



At 100, Hazel Joseph Lewis Is Still Living Life on Her Own Terms



Hazel Joseph Lewis

By RoShawn Winburn, Dayton Weekly News

Hazel Joseph Lewis is still driving. At 100 years old, that alone says something about a woman who has spent most of her life going where she pleased, on her own schedule.

Lewis, born Sept. 5, 1926, recently celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends at The Art of Work in Dayton. Asked what the milestone means to her, she kept her answer simple: she's happy to still be here.

Her nephew, Christopher Joseph, describes his aunt as a rare mix of independence, discipline, curiosity and faith. Within the family, she was always the "cool single auntie" — worldly, athletic, prone to driving sports cars. She swam, golfed, bowled and played tennis for much of her life, and still swims and plays bridge today.

CITY OF TROTWOOD
Level Up Adult Mental Health Summit — “It Takes a Village”

Trotwood, Ohio – On September 19, 2026, the Level Up Adult Mental Health Summit will bring together adults across the region for a transformative day of education, empowerment, and healing. The summit will be held at Phillips Temple in Trotwood, OH, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, pre-registration is encouraged, but not required.

A Safe Space for Real Conversations
The Mental Health Summit for parents and guardians aims to equip them with the knowledge, tools, and resources to support their children's mental health. Through expert-led sessions, parents and guardians will gain insights into suicide prevention, bullying, social media influences, family communication, and coping strategies. The summit aims to:

Event Details
Date: September 19, 2026

Time: 9 AM-2 PM
Location: Phillips Temple (3620 Shiloh Springs Road, Trotwood, OH 45426)

Audience: Adults, Parents, Guardians
Breakfast and Lunch will be provided thanks to partners

Featured Breakout Sessions Include:
This year's summit will feature dynamic breakout sessions led by respected community leaders and advocates dedicated to youth well-being.

Erica Gist – The Detour Program Inc.
Founder of The Detour Program and longtime youth advocate, Erica Gist, will lead a powerful session on suicide prevention and recognizing warning signs. Her breakout will also address bullying, cyberbullying, and the impact of social media, equipping teens with the knowledge to identify red flags, support their peers, and seek help when needed. Gist's approach combines real

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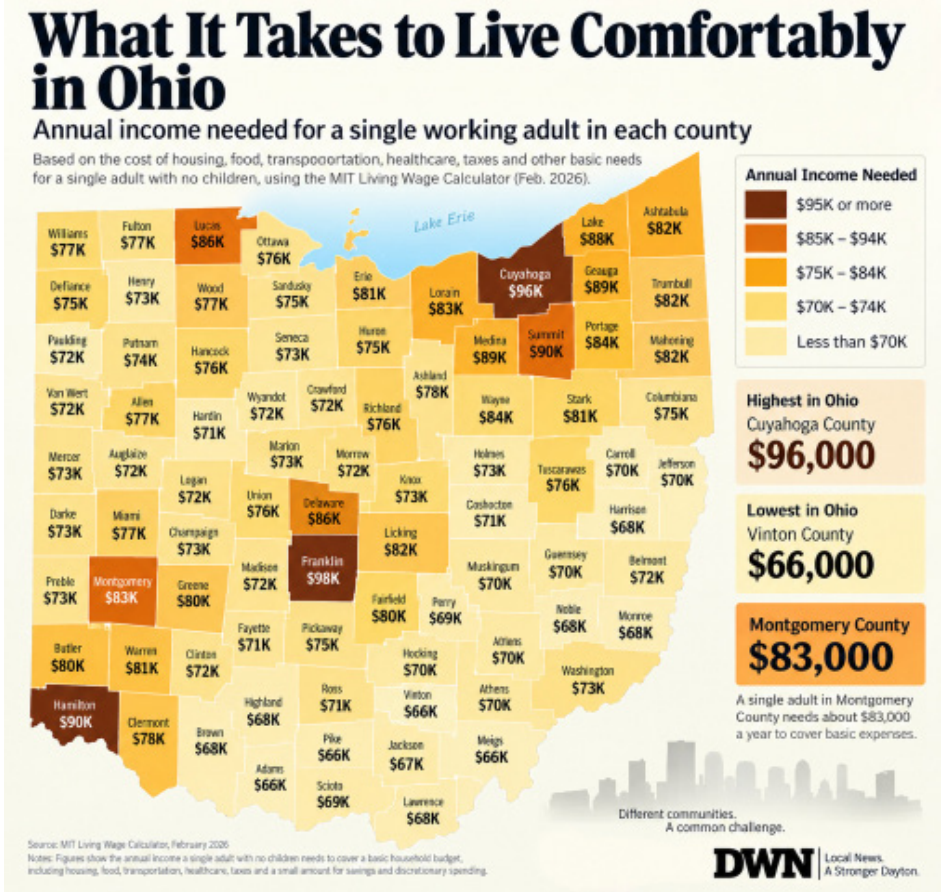
By Imari Burton

For years, the conversation about work in America keeps coming back to the same argument: raise the minimum wage, and workers will be better off. There is truth in that. But raising the wage floor, on its own, will not fix the deeper problem. Work is not reliably producing economic security for the people doing it.

That is the real question worth asking. Not simply whether the minimum wage should be \$11, \$15, or \$20, but why full time work so often fails to add up to a stable life. In Southwest Ohio, that gap between working and getting by is not abstract. It shows up in paychecks every week.

The local evidence

In Montgomery County, a full time worker earning Ohio's \$11 minimum wage, which rises every January under a measure Ohio voters approved in 2006 tying it to inflation, brings home \$22,880 a year before taxes. MIT's Living Wage Calculator puts the true cost of covering rent, food, transportation, and other basics for a single adult in Mont-



gomery County at \$20.53 an hour, nearly double the state minimum. That gap is not a rounding error. It is the difference between falling short every month and actually getting by.

That gap plays out at scale, not just in individual paychecks. According to the 2026 State of AL-

ICE in Ohio report from United For ALICE and Ohio United Way, 39% of Montgomery County households, 25% classified as ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) and another 14% living below the federal poverty line, did not earn enough in 2024 to

cover a basic household budget. These are working households. Many hold down full time jobs. They still cannot consistently make ends meet.

