



Dayton Regional STEM School Robotics Team Wins in Huntsville

The Dayton Regional STEM School is celebrating a major victory as its new FRC Robotics team made an impressive debut at the Rocket City Regional Competition in Huntsville, Alabama. Competing against 44 teams, our students showcased their innovation, teamwork, and determination, securing a place in the top-tier alliance and taking home two major honors.

After finishing the qualification rounds ranked #19, our team was selected to join the #1 alliance, competing alongside the top-performing teams at the event. Together, our alliance dominated the playoff rounds, ultimately claiming the event championship title.

In addition to this thrilling victory, our team received the prestigious “Rookie All-Star” award, recognizing our program as a standout newcomer with the potential to grow into a top-tier competitor in



future seasons. This honor places us among the best rookie teams in the nation and strengthens our chances of qualifying for the FIRST World Championship—an announcement on our official status is expected soon.

“This achievement is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and passion of our students, mentors, and supporters,” said Dr. Robin Fisher, Superintendent of the Dayton Regional STEM School. “We are incredibly proud of how far the team has come in such a short time and can’t wait to see what

the future holds.”

The team now sets its sights on the upcoming competition at Xavier University from March 27-29, where they will continue to build on their momentum. The Dayton community is encouraged to cheer them on as they take on their next challenge.

For more updates and ways to support our team, follow @daytonstem-school on Facebook and Instagram or visit dayton-stemschool.org.

About the Dayton Regional STEM School
Founded in 2009, the

Dayton Regional STEM School is a public independent STEM school located in Kettering, Ohio. The school currently serves students in grades 6-12, with a total enrollment of 770 from 9 counties and 35 districts across the region. Students engage in innovative STEM programming, project-based learning, career exploration, and real-world problem-solving with the help of industry professionals from the Dayton community and beyond. In Fall 2025, the district will expand to serve elementary students.

Darius Beckham Announces Campaign for Dayton City Commission

Lifelong Dayton resident and community advocate Darius Beckham officially launched his campaign for Dayton City Commission, releasing a video that highlights his vision for a stronger, more equitable city.

With a platform focused on economic opportunity, public safety, and neighborhood investment, Beckham enters the race with overwhelming grassroots support, having collected twice the required number of signatures to qualify for the ballot. This milestone underscores the broad coalition of residents who believe in his fresh leadership and commitment to delivering real solutions for Dayton.

“I’m running for Dayton City Commission because our city deserves bold, compassionate leadership that listens and takes action,” said Beckham. “From tackling vacant properties to improving public safety and expanding opportunities for families, I’m ready to fight for a Dayton that works for everyone.”

A former Senior Policy



Darius Beckham

Aide to Mayor Jeffrey Mims, Beckham has dedicated his career to public service and community advocacy, working to bridge the gap between neighborhoods, government, and resources. He currently serves as Board Chair of Omega CDC and has played a key role in advancing policies that uplift Dayton’s residents.

Beckham’s campaign invites all Daytonians to be part of the movement for change. His campaign video and more information are available at dariusfordayton.com.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Beta Eta Omega Chapter Presents Elegant 45th Annual Ebony Jewels & Gems Cotillion

Someone once said, “Pursue excellence and success will follow.” The ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Beta Eta Omega Chapter were proud to showcase such excellence as they presented 24 young ladies and gentlemen and at their 45th Annual Ebony Jewels and Gems Cotillion. Since 1981, Beta Eta Omega Chapter has held its signature scholarship fundraising event, the Ebony Jewels and Gems Cotillion. It is a premier event recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of graduating seniors in the greater Dayton area. Preparation includes a five-month process where participants en-



gaged in character building workshops, leadership development, and cultural enrichment activities. The culminating event is an elegant Cotillion Ball which spotlights the participants and the awarding of scholarships to eligible graduat-

ing seniors.

