithms.

DNA still has its limitations. Genetic information can say roughly where someone lived, but it can't identify their name or provide details about their daily life. "We can't say 'you are related to these people at this address,'" Paige said.

Great migration

In recent years, 23andMe and Ancestry.com also have gotten better at helping people trace their family's path since leaving Africa.

While before, family lore might have just told you your great

grandparents lived in Tennessee, now, these companies can use your DNA to pinpoint the region or county where they most likely lived.

This might help if your ancestor had a common name and there were, say, five people with the same name in Tennessee around that time. Knowing the county or community helps with the "process of elimination," Sewell-Smith said. "We did not have that five years ago."

Coping with surprises

Sometimes people are taken aback by what they find in their genetic history.

Paige recently unveiled a radio announcer's ancestry to him live on-air. Although he identifies as Black, his mitochondrial DNA, inherited from his mother, comes from Spain, Portugal, Scandinavia and North Africa, Paige said. "For him, this opened more questions."

Expanding databases

In the African American consciousness, Ghana is the African nation where most enslaved people originated and feel most welcomed.

But by collecting the largest database of African lineages, Gina Paige,

Turning Tragedy into Purpose: Gabby Petito's Father Advocates for Missing Black and Brown People... Continued from Page 1



Gabby Petito, and Joseph Petito, Gabby's father.

Woman Syndrome," which prompted him to look it up.

The term, coined by the late TV news anchor Gwen Ifill, is defined by researchers as the heavier spotlight White women and girls receive when they go missing compared to anyone outside of those demographics.

While cases of missing White women receive more focus, people of color are disappearing at disproportionate rates. According to 2022 FBI data, Black people make up 31% of missing person reports but only 13% of the US population. In contrast, White people account for 54% of missing person reports and 75% of the US population.

"I did a deep dive into it," Petito told CNN. "I looked at popular missing persons cases and the ones that hit the mainstream all looked the same."

Petito is on a mission to change that.

He has spent the last three years advocating for missing Black and brown people through the Gabby Petito Foundation, a nonprofit that strives to raise awareness of missing people

and prevent domestic violence.

The foundation partners with families of missing Black and brown people, as well as groups dedicated to raising awareness of these cases, such as the Black & Missing Foundation.

Petito has become a strong advocate in the search for Daniel, Robinson said.

The fathers communicate regularly and have spoken at Crimecon — a gathering of true crime experts and fans — sharing their stories. Petito has also attended virtual events held in honor of Daniel.

"What Mr. Petito has done for my family, it means a lot to me," Robinson said. "Because he had a tragedy and it's amazing when a person can take a tragedy and make something big out of it, become an advocate and help people."

Petito is currently working on a television series called "Faces of the Missing," which will highlight dozens of unsolved missing persons cases he says have received little media coverage.

"We are going to do all demographics," Petito said. "But we want to keep

it consistent with the way people are represented from a proportionate perspective."

"There's a lot of work that can be done and a lot of families that can be helped regardless of their color," he added.

Petito also wants the series to combat the police classification of "runaway" for people who are reported missing, he said. Black families and advocates have previously told CNN authorities often suggest their missing loved ones ran away from home.

"Unless you speak to the person specifically, they cannot be labeled a runaway," Petito said. "Any label other than 'missing' is wrong."

Derrica Wilson, co-founder of Black & Missing, said she applauds Petito for using his platform to advocate for more media attention on missing people of color.

Petito's foundation, she said, has become an ally of Black & Missing. Wilson and Petito have spoken on panels and podcasts together. In 2023, Wilson said the Gabby Petito Foundation donated \$15,000 to her organization.

Wilson said joining forces with other foundations only helps increase the chances of all families reuniting with their missing loved ones.

"We've always said that missing persons isn't a Black issue, it's not a White issue, it's a human rights issue," Wilson said. "Regardless of race, gender and ZIP code everyone who is missing matters."

McDonald's® Has a New Restaurant Chain



5 Facts About McDonald's® CosMc's™ -1

McDonald's® has officially launched CosMc's™, a new small-format, space-themed spinoff that's making waves in the fast-food world. Here's what you need to know about this exciting new concept.

A Space-Themed Experience

CosMc's is more than just a fast-food restaurant; it's an "out-of-this-world" experience inspired by the extraterrestrial mascot from the '80s and '90s McDonald's commercials. The theme carries through everything from the decor to the menu items, creating a unique and nostalgic vibe for patrons.