Why the gap exists

So if raising the minimum wage alone will not close that gap, what

Continued on Page 5

Trotwood Student Singers Set Their Sights on the National Stage — Community Asked to Help



The Melatonics, Trotwood-Madison's premier a cappella vocal ensemble

tions will help cover:

- Travel, transportation, and lodging for performances and competitions
- Registration fees for ICHSA and Kettering competitions
- Equipment and production costs for the local "Moment Show"

• Travel and educational expenses for the students' return trip to Memphis for the OneVoice festival

The Impact on Our Students
Supporting The Melatonics is about more than funding performances—it is about investing in stu-

dents and their future.

These opportunities allow students to perform and compete outside their local community, experience high-level music environments, and learn what it takes to prepare for ma-

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The Dayton Foundation Reports Record Growth in Fiscal Year 2026

New Charitable Funds Established Reach All-Time High, Donors Contribute \$120 Million, and Grantmaking Tops \$120.7 Million



Michael M. Parks, CFRE, president of The Dayton Foundation

2021. This remarkable growth in giving highlights the nearly 4,400 fund holders' investment in charitable causes.

Since its founding in 1921, The Dayton Foundation and its fund holders have awarded nearly 529,000 grants totaling



Cassie B. Barlow, chair of The Dayton Foundation's Governing Board

\$1.6 billion, helping to strengthen communities locally and beyond. The Foundation also manages assets totaling more than \$1.4 billion across all funds established by individuals, families, businesses and organizations committed to strengthen-

ing communities and improving lives.

"The generosity of our fund holders continues to inspire us," said Cassie B. Barlow, chair of The Dayton Foundation's Governing Board. "As the region's community

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Around DAYTON

Miami Valley Weather

Saturday Sunday

Rain
High 82
Low 63

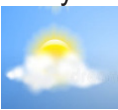


Rain
High 84
Low 63



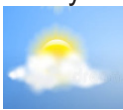
Monday

Mostly Cloudy
High 67
Low 59



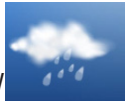
Tuesday

Mostly Cloudy
High 66
Low 58



Wednesday

Rain
High 63
Low 55w



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MIAMI VALLEY

Regional Planning Commission

The Dayton Foundation Reports Record Growth in Fiscal Year 2026... Continued from Page 1

foundation, The Dayton Foundation upholds the legacies of our fund holders and their investment in the future of our children, grandchildren and successive generations. These dollars and the generous individuals behind them are working for the good of the whole. We are humbled to carry out their wishes and good deeds, ensuring their charitable values continue making a difference for generations to come."

The record number of new funds established during fiscal year 2026 reflects a heightened awareness of The Dayton Foundation's philanthropic services and a growing desire among individuals and families to create lasting charitable legacies.

"Our community's generosity reached unprecedented levels this past year," said Michael M. Parks, CFRE, president of The Dayton Foundation. "Every fund established

represents an individual or family's story of caring and compassion.

Thanks to them, we are strengthening the non-profit organizations that serve our region and help ensure Greater Dayton remains a vibrant place to live, work and raise a family."

Through the Foundation's "Your Charitable Story Starts Here" campaign, individuals and families are encouraged to think about how they want to make a difference through charitable giving, whether by establishing a fund during their lifetime or including philanthropy in their estate plans.

"Everyone has a charitable story worth telling," Parks said. "We believe philanthropy is one of the most powerful ways people can reflect their values, honor loved ones or create lasting change. Imagine the impact your generosity can have, both today and for generations

to come."

To learn more about The Dayton Foundation, visit daytonfoundation.org/leave-a-legacy or call (937) 222-0410.

About The Dayton Foundation

The Dayton Foundation has been the Greater Dayton region's trusted charitable giving partner for individuals, families and organizations since 1921. Ranked among the oldest and largest community foundations in the nation, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1.6 billion in grants since its founding and currently manages assets totaling \$1.4 billion across more than 4,400 charitable funds. For more information about how The Dayton Foundation can help you help others, visit daytonfoundation.org or follow the Foundation on Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube or Instagram.

DML Welcomes Bike Tour Author

Dayton Metro Library will host two sessions of Bicycling Through Dayton: Twenty-One Historical Tours Author Visit in September.

Kathleen Smythe, author of the book of the same name, will share her vision for the book, highlight stories featured

in it, and offer tips on how to find adventures, whether on foot, by bike, or by car. Book sales and signings will follow each session.

Schedule:
Thursday, September 24, 6-7 pm, Miamisburg Branch
Saturday, September 26, 1-2 pm, Brookville Branch

26, 1-2 pm, Brookville Branch

This program is for adults and is part of DML's America 250 programming. Registration is not required. For more information, visit DaytonMetroLibrary.org or call the Library's Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

Articulate Author Visits DML

Dayton Metro Library welcomes author Rachel Kolb to host Articulate: A Deaf Memoir of Voice on Thursday, September 24, 4:30-7:30 pm, in The Center for Community Impact & Innovation at the Main Library.

Kolb will discuss her book of the same name while sharing her journey with hearing loss, identity, and the nuances of communication. The program will include a keynote presentation by

Kolb, a moderated discussion with Dr. Jessica Minor, chair of education at Sinclair Community College, a book signing, and a raffle.

For more information, call 937.463.2665.

Where I'm From

I come from a womb like gifted hands in the kitchen with green thumbs attached.

I come from a womb like impatience that makes the original task harder then intended.

I come from a womb of stubbornness.

I come from a womb that come from a womb that came from another womb of trauma.

I come from a womb of the most majestic love.

I've been & came from a womb like gracefulness.

I came from a womb like nonstop healing.

I come from a womb like the most powerful prayers, but with hella action attached.

The wombs I come from is what makes me Sister T. I hope the future wombs that come from me understand what it's like to come, from me.

-

Sister Taharah
Instagram - @yoursistertah
TikTok - @yoursistertah

At 100, Hazel Joseph Lewis Is Still Living Life on Her Own Terms... Continued from Page 1

"We only have one life, so we must take care of ourselves and make it the best it can be," Lewis says in a family biography prepared for her birthday. Her life advice is to stay active, treat people well, pray, give thanks,

and keep moving.