This most elegant event was held Saturday, February 22, 2025, at the Dayton Convention Center. This year’s theme was, “45 Years of Elegance, Excellence, & Achievements.” which unquestionably

describes the character and confidence of the 24 distinguished Jewels and Gems. The Toastmistress was Ms. Adrienne Oglesby, WDTN. The Toastmaster was Mr. Caleb Michael, WDTN. To date over 1260 high school

seniors have participated in the Ebony Jewels and Gems Cotillion. More than \$745,000 has been awarded in scholarships.

The outstanding 2025 Ebony Jewels and Gems are: Gem Keyair Black (Dunbar), Jewel Jalia

Boyce-Simon (Chaminade Julianne), Gem Ethan Corbitt (Dayton Regional STEM), Jewel Jada Dyer (Xenia), Jewel Kayla Edwards (Trotwood-Madison), Jewel Ja’Nae Evans

Continued on Page 2

Senator Bernie Moreno Visits Sinclair College



U.S. Senator Bernie Moreno visited the National UAS Training and Certification Center at Sinclair Community College on Tuesday, speaking with students and staff. The visit provided Senator Moreno with a hands-on and up-close view of Sinclair’s aircraft and flight simu-

lators, as well as an opportunity to get a firsthand look at Sinclair’s classroom/lab instructional equipment housed within the National Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Center on Sinclair’s Dayton Campus.

“We were honored to welcome Senator Bernie Moreno to our National

UAS Center,” said Dr. Steve Johnson, President and CEO of Sinclair Community College. “This was an opportunity to demonstrate the quality education our students receive at Sinclair and the critical need for skilled professionals in the aviation industry.”

Continued on Page 5

George Foreman, Heavyweight Boxing Champion, Dies at 76



Legendary boxer George Foreman has died at 76, according to a statement released by his family Friday night on his official Instagram account.

The cause of death was not initially revealed by the family.

Foreman was a two-time world heavyweight champion and Olympic gold medalist who is regarded as one of the hardest punchers in boxing history. One his most memorable punches was the knockout blow he landed against Michael Moorer in 1994 when

Foreman became the oldest heavyweight champion in history at 45.

He was inducted into both the World Boxing Hall of Fame and the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

Foreman didn’t just Rumble in the Jungle. He lived a remarkable life.

He was married five times. He had 12 children, and one of them, Freeda, died in 2019 by apparent suicide.

He retired for good at 48 with a record of 76-5 with 68 knockouts.

Foreman was born Jan. 10, 1949 in Marshall, Texas

and, by his own admission, was a troubled youth. He dropped out of school at 15. Boxing provided salvation. He took up the sport at 16 and a mere three years later he won an Olympic gold medal at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City.

“Condolences to George Foreman’s family. His contribution to boxing and beyond will never be forgotten,” Tyson wrote on X.

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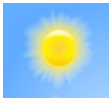


Around DAYTON

Miami Valley Weather

Saturday Sunday

Sunny
High 48
Low 30

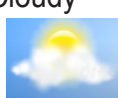


Rain
High 48
Low 43



Monday

Mostly Cloudy
High 55
Low 38



5 day Forecast

Tuesday

Rain
High 53
Low 38



Wednesday

Rain
High 51
Low 35



VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

to be Held Regarding the FINAL DRAFT of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Greene, Miami, Montgomery, and Northern Warren counties.

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) invites the public to attend a virtual Public Meeting to review the FINAL DRAFT of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which includes roadway projects, bike/pedestrian projects, bus/transit and other transportation-related projects and services in our Region being considered for federal transportation funding in the next four years.

The meeting will take place via Zoom, a video conferencing platform, and will be held as follows:
Thursday, March 27, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Access the meetings via computer, tablet or mobile device using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81818666087>

Or call in to join the meeting by phone:
(646) 558-8656 - (New York)
(312) 626-6799 - (Chicago)

Enter Meeting ID: 818 1866 6087#

After a brief presentation featuring a summary of the FINAL DRAFT TIP and how to submit comments, MVRPC staff will be available to answer questions and accept comments.