Beverage-Led Menu

5 Facts About McDonald's® CosMc's™ -2 Unlike traditional McDonald's locations, CosMc's focuses heavily on beverages. The menu features over 10 new drinks, many of which are exclusive to CosMc's. Highlights include the

Sour Cherry Energy Burst and the S'mores Cold Brew, alongside customizable options with fruity boba, energy shots, and more.

Breakfast and Snack Focus

While drinks are the star, CosMc's also offers a variety of breakfast items and snacks. The food menu includes innovative items like the Spicy Queso Sandwich and Savory Hash Brown Bites. For those with a sweet tooth, options like the Blueberry Lemon Cookie Sundae and Caramel Fudge Brownie are available.

Limited Test Locations

5 Facts About McDonald's® CosMc's™ -3 Currently, CosMc's is in a limited test phase with only a few locations in Texas and Illinois. These initial openings are part of a strategic rollout, with more locations planned across the Dallas and San Antonio metro areas in the coming months.

Digital and Drive-Thru

Focus

5 Facts About McDonald's® CosMc's™ -4 CosMc's is designed for convenience, offering a seamless digital experience. Customers can order through kiosks, in-app, or a dynamic drive-thru system that uses digital menu boards and cashless payments. The first 100 customers at each grand opening even received exclusive CosMc's merchandise.

CosMc's represents McDonald's latest attempt to innovate and capture a new market segment by blending nostalgia with modern convenience and unique offerings. As the concept evolves, it could become a mainstay in the fast-food industry.

References: CosMc's: McDonald's finally reveals menu, details about spinoff restaurant | CosMc's is officially open: What to know about the McDonald's offshoot

Warren Upton, the Oldest Living Survivor of the Attack on Pearl Harbor, Dies at 105



Warren Upton, the oldest living survivor of the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the last remaining survivor of the USS Utah, has died at 105 years old.

Upton died at a hospital in Los Gatos, Calif. after suffering a bout of pneumonia, said Kathleen Farley, the California state chair of the Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors.

The Utah, a battleship, was moored at Pearl Harbor when Japanese planes began bombing the Hawaii naval base in the early

hours of Dec. 7, 1941, in an attack that propelled the US into World War II.

Upton told The Associated Press in 2020 that he had been getting ready to shave when he felt the first torpedo hit the Utah.

He recalled that no one on board knew what made the ship shake.

Then, the second torpedo hit and the ship began to list and capsize.

The then-22-year-old swam ashore to Ford Island, where he jumped in a trench to avoid Japanese planes strafing the area.

He stayed for about 30 minutes until a truck came and took him to safety.

Upton said he didn't mind talking about what happened during the attack. Instead, what upset him was that he kept losing shipmates over the years.

By 2020, only three crew members of the Utah were still alive, including himself.

There were an estimated 87,000 military personnel on Oahu on the day of the attack, according to military historian J. Michael Wenger.

After Upton's death, there are only 15 still alive.

DNA Testing Can Help Black Americans Reclaim Their Identity and History...

Continued from Page 3



Tisa Joyner Nance on the Island of Jebale, getting blessed in a sacred ceremony. Provided by Tisa Joyner Nance

president and co-founder of AfricanAncestry.com, said she's been able to show other countries were actually far bigger origin points.

"The slave dungeons are well known and well visited. People expect that Ghana would be higher up on the list, but it's not," she said. Sierra Leone, Ginea Bissau, Nigeria and Cameroon are the ancestral homes of far more African Americans, said Paige, reached by phone earlier this month while in Cameroon.

Sometimes, she said, her customers are disappointed by the lack of a clear African ancestor. "But they get it. That's just a function of who we are

as African Americans." About 5% of people who identify as European American receive matches to at least one of the company's African Diaspora Genetic Groups, 23andMe senior scientist Steven Micheletti said in an email to USA TODAY, even if they had no idea they had such ancestry.

"This underscores how the legacy of slavery in the United States is reflected in the DNA of millions of Americans, regardless of whether they identify as African American," he wrote. "These connections are often unknown, as they were frequently erased from family histories with the intention of hiding the involvement of exploitation and sexual violence often endured by enslaved women."

Understanding who you are

Paige said she leads trips like the recent one to Cameroon to help people better understand themselves.

