



Parity Inc. Names its 2025 Top Ten African American Men Honorees



Parity Inc. is pleased to announce its 2025 honorees for the annual "Top Ten African American Male" luncheon event. The luncheon in their honor was held on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025 at Sinclair Community College, the David H. Pontitz Center, 444 W. Third St., Dayton, OH. Since 1994, Parity Inc. has recognized and honored nearly 300 successful African Ameri-

can male leaders. Each year this group includes men with outstanding professional credentials and a legacy of service in the community. The 2025 Top Ten African American Male honorees are Mr. Willis E. Blackshear Jr., Dr. Nathaniel R. Bridges, Mr. Lafayette A. Christian, Mr. Eric C. Gee, Bishop Craig S. High, Mr. Cedric D. Howard, Mr. Lawrence L. Lindsey, Mr. Cedric L. McGhee, Dr. Kevin Mc-

Gruder, and Mr. Ronald L. Murray. **The John Edward Moore Sr. Leadership Award** this year was awarded to Mr. Emmett C. Orr, M.P.A. This is an award selected by the Parity Inc. Executive Board to be presented annually to a male leader who has provided sustained and exemplary support to Parity Inc. for over 10 years. The recipient can be living or deceased. **The Charity Adams**

Earley Service Award this year was awarded to Ms. Marsha E. Greer. This award is also selected by the Parity Inc. Executive Board and a female who has provided sustained and exemplary support to Parity Inc. for over 10 years. Parity Inc. has been at the forefront in the fight for diversity and equity in the Greater Dayton Area for more than three decades.

Dayton Group Donates 900 Teddy Bears to Comfort Children in Foster Care

By Jeffery Schrock
Friday was Valentine's Day and what better way to look at it than seeing hundreds of teddy bears go to children who might need a little comforting. For 22 years the National Council of Negro Women's Dayton Section have donated teddy bears to Montgomery County Children's Services for children entering foster care and families they serve.



For 22 years the National Council of Negro Women's Dayton Section have donated teddy bears to Montgomery County Children's Services for children entering foster care and families they serve.

"When we give bears to children whether they're three or five or 10, it means a lot because those children need to have a sense of security," said Donna Kuykendall, 2025 teddy bear roundup chairperson. Typically most years average between 300 to 400 bears, but this year, love was truly in the air, as they collected 900 teddy bears. Supporters say the impact these bears have on children and families is immense.

"To have the children have that small token to take with them, to hold to cuddle, through a difficult traumatic time is really immeasurable," said Craig Rickett, associate director Montgomery County Job and Family Services Children Services Division. Approximately 680 children are in the custody of children services and while the state of Ohio has issued the slogan you don't have to be perfect to

be a parent, the need for good quality foster parents is always there. "Just reach out, reach out to children services, reach out to Montgomery County we're all here willing to help out as we come together as a family, pull together as a family we can meet those needs and that's we're I think everyone can begin," said Mary McDonald, Montgomery County Commissioner. The work done for children makes a difference and while this teddy bear roundup may seem small and it's Valentine's Day, it sends a message that kids matter. "Our goal is we want to reduce trauma, keep children at home if at all possible and when safe. We would love to have an opportunity where there's more bears than children," Rickett said.

Dayton VA honors African-American Veterans' Contributions at Black History Month Event

Earlier on Wednesday at the Dayton VA, both black history and veteran history were honored at their annual Black History Month Breakfast Event.



"We're really focused on the contributions of African-Americans to our military," says Jennifer DeFrancesco, Director of the Dayton VA Medical Center. "So, from the Revolutionary War, to the Tuskegee Airmen, to the people serving today, we're really focusing on their accomplishments." DeFrancesco says the Dayton VA was the first racially integrated VA when it was first estab-

lished back in 1867. So, black history month is a very important time

for them to remember the ones who came before them.



Sister Rosetta Tharpe



Sister Rosetta Tharpe (born Rosetta Nubin, March 20, 1915 – October 9, 1973) was an American singer, songwriter and guitarist. She gained popularity in the 1930s and 1940s with her gospel recordings, characterized by a unique mixture of spiritual lyrics and electric guitar. She was the first great recording star of gospel music, and was among the first gospel musicians to appeal to rhythm and blues and rock and roll audiences, later being referred to as "the original soul sister" and "the Godmother of rock and roll". She influenced early rock-and-roll musicians, including Little Richard, Chuck Berry, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, and also later guitarists, such as Eric Clapton. Tharpe was a pioneer in her guitar technique; she was among the first

popular recording artists to use heavy distortion on her electric guitar, opening the way to the rise of electric blues. Her guitar-playing technique had a profound influence on the development of British blues in the 1960s. Her European tour with Muddy Waters in 1964, with a stop in Manchester on May 7, is cited by British guitarists such as Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck, and Keith Richards. Willing to cross the line between sacred and secular by performing her music of "light" in the "darkness" of nightclubs and concert halls with big bands behind her, Tharpe pushed spiritual music into the mainstream and helped pioneer the rise of pop-gospel, beginning in 1938 with the recording "Rock Me" and with her 1939 hit "This Train". Her unique music left *Continued on Page 6*

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February is Black History Month

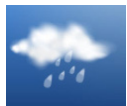


Around DAYTON

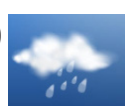
Miami Valley Weather

Saturday Sunday

Rain
High 39
Low 30

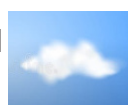


Rain
High 40
Low 35



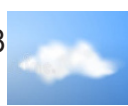
Monday

Cloudy
High 21
Low 11



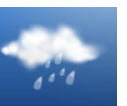
Tuesday

Cloudy
High 18
Low 14



Wednesday

Rain
High 18
Low 11



5 day Forecast

Attorney Jacob Davis Announces Bid for Dayton City Commission



Jacob Davis

Jacob Davis, a local Dayton attorney, has announced his candidacy for the Dayton City Commission. Davis previously enforced Dayton's anti-discrimination ordinances from 2020 through 2022 before leaving for private practice at his law firm, Nalls Davis. He now focuses on helping small businesses and nonprofits, fair housing organizations, and real estate professionals. Davis also serves as vice-chairperson of the House of Bread Board of Directors.

Davis has five main priorities in running for the city commission: (1) investing in small businesses, entrepreneurs, workers, and students; (2) creating new land use policies and grant programs prioritizing neighborhood beautification, development, and sustainability; (3) filling all vacancies on city boards and commissions; (4) improving the housing stock in Dayton's neighborhoods; and (5) strengthening local protections for individuals, consumers, tenants, and workers.

In kicking off his campaign, Davis said: "There is currently a void of leadership in Dayton to challenge the harmful federal policies introduced over the last few weeks. Dayton needs a leader with a legal and public policy background: I am that candidate and represent a new generation of leadership in our community. My priorities are clear: people, neighborhoods, affordable housing, and increased protections for individuals, consumers, tenants, and workers. Together, we can create a city that is more equipped to compete for jobs and workers while also improving housing conditions across the city."

Davis will need to collect 500 signatures over the next few weeks to appear on the ballot. He will host public events in Dayton throughout February and early March.

Three questions with Jacob Davis, candidate for the Dayton City Commission:

• Why are you interested in running for Dayton City Commission?

Dayton is home. As a city, we have so much untapped potential. However, I sense that we need new leadership. The community is not being heard on a variety of issues, including amenities, affordable housing, budget priorities, community-police relations, race relations, and small business support, among others. My work in law, business, and public policy prepared me to be a voice for the community. We need progressive leadership in local government now more than ever, and I represent a deviation from the status quo.

• How would you impact the current makeup of the city commission?