If you are unable to attend, information will also be available for public review on MVRPC's website at mvrpc.org/tip and at MVRPC's office, 6 North Main Street, Suite 400, Dayton, OH, 45402, during regular business hours. Written comments will be accepted until April 11, 2025.



For additional information, contact Paul Arnold, Manager, Short Range Programs at 937.223.6323 / TTY/TDD 1.800.750.0750 or parnold@mvrpc.org.



MVRPC Approves \$28.2 Million in Federal Transportation Funds

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) Board of Directors recently approved \$28.2 million in federal transportation funds for 21 roadway,

bikeway/pedestrian, transit, and planning projects that will benefit the Miami Valley Region. MVRPC's regionally-controlled Surface Transportation Program (STP), Transportation Alternatives (TA), and Carbon Reduction (CR) funds, as well as the statewide Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) funds, will finance over \$48 million in transportation projects when matched with local dollars. All the projects are located throughout MVRPC's Metropolitan Planning Organization area, which includes Greene, Miami, Montgomery counties and the cities of Carlisle, Franklin and Springboro and Franklin Township and Franklin Township and Warren County.

In accordance with the Statewide CMAQ Policy, projects recommended for CMAQ funding by MVRPC's Board of Directors will subsequently be submitted to the Statewide CMAQ Committee for final consideration for funding during the next solicitation cycle.

In September 2024, MVRPC solicited member jurisdictions for new transportation projects that would be eligible for STP, TA, CR, and CMAQ funds. By the October 10, 2024 deadline, 41 applications for projects with a total cost of over \$97.5 million had been received. The applications were then made available for public comment and subsequently ranked using adopted criteria. A list of the recommended projects was reviewed by MVRPC's Technical Advisory Committee and then by MVRPC's Board of Directors for approval. The projects are expected to start construction in 2030 to 2031.

Projects by category can be viewed at: www.mvrpc.org/transportation-financing/.

Established in 1964, the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission promotes collaboration among communities, stakeholders, and residents to advance regional priorities. MVRPC is a forum and resource

where the Board of Directors identifies priorities and develops public policy and collaborative strategies to improve the quality of life throughout the Miami Valley Region.

MVRPC performs planning and research functions for our Region that ensure livable and equitable communities; clean air and water; robust roadway, transit, and active transportation options; and strategic community plans that chart the course for member communities and partners. MVRPC's geographic area includes Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, Shelby, and northern Warren counties in Southwest Ohio. Learn more at mvrpc.org/our-region.

For more information about the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, contact Paul Arnold, Short Range Planning Manager, email at parnold@mvrpc.org or call 937-223-6323 / TTY/TDD: 800.750.0750.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Beta Eta Omega Chapter Presents Elegant 45th Annual Ebony Jewels & Gems Cotillion... Continued from Page 1

(Dayton Christian), Jewel Reign Hall (Stivers), Jewel La'Donna Hayes (Trotwood-Madison), Jewel Jasmine Hoskins (Ponitz CTC), Jewel Carrington Hunter (Dayton Christian), Jewel Miracle Jacobs (Ponitz CTC), Jewel Javonah Jordan (Northridge), Jewel Jayla McCloud (Wayne), Jewel Liesma Munoz (Thurgood Marshall), Jewel Ra'Niyah Pope (Ponitz CTC), Jewel Jayda Richardson (DECA), Jewel Starr Robinson (Northmont), Jewel Anaiyah Rogers (Stivers), Gem Braylen Russell (Licking Heights), Jewel Jamaica Spearman (Chaminade Julianne), Jewel Madisyn Tyler (Stivers), Jewel JaNiya Ward (Chaminade Julianne), Jewel Courtney Williams (Trotwood-Madison), and Journei Woody (Wayne/Miami Valley CTC).