Faith has anchored her throughout. Lewis serves as a Steward at Greater Allen AME Church in Dayton, and her favorite scripture, Psalm 23, sits alongside a simple rule she's lived by, "do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

She's the last surviving of five siblings born to Caribbean immigrant parents. She has no children of her own, but the extended family that

gathered to celebrate her century made clear how far her influence reaches. Joseph says younger relatives can learn from her how to live fully and on their own terms, while remaining, in his words, "a humble servant of God." The National Council of Negro Women recognized Lewis as part of its "Ladies in Their 80s and Beyond" honors.

Joseph organized the birthday celebration and chose The Art of Work

in part because he works nearby and had gotten to know the venue's provost, Keith Jenkins. "My auntie deserved a beautiful celebration for such a milestone," he said.

A century in, Lewis's own words may be the clearest summary of how she got there:

"Keep your life moving, be active and involved, and don't be afraid to ask God for guidance along the way." - Hazel Joseph Lewis

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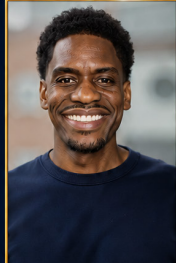
Real Estate

Three Dayton Realtists Graduate from NAREB Developers Academy



CONGRATULATIONS!

TO GDRA DEVELOPERS ACADEMY GRADUATES!



Tammy Dixon KE'MO A'KHUITERA Tanisha Burns-Martin

Your hard work, dedication, and achievement inspire us all.



By Greater Dayton Realtist Association

The Greater Dayton Realtist Association is celebrating three of its members who have completed the 2026 NAREB Developers Academy: Tammy Dixon, Ke'Mo A'Khuitera and Tanisha Burns-Martin.

Their achievement marks more than three individual professional milestones. With this year's graduating class, Greater Dayton Realtist Association now has five members who have graduated from the NAREB Developers Academy in three consecutive years.

DJ Sessions of Sessions Lending became GDRA's first Academy graduate in 2024, followed by Kim Williams in 2025. Dixon, A'Khuitera and Burns-Martin join them as the 2026 graduates, creating a growing group of Dayton Realtists trained to better understand the complex process of turning real estate opportunities into viable development projects.

That matters for Dayton.

Why Developing Developers Matters

When most people hear "real estate," they think about buying and selling homes. Development begins much earlier. Developers identify opportunities, determine what can and should be built, evaluate whether a project is financially

feasible, secure land, navigate zoning and government requirements, assemble professional teams and find the capital necessary to bring a project to completion.

The NAREB Developers Academy was created to help emerging developers build those skills. The program provides education in areas such as market research, land control, pre-development, financing, development capital, government regulations, project risk and development in underserved communities.

These are particularly valuable skills in a city like Dayton.

Our community has vacant lots that could become new homes, abandoned buildings that could be returned to productive use, neighborhoods that need additional investment, and residents who need more affordable and accessible housing choices.

But revitalization requires more than identifying the problem. Communities also need people who know how to put development projects together.

Five Graduates—and Growing Capacity in Dayton

Having five NAREB Developers Academy graduates within one local Realtist association creates an opportunity to build something equally important: local development capacity.

The progression tells its own story:

2024 — DJ Sessions, Sessions Lending

2025 — Kim Williams, Howard Hanna Real Estate Services

2026 — Tammy Dixon, Ke'Mo A'Khuitera and Tanisha Burns-Martin

Each graduate brings his or her own professional background, relationships and perspective to development. Collectively, they represent a growing pool of knowledge that can benefit not only GDRA members but potentially neighborhoods throughout the Dayton region.

This is also consistent with NAREB's longstanding commitment to "Democracy in Housing." Increasing the number of knowledgeable developers who understand historically underserved communities can help ensure that residents and community-based professionals have a meaningful role in determining what gets built and who benefits from that investment.

Could Development Be Your Next Step?

You don't need to begin with a 100-unit apartment complex to become involved in development.

It might start with one vacant lot and a new house. It could be rehabilitating a distressed property, creating a small multifamily development, building accessible senior housing or transforming an underused commercial property.

The important first step is education.

A prospective developer needs to understand the numbers, the market, financing, zoning, construction, partnerships and risk before putting significant money into a project. Programs such as the NAREB Developers Academy can help real estate professionals move from simply recognizing an opportunity to understanding how to evaluate and execute it.

And now, Dayton has five Realtists who have completed that training.

Bringing the Knowledge Home

The Greater Dayton Realtist Association believes professional development should ultimately translate into community development.

We congratulate DJ Sessions, Kim Williams, Tammy Dixon, Ke'Mo A'Khuitera and Tanisha Burns-Martin for investing in their education and expanding the development knowledge available within our local association.

For Dayton-area real estate professionals, investors and community leaders who want to learn more about real estate development, NAREB or future Developers Academy opportunities, we encourage you to connect with the Greater Dayton Realtist Association, the local chapter of NAREB.

Because before we can develop more houses, businesses and neighborhoods, we must also develop the people who know how to build them.

For more information: Go to www.GreaterDaytonRealtist.com

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Association

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IN HOUSING**

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 SAUNYA STRICKLAND TREASURER	 ATTEE WILLIAMS ASSISTANT TREASURER	 CHANEL LITTLE RECORDING SECRETARY	 TAMMY DIXON CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

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GREATER DAYTON REALTIST ASSOCIATION | DEMOCRACY IN HOUSING

We cannot change what already happened to our neighborhoods. But we can decide who owns them going forward. Let it be us.

Editorial & Comments

Invisible but Effective Forces

By Bryan Golden

Just because you can't see something doesn't mean it doesn't exist or is ineffective. You are surrounded by invisible, yet potent natural forces. Gravity, temperature, wind, and electricity are some examples. Although invisible, the evidence of their power is indisputable.

When properly harnessed, these forces produce awesome results. Hydroelectric dams utilize gravity to produce electricity. Boiling water powers steam engines. Wind propels ships. And electricity drives virtually every aspect of technology.

There are also amazingly powerful invisible forces within you which produce incredible results when properly tapped. Willpower, determination, drive, discipline, persistence, attitude, and positive thoughts are all examples of your internal natural resources.