It is no secret that the current commission often splits 3-2 on important issues. My responsibilities as a commissioner would be to set the commission priorities, fill board vacancies, and hire and oversee the work of the city manager. I will analyze and evaluate every line item and policy proposal that I am asked to vote on and make the decision that I believe is best for the community. However, the commission has taken a passive approach to legislating over the last decade. As an attorney, I think that my addition will make our body more assertive in proposing and passing laws that protect Dayton consumers, tenants, and workers.

• If elected, what are your goals for your first year in office?

Some of my early priorities, include: establishing a neighborhood litter, trash, and debris removal division in the public works department; filling all vacancies on city boards and committees so that residents have more opportunities to participate; revamping and funding the city's Preferred Property Program; establishing a small business support center with business consultants and attorneys for local businesses; and adding new consumer, worker, and tenant protections to the Dayton Revised Code, including passing: a consumer protection ordinance to offset the federal government's decision to dismantle the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and a fair chance ordinance to reduce barriers for people with criminal records.

Celebrating Black History Month

2025

Join the Montgomery County Democratic Party for a **Black History Month** celebration with community and labor leaders! Embracing the 2025 National theme, **African Americans and LABOR**, our speakers will share how African Americans have shaped and strengthened the labor movement.

THURSDAY
FEB. 27, 2025
5:30 P.M. - 8:30 PM

MCDP
HEADQUARTERS
840 GERMANTOWN ST
DAYTON, OH 45402

Keynote Speaker
Andre Washington
President
A. Philip Randolph Institute
(APRI) Ohio
Vice Chair
Ohio Democratic Party



Featuring
Music by
The Deron Bell Band
Performance by
Dayton Contemporary Dance Company II
FREE - Refreshments will be provided.

RSVP by FEB. 24, 2025 @ montgomerydems.org
or call MCDP Headquarters office (937-222-4007)

Sponsored by Montgomery County Democratic Party
and Dayton-Miami Valley AFL-CIO

LABOR

ABLE Reaffirms Commitment to Protecting Immigrant Rights Amid Rising Enforcement Actions

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE) stands in solidarity with our immigrant clients, community partners, colleagues, and friends. As a legal services organization with a history of challenging systemic and individualized racism, xenophobia, and other forms of injustice, we remain committed to ensuring that low-income

come clients, including our immigrant clients and client communities, receive the protections and rights due to them under the law.

Recent changes in immigration policy and a spike in immigration detentions, arrests, and other enforcement actions has created fear, separated families, and prevents individuals from accessing critical resources, legal assistance, and other essential services.

ABLE will continue to defend the constitutional rights of low-income individuals, regardless of their immigration status. We will continue to represent low-income immigrants in immigration

matters, and to provide legal information. Know Your Rights presentations, and consultations to prevent exploitation of our client communities.

To assist our most vulnerable clients in preparing for the realities of immigration detention, ABLE has updated our Preparing Your Families for Immigration Enforcement Guide. The guide is available in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, Arabic, Mandarin, French, Russian, Somali, Swahili and Kinyarwanda here: <https://immigration.ablelaw.org/know-your-rights/>.

Regardless of immigration status, every individual deserves to live

with dignity, security, and access to justice. Help us continue to fight for the humanity and basic rights of Ohio's low-income immigrant communities by donating to ABLE today.

If you or someone you know needs legal assistance or resources, please reach out to us. ABLE is here to stand with you, fight for your rights, and ensure that all members of our community receive the support they deserve.

For assistance, please contact us at 419-930-2555 or 937-535-2202, or visit <https://immigration.ablelaw.org/> to learn more about our services.

Unlocking Dayton's Future Tech Workforce: Levon Phelps' Journey to IT Success with NPower Ohio

By Demarus Crawford-White, Executive Director, NPower Ohio

Currently, Ohio has over 384,000 tech jobs, ranking 10th in the U.S. for tech employment. However, with more than 79,000 IT job postings statewide, there is a clear need for more trained professionals to fill these roles. Recognizing this

demand, NPower Ohio was launched in Dayton in 2023 to bridge the skills gap and provide untapped talent from low-income communities with access to high-quality tech training.

At NPower Ohio, we are committed to transforming lives by providing access to comprehensive tech skills training. Levon Phelps Jr. is a shining

example of how dedication, perseverance, and community support can open doors to a future in IT.

Levon graduated from NPower Ohio's IT Tech Fundamentals program in December 2024. His journey into the tech industry started at Sinclair Community College, where he majored in Software De-

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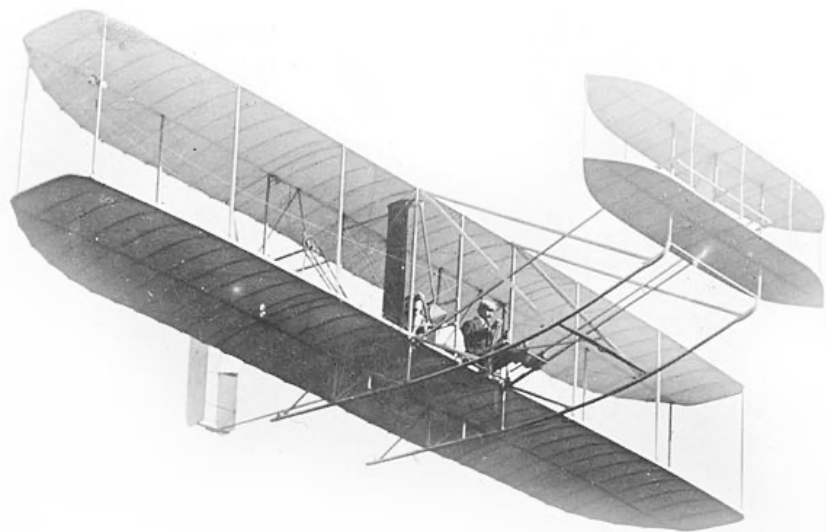
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National

Senate Passes Huffman Bill Adopting Wright Flyer III as State Airplane



COLUMBUS— The Ohio Senate passed Senate Bill 24 today, sponsored by State Senators Steve Huffman (R-Tipp City) and Terry Johnson (R-McDermott), which adopts the 1905 Wright Flyer III as the official state airplane. The aircraft was first flown by Orville and Wilbur Wright at Huffman Prairie outside of Dayton, Ohio,

and is recognized as the world's first practical airplane, staying in flight for 39 minutes and 24 seconds on October 5, 1905.

"The Wright brothers significantly contributed to Ohio's rich history and altered how the world views transportation," said Senator Huffman. "This monumental achievement is already recognized nationally, and the technology they developed here is

worthy of statewide recognition."

The 1905 Wright Flyer III is the only airplane in the country to be designated as a National Historic Landmark.

The original plane was carefully restored with the help and oversight of Orville in 1947, and is now on display at the Wright Brothers Aviation Center at Carillon Historic Park in Dayton.



MIDDLETOWN, OHIO BLACK HISTORY MONTH OBSERVANCE 2025!

“WHO IS MIDDLETOWN, OHIO BLACK HISTORY?”

You are invited to Come, Share, and Learn of many of the great contributors to this city from 1820 - 2025.

WHEN: Thursday, Feb. 27th, 2025

TIME: 5:00 pm - 7:15 pm

**WHERE: MidPointe Library
125 Broad Street - Downtown Middletown**

Contact:

Abdul Shakur Ahmad

937-244-8381

ahmadshakur0502@gmail.com

Black Author Reveals True Story of How He Overcame His Schizophrenic Mom and Abusive Aunt

Nationwide -- For over a decade, Harold Phifer served in a war zone as a contract air traffic controller in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Guantanamo Bay. He even survived a suicide bombing by the Taliban. But none of that was as dangerous or stressful as his upbringing. He was a black kid growing up in the South during the tumultuous 1960s, dealing with racism and bullying in the streets, and abuse at home from his schizophrenic mother and dysfunctional, violent aunt. He says he felt like an outsider in and out of the house.