A total of \$30,000 was awarded in scholarships. The scholarship recipients are Jewel Anaiyah Rogers - \$3,500, Jewel Carrington Hunter - \$3,400, Jewel Jada Dyer - \$3,300, Jewel Liesma Munoz - \$3,300, Jewel Ja'Nae Evans - \$3,000, Jewel Jayla McCloud - \$2,500 (Class of 1985 Jewels and Gems Scholarship), Jewel Jalia Boyce-Simon - \$2,500 (Lillian Moore-Moyer Scholarship), Jewel Journei Woody - \$2,500 (Judy R. Hall Scholarship), Jewel Starr Robinson - \$2,000, Jewel JaNiya Ward - \$1,500, Jewel Reign Hall - \$1,500, and Jewel Courtney Williams - \$1,000.

Mr. Congeniality is Gem Braylen Russell. Miss Congeniality is Jewel Jalia Boyce-Simon. Top Sales Recipients are Jewel Jada Dyer, Jewel Reign Hall, and Jewel Carrington Hunter. Congratulations to all Cotillion participants and parents. Congratulations

to the Ebony Jewels and Gems Cotillion Co-Chairmen Gail Forest, Stephanie Norwood, Tonita Davis and Geraldine Pegues, committee members and all ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Beta Eta Omega Chapter. Thank you to the Al-Ka-Pals Youth Organization, Clint Campbell – Double “C” Productions, Dayton Wedding Photographers, Furst Florist, Linwood Men's Specialty Shoppe, Gregory's Tuxedos, and Peak Visions. Thank you to everyone who supported this unforgettable Ebony Jewels and Gems Cotillion.

In the words of Marian Anderson, “If you have a purpose in which you can believe, there's no end to the amount of things you can accomplish”. Pursue excellence and success will follow.

Families Can Benefit from DML's Special Needs Programs

Dayton Metro Library's Special Needs Family Information Roundtable family programming continues in April with the following programs.

Community Partners/Resources, Main Library, Community Room, Wednesday, April 2, 4-5:30 pm: Celebrate and learn about Autism on Autism Awareness Day. Community partners with resources will be available. Attendees will be

able to chat and socialize. Children are welcome to attend.

Navigating the Behavioral Health Care System with Kids, Kettering-Moraine Branch, Monday, April 7, 10 am-12 pm: Certified family peer supporter Steve Makofka will be on hand to provide information for local resources and options for finding mental health services for kids. Makofka is the founder

of Family Dynamics, LLC, and has worked as a mental health educator for Kettering Health Network and as a behavioral health specialist at Dayton Children's. Time will be allotted for Q&A and socializing.

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

United Way Receives \$50,000 Grant for Strong Families Fund

United Way of the Greater Dayton Area has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the AES Ohio Foundation to support its Strong Families Fund. This contribution will empower programs aimed at helping individuals and families in Montgomery, Greene, and Preble Counties achieve greater household stability.

“We are grateful to the AES Ohio Foundation for their investment in our community. This funding enables us to further our mission of uplifting families throughout the Miami Valley. With the support of our partners, we can continue to foster local resilience, improve health outcomes, expand youth opportunities, and enhance financial security. Together, we are building a stronger, more vibrant community,” said Tom Kelley, President & CEO, United Way of the Greater Dayton Area.

The grant will enhance our ability to provide vital services to those in need. Key initiatives funded by this grant include:

Strong Families: A program dedicated to help-

ing families stay in their homes, build financial stability, and ensure children succeed in school.

Literacy and educational opportunities for youth and adults to improve or develop new skills to open vocational opportunities.

These programs, among others, are vital to strengthening the well-being of families in the region; this grant will aid UWGDA in offering these services to the community.

"Through grants, the AES Ohio Foundation supports organizations like the United Way of the Greater Dayton Area and their impactful work throughout the year. We are intentional to keep every dollar local helping to deliver essential services and innovative programs," said Tom Raga, AES Ohio President. “These grants aim to remove barriers to opportunity, improve health care access, and strengthen our cultural fabric, investing in a stronger future for West Central Ohio."