Willpower provides the mental energy needed to move forward. It's a commitment to accomplish your objective. Rather than trying to get something done, make a commitment to yourself that you will be successful.

Willpower gives you determination to do whatever is necessary to reach your destination. Determination is needed to solve problems and overcomes obstacles. Determination prevents you from giving up. Since you only fail when you give up, determination averts failure.

Discipline enables you to make progress even when you don't feel like it. Discipline



Bryan Golden

powers you to keep at your task, one step at a time, regardless of how far you have to go. Discipline is the fuel that prevents you from quitting even when your progress is slower than expected.

Persistence is the relentless force which keeps you getting up each time you stumble or fall, no matter how many times you falter. Persistence transforms setbacks into comebacks. Persistence is unstoppable.

The people and circumstances you attract in life are determined by your attitude. A positive, can-do attitude attracts what you want and need. Your attitude is a powerful force which impacts every aspect of your life. Attitude is what differentiates the successful from those who give up.

Your thoughts emanate from your attitude. Positive thoughts generate a positive dialogue you use when speaking to yourself. Your self-talk programs your mind to either succeed or fail. Your mind works constantly to bring your thoughts to reality. Tell your mind what you can and will do and it looks for ways to succeed. Conversely, a mind fed with excuses for failure actually seeks to sabotage success.

Invisible forces must be harnessed in order to

have a positive impact. A waterfall generates nothing until a dam is put into place. A sailboat without sails drifts aimlessly. Raw electricity in the form of lightning will not power anything. Uncontained steam produced by a boiling pot of water disperses ineffectually into the air.

Similarly, your internal forces accomplish nothing unless consciously channeled by you. Possessing an unused asset is no different than not having it at all. A person who says, "I have willpower but I never use it," is in the same position as the person who doesn't have any willpower at all.

This principle also applies to determination, drive, discipline, persistence, attitude, and positive thoughts; if you don't use them, they provide no benefit. For something invisible to be effective, its energy must be applied to accomplish something specific.

Your internal forces exist regardless of whether or not you believe in them. There are many people who dismiss the power they hold as nonsense. They claim to have tried all that "positive motivational stuff" but it just doesn't work.

Pay no attention to these detractors. There are countless examples of the outstanding results achieved when people tap into and use their internal forces. You can and will experience wonderful outcomes when you utilize your invisible but effective forces.

Bryan is the author of "Dare to Live Without Limits." Contact Bryan at Bryan@columunist.com or visit www.DareToLive-WithoutLimits.com Copyright 2026 Bryan Golden

Something to Consider: Finding Consolation from Today's Trials We Face

By: Brenda Cochran
Contributing Writer

There have been countless numbers of heartache, disappointment, unrest, and sorrow that is faced in the lives of many people today. This explains the necessity of those who face so many trials to be given some comfort. Finding some consolation for so much seems to be more difficult than ever before.

There are some people that use many things to find consolation. Unfortunately, many use drugs or alcohol, but there are others that use art, books, music, other people and yes, many use prayer.

Though it seems difficult to understand, trials make us stronger. James 1:2-4 says that the testing of our faith will produce perseverance, but the question is how can we find any joy in the midst of all the hardships and painful circumstances?

We need to understand that the joy that the world gives us is not the same as the joy that the Spirit gives. When we gain some happiness, it often comes and goes. It isn't something that we are able to cling to when we've lost a loved one or are facing financial difficulties. The joy or happiness we gain from the Spirit can stay with us for a long period of time. For an individual that is a believer, the fruits of the Spirit that includes joy or happiness is like a bottomless well



Brenda Cochran

of water –there is always an abundant supply. When we have those dark days, full of sadness, grief or loss may seem as though it will threaten us, but God is there.

It is also true that God's joy cannot be taken away. We may at one time or another think that it's gone, but it's not. If we are believers, we are promised that the constant presence of the Holy Spirit is always there.

If you read John 15:11, Jesus' words were "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

Perhaps you have learned that wallowing, whining or complaining does no good, but grabbing onto God's joy is a free and perfect gift from Him and we should reach out and accept that gift. We can choose consolation and/or joy over all bitterness, anger or sorrow and make a decision to choose this feeling of being consoled or filled with

job every day.

God does fill our lives with troubles and trials of one sort and another. This is the reason that we will learn to hold onto Him. The Bible spends much time reiterating that God is a strong rock, a firm defense and a sure refuge and help for many because He is showing us that we are weak, mentally and morally and do not trust ourselves to find the right road and follow it. He wants us to feel that our way through our lives may be rough and perplexing, so that we will learn to lean on Him.

At the beginning of this commentary, it is noted that people lean on many things to receive consolation from so many trials. Not just drugs, or alcohol, but other people who may use books, art or music. According to Katherine Heigle, a television and screen actress and producer, "My mother is a great source of advice and wisdom and consolation for me."

This quote by Thomas a Kempis, A German who became a canon and authored "*The Imitation of Christ, seems to have a positive answer to finding consolation in the time of trials. It reads: 'What most of all hinders heavenly consolation is that you are too slow in turning yourself to prayer.'*"

Choose this quote or another that may work best for you.

When Productivity Rises, Who Gets the Raise?... Continued from Page 1

will? Part of the answer lies in a trend that has been building for nearly half a century. According to Policy Matters Ohio's State of Working Ohio 2026 report, worker productivity in Ohio grew 84% between 1979 and 2024, while median compensation grew just 22%. Ohio workers, in other words, have been producing dramatically more economic value than earlier generations, without anywhere near a matching increase in pay.

That was not always the case. Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows productivity growth in the nonfarm business sector averaged 2.8% a year between 1947 and 1973, then slowed sharply to 1.2% a year between 1973 and 1979. Productivity growth itself was already cooling in that second stretch. What changed after the late 1970s was not just how fast the economy grew, but how consistently workers shared in those gains, however large or small they were.