He tells a moving story in his newest book, *My Bully, My Aunt, and Her Final Gift*. It comes on the heels of publishing his earlier book, *Surviving Chaos: How I Found Peace At A Beach Bar*, which exposed a lot of people that affected the life of the author. Besides his problematic mother, Aunt Kelly left a lasting imprint.

"She was the opposite of all things positive," says Phifer. "At the end of her twisted life, it was painfully obvious to me that she deserved a book of her very own. The death of my evil aunt, allowed me to see myself while operating a door for my brothers and me."

Most of the contents in this story are recre-



Harold Phifer

ated from real-life experiences of a lost and misguided kid. Some things have been changed for the sake of a better read. Even though a tiny bit is pure bullshit, it's all inspired by the events lived by a "lonely and determined little boy."

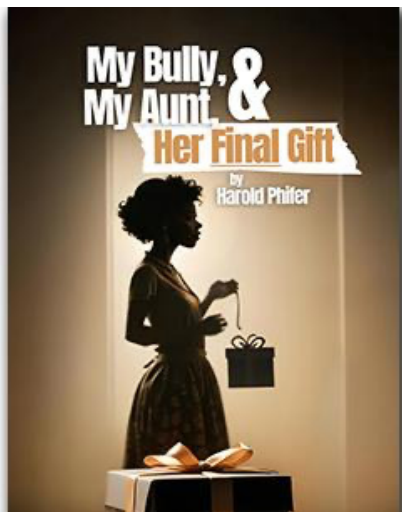
"Yes, you will be shocked and amazed by the darkness and behaviors of a close-blood relative," says Phifer. "Look at it this way: Logic and Aunt Kathy never coexisted, whereas her philosophies and arbitrary enforcements, kept me off-balanced for much of my young life. Somehow, I survived the chaos, abuse, and despicable treatment and then found another way. This story pulls back the covers to that sick, twisted, and formative relationship that I had to endure."

"After experiencing the devilish deeds of my aunt,

it was a challenge to give her a good send-off when she died," shares Phifer. "I had grown apart from her clutches, so I had to find the decency to bury her with a matter of dignity that she didn't deserve."

Sometimes the death of a loved one can fix one's pain. Her funeral turned into a bit of a comedy show. "The death of my evil aunt taught me a lot about grief, love, loss, resentments, and redemption," says Phifer. "After her death, I was tasked with the job of putting together a memorial that no one wanted to attend."

In *My Bully, My Aunt, and Her Final Gift*, Phifer revisits the complicated relationship he shared with his late Aunt Kathy, a woman who stood as the antithesis of positivity in his life. Despite her domineering and often cruel behavior, her passing left Harold with an unexpect-



ed opportunity for humor, healing, and reflection.

As he plans her memorial, his childhood memories resurface, pulling him back into a world shaped by his aunt's unpredictable rules and twisted philosophies. Blending heartfelt truths with laugh-out-loud moments, he weaves a tale of resilience, self-discovery, and ultimately, redemption.

This memoir offers a lighthearted yet honest look at how even the darkest relationships can leave behind gifts of wisdom and self-awareness.

What Readers Are Saying:

"Each poignant recollection offers another part of his childhood and how it irreversibly shaped his future strategy for a better, more exciting life. The book is a definite page-turner and keeps the reader wanting more from the author. It's a lively,

energetic tale that reads like a conversation as if you're hearing the story first-hand from a friend or acquaintance." — Literary Titan on *Surviving Chaos*

"His narratives are interesting, and often much fun... his tales are entertaining, sprinkled with humor, drama, and sadness. Readers will discover an intriguing life, one of turmoil and finally, thanks to a stranger on a beach, inner peace." — Blue Ink Review on *Surviving Chaos*

"*Surviving Chaos* is light and gripping. It's jam-packed with intriguing events that happened during the author's childhood, teenagehood, and adult life." — OnlineBookClub on *Surviving Chaos*

"The peace-seeking memoir *Surviving Chaos* revels in the cathartic power of storytelling after a lifetime of challenging circumstances." — Foreword Reviews on *Surviving Chaos*

For more information and/or to purchase his books, visit RiseandRead.com

About the Author

Harold Phifer is the author of several books, including his newest one, *My Bully, My Aunt, and Her Final Gift*. His prior book was *Surviving Chaos: How I Found Peace At A Beach Bar*. He continues, despite an upbringing in poverty, rac-

ism, bullying, a schizophrenic mom, and an abusive aunt, to create stories about adventure, love, life, and the human spirit.

He was born into the rebellious 1960s in Columbus, Mississippi. As a black kid seeking to find his way in the South, he worked the streets, hustled the neighbors, and busted tables at bars he didn't belong in.

After walking the stage at Caldwell High School, he went on to graduate from Mississippi State and Jackson State Universities respectively. Then he started his career as an air traffic controller in Memphis, Tennessee. However, he was never at peace with himself. So, after 23 years working for the Federal Aviation Administration, he left the United States and took a job as an international contractor.

His education includes: FAA Academy, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Certified Air Traffic Control Specialist; Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi, BS; Information Systems; and Mississippi State University, Starkville, Mississippi, BA, Business Administration.

Be sure to follow Harold Phifer on Facebook, Instagram, and X.

Unlocking Dayton's Future Tech Workforce: Levon Phelps' Journey to IT Success with NPower Ohio...

Continued from Page 2

velopment and earned an associate degree. However, despite his academic achievements, he faced challenges securing a position due to the lack of industry certifications.

That's when NPower entered the picture. Levon learned about our program through

a family connection. He explains, "My grandfather has a friend whose son was in the program and told me about it." Seeing an opportunity to earn the certifications he needed without taking on more debt, he enrolled in our tuition-free training program, gaining not only technical knowledge but

also professional development skills that would make him a competitive candidate in the job market.

Through hard work and the support of NPower's instructors and mentors, Levon successfully earned his certifications, completed the program, and secured an internship with

CareSource, the leading health plan in Ohio. Now working in their IT department, Levon is gaining invaluable hands-on experience that is setting the foundation for his future career.

Reflecting on his journey, Levon shares, "I think the program is great for those who want to enter

the IT industry, and my experience at CareSource has been amazing." His long-term goal is to earn a cybersecurity certification and become a cybersecurity engineer—an ambition that aligns perfectly with the growing demand for cybersecurity professionals in Ohio.

Ready to start your own

journey in tech? Learn more about how we are helping individuals like Levon build successful careers in the growing tech industry. Visit <https://www.npower.org/locations/ohio/> to get started today. To contact the NPower Ohio team directly, e-mail ohio@npower.org.

Arts & Entertainment

National Tour of Peter Pan

Tickets for the all-new production of the Tony Award-winning Broadway classic, PETER PAN are on sale now for its premiere Dayton engagement at the Benjamin & Marian Schuster Performing Arts Center as part of a major national tour. Tickets are available at daytonlive.org/peter-pan. For more information, please visit peterpanontour.com. choreographed by Paul Rubin (Wicked, Frozen) with music supervision and additional arrangements by Andy Einhorn (Hello, Dolly!, Carousel) and dance arrangements by David Dabbon.

This adaptation also features a diverse cast and an updated script, particularly changing the way indigenous people are portrayed. The original version showcased tribe members as always looking for a hunt and speaking in a gibberish

This high-flying musical has been thrilling audiences of all ages for close to 70 years and is now being brought back to life in a newly-imagined production directed by Emmy Award winner Lonny Price (Sunset Boulevard, Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill) with additional book by celebrated playwright Larissa FastHorse (The Thanksgiving Play, What Would Crazy Horse Do?), choreography by Lorin Latarro (Waitress, The Who's Tommy), flying sequences language. This current national tour represents tribal heritage both on and off-stage, with a member of Sicangu Lakota Nation Larissa FastHorse as playwright and several actors of indigenous descent playing in the musical.