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General

‘Directly to Them’ Job and Family Services Mobile Office Goes Where It’s Needed



The Montgomery County Job and Family Services is taking to the road in order to help people get the benefits for which they qualify. Job and Family Services is located on Edwin C Moses Boulevard in Dayton, but getting everyone to their campus can be a struggle. Now, they are teaming up with the sheriff’s office for an on-the-move program. The JFS team is taking an RV, stocked with supplies and paperwork, so they can go sign up county residents for benefits. The JFS workers say this is a demonstration of the government being flexible in how they help people.

“We come directly to them so they don’t have to come here. It kind of alleviates that barrier,” Ashley Harris, JFS On The Move management liaison, said. Harris says the county taxpayers didn’t pay for the RV, it was purchased with federal rescue plan money. “So we are here to basically meet the customers where they are, to help them get benefits as quickly as possible,” Harris said. JFS On The Move visits the Montgomery County Jail twice per month to serve people that often fall through the cracks. “Defendants who are leaving the Montgomery County Jail could easily access those mobile sup-

ports, as well as our people that are touching our court system downtown,” Teresa Russel, director of criminal justice and outreach services, said. Russell says hundreds of people will see the RV in downtown Dayton, and they can climb aboard and see a caseworker to get help with things like food assistance, Medicaid, child care or even license reinstatement. The mobile outreach is not new, but the RV with eight computers in a mobile office is. JFS says community groups can request the mobile unit attend events, to see people that could qualify for benefits.

Explore Community and Culture at DML

As part of its Native American Heritage and Culture programming, Dayton Metro Library will hold Culture & Community Gatherings through October. Hosted by Stephanie Van Hoose, patrons will gather to discuss ways to create the community they want by exploring commonalities through art. By honoring the original caretakers of the land

and inviting them into the Library’s space, knowledge and experiences will be shared. Van Hoose is an Indigenous advocate who has hosted several programs with DML in the past. Culture & Community Gatherings will be held on Thursdays from 5:30-7 pm, in the Main Library’s Opportunity Center on the following dates:
March 27

April 24
May 22
June 26
July 24
August 28
September 25
October 23
All ages are welcome to attend. Registration is not required. For more information, visit DaytonMetroLibrary.org or call the Library’s Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

Grocery Outlet Opens in Englewood



Mayram Jones Hamilton and Eric Jones

A mother and son duo have opened a discount grocery store in Englewood, marking the company’s first location in the region. The storefront occupies 25,000 square feet in a prominent shopping center. California-based Grocery Outlet opened a new location in Englewood’s Northmont Plaza at 606 Taywood Road on March 13. The new grocery store sits within a busy commercial corridor near the intersection of Taywood Road and South Main Street in Englewood, close to Interstate 70. Its neighboring tenants at Northmont Plaza include Goodwill, Family Dollar, Harbor Freight and Planet Fitness. The building provides approximately 25,000 square feet of space, serving as both a warehouse and shopping area. It was secured through collaboration with the corporate team by Mayram Jones Hamilton and Eric Jones, the mother and son who independently own and

operate the establishment. Around 40 employees have been hired for a variety of positions at the store. Layla Kasha, Grocery Outlet’s chief marketing and new store growth officer, told me the company prioritizes community fit and finding local owner-operators when securing a location, considering the company flexible in terms of real estate. “We’re looking for second and third generation spaces, ideally,” Kasha said. “If a grocery store goes out, we love to come in behind them. We will build to suit. We will build from the ground up. We have stores that are 8,000 feet, we have stores that are 30,000 square feet.” Jones Hamilton said she settled in Englewood last year from California, bringing her large family. She became familiar with Grocery Outlet while looking for budget-friendly grocery options. “It was challenging to raise kids and provide for the family and spend half of a paycheck on the gro-