Not everyone agrees on how big the gap is

Not every economist agrees the gap is as large as it looks. Harvard economist Robert Lawrence, writing for the Peterson Institute for International Economics, has argued that once total compensation, including benefits, is measured consistently with productivity and

adjusted for inflation the same way, pay and productivity actually moved together fairly closely between 1970 and the early 2000s. The late economist Martin Feldstein made a similar case in a 2008 National Bureau of Economic Research paper, finding that labor's share of national income in 2006 (64%) was close to where it stood in 1970 (66%), once total compensation, not just wages, was counted.

That disagreement is not just an academic footnote. It reframes the question. If total compensation, benefits included, has tracked productivity reasonably well for long stretches of the past half century, then the more urgent question is not only how big the paycheck is, but how much of a worker's total compensation actually shows up as spendable income rather than benefits that do not help pay this week's rent, and whether the gains have been shared evenly across the workforce or concentrated at the top.

The question that actually matters

None of this settles the argument over whether Ohio's minimum wage should be higher. It should not have to. A higher minimum wage can genuinely help a worker cover this month's bills. That is real, and it matters. But it is not, by itself, an answer to the larger question raised

by a 39% ALICE rate in Montgomery County and a widening productivity gap statewide. Why does full time work not reliably translate into economic security, and what combination of wages, benefits, cost pressures, and policy would actually change that?

Until that question gets a serious answer, any debate over the next dollar added to the minimum wage will keep circling the smaller problem instead of the larger one.

Sources

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- MIT Living Wage Calculator, Montgomery County, Ohio (data updated Feb. 15, 2026)
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- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, nonfarm business sector productivity growth rates
- Robert Z. Lawrence, Peterson Institute for International Economics
- Martin S. Feldstein, "Did Wages Reflect Growth in Productivity?," NBER Working Paper No. 13953 (2008)

Ladies & Gentlemen

By: Carol Prewitt, President
Prewitt Consulting LLC, Civility and Etiquette Training

Two of your best friends in life will be a positive attitude and a confident image. Etiquette is defined as the formal manners and rules that are followed in social and professional settings.

Etiquette deals with rules, and there are rules for everything.

• Use polite language

• Smile and make eye contact

• Respect personal space

• Be punctual

• Listen actively

• Introduce yourself clearly

• Dress appropriately

• Use proper dining etiquette

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Bible Study - Wednesday.....7:30 p.m.



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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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Wednesday
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1691 Infirmary Rd. – Dayton, OH 45417

Church Phone:
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Email:
Dixonumc1691@gmail.com
Website:
Dixonumcdayton.org
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Sunday Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.
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Religion

The Unexpected Kingdom

By Rev. Joshua D. Ward,
Pastor Omega Baptist Church

Sometimes you can look at the world around you and know:

This is not the way it is supposed to be.

Children shouldn't have to grow up afraid of being shot.

Parents shouldn't have to bury their children.

Families shouldn't be destroyed by addiction.

People shouldn't go hungry while others



have more than enough. People shouldn't be judged by the color of their skin.

Black Panther

He is the panther you cannot tame,
With electric eyes that spark a flame.
Graceful and powerful, proud and rare,
A shadow of mystery moving through the air.

He glides through the trees, silent and sleek,
Then spirals down with a strength unique.
Elusive and hidden, seldom seen,
A rare black beauty —powerful and keen.

Through forests deep, he finds his way,
Surviving against the odds each day.
A special gene sets him apart,
A symbol of resilience, strength, and heart.

As James would say, “Say it loud, I’m Black and proud.”

His powerful words rise above the crowd.
With his head held high beneath the sky,
He walks with courage, never asking why.

He has traveled a long and difficult road,
Carrying his history as a noble load.
Wherever he walks, his footprints remain,
Through darkness, sunshine, struggle, and rain.

Rare as the night, fierce as the flame,
The Black Panther forever leaves his name.
Unbroken, fearless, forever free,
A symbol of all that we strive to be.

Written by Martel Kelly
Sponsored by Remind4you.com

Something within us recognizes that we were made for something better.

Jesus once said, “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field.”

I've always focused on what Jesus says next—that the tiny seed eventually grows into something surprisingly large.

But recently another word caught my attention: **Field.**

The Bible begins with God planting a garden.

The garden represents life as God intended it: humanity in right relationship with God, with one another, with creation and even with ourselves.

But things went wrong. By Genesis 3, the ground produces thorns and thistles. The garden has become a field—a place where good things can still grow, but where they struggle alongside things trying to choke the life out of them.

Sounds a lot like our world.

But here's the good news:

God didn't abandon the field.

Jesus says someone took a seed and planted it right in the middle of it.

That's what God's Kingdom is about.

It is God refusing to surrender what hatred, violence, greed, injustice and sin have damaged. It is God bringing life back into places where death has taken root.

And God invites us to participate.

Every time we feed somebody who is hungry,



HEALING SOULS: Suicide Awareness Month (September 15, 2026)
Chaplain Pamela June Banks-Anderson, D.Min.
The Radically Inclusive Veteran Chaplain
LCDR (RET) US Navy Chaplain Corps
pdjanderson@spaceforgrace.org
READ YOUR BIBLE, FAST, AND PRAY



Raise your voices; make a beautiful noise to the Eternal, all the earth. Let your joy explode into song and praise. Psalm 98:4 The Voice

Age	Data table showing data per 100,000.		
85+ 21.4,	80-84 21.7	75-79 17.7	
70-74 15.9	65-69 14.7	60-64 18.0	
55-59 19.3	50-54 19.7	45-49 18.0	
40-44 18.8	35-39 18.6	30-34 17.4	
25-29 17.0	20-24 17.0	15-19 9.4	
10-14 2.3			

Males 22.2 vs. Females 5.6

Ethnicity – According to the CDC, the racial/ethnic groups with the highest suicide rates in 2024 were non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native people and non-Hispanic White people.

Non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native	
22.5	
Non-Hispanic White	17.2
Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	13.7
Non-Hispanic Multiracial	10.1
Non-Hispanic Black	8.7
Hispanic	8.0
Non-Hispanic Asian	6.4

The church could start a Bible study at a senior-citizen complex or create a hospital visitation ministry for seniors with no living relatives. We could adopt a senior citizen and help by purchasing their groceries once a month. I believe that part of the solution lies in our commitment to LOVE YE ONE ANOTHER as Christ has loved us.