"PETER PAN is one of the great treasures of the American Musical Theatre," said Lonny Price. "The show nurtures and inspires the imagination of its audience and reminds us to keep alive the child within us all."

Based on Sir James M. Barrie's classic tale and originally directed, choreographed, and adapted by Broadway legend Jerome Robbins, PETER PAN features an iconic and unforgettable score by Morris (Moose) Charlap, additional lyrics by Betty Comden, Adolph Green and Amanda Green; and additional music by Jule Styne.

The national tour has scenic design by Anna Louizos, costume design by Sarafina Bush, lighting design by Amith Chandrashaker, sound design by Kai Harada, projections by David Bengali, hair & make-up design by J. Jared Janas, fight direction by Rick Sordelet & Christian Kelly-Sordelet and "Tinker Bell" design by Paul Kieve. The Associate Director is Matt Cowart and the

Associate Choreographer is Travis Waldschmidt, with casting by ARC/Duncan Stewart, CSA and additional casting by Michael Donovan Casting. The production is licensed by Music Theatre International. The tour is produced by NETWORKS Presentations, executive producer Trinity Wheeler.

"I am thrilled to be part of bringing PETER PAN to life for a new generation," said Larissa FastHorse. "If you loved this musical before, you would still see the show that enchanted you, while discovering a PETER PAN that everyone can enjoy, without harm, for many years to come."

The PETER PAN tour is conducted by Jonathan Marro. The stage management team is led by Megan Belgam with Kendall Stevens. The company management team is led by Luke Meyer with Tyler Pascucci.

The adventure begins when PETER PAN and his mischievous sidekick, Tinker Bell, visit the bedroom of the Darling children late one night. With a sprinkle of fairy dust and a few happy thoughts, the children are taken on a magical journey they will never forget. This extraordinary musical full of excitement and adventure features iconic and timeless songs including "I'm Flying," "I Gotta Crow," "I Won't Grow Up" and "Neverland." PETER PAN embraces the child in us all so go on a journey from the second star to the right and straight on 'til morning - your entire family will be Hooked!

Please follow the flight at:

peterpanontour.com
Instagram: @PeterPantheMusical
Facebook: @PeterPantheMusical
TikTok: @PeterPantheMusical
#peterpanmusical

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Please visit daytonlive.org/peter-pan to view

the PETER PAN performance schedule:

- Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, February 28, 2025, at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 1, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.
- Saturday, March 1, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 1, 2025, at 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 2, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 2, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

TICKET

INFORMATION

Individual ticket prices for PETER PAN start at \$34 including applicable fees. For additional information or to purchase tickets, visit daytonlive.org/peter-pan or call the Dayton Live Ticket Office at 937-228-3630.

ABOUT DAYTON LIVE

As a not-for-profit arts organization, Dayton Live is the region's home for arts, culture, and entertainment. Its mission is to strengthen community engagement in the arts through inspiring performances, educational opportunities, and world-class venues: the Benjamin & Marian Schuster Performing Arts Center, Victoria Theatre, The Loft Theatre (at the Metropolitan Arts Center), and the PNC Arts Annex. Dayton Live presents a wide variety of arts and entertainment events, including the best in touring Broadway, family shows, concerts, comedians, and so much more. An extensive Education & Engagement program reaches more than 100,000 individuals annually with the Dayton Live Creative Academy, the Discovery Series, Background on Broadway, Bagels & Broadway, and other initiatives. In addition, Dayton Live operates The Arts Garage. The official ticketing source for all performances presented in Dayton Live venues is daytonlive.org.

"A MAGICAL EXPERIENCE!"
Chicago Sun-Times

Peter Pan

THE HIT BROADWAY MUSICAL

FEB 26 - MAR 2
Schuster Center / [DAYTON LIVE.ORG](http://DAYTONLIVE.ORG)
BROADWAY in DAYTON

Ohio Arts Council MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Stuffie Mania at DML

Stuffie Storytimes are gaining popularity at Dayton Metro Library. Littles can show their stuffed buddies some love by bringing them to a Branch for a storytime and a checkup with the following programs:

Stuffed Reading Buddy Adoption Event, Friday, February 14, 2-4 pm,

West Carrollton Branch: Kids can adopt a plush stuffie reading buddy to take home. They will go through the adoption process by filling out an application, reading stuffie bios, and then picking out the perfect one for them. Their stuffie will also receive a checkup while the kids complete a craft.

(Toddlers-Age 6)
Family Storytime - Stuffed Animal Checkup, Tuesday, February 18, 5-5:30 pm, Trotwood Branch: Kids can bring their favorite stuffie in for a storytime and a checkup. Various checkup stations will be set up!

Preschool Storytime: Stuffed Animal Checkup, Thursday, February 20, 1-2 pm, Wilmington-Stroop Branch: Kids can bring their favorite stuffie in for a storytime and a checkup. Various checkup stations will be set up! (Ages 3-5)

Stuffed Animal Checkup, Thursday, February 20, 5:30-6 pm, Northwest Branch: Kids can bring their favorite stuffie in for a storytime and a checkup. Various checkup stations will be set up! (Babies-Grade 4)

Preschool Storytime: Stuffed Animal Checkup, Monday, February 24, 2-2:30 pm, West Carrollton Branch: Kids can bring their favorite stuffie in for a storytime and a checkup. Various checkup stations will be set up! (PreK-K)

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

POWER & Presence
DAYTON CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY
SAT, MAR 1, 7:30 PM | SUN, MAR 2, 4:00 PM
VICTORIA THEATRE

DC DC

Tickets: daytonlive.org/dcdc or 937.228-3630
Information: DCCD.org

SEASON 56 TIMELESS JUNE Season Sponsors

DAYTON LIVE

Ohio Arts Council MR MERIAM ROSENTHAL FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS

aes Ohio Foundation Mellon Foundation

IDDINGS FOUNDATION THE VIRGINIA W. KETTERING FOUNDATION

Education

DML's February STEM/STEAM Programs

Dayton Metro Library welcomes the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery to host States of Matter at select Branches this month. This program, for kids in grades 1-4, includes fun demonstrations and hands-on activities that will captivate them. They will explore solids, liquids, and gases and the differences between physical and chemical changes. Registration is not required. States of Matter will be held at the following DML locations:

West Branch: Tuesday, February 18, 4-5 pm

Kettering-Moraine Branch: Thursday, February 20, 4-5 pm.

For patrons who can't make that program or are interested in DML's other STE(A)M programs taking place this month, check these out:

Full S.T.E.A.M Ahead: Exploring Textiles, Tuesday, February 18 and 25, 4-5 pm, Huber Heights Branch: Kids in grades 1-4 will learn about the science behind textiles with a guest from Montgomery County Extension 4-H. Registration is required.

Tween STEAM: Roller Coasters, Wednesday, February 19, 4-5 pm, West Carrollton Branch: Tweens in grades 3-6

will design and make roller coasters using paper, cardboard, marbles, and other provided supplies.

STEAM Supreme, Thursday, February 20 and 27, 6-6:45 pm, E.C. Doren Branch: Kids in grades 1-4 will dive into the world of STEAM by embarking on a new adventure that ignites curiosity and inspires creativity.

Lego Lovers, Saturday, February 22, 2-3 pm, Kettering-Moraine Branch: Kids in grades 1-4 will spend an hour creating a LEGO masterpiece inspired by a prompt and then share it with the group.