"It's more of a 'need to know' rather than a 'nice to know,'" she said. Looking back can help people "then move forward through life."

Some of her clients change their names while on their trips. They might buy land or support philanthropic organizations.

Some bring their children. African American children, she said, can feel left out when schools have an "ancestry day" and they don't know theirs.

Joyner-Nance said the trip to Cameroon was even more moving than she expected.

Her mother died prematurely three years ago on Halloween, so when the opportunity came up, visiting the homeland of her mother's ancestors just felt like the right thing to do, Joyner-Nance said.

"I know if she could have, she would have gone with me, or at least been part of my journey," Joyner-Nance said. "That's why it made it more important for me to go in her honor, her legacy."

She's still processing what the trip meant and what she'll ultimately take away from it. But rather than a "homecoming," Joyner-Nance said the journey felt like a "coming to peace" – "a piece of my story, my history that was missing."

Now, she said, "I'm complete. I've been made whole."

Karen Weintraub can be reached at kweintraub@usatoday.com.

Mary A. McDonald Oath of Office Ceremony for County Commissioner

History will be made on Sunday, December 29, 2024, as the Honorable Mary A. McDonald is sworn in as the first African American elected to the Montgomery County Commission. The Oath of Office ceremony will take place at 4:00 PM at Gateway Cathedral, located at 5501 Olive Road, Trotwood, OH 45426.

This monumental event marks a significant milestone in Montgomery County's history, reflecting the progress and resilience of a community united in diversity and inclusion. Mary A. McDonald, a trailblazer and advocate for equitable governance, brings years of dedicated public service and leadership to the commission. Her historic election is a powerful tes-

tament to the transformative spirit of voters across the county.

The ceremony will include remarks from distinguished dignitaries and community leaders, including The Honorable Robert A. Taft III, former Governor of Ohio, who will administer the oath. The program will feature messages of faith, inspiration, and vision for Montgomery County's

future.

"I am deeply honored to serve as Montgomery County Commissioner and to carry the hopes and dreams of so many citizens," said Mary A. McDonald. "This historic moment belongs to all of us, and together, we will continue working to ensure that Montgomery County is a place of opportunity, progress, and unity."

future.

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future.

"I am deeply honored to serve as Montgomery County Commissioner and to carry the hopes and dreams of so many citizens," said Mary A. McDonald. "This historic moment belongs to all of us, and together, we will continue working to ensure that Montgomery County is a place of opportunity, progress, and unity."

Dayton African Elders Council Nation Builders and Warriors Present

KWANZAA 2024

UMOJA/UNITY- First Day of Kwanzaa
Thursday, December 26 from 6PM to 8PM
New Hope Lutheran Church, 2000 Catalpa Drive

KUUMBA/CREATIVITY - Sixth Day of Kwanzaa
Tuesday, December 31 from 6PM to 8PM
McClendon Institute, 2100 West Dr.
Martin L. King Drive at the corner of John McClendon Way

DAEC joins Alkebulan Msingi Wa Kweli for Dayton's
50th ANNUAL (1975) KARAMU YA IMANI
with Roll Call for 2024 and Challenges for 2025
Wednesday, January 1st, 2025 3PM to 6PM
Northwest Recreation Center, 1600 Princeton Drive.
Please bring a freshly prepared dish to this event.

DRUMMING, DANCING, MUSIC, FOOD, CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES!

For more information Text 937-475-2707
For Vending information Text 937-367-4796

January 3 First Friday: Ring in the New Year Edition...

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Friday fun! "Like" and share the First Friday Facebook page.

ART, DANCE, MUSIC, AND FILM

- The Black Box Improv, 518 E. Third St.
- Dayton Art Institute, 456 Belmonte Park North
- Dublin Pub, 300 Wayne Ave
- Edward A. Dixon Gallery, 222 N. St. Clair St.: The gallery has extended hours
- Front Street, 1001 E. Second St.
- Gather by Ghostlight, 37 E. Fourth St.
- K12 Gallery & TEJAS, 341 S. Jefferson St.
- The Neon, 130 E. Fifth St.
- Oregon Express, 336 E. Fifth St
- Yellow Cab Tavern, 700 E. Fourth St.