Unfortunately, the rate of suicide is significant in the civilian community, with higher numbers reported per 100,000 individuals. Suicide is one of the leading causes of death in the U.S., and rates are rising, particularly among people aged 65 and older.

Social isolation is a major risk factor that older adults may face, especially if they have recently lost a spouse and have no nearby family or friends. Additionally, older adults may experience an unexpected loss of freedom or independence due to serious illness, and they may fear becoming a burden to their loved ones.

Several factors contribute to the higher rates of suicide among older adults, including social isolation, physical impairments, chronic illnesses, and challenging economic circumstances.

What can we do to address this issue?

kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

That prayer isn't merely asking God to do something.

It's volunteering to become part of the answer.

When we pray for hungry people to be fed, God may ask us to open our pantry.

When we pray for lonely people to find community, God may ask us to make room at our table.

When we pray for injustice to end, God may ask

us to raise our voice.

When we pray for reconciliation, God may ask us to take the first step.

The field is damaged.

But it still belongs to God.

And God is still planting.

Maybe our assignment this week is simply to find one patch of ground around us and help the garden grow again.

the garden grows.

Every time we welcome somebody who has been excluded, the garden grows.

Every time we speak for somebody who has been silenced, the garden grows.

Every time we choose reconciliation instead of retaliation, the garden grows.

Every time we seek justice, love mercy and walk humbly, the garden grows.

Maybe that's why Jesus taught us to pray, “Your

MCESC Expands Literacy Support With New K-12 Tutoring Services



Years Later, the Question Remains: What Have You Done for HBCUs Lately?

Kyra Robinson, M.S., is the student and mentor engagement associate for the Montgomery County Ohio College Promise program.

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f i y



By: Wanda Haynes-Certified Sommelier

Dessert is a seductive end to a wonderful meal and highly sensual when paired with wine.

So, I've decided to pair my favorite cakes with high-quality sweet dessert wines.

Alabama Lane cake is a bourbon-laced cake and traditional in the American South. It was invented or popularized by Emma Rylander Lane, a native and resident of Georgia, who developed the recipe.

A multi-layer white sponge cake filled with a rich, bourbon-spiked custard packed with pecans, coconut, and golden raisins.

Also known as a prize cake, it is the official state cake of Alabama.

Pair this baked legend with a rich, sweet, high acidity late harvest Chenin Blanc.

Defined by prominent flavors of ripe apricot, honey, and tropical fruits. Leaving the grapes on the vine longer concentrates their natural sugars and builds a luscious, full-bodied profile.

Blue-berry Buckle cake is a single-layered, old-fashioned coffee cake filled with fresh blueberries and topped with a sweet crumb streusel. It gets its name because the cake "buckles"

under the heavy weight of the fruit and topping as it bakes.

A rich cake batter and the fresh berries are folded into the batter, as to not turn the batter blue. The topping is made from flour, coconut, a hint of orange zest, butter, and nutmeg.

Pair this fresh berry darling with a new wine from Italy.

The NV Canella Mimosa GranRiviera ready to drink, made with Prosecco and fresh squeezed orange juice. With a satiny, tangy, finely carbonated mouthfeel, only 6% ABV, and a gorgeous orange color. A crisp, scrumptious, refreshing Mimosa that is lovely for brunch or anytime.

Southern caramel cake is a heart breaker, and I have much love for it, it has warm loving memories attached to each decadent slice! This Southern style cake is a traditional multi-layer yellow cake covered in a cooked, old-fashioned caramel stovetop icing. Simple ingredients are used to produce this cake and generational knowledge used to make it.

Rich in texture and flavors of heavy cream and smooth dairy butter.

Pair this southern gem with a late harvest Riesling dessert wine made from grapes left on the vine past

the normal harvest date to build high sugar, balanced by natural acidity. Aromas of honey, stone fruit, lower alcohol levels, and often from Washington State with pride.

Texas sheet cake is a large chocolate cake baked in a jelly roll pan, topped with warm, pourable fudge icing, and typically studded with toasted pecans. Its distinct trait is the fudgy, crackly icing layer, which melts right into the warm cake for an ultra-moist, dense texture.

I prefer the cake without nuts and love the thick chocolate taste and the simplicity.

The base is often made with buttermilk and cocoa powder, giving it a light, tangy, and deeply chocolatey flavor. The frosting is made by boiling butter, cocoa, milk, and powdered sugar. It is poured over the cake while both are still hot.

The name could refer to the slogan "everything's bigger in Texas". Pair this bigger than life chocolate sheet cake with sparkling Lambrusco from Italy. Known for its bright berry flavors, refreshing acidity, and food-friendly versatility.

Choose your favorite cake, experiment with wines, and find your true passion for all things sweet.

Classified



Construction Invitation for Bid

CIFB GD 26-55 General Carpentry Services

Due Date: 11/03/2026, 10:00 AM EST via OpenGov.

Greater Dayton RTA is soliciting bids from qualified contractors to provide general carpentry services at its various facilities on an as-needed basis. This procurement is for commercial carpentry, drywall, ceiling, door and hardware, framing, finish work, and related services.

If interested: <https://www.iriderta.org/about/doing-business>.

Direct questions to pnath@greaterdaytonrta.org.

Priyanka Nath, Purchasing Agent.

New Nonprofit Jazz Forward Dayton Launches to Build a Stronger Future for Jazz in the Miami Valley

September 15, 2026
Dayton's jazz community will celebrate a new chapter on Sunday, September 27, as Jazz Forward Dayton officially launches with an evening of music, community, and celebration at the Roger Glass Center for the Arts.

Founded by Dayton vocalist and longtime jazz advocate Kelli Campbell, Jazz Forward Dayton is a nonprofit organization dedicated to sustaining and advancing jazz by creating meaningful opportunities for musicians to learn, perform, and connect.

The organization's mission grows from Campbell's own experience in Dayton's jazz community. After returning to Dayton several years ago, she found a welcoming entry point through Jazz Central's open jam session and began performing with local musicians. When that long-running jam eventually closed, Campbell started a new monthly jam in 2018. Eight years later, the jam continues to bring musicians and jazz enthusiasts together, with participants ranging in age from 10 to 92.