STEMtasite!, Saturday, February 22, 3-4 pm, Miami Township Branch: Kids in grades 1-4 will journey on an exploration of STEM. Young minds curious about the world around them will use hands-on learning to foster a passion. This month's theme is Ozobots.

Family Fun Time, Monday, February 24, 4-5 pm, Burkhardt Branch: Games, crafts, LEGOs, and STEM experiments are available for kids in grades 1-4.

Lego Club, Tuesday, February 25, 3:30-4:30 pm, Trotwood Branch: Teens can show off their building skills with different challenges.

Lego Club, Tuesday,

February 25, 4:30-5:30 pm, Miamisburg Branch: Families can use the Library's LEGO collection to build new creations.

Family Program: Marble Run Engineering, Wednesday, February 26, 4-5 pm, Main Library, Children's Creativity Space: Use recycled materials and engineering skills to create a cooperative marble run or a maze to take home.

Teen Hangout: STEAM, Thursday, February 27, 4-5 pm, Main Library, Teen Edge, 1st Floor: Ages 13-18 can create and explore using the concepts of STEAM. Registration is required.

Tween STEM Exploration: Circuit Flashlights, Thursday, February 27, 4-5 pm, Kettering-Moraine Branch: Tweens in grades 4-6 will use basic circuitry and crafting supplies to create flashlights.

Fort (Building) Night, Thursday, February 27, 6-7 pm, West Carrollton Branch: Families will design, build, and create reading forts with supplies from the Library.

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

DML's Read-A-Thon

Dayton Metro Library's Trotwood Branch will host a Read-A-Thon: Library Lover's Month program on Thursday, February 20, from 4-5 pm.

Kids in Grades 1-4 are invited to participate in this mini-challenge centered around books. They will be encouraged to read as much as possible in the given time frame. They can also listen to books and make crafts. Small prizes will be given.

Registration is not required. The Trotwood Branch is at 855 East Main Street, Trotwood, 45426. For more information, visit DaytonMetroLibrary.org or call the Library's Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

Registration is not required. The Trotwood

The Youngest Black Woman to Obtain a Pilot's License at 17-Years-Old Continues Studies at HBCU



Freeland now studies finance while still being able to hit the skies with multiple passengers.

Kamora Freeland first made news last year when she became the youngest Black woman to obtain her pilot's license at 17.

The accomplishment trailblazer is continuing

her studies at an Atlanta HBCU famed for its all-women student body. Freeland started Spelman College as a sophomore, securing enough college credits to qualify as a second-year student.

On attending college, Freeland called it a "whirlwind of emotions" but

hopes to discover more about herself in the experience.

"Starting college as a sophomore has been a whirlwind of emotions—exciting, overwhelming, and liberating all at once," Freeland told the Advance/SILive.com. "It's like stepping into a whole new world where you're figuring out who you are, balancing independence, and navigating friendships, academics, and late-night study sessions."

After obtaining her pilot's license last year, Freeland knows her path is a bit untraditional. Although she originally wanted to explore the ocean, her knack for the skies began after a flight lesson in 2021.

"I earned my pilot license before I got a driver's license," she jokingly told the New York Post last March.

The Staten Island teen reigns as the youngest pilot in New York and remains one of the youngest in history to receive a pilot's license.

It's amazing," said Freeland, who graduated from high school last year. "I never wanted to be a pilot, but after my first flight, I was like, 'Wow! I could do this for a living.'"

Since last February, Freeland has been legally qualified to fly a plane carrying up to 12 passengers.

She also told the Post, "I love flying, and I have a passion for it. Plus, pilots can make up to \$700,000, so that caught my attention, too. The next step is to become a commercial airline pilot."

However, Freeland currently majors in finance with a minor in entrepreneurship at the HBCU. Whether or not she will continue on the commercial airline pilot route remains unknown, but with her pilot experience already started, Freeland can still hit the skies as she feels.

Central State University Earns Research College and University Designation in 2025 Carnegie Classifications

WILBERFORCE, OH — Central State University, Ohio's only public HBCU and 1890 Land-Grant Institution, has been recognized as a Research College and University in the 2025 Carnegie Classifications of Institutions of Higher Education. This designation affirms the university's growing impact in research and scholarly activity and highlights its significant investment in research and development (R&D), with expenditures surpassing \$11.1 million in fiscal year 2023.

The Carnegie Classifications, developed by the American Council on Education (ACE) and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, assess research activity across higher education institutions. The Research Colleges and Universities designation is awarded to institutions with annual research expenditures exceeding \$2.5 million, recognizing their contributions to knowledge creation, scientific advancements, and innovation.

"This designation reflects the remarkable strides Central State University has made in expanding its research division," said Dr. Morakinyo A.O. Kutí, president of Central State University. "Through our faculty's dedication and our institution's growing research initiatives, we continue to drive forward solutions that impact our students, communities, and the broader academic landscape."

Central State's research portfolio spans diverse disciplines, including

agriculture, water resource management, behavioral health, and STEM innovation, supported by funding from federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Science Foundation (NSF), and National Institutes of Health (NIH). The university remains committed to fostering a culture of research excellence, aligning with its land-grant mission to address societal challenges and promote workforce development.

Dr. Jose Ulises Toledo,

vice president for Research & Economic Development and director of 1890 Land-Grant Programs, praised the faculty and staff for their dedication to research that directly benefits underserved communities. The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research was instrumental in the designation.

"This milestone affirms Central State University's unwavering commitment to research that transforms lives," Toledo said. "Our faculty and students are

driving meaningful advancements that expand knowledge and create real-world solutions for the communities we serve. As we continue to strengthen our research, this designation reinforces our role as a leading institution in innovation and discovery."

The 2025 Research Activity Designations mark a shift in how research classifications are structured, with the Carnegie system now distinguishing research activity separately from the broader Institutional Clas-

sification system, which will be published in April 2025. Central State's recognition underscores its ongoing evolution as a research-driven institution, solidifying its place as a leader in innovation within Ohio and beyond.

For more information about Central State University, visit www.centralstate.edu.

For details on the Carnegie Classifications, visit Carnegie Research Designations FAQs.

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Benjamin E. K. Speare-Hardy II, Rector

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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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FAX: (937) 222-7336

SUNDAY
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Morning Worship Services.....10:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY
AM Prayer Meeting.....9:30 a.m.
Bible Study.....11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

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

Pastor Cory J. Pruitt
1501 W. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Dayton, OH, 45412

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3317 Hoover Avenue ~ Dayton, Ohio 45407
Rev. Gerald A. Cooper, Pastor

937-268-6729 ~ Office 937-267-9804 ~ Fax



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


WEDNESDAY
Prayer Meeting/Bible Study Noon

THURSDAY
Food & Clothing Pantry 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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Rev. Elmer S. Martin, Pastor
1620 West Fifth Street
Dayton, OH 45402-2910
Church Phone: 937-223-5115
Fax: 937-223-8872
Email: greater_allen_ame@att.net



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

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

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& Wednesday.....1:00 p.m.
Bible Study/Prayer Meeting - Every
Wednesday starting at.....6:00 p.m.

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Sunday
Church School.....9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Tues. Bible Study.....6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meeting.....6:00 p.m.

Other Ministry
email: rockney.carter@gmail.com
1684 Earham Drive • Dayton, OH 45406

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@bmbcd Dayton.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

ZION HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
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Church School9:00 AM
Morning Worship.....10:55 AM
Wed. Prayer Service.....6:00 PM



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Office: 937-268-6711 Fax: 937-221-8040



Rev. Dr. Marcettes Cunningham, D.Min., Pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
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:
Dixonumcd Dayton.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
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Dr. Bridget D. Weatherspoon, Pastor

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Religion

Black History Month – Sister Rosetta Tharpe... Continued from Page 1

a lasting mark on more conventional gospel artists such as Ira Tucker Sr., of the Dixie Hummingbirds. While controversial among conservative religious groups due to her forays into the pop world, she never left gospel music.