DINING AND DRINKS

- Club Evolution, 130 N. Patterson Blvd.
- Corner Kitchen, 613 E. Fifth St.
- Dayton Beer Company, 41 Madison St.
- Dublin Pub, 300 Wayne Ave
- The Foundry, 124 Madison St.
- Jimmy John's, 220 N. Main St.
- Lily's Dayton, 329 E. Fifth St.

- Local Cantina, 503 E. First St
- Mudlick Tap House, 135 E. Second St.,
- Oregon Express, 336 E. Fifth St., 937-223-9205: Every
- Salar Restaurant and Lounge, 400 E. Fifth St.,
- Sueño, 607 E. Third St.
- The Silos, 801 E. First St.
- Tender Mercy, 607 E. Third St. (Lower Level),
- Troll Pub Dayton, 216 Wayne Ave.:
- Trolley Stop, 530 E. Fifth St.,
- Two Social, 123 E. Third St.:
- Winans Coffee & Chocolates,

SPECIAL SHOPPING DEALS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

- 5 Star Beauty Salon, 125 E. Second St.:
- After5, 111 E. Third St.:
- Choice Juice Boxx, 31 S. St. Clair St.:
- Dayton Metro Library, 215 E. Third St.: DML's ESL Classes are free programs for learning and practicing English speaking skills at DML locations near you!
- Eclectic Essentials, 510 E. Fifth St.:

- * Gem City Tattoo Club, 436 E. Fifth St.: Tattoo flash sale! From 12:30-7:30 p.m.,
- Mintha's Boutique, 520 E. Third St.
- Omega Music, 318 E. Fifth St.
- The Oregon District, Fifth Street:
- RiverScape MetroPark, MetroParks Ice Rink, 237 E. Monument Ave.: SWIFTIE THEME SKATE!
- Pedal Wagon Dayton:
- Picture Perfect Paint Parties, 123 N. Ludlow St.
- Sole Touchers, 37 S. St. Clair St.
- Square One Salon & Spa, 506 E. Third St.:
- The Silos, 801 E. First St.
- Two Social, 123 E. Third St.
- Vidia's Closet, 27 S. St. Clair St..

The Downtown Dayton Partnership's website has a complete list of downtown's arts and cultural amenities, as well as a dining guide, parking map and much more.

Education

Teen Received a Text That Changed His Life

“They were there for me no matter what, letting me know that I’ll always have a place to call home,” said Petey Jones.



Ryan Holdren and Petey Jones

By: Angela Johnson

At just 17 years old, Petey Jones has already experienced unspeakable tragedy. In 2017, the Ohio teen lost his father, who died from a heart attack at age 40. Three years later, his mother passed away from an unknown condition on New Year’s Day 2021. In March of that same year, tragedy struck again when a fire destroyed his apartment and took the life of his older sister, Maronique, who had been caring for him.

“I was confused, but I was like angry,” he told Good Morning America. “I was mad because everything happened out of nowhere. My whole life changed around in a matter of two years.”

The story of the fire at Jones’ home made the news and moved Ryan Holdren, who was his teacher and football coach at Cincinnati College Preparatory Academy. According to

PEOPLE, Holdren, who had been driving Jones to and from football practice since he lost his father, sent Petey a text that read:

“Hey, I know you got a lot going on, but if you ever need it, you’re always welcome to come stay with me.”

Jones took Holdren up on his offer and moved in with him and his wife Caitlin, where he still lives with the couple and their now-one-year-old son Everett. Holdren is now Jones’ legal guardian.

“We just wanted to give him something consistent,” Holdren told PEOPLE. “We wanted to provide him with a place where he felt safe, somewhere he could grow up.”

Today, Jones is a star football player and honors student, and is working to decide between over a dozen college acceptances. He says he doesn’t know where he’d be without the Holdren’s support through his difficult times.

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Florida Students Dedicate Saturdays to Learning Black History Their Schools Don’t Teach

Florida has required public schools to teach African American history for 30 years. Yet, according to the Associated Press, many students receive lessons that are incomplete or inadequate. In response to growing distrust in the state’s education system, community organizations, churches and cultural institutions are stepping in to fill the gaps.

In Delray Beach, Charlene Farrington leads Saturday morning classes at the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum to teach teenagers the history that schools often omit. Her lessons cover South Florida’s Caribbean roots, the state’s grim history of lynchings, the lasting effects of segregation and the grassroots activ-



ism that fueled the Civil Rights Movement. “You need to know how it happened before so you can decide how you want it to happen again,” Farrington told her students, according to the AP.