"I've seen firsthand what happens when musicians have a place to come together, learn from one another, and play," said Campbell, founder and president of Jazz Forward Dayton. "Jazz Forward Dayton is about building on that spirit and creating more opportunities for

musicians at every stage of their journey. We want to make sure jazz continues to have a strong and vibrant future in Dayton."

Jazz Forward Dayton will support the local jazz ecosystem through monthly jazz jams, educational workshops and masterclasses, performances featuring local and visiting artists, and programs designed to connect emerging musicians with experienced professionals. The organization also plans to bring regional and national jazz artists to Dayton, creating opportunities for local musicians and audiences to experience new sounds, ideas, and perspectives.

Launch Celebration

The public is invited to celebrate the official launch of Jazz Forward Dayton on:

Sunday, September 27, 2026

Roger Glass Center for the Arts
6:00–9:00 p.m.

The evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. with the University of Dayton Jazz Band, joined by New Orleans trumpeter and educator Ashlin Parker.

At approximately 6:45 p.m., there will be a brief intermission featuring an introduction to Jazz Forward Dayton and its mission.

The evening's featured performance will begin at 7:00 p.m., with Parker joined by a Dayton rhythm section featuring Keigo Hirakawa on piano,

George DeLancey on bass, and Reggie Jackson on drums.

A reception will follow the performance, giving guests an opportunity to meet the artists, connect with members of the Jazz Forward Dayton community, and celebrate the organization's official launch.

Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 for students.

Looking Ahead

The launch marks the beginning of Jazz Forward Dayton's next chapter, but the organization is building on years of community activity and support for Dayton musicians.

For more information about Jazz Forward Dayton, upcoming programs, or the September 27 launch celebration, visit jazzforwarddayton.org.

About Jazz Forward Dayton

Jazz Forward Dayton is a Dayton-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to sustaining and advancing jazz throughout the Miami Valley. Through performance opportunities, education, workshops, masterclasses, artist development, and community programs, Jazz Forward Dayton creates opportunities for musicians to learn, perform, and connect while introducing audiences to local, regional, and national jazz artists.

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Arts & Entertainment

The Savory Ballroom



By Professor Sterling Haynes

The vision of a Jewish man and Black man created a ballroom of rising stars.

In the 1920s the nightclub scene was flourishing in Harlem, New York. Much like work environments nightclubs were also segregated. Two men had a business idea to bring unity and diversity to the dance floor.

Owned by Moe Gale and managed by Charles Buchanan. Gale was Jewish and promoted inclusive talent. Buchanan was from the Caribbean Island of Barbados. They opened The Savory Ballroom March 1926. Located in the middle of Harlem between 140th and 141st street on Lenox Avenue.

On the second floor was the 10,000 square foot Ballroom. Occupancy up to 4000

guests. It was named after the Savory Hotel in London. Embodying luxury furnishings, classy ambiance, and upscale customer service. The Savory Ballroom had a no-discrimination policy including staff and patrons.

Famous dancers and musical talents such as Ella Fitzgerald, Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, and Frankie Manning performed at The Savory Ballroom. Popular dances at the time were the Lindy Hopp, Big Apple, Suzy Q, and Charleston Step. The floor manager Herbert “Whitey” White formed his own dance group called the “Whitey’s Lindy Hoppers”.

Estimated annual profits were \$250,000 from the late 1920s to the 1940s. Due to illegal activity and social issues the ballroom went out of business in October 1958.

The Savory Ballroom’s legacy continues as Savory Park Apartments.

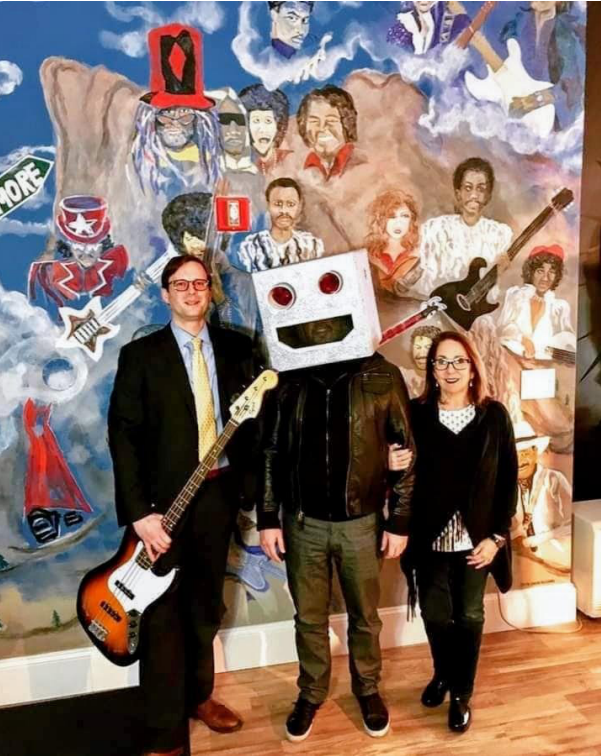
Savoy Park is a distinctive rental community in the heart of Central Harlem. Located on Lenox Avenue within a sprawling 13 acres of green space. The area features modern amenities such as a package room, laundry room, 24/7 security, playground, and on-site parking.

Conveniently located near several subway and bus lines. Offering studio, one, two and three-bedroom apartment homes. The seven-building community occupies the block where the Savoy Ballroom once stood. The iconic club, known as 'The Home of the Happy Feet', drew legions of revelers between 1926 and 1958.

Resources
savoyparkapartments.com, ilindy.com, welcome to the savoy.com

Cartoon Characters
Mayor Maxwell and Babette are created by Sterling Haynes. Sterlinghaynes.com

Dayton Music History Preserved: Funk Hall Of Fame Acquires Ruckus Roboticus Artifacts



The Funk Music Hall of Fame & Exhibition Center has officially expanded its collection of local music history, securing a unique piece of Dayton's modern funk legacy. On January 26, 2019, artifacts from homegrown electronic and funk artist Dan Haug—better known by his stage moniker Ruckus Roboticus—were formally donated to the museum, cementing his place alongside the city's musical icons.