Tharpe's 1944 release "Down by the Riverside" was selected for the National Recording Registry of the U.S. Library of Congress in 2004, which noted that it "captures her spirited guitar playing and unique vocal style, demonstrating clearly her influence on early rhythm-and-blues performers" and cited her influence on "many gospel, jazz, and rock artists". ("Down by the Riverside" was recorded by Tharpe on December 2, 1948, in New York City, and issued as Decca single 48106. Her 1945 hit "Strange Things Happening Every Day", recorded in late 1944, featured Tharpe's vocals and resonator guitar, with Sammy Price (piano), bass and drums. It was the first gospel record to cross over, hitting no. 2 on the Billboard "race records" chart, the term then used for what later became the R&B chart, in April 1945. The recording has been cited as a precursor of rock and roll, and alternatively has been called the first rock and roll record. In May 2018, Tharpe was posthumously inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as an Early Influence.

Childhood
Tharpe was born on March 20, 1915, as Rosetta Nubin in Cotton Plant, Arkansas, to Katie Bell Nubin and Willis Atkins, who were cotton pickers. However, researchers Bob Eagle and Eric LeBlanc give her birth name as Rosether Atkins (or Atkinson), her mother's name being Katie Harper. Little is known of her father except that he was a singer. Tharpe's mother Katie was also a singer and a mandolin player, deaconess-missionary, and women's speaker for the Church of God in Christ (COGIC), which was founded in 1897 by Charles Harrison Mason, a black Pentecostal bishop, who encouraged rhythmic musical expression, dancing in praise and allowing women to sing and teach in church. Encouraged by her mother, Tharpe began singing and playing the guitar as Little Rosetta Nubin at the age of six and was cited as a musical prodigy.

About 1921, at age six, Tharpe had joined her mother as a regular performer in a traveling evangelical troupe. Billed as a "singing and guitar playing miracle", she accompanied her mother in performances that were part sermon and part gospel concert before audiences across the American South. In the mid-1920s, Tharpe and her mother settled in Chicago, Illinois, where they performed religious concerts at the Roberts Temple COGIC on 40th Street, occasionally traveling to perform at church con-

ventions throughout the country. Tharpe developed considerable fame as a musical prodigy, standing out in an era when prominent black female guitarists were rare.

Marriage and stage name
In 1934, at age 19, she married Thomas Thorpe, a COGIC preacher, who accompanied her and her mother on many of their tours. The marriage lasted only a few years, but she decided to adopt a version of her husband's surname as her stage name, Sister Rosetta Tharpe. In 1938, she left her husband and moved with her mother to New York City. Although she married several times, she performed as Rosetta Tharpe for the rest of her life.

Career
Early career
On October 31, 1938, aged 23, Tharpe recorded for the first time – four sides for Decca Records. The first gospel songs recorded by Decca, "Rock Me", "That's All", "My Man and I" and "The Lonesome Road", were instant hits, establishing Tharpe as an overnight sensation and one of the first commercially successful gospel recording artists. "Rock Me" influenced many rock-and-roll singers, such as Elvis Presley, Little Richard and Jerry Lee Lewis. In 1942, the music critic Maurie Orodener, describing Tharpe's "Rock Me", wrote "It's Sister Rosetta Tharpe for the rock & roll spiritual singing."

She had signed a ten-year contract with Lucky

OUR SOUL MATTERS: AIN'T GONNA LET NO BODY TURN ME AROUND 02/11/2025



Pamelajune Banks-Anderson, D.Min.
The Radically Inclusive Veteran Chaplain
LCDR (RET) US Navy Chaplain Corps
drianderson@spaceforgrace.org



BE STILL, AND YOUR SOUL WILL SPEAK

15 "It is a joy for the just to do justice, But destruction will come to the workers of iniquity."
Proverbs 21:15



A hearse carrying Rosa Parks's casket and a 1950s-era bus sits in front of the Metropolitan AME Church, where a memorial service for the civil rights icon is scheduled for Oct. 31, 2005, in Washington.

A judge has ordered the naming rights of the extremist group the Proud Boys to be given to the church. Mark Wilson/Getty Images.
Imagine that. It may take a minute, but justice will prevail.

Many activists, including Rosa Parks, Ida B. Wells, Booker T. Washington, and Frederick Douglass, fought for justice—and many continue fighting for justice whether or not they live to see it. Battling for integrity goes back to Genesis, where Cain, after killing his brother, asks God, when God confronts him, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

During a rally in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 12, 2020, members of the Proud Boys "violently tore down and destroyed" a Black Lives Matter sign in front of the church, according to a June 2023 ruling. This may be poetic justice in that it is a first in our nation's history for a Black institution to own the property of a white supremacist group.

"Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church now owns the exclusive rights to the Proud Boys trademark, stripping them of the very name under which they rallied," responded the pastor, the Rev. William H. Lamar IV.

We must keep singing those Negro Spirituals that kept our ancestors going. They will keep us going also. Especially, "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around."

And, "Yes," we are our brothers and sisters keeper.

LOVE YE ONE ANOTHER

Millinder. Tharpe officially joined Millinder's swing band in 1941 and continued touring with the band throughout the 1940s.[22] Her records caused an immediate furor: many churchgoers were shocked by the mixture of gospel-based lyrics and secular-sounding music, but secular audiences loved them. Tharpe played on several occasions with the white singing group the Jordanaires.[8]

Tharpe's appearances with Cab Calloway at Harlem's Cotton Club in October 1938 and in John Hammond's "Spirituals to Swing" concert at Carnegie Hall on December 23, 1938, gained her more fame, along with notoriety. Performing gospel music for secular nightclub audiences and alongside blues and jazz musicians and dancers was unusual, and in conservative religious circles a woman playing the guitar in such settings was frowned upon. Tharpe fell out of favor with segments of the gospel community.

By 1943 she considered rebuilding a strictly gospel act, but she was con-

tractually required to perform more worldly material. Her nightclub performances, in which she would sometimes sing gospel songs amid scantily clad showgirls, caused her to be shunned by some in the gospel community.

During this time masculinity was directly linked to guitar skills. Tharpe was often offered the intended compliment that she could "play like a man", demonstrating her skills

Continued on Page 8

Sports

83-Year-Old Loses Home in Fire Receives Check From Magic Johnson



The former Laker.



This you can count on not a dollar that's going to be spent on Walt.

According to ABC News, Butler is known as “the heart and soul of Altadena and Pasadena” by many, including his four children, due to the support he has given to the community over the years.

During his tenure as Pasadena City College’s assistant track and field coach, the longtime Altadena resident helped guide the squad to three straight state championships from 1975 and 1977.

He has assisted homeless children, pensioners, and others in the community. According to him, he started giving out shoes at his sporting goods store when he recalled having holes in his own shoes as a child in elementary school.

Butler’s touching story was initially published on social media by “Make Big Talk.” At the time, he told Kalina Silverman, the producer of “Make Big Talk,” that he “lost everything” but is happy to still have “my health and my life.”

“From a guy with everything, to nothing,” the octogenarian said. “I spent my whole life helping people. I didn’t think it would happen to me, but it did. But I have my health and my life.”

Butler’s children launched a GoFundMe for him when the January 10 video became popular on social media, and contributions soared, raising almost \$900,000.

NBA legend and phi-

lanthropist Magic Johnson visited the respected senior in collaboration with Fanatics to assist him in reassembling his jersey collection.