Efforts like Farrington’s have gained urgency as Florida’s approach to Af-

rican American history faces increased scrutiny and political challenges. Governor Ron DeSantis, a Republican, has spearheaded efforts to limit discussions of race, history and discrimination in classrooms. His administration has banned certain Advanced Placement African American Studies courses, citing alleged legal violations and historical inaccuracies.

Although Florida’s mandate to teach African American history dates back to 1994, critics argue that the state has not fully implemented it. According to the state’s own assessment, only 12 of Florida’s 67 school districts have demonstrated excellence in integrating Black history throughout the school year, with input from school boards and community partners.

Instruction often centers on well-known figures like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks during Black History Month while neglecting systemic issues and lesser-known events. “People who are interested in advancing African diaspora history can’t rely on schools to do that,” said Tameka Bradley Hobbs, manager of Broward County’s African-American Research Library and Cultural Center. “There needs to be a level of self-reliance and self-determination when it comes to passing on the history and heritage of our ancestors.”

Community-driven initiatives are gaining traction, with churches

and advocacy groups taking the lead in educating students. Since launching its Black History toolkit last year, the nonprofit Faith in Florida has enlisted over 400 congregations to incorporate the resource into their programs.

Parents are also stepping up. Sulaya Williams, a mother and educator, began teaching Black history in 2016 when she couldn’t find the comprehensive instruction she wanted for her children. Now, her Saturday classes in Fort Lauderdale attract students like her 12-year-old daughter, Addah Gordon, who says she’s finally learning about her ancestors. “It feels like I’m really learning my culture,” Addah said. “And most people don’t know what they did.”

Florida’s African American history mandate was born out of a significant moment of reckoning. In 1994, the state legislature approved reparations for survivors and descendants of the Rosewood Massacre, a 1923 attack in which a white mob destroyed a predominantly Black town. The legislation was hailed as a model for addressing historical injustices. However, historian Marvin Dunn says that momentum quickly faded. “There was a moment of enlightenment in Florida those decades ago,” he said. “But that was short-lived.”

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SERVICE SCHEDULE
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Worship Service - Sunday 8 AM & 10:30 AM
Sunday School - Sunday 10:30AM

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WEDNESDAY
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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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SUNDAY
Church School 9:00 a.m.
Worship Services 10:00 a.m.


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Church Sunday School.....9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m.
Women's Bible Study - Monday.....6:30 p.m.
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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Toll Free: 1-844-679-9343
email:bcfchurch@swohio.twcbc.com

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Church School - Sunday.....8:45 a.m.
& Wednesday.....1:00 p.m.
Bible Study/Prayer Meeting - Every
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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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Bethel Missionary Baptist Church
401 S. Paul Laurence Dunbar St. - Dayton, Ohio 45407
Rev. Xavier L. Johnson, Senior Pastor
937-222-4373 - Office - Email: offices@bmbcdayton.org




SUNDAYS
Church School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

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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Morning Worship.....10:55 AM
Wed. Prayer Service.....6:00 PM



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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.

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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.
Midweek Bible Study- Wednesday.....6:00-7:30 p.m. Via Zoom
Prayer Meeting - Saturday.....10:00 a.m.
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Religion

Denzel Washington Gets Baptized at 70 Years Old, Receives Minister's License



Denzel Washington's baptism

Nationwide — Denzel Washington was recently baptized in a ceremony at a New York church a few days before he turns 70 years old. He was also granted a minister's license, allowing him to officiate at religious services and pursue ordination in the future.

The Oscar-winning actor, currently starring in *Gladiator II*, was baptized on Saturday at Kelly Temple Church of God in Christ in Harlem, according to EURweb. The service, streamed

on Facebook, showed Washington in a white robe being immersed in the church's ritual pool, where he received his baptism certificate.

Washington's early life was shaped by his strong Christian upbringing, with his father serving as a Pentecostal minister. Though he attended church as a child, Washington's personal faith grew later in life. He now attends the West Angeles Church of God in Christ in Los Angeles.

Washington called the baptism his "great-

est accomplishment," and shared an emotional message about faith during the service.

"It took a while, but I'm finally here... If [God] can do this for me, there's nothing He can't do for you. The sky literally is the limit," Washington said.