The induction features two signature items from Haug’s career: his custom, homemade Robot Helmet worn in various music videos, and a bass

guitar heavily utilized by collaborator Conrad Dillon. The instrument bears the signatures of both Ruckus Roboticus and the legendary jazz vocalist Spanky Wilson.

From Centerville High to Funk Mastermind

Born and raised in Dayton, Haug was heavily influenced by the city’s historic relationship with funk music and its signature do-it-yourself blue-collar grit. His musical journey began while attending Centerville High School, where he worked part-time jobs to save up for his very first set of turntables. By 1998, he officially adopted the Ruckus Roboticus perso-

na, jokingly labeling himself "the most famous DJ you've never heard of."

After years of pulsing through the local DJ circuit, Haug transitioned into music production. In 2012, he released the breakout single "T.G.I.F. (Thank God It's Funky)" under his independent record label, Dance Or Die.

A Collaborative Ohio Effort

While Haug acted as the mastermind behind the electronic beats, the track was a massive collaborative effort that brought together top-tier Ohio talent. The single featured powerhouse vocals from jazz legend Spanky Wilson, guitar work by Conrad Dillon, and keyboards by Kelly Warner (of the Columbus-based project Hotel Eden) alongside Peter Hayes, the well-known host of WYSO’s Jazz Forward. Background vocals were provided by Jonathan “Philly Phil” Phillips and Aimee Ramos.

The comedic music video for "T.G.I.F.", which chronicles the road antics of Ruckus and Spanky, similarly served as a showcase for the region's creative community. Produced by Columbus-based Outsider Entertainment, the visual featured ap-

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pearances and contributions from local staples including Jeff Coats, Jason Sanders, Nathan Lewis, Jay Madewell, and

Homage Clothing.

With these artifacts now on display at The Funk Music Hall of Fame, Dayton celebrates a narrative of community, perseverance, and an unyielding love for the groove.

PEACE & FUNK

Join The Peace Museum & The Funk Music Hall of Fame & Exhibition Center to celebrate The International Day of Peace on Courthouse Square!

Event includes:

- Line Dancing
- Motivational Speakers
- Remarks from Mayor Turner-Sloss

9/21

MONDAY 4:30PM

Arts & Entertainment

You Can Go Home Again

Dayton-based artist Willis Bing Davis was born in Greer, SC in 1937. His family moved from Hampton Road in 1937 to Diamond Avenue in East Dayton when he was two months old. The separation of his parents when he was 7 years old, along with economic struggles, contact was cut off with his hometown and relatives in Greer. His mother worked several jobs to raise the six children while telling each that they could become whatever they wanted to become.

Artist Bing Davis became known as a talented sports star from elementary school to high school but always had a dream of becoming an artist. He excelled in sports from elementary through high school and college, but continued developing his artmaking and teaching art. Him making art and teaching art won awards near and far in the United States and abroad, including China, Russia, Canada, South America, Bermuda, and West, Central and South Africa. What was missing in his many travels was a visit to his hometown of Greer, SC.



Thanks to a chance call from a man in Virginia Beach, VA calling the City of Greer Art Center inquiring about art by Bing Davis, the city became aware of “Dayton artist, Bing Davis” who was born in Greer, SC. The City of Greer, under the leadership of Robin Byouk, contacted Mr. Davis and coordinated a special one-man art exhibit project and a 3-day visiting artist program that took Mr. Davis into three schools and a ceramic demonstration for an adult class.

The May 4th art exhibit opening was highlighted by a surprise presentation by the City of Greer’s mayor, Rick Danner, who presented a proclamation declaring May 4th Willis Bing Davis Day and presented Mr. Davis with a key to the city.

An extra special feature added to this exceptional experience was the opportunity to meet and share his experience with more than 25 to 30 relatives that he met for the first time.

The art exhibit was on display from April 20th [to his birthday] - June 30th.

“You Can Go Home Again”

Sports

Eric Fleetwood

By Professor Sterling Haynes

Meet Eric Fleetwood a talented young baseball player studying business at Triton College.

The Cincinnati Ohio native currently ranks No. 2 nationally with Junior College Baseball (JUCO). Division I batting average (.488) while adding

13 home runs and 53 Run Batted In (RBI) during a breakout freshman season that has already drawn Division I atten-



He frequently grew up as the only Black player on his travel teams, an experience that reflects the broader decline in Black representation across the sport. Black players made up just 6.8% of Major League Baseball (MLB). Opening Day rosters in 2026, down from 18% in 1991, according to league diversity data. MLB continues trying to rebuild the Black participation in baseball.

This year marked one of the first times he’s played alongside multiple players of color and Black coaches, giving Fleetwood a firsthand look at the impact representation can have, making him hopeful he can help be part of that shift for younger players of color coming up behind him.

Zoom Interview with Eric Fleetwood

What inspired you to play baseball?

My grandma took me and my brother to the

batting cage when I was six years old. When I went in there and started hitting, I fell in love with it ever since. My family got me into T-Ball at a young age at the local YMCA. Growing up, I was a big Reds fan. Brandon Phillips was my favorite player. He was always smiling and having fun. People tell me that’s kind of how I am too now.

What’s your favorite part about baseball?

My favorite part is competing with my teammates. I’m still best friends with some of the guys I’ve met on my T-Ball team. I love hitting home runs. Baseball has given me a chance to meet people all over the country.

There is a lack of representation for African Americans in baseball. Do you have any tips to encourage more people to play? When kids see players looking like them, succeeding in that sport, it helps them believe they belong there too. My biggest advice is to give the game a chance and stick

with it. Baseball teaches discipline, resiliency, confidence, how to deal with failure. The more kids we can get around the game, they’ll fall in love with it.

That concludes the interview it was insightful and a pleasure.

Fleetwood is set to return to Cincinnati this summer to play for the Hamilton Joes in the Great Lakes Summer Collegiate League. Baseball has some of the most games in their seasons compared to other sports. Professionally, they range between 80 to 100 games in a season. College level, between 40 and 50.

Follow Eric Fleetwood on social media. @Ericfleetwood23 on Instagram. Ericfleetwood3 on X. Cartoon Characters created by Sterling Haynes. Learn more at sterlinghaynes.com

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