Butler appeared shocked as he glanced through various jerseys, including a Laker’s jersey of the late Kobe Bryant in a video posted on Instagram. Johnson strolled in as Walter was contemplating what the gesture meant to him.

“Hey, my man. The Michigan man!” Butler hugged Johnson and exclaimed.

Johnson replied, “I’m thrilled to meet you, and I’m sorry about what happened to your home. But also, I wanted to tell you thank you for what you’ve done for all those kids and families because you were a blessing to so many.”

Then, to his amazement, the 65-year-old icon gave him additional signed jerseys, including his Dream Team and All-Star jerseys. Already beaming, Johnson offered one last gift: a check for \$20,000.

“Because you helped so many people, I’m going to give you a gift; that’s \$20,000. Hopefully, that’ll help you in some kind of way. That’s personally from me,” Johnson noted.

Butler pledged to use the funds for community development as a token of appreciation.

He declared, “I’m going to use this in the right way. This you can count on, not a dollar that’s gonna be spent on Walt. Not one

dollar. Because I’m gonna get a food truck to make sure people eat. Plus, I get to have fun.”

“What you want to do for the people in the community, I’m behind that 100%,” the NBA icon said in agreement.

The Altadena fire was one of several fires across Los Angeles that burned over 14,000 acres, killed many residents and destroyed over 7,000 structures.

Autumn Lockwood Makes History as First Black Female Coach to Win a Super Bowl



Autumn Lockwood has etched her name in NFL history as the first Black woman coach to win a Super Bowl. The Philadelphia Eagles associate performance coach reached the milestone during the team’s 40-22 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs.

Lockwood had already broken barriers in 2023 as the first Black woman to coach in a Super Bowl when the Eagles fell short in Super Bowl LVII.

Now, with a championship ring to her name, she continues to be a trailblazer in a league where only one percent of coaching jobs are held by women.

Specializing in strength and conditioning, Lockwood’s path to the NFL began with an internship at the Atlanta Falcons in 2019. She later served as the director of sports per-

formance at the University of Houston and as assistant director of basketball sports performance at East Tennessee State.

Lockwood is one of only two Black women currently coaching in the NFL, alongside Jennifer King of the Chicago Bears, who was the first Black woman to hold a full-time assistant coaching position.

While women now hold 15 full-time assistant coach roles in the league—a 47% increase since 2021—there are still no female head coaches or

coordinators. With a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from the University of Arizona and a master’s in sports management from East Tennessee State, Lockwood is steadily rising through the ranks.

As the NFL grapples with ongoing diversity and inclusion challenges, she continues to open doors for future generations of minority women in coaching.

Editorial & Comments

Something to Consider:

Pay Attention to The Journey The Journey is the Joy

By: Brenda Cochran
Contributing Writer

The famous quote that we hear all the time is “It’s not the destination, it’s the journey.” You must admit, it is a well-known quote that is attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson who was an American Philosopher.

According to Emerson “Enjoying the journey, but getting there, is every bit as important as arriving at the destination.” This quote really states that our successes isn’t about the final outcome, it is about adding real value along the way.

It also doesn’t mean that the destination is irrelevant, but the journey shapes the destination. So, the path you are walking to achieve success actually has a greater role in your satisfaction.

Happiness is the journey, not the destination. It is the state of mind that comes inside ourselves when we focus on cultivating happiness in our everyday lives, rather than just achieving external goals, we will find that happiness is always within our reach.

Basically, the greatest joy in our lives, on how we live, lies not in the fact that we will fail, or never falling. In other words, you cannot do something kind to someone else too soon, when you never know how soon it will be too late.

When we talk about the journey, it is really all about getting satisfaction from all of the work that a person puts in. It’s not just what the end result will be, the satisfaction is some-



Brenda Cochran

thing that is in your control, but the work that you put in does, the opposite.

Whenever we are putting more emphasis on the end point of the journey it gets caught long before what will be - instead of accepting what is. When focusing on the destination - what happens is that it limits the satisfaction

that we can gain while going through the journey.

All of those projections, goes in expectations are really good to hold on to what you really want to do, but sometimes it just takes longer than what we think it will be to accomplish something that we set out to do.

When you latch on to the end result, you are limiting your satisfaction in the happiness that you gain to a specific point. In other words, crossing the finish line brings a certain joy, but it doesn’t take long before you attach to another destination. In other words, the cycle repeats itself. Unless you decide that you are going to change your mindset, so instead of focusing on the end point, think about what you can do to make progress toward reaching the destination.

So, the path you are walking to achieve success actually has a greater role on your satisfaction.

There are several good quotes about the journey, versus the destination.

According to Barack Obama: “We are reminded that, in the fleeting time we have on this earth, what matters is not wealth, or status, or power, or fame, but rather how well we have loved, and what small part we have played in making the lives of other people - better.”

Sponsor the 2025 Great Miami Riverway Summit & Make an Impact!

The 2025 Great Miami Riverway Summit is set to be an unforgettable day of inspiration, networking, and behind-the-scenes experiences. This year, we’re bringing the event to the heart of downtown Miamisburg, showcasing the brand-new Riverfront Park, local businesses, and some of the best dining in the region.

We are thrilled to welcome Sarah Milligan-Toffler as our keynote speaker. With over 35 years of leadership in environmental advocacy and urban planning, Sar-

ah is a champion for equitable access to nature. As President & CEO of the Children & Nature Network, she has worked with cities across the country to integrate outdoor spaces into community development. Her insights will be invaluable as we discuss the economic and environmental future of the Great Miami Riverway.

- What to Expect
- Keynote by Sarah Milligan-Toffler – Visionary insights on how outdoor access drives economic growth and community well-being
 - The State of Tourism

in Ohio – Hear the latest trends and opportunities in our growing tourism sector. Special speaker Matt Maclaren

- Behind-the-Scenes Business Tours – Get an exclusive look inside local Miamisburg businesses driving innovation. Special speaker Doug Sorrell!
- Local Food Experience – Enjoy breakfast and lunch from some of Miamisburg’s best local restaurants.
- Exhibitors & Networking – Connect with industry professionals, city leaders, and tourism experts.



- Surprise Announcements – Be the first to hear exciting updates about the Riverway!
- After Party at Entropy Brewing & More! – Wrap up the day with a fun networking event in downtown Miamisburg. As a sponsor, you will

be featured in promotional materials before and during the event and receive tickets to the event. Please see the list below for the full range of benefits of sponsorship. We hope to see you at the 2025 Riverway Summit.

Health

Heart Health Month

Heart Health Month is the perfect time to shine a light on the vital role movement plays in maintaining cardiovascular health and living longer, healthier lives. And the physical therapists at Xcel Sports Medicine are helping people protect their hearts and increase not just their lifespan, but their healthspan - the period of life spent in good health, free from chronic disease and disability.

The PTs at XXX encourage everyone to set their fitness benchmark with the Sitting-to-Rising Test (SRT). This test not only evaluates functional fitness but also highlights the importance of cardiovascular endurance. A strong heart, supported by regular movement, is critical for maintaining independence and vitality as we age. Studies show that low SRT scores correlate with mortality rates for peo-

ple aged 51 to 81. We can take you through the SRT step-by-step.

Our local PTs are available for in-person or virtual interviews. They can come to you in-studio, or a reporter can come out to our local clinics. For virtual interviews, we can provide broll.

Here's why it matters:

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, but studies show that just 150 minutes of moderate physical activity per week can lower the risk of cardiovascular disease by 20%.

Studies show that most Americans (87%) want to live healthier for longer.

Only 13.9% of adults 65 and older meet federal physical activity guidelines.

Only 25% of the variation in human lifespan is determined by genetics.