Meanwhile, the event gained attention on social media. Many praised his decision to hold the ceremony in a modest church, while some questioned the speed at which celebrity ministers are granted such responsibilities.

'I Just Don't Want To See It Torn Down;' Church Holds Final Service After Nearly 200 Years



One of the Miami Valley's oldest churches held its last Sunday service.

The First Lutheran Church held its final service after nearly 200 years in Dayton.

It has sat on the corner of First and Wilkinson Streets, but can no longer afford to stay open.

It was one of the first churches in Dayton. It's been around for 185 years.

Sunday's service was different than the typical

service.

The head of southwest Ohio's Lutheran Church's Bishop delivered Sunday's message.

The church lost its minister back in 2022. Members also stopped attending and changes had to be made.

200 people attended the service at First Lutheran Church. Many were people who had never been to the church.

But they wanted to see the historical church for

the first and final time.

"I just don't want to see it torn down frankly. So, if it becomes an event center, I don't really care honestly. I just want to see it remain. See it up-kept because it's beautiful," said Conner Fazzari.

The church council and Lutheran Bishop have to figure out who they can sell it to.

They want to sell it to another church, but it is going to cost millions.

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A New Year Blessing for Faith

May the New Year bless you with unwavering faith that guides your steps, illuminates your path, and fills your heart with hope and strength throughout the year ahead.

Arts & Entertainment

DML Prepares for Tiny Stacks' Fourth Year

Dayton Metro Library, in partnership with WYSO, is pleased to announce that the popular Tiny Stacks Music Series will return in 2025 for its fourth year. DML encourages local musical talent to apply now.

Tiny Stacks is sponsored by Friends of the Dayton Metro Library and was created with the mission of bringing area musicians, books, and patrons together. Select DML Branches will host the live music sessions while introducing communities not only to the vast resources DML offers but

also to the diverse musical talents of the Dayton area.

Interested local singers/songwriters, musicians, and/or bands can apply online at DaytonMetroLibrary.org/TinyStacks. Applications close Friday, January 31.

Those who are selected for DML's 2025 Tiny Stacks Music Series will play at one of the following locations:

- Thursday, May 15: Burkhardt Branch
- Thursday, June 26: Vandalia Branch
- Thursday, August 21: West Carrollton Branch
- Thursday, September 18: Northmont Branch
- Thursday, October 16:

Outreach Services

If selected, each artist and/or band will be required to attend a pre-production meeting and one promotional photo shoot for DML's social media platforms. All performances begin at 6 pm and run approximately 30-40 minutes long. All performance material should be original works. Each artist and/or band will receive a stipend for their performance.

For more information about applying, visit DaytonMetroLibrary.org/TinyStacks or call the Library's Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

Stay Warm in January with DML Cinema Programs

Dayton Metro Library begins the New Year with cinema programs for all ages. From the sci-fi fav *Arrival* to a Latinx Film Fest, there's a genre for everyone during the month of January.

- Film Club, Saturday, January 4, 11 am-12 pm, Kettering-Moraine Branch:

- Patrons can watch a movie on their own, the join fellow movie lovers for conversation. January's pick is *Arrival* (Rated PG-13, 2016). (Adults)

- Lyle, Lyle Crocodile in Spanish, Saturday, January 4, 2-4 pm, Electra C. Doren Branch: Gather to watch Lyle, Lyle Crocodile (Rated PG, 2022) with English subtitles. (Families)

- Family Movie Night, Monday, January 6, 6-7:30 pm, New Lebanon Branch: Enjoy *Inside Out 2* (Rated PG, 2024). (Families)

- Movie Bingo, Tuesday, January 7, 3:30-5:30 pm, Trotwood Branch: Patrons will watch a movie and find different items or actions from the movie on their bingo card. (Grades 6-12)

- After School Teen Movie, Thursday, January 9, 2:45-5 pm, New Lebanon Branch: Enjoy a screening of *Dun-*

geons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves (Rated PG-13, 2023). (Teens)

- Teen Hangout: Movie Day!, Thursday, January 9, 3-5 pm, Vandalia Branch: Socialize with friends and watch a movie. (Grades 7-12)

- Family Movie Time, Thursday, January 9, 3:45-5 pm, Trotwood Branch: Spend time watching a movie and crafting! (Families)

- Book VS Movie: Lyle, Lyle Crocodile, Saturday, January 18, 11 am-1 pm, Southeast Branch: Which is better, the book or the movie? Read Lyle, Lyle Crocodile by Bernard Waber, then watch the movie! (Families)

- After School Tween Movie, Thursday, January 23, 2:45-4:30 pm, New Lebanon Branch: Movie pick: *Despicable Me 4* (Rated PG, 2024). (Tweens)

- Monday Movie Club, Monday, January 27, 3-5 pm, West Carrollton Branch: Meet at the Branch to discuss books, classics, feature films, and more. (Grades 7-12)

- Classic Movie Monday, Monday, January 27, 6-7:30 pm, New Lebanon Branch: Enjoy a screening of *Moonstruck* (Rated PG, 1987). (Adults)

- Movie: "La Suprema" Latinx Communities in Action, Thursday, January 30, 5:30-8 pm, Main

Downtown Favorite Re-opens for Business in the Dayton Arcade



Table 33 is officially back open for business in its new location. The local favorite eatery closed the doors on its 130 W. Second Street location earlier this year to prepare for its highly anticipated move to the Dayton Arcade. A ribbon-cutting ceremony and grand opening for the restaurant's new home, 45 W.

Fourth Street, was held late last week.

As Table 33 settles into its new location, the restaurant will be operating with a streamlined menu before unveiling its full selection of offerings in the coming weeks. Reservations can be made on Table 33's website. Table 33's current hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

Richard Parsons, Prominent Black Executive who Led Time Warner and Citigroup, Dies at 76

Richard Parsons, one of corporate America's most prominent Black executives who held top posts at Time Warner and Citigroup, died Thursday. He was 76.

Parsons, who died at his Manhattan home, was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 2015 and cited "unanticipated complications" from the disease for cutting back on work a few years later.

The financial services company Lazard, where Parsons was a longtime board member, confirmed his death.

David Zaslav, the president and CEO of Time Warner successor Warner Bros. Discovery, remembered Parsons as a "great mentor and friend" and a "tough and brilliant negotiator, always looking to create something where both sides win."

"All who got a chance to work with him and know him saw that unusual combination of great leadership with integrity and kindness," Zaslav said, calling him "one of the great problem solvers this industry has ever seen."

Parsons' friend Ronald Lauder told The New York Times that the cause of death was cancer. Parsons stepped down Dec. 3 from the boards of Lazard and Lauder's company, Estée Lauder, citing health reasons. He had been on Estée Lauder's board for 25 years.

Parsons said in a statement at the time that he was already dealing with



Richard Parsons

multiple myeloma when he joined the board, but "unanticipated complications have created additional new challenges." He said his doctors advised him to cut back on his commitments to ensure recovery.

"Dick's storied career embodied the finest traditions of American business leadership," Lazard said in a statement. The company, where Parsons was a board member from 2012 until this month, praised his "unmistakable intelligence and his irresistible warmth."

Although he was with Time Warner through its difficulties with AOL, he earned respect for the company and rebuilt its relations with Wall Street. He streamlined Time Warner's structure, pared debt and sold Warner Music Group and a book publishing division.

Parsons joined Time Warner as president in 1995 after serving as chairman and chief executive of Dime Bancorp Inc., one of the largest U.S. thrift institutions.

Parsons, a Republican, previously worked as a lawyer for Nelson Rockefeller, a former Republican governor of New York, and in Gerald Ford's White House. Those early stints gave him grounding in politics and negotiations. He also was an economic adviser on President Barack Obama's transition team.

Parsons, whose love of jazz led to co-owning a Harlem jazz club, also served as Chairman of the Apollo Theater and the Jazz Foundation of America. And he held positions on the boards of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, the American Museum of Natural History and the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

Parsons played basketball at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and received his law degree from Albany Law School in 1971. He is survived by his wife, Laura, and their family.

Editorial & Comments

Something to Consider:

Choose Hope

By: Brenda Cochran
Contributing Writer

Most of us realize that having a sense of hope in our lives can make every day much more positive.

The following are some inspirational quotes about hope:

- "Hope it praying for rain, but faith is bringing an umbrella"
- "Some people cannot be cured, but everyone can heal"
- "Faith is being sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we do not see."
- "Some people cannot be cured, but everyone can heal"

Many people are aware that these quotes are very positive, but looking at all of the negatives that surround our lives can make it very difficult to hold on to these quotes.