Despite the statistics showing that many Americans want to improve their healthspan, many don't know where to start. The physical therapists at

XXX encourage everyone to use the sitting-to-rising test (SRT) to understand better where their health stands and how they can begin to improve it.

What our PTs can share:

The Sitting-to-Rising Test: Our PTs can demonstrate this easy test and how to score yourself. The simple test measures strength, mobility, and coordination - all key factors to improve your healthspan.

3 Exercises to Improve Your Score: Our PTs created a simple three-exercise routine that anyone can do to boost their SRT score and improve their overall health.

Expert Insight: Local PTs will discuss why increasing healthspan - not just lifespan - is one of the best ways to protect your heart. Besides physical activity, they can discuss the American Heart Association's checklist for Life's Essential 8, for improving and maintaining good cardiovascular health.

Senior Care Authority Experts to Present Virtual Program on Managing Caregiver Burnout

Experts from Senior Care Authority will present the Alzheimer's Association Miami Valley Chapter Expert Series Managing Caregiver Burnout on Zoom on Feb. 25, from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Registration is required by calling the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at 800.272.3900. Please provide an email when registering to receive the Zoom link to participate in this virtual program.

"Mark and Rachel Healy are dedicated advocates for older individuals in the health care system and provide essential assistance to help families navigate senior living challenges through their work as area owners with Senior Care Authority," said Dayna Ritchey, program director of the Alzheimer's Association Miami Valley and Greater Cincinnati Chapters.

During the program, attendees will learn how to identify the common symptoms of caregiver burnout and the key differences between caregiver burnout and caregiver anxiety.

"Through this program, the Healy's will provide practical management strategies to cope with burnout and anxiety and



Mark and Rachel Healy

discuss the importance of self-care and setting healthy boundaries as a caregiver," Ritchey added.

Attendees will learn how planning ahead can reduce stress and prevent problems and potential crises from arising. Essential resources to support caregivers will also be covered.

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 Al-

zheimer'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.

Senior Care Authority has been serving the elderly for over a decade, providing support in elder care and finding the best care for all seniors. They provide eldercare consulting, advocacy, family meetings, family coaching and peace of mind visits. Senior Care Authority is also the national provider of the Beyond Driving with Dignity program. It is owned by Mark and Rachel Healy, both are certified senior care advisors.

Red Cross: Donors Needed Now to Build Up the Blood Supply

\$15 e-gift card for those who come to give blood or platelets by Feb. 28

The American Red Cross urges donors to give blood or platelets in February to help build up the blood supply after thousands of donations went uncollected last month. People of all blood types - especially those with type O negative blood - are encouraged to make and keep their donation appointments so hospitals can continue to ensure critical care for patients this winter.

Since the beginning of the year, hundreds of blood drives have been canceled and more than 15,000 blood and platelet donations have gone uncollected due to severe winter weather and wildfires. As February continues, so does the potential for additional weather systems to disrupt blood drives. Flu and other seasonal illnesses are spreading, which could also force more people to cancel scheduled donation appointments, compound-

ing the impact to collecting lifesaving blood products.

Give with your whole heart this month. To book a time to give blood or platelets, use the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

As a thank-you, all who come to give Jan. 27-Feb. 28, 2025, will get a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of choice. See RedCrossBlood.org/Flurry for details.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Feb. 11-28:

- Clark
Springfield
2/20/2025: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Lawrenceville Church of God, 3131 Fox Hollow Rd
- Greene
Dayton
2/24/2025: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Be Hope Church, 1850 North Fairfield Road
- Wilberforce
2/25/2025: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Central State Univ Student Center, 1400

Brush Row Road
2/25/2025: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Central State Univ Student Center, 1400 Brush Row Road

• Xenia
2/23/2025: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Xenia Church of Christ, 444 Country Club Drive

• Logan
Belle Center
2/17/2025: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Belle Center United Methodist Church, 101 S Center St

• Montgomery
Dayton
2/19/2025: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Village at Dayton Mall, 2792 Miamisburg Centerville Road

2/25/2025: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., American Red Cross Dayton Chapter Office, 370 W First Street

2/26/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., American Red Cross Dayton Chapter Office, 370 W First Street

• Kettering
2/25/2025: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., American Legion Kettering-Post 598, 5700 Kentshire Dr.

• Washington Township

2/15/2025: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Altered Gym, 461 Miamisburg Centerville Rd

How to donate blood
Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have

to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

Amplify your impact - volunteer!

Another way to support the lifesaving mission of the Red Cross is to become a volunteer blood donor ambassador at Red Cross blood drives. Blood donor ambassadors help greet, check in and thank blood donors to ensure they have a positive donation experience.

Volunteers can also serve as transportation specialists, playing a vi-

tal role in ensuring lifesaving blood products are delivered to nearby hospitals. For more information and to apply for either position visit redcross.org/volunteer-today.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or CruzRojasAmericana.org, or follow us on social media.

Black History Month - Sister Rosetta Tharpe... Continued from Page 6

guitar battles at the Apollo.

Tharpe continued recording during World War II, one of only two gospel artists able to record V-discs for troops overseas.

Her song "Strange Things Happening Every Day", recorded in 1944 with Sammy Price, Decca's house boogie woogie pianist, showcased her virtuosity as a guitarist and her witty lyrics and delivery. It was the first gospel song to appear on the Billboard magazine Harlem Hit Parade. This 1944 record has been called the first rock and roll record. Tharpe toured

throughout the 1940s, backed by various gospel quartets, including the Dixie Hummingbirds.

In 1946, Tharpe saw Marie Knight perform at a Mahalia Jackson concert in New York. Tharpe recognized a special talent in Knight. Two weeks later, Tharpe showed up at Knight's doorstep, inviting her to go on the road. They toured the gospel circuit for a number of years, during which they recorded hits such as "Up Above My Head" and "Gospel Train".

Later career
Starting in 1949, their popularity took a sudden downturn. Mahalia

Jackson was starting to eclipse Tharpe in popularity, and Knight harbored a desire to break free as a solo act into popular music. Furthermore, around this time, Knight lost her children and mother in a house fire. That same year, to commemorate Tharpe's first anniversary of being a homeowner in Richmond, Virginia, Tharpe put on a concert at what is now the Altria Theater. Supporting her for that concert were the Twilight Singers, whom Rosetta adopted as her background singers for future concerts, renaming them The Rosettes.

Tharpe attracted 25,000 paying customers to her

wedding to her manager, Russell Morrison (her third marriage), followed by a vocal performance at Griffith Stadium in Washington, D.C., in 1951. In 1952, Tharpe and Red Foley recorded the B-side "Have a Little Talk with Jesus", which is likely the first interracial duet recorded in the US. It was not until 1968 that Billy Vera and Judy Clay had a hit with an interracial duet, "Storybook Children". In 1956, Tharpe recorded an album with the gospel quartet The Harmonizing Four, titled Gospel Train. In 1957, Tharpe was booked for a month-long tour of the UK by British

trombonist Chris Barber.

Later life and death

Tharpe's biographer said in 2018 that "she influenced Elvis Presley, she influenced Johnny Cash, she influenced Little Richard". When asked about her music and about rock and roll, Tharpe is reported to have said, "Oh, these kids and rock and roll - this is just sped up rhythm and blues. I've been doing that forever".

Tharpe's performances were curtailed by a stroke in 1970, after which one of her legs was amputated as a result of complications from diabetes. On October 9, 1973, the eve of a scheduled recording ses-

sion, she died in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as a result of another stroke. She was buried at Northwood Cemetery in Philadelphia.

A musical about her life named "Shout, Sister, Shout!" based on the Gayle Wald biography of the same name, and written by playwright Cheryl West, was written in 2017 and performed that year at the Pasadena Playhouse, two years later at Seattle Repertory Theatre, and played at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. in 2023.