Holding on or choosing hope may not be too difficult for those that have a strong belief in God. To live each day with



Brenda Cochran

God, you would be able to encompass all of these quotes listed above and others like- "Start your day with God," seek "His guidance in all that you do," "trust in His plan," "Find some joy in God throughout your day, pray constantly," "Be mindful of His presence in every moment and let your actions reflect your faith."

There are several reasons of why we should keep hope alive or simply choose hope. The follow-

ing are basic reasons why hope matters and why it is important: Research has shown that that hope is not just an abstract concept; it is universal, measurable, and transformative. Hope also has profound benefits for mental health and is a powerful predictor of overall well-being. Hope is far from passive- hope drives resilience, connection and action even in the face of uncertainty.

Most of us know or have experienced adversity in life. Hope gives us the strength and the resilience to keep going. It allows us to see beyond our current circumstances and envision a better future. With hope, we can overcome even the most challenging obstacles and come out stronger on the other side. Hope is really a very powerful human value. It springs from the positive state of mind and ensures the belief that whatever the test

of life may be, the outcome will be constructive and beneficial.

Hope really keeps us going too. Research has shown that hope helps us to manage stress and anxiety and cope with adversity. It contributes to our well-being and happiness and motivates positive action.

Hopeful people believe that they can influence their goals, that their efforts can have a positive impact.

Why is hope the strongest emotion? In another study, researchers looked at hope and well-being and a sample of nearly thirteen thousand participants. The team discovered that high hope participants reported on the more positive emotions that can be received.

According to Dr. Martin Luther King, "We must accept the finite disappointment, but never lose finite hope."

Continued on Page 9

Health



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Miss Ohio USA Honoring Sister with Blood Drives, Hosting One During Critical Time of Year

Every two seconds someone needs blood in the United States and the number of blood donors is very low this time of year. That's something that is personal to Miss Ohio USA.

Macy Hudson was crowned Miss Ohio USA in May. She's spent a lot of time in the community, but blood donation is a cause that's personal to her.

Hudson's sister, Moriah Hudson Burrage, died unexpectedly in 2021. She had a rare blood condition and often required blood transfusions.

"Those blood transfusions were only made possible because of the people who donate blood," she said.

That's why she start-



ed 5:18 4Life, putting together blood drives with her family in honor of her late sister. Their next blood drive is on Jan. 3 at Revival Center Ministries in Dayton. It's one day before Moriah's birthday. "It's something that we can do for free and we're saving multiple lives," Hudson said.

It comes at a time when there is a serious need for blood donation.

"People aren't giving blood this time of year as

much as they are other times of the year," Marita Salkowski, Regional Communications Director of the American Red Cross, said.

As reported on News Center 7 at 5:00, Salkowski said the need for blood donation never goes away, even during the holidays. Her suggestion is to make donating blood part of your family's holiday giving.

"Make a gift of life. Donate blood and you

can save somebody's life in the process," Salkowski said.

Someone like Hudson's sister. She told News Center 7 that blood donors helped Moriah live her life to the fullest and now they hope people donate to help others just like her.

"I love my sister. I really miss her, and this is how I honor her," Hudson said. "And this is how you can honor her, too, and give back."

The Unexpected Crisis - Preparing for the Financial Impact of Alzheimer's During Financial Wellness Month... Continued from Page 1

• Organize your finances — Conduct an inventory of your financial resources (such as savings, insurance, retirement benefits, government assistance, VA benefits). A financial planner or an elder care attorney can help.

• Create a backup plan — Designate a trusted back-up agent for the person's power of attorney and consider designating responsibilities to more than one person.

"Many caregivers experience financial problems because they have to reduce their hours or take time off work," said Dayna Ritchey, programs director for the Alzheimer's Association Miami Valley and Greater Cincinnati Chapters.

"As the disease progresses, caregivers will need to pay for services or support for the person living with Alzheimer's. Financial literacy is especially important for caregivers, because it provides them with the knowledge and skills needed to better support themselves and others."

For more information on

financial planning, visit: Plan for Your Financial Future or alz.org. The Miami Valley Chapter offers free monthly education programs, care consultations and local caregiver support groups. Contact the Alzheimer's Association Miami Valley Chapter at 937.291.3332 to schedule a care consultation and be connected to free local resources.

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.