ceries,” she said. The company is planning continuous expansion in Ohio with seven existing stores and more planned. This is the first location in the Dayton area, but Kasha said there may not be any more expansion efforts specifically flagged in the exact same area. When asked about her personal vision for the future of the location, Jones Hamilton expressed a desire to potentially expand after the store finds stability. “Why not grow more? There [are] opportunities. The concept is great, provides great value and we’re supporting family and friends around us,” she said. Grocery Outlet, based in Emeryville, Calif., is a high-growth, extreme value retailer with over 520 stores in multiple states. It specializes in products from large brands, selling discounted and closed out products that are still fit for sale.

Learn About the Portuguese Way with DML Guest Speaker

Dayton Metro Library will host Andy Niekamp’s: Walking the Camino de Santiago – the Portuguese Way on Monday, March 24, from 6:30-7:30 pm at the Wilmington-Stroop Branch. Niekamp will narrate his trek from Porto, Portugal

to Santiago, Spain. This route offers coastal views, cities rich in history, cobblestone streets, shrines, ancient churches, stone crosses, hiking trails, and friendly locals. Niekamp and his hiking partner made the 19-day, 220-mile journey and captured pho-

tos to share. This program is for an adult audience. Registration is not required. For more information, visit DaytonMetroLibrary.org or call the Library’s Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

Juvenile Court Donates to One Bistro

Judge Amy Lewis from Greene County Juvenile Court presented a check for \$404.25 to Donna and Denise Dixon, former Board Members who accepted on behalf of One Bistro, a Xenia restaurant whose mission is to provide a place where neighbors eat and come together as one community. Court employees donated \$1 each week last year in exchange for wearing jeans on Fridays. The restaurant was chosen to honor One Bistro’s ongoing support of the youth in the Juvenile Detention Center and Miami Valley Juvenile Rehabilitation Center. “One Bistro approached us nearly two years ago and asked if they could donate a hot meal to our youth in detention once a month. We invite the families to join the youth for these meals, to promote opportunities for family



members to connect and build stronger relationships. The youth really look forward to this. We were thrilled when One Bistro then asked if they could also provide a meal for our youth in the rehabilitation center once per month,” explained Lewis. One Bistro is largely run by volunteers and is

a “pay what you can afford” and “pay it forward” café. They believe that a good meal in a warm and welcoming environment will help to feed one’s soul. As Donna Dixon says of the Court’s donation, “You are not investing in a restaurant, you are investing in people.”

Inform | Educate | Empower
Dr. Derrick L. Foward, President
915 Salem Ave., Dayton, Ohio 45406
naacpdayton3181@sbcglobal.net | naacpdayton.org

Meet the CANDIDATES

Monday
March 24, 2025
6:30 PM

Grace United Methodist Church
1001 Harvard Blvd.
Dayton, Ohio 45406

For Dayton City Commission

Darius Beckham
Jacob Davis
Valerie Duncan
Darryl Fairchild
Karen Wick

Moderator
Tom Roberts
2nd Vice President & Political Action Chair

 **NAACP**
Dayton Branch

Upcoming Meetings & Events

4/4-6 - Medgar Evers Region III Civil Rights Training Advocacy Institute (CRATI)
4/7 - Voter Registration for May 6 Primary / Special Election
4/12 - ACT-50 Day of the Stars
4/21 - Executive Committee Meeting
4/28 - General Membership Meeting & Criminal Justice Committee Presentation

Arts & Entertainment

Dayton Art Institute Presents The Work By Distinguished Figure In Contemporary Art

On view through June 8, 2025, at the Dayton Art Institute (DAI), Jamie Wyeth: Unsettled will trace a persistent vein of intriguing, often disconcerting imagery over the career of renowned artist Jamie Wyeth (b. 1946). This traveling exhibition will feature more than 40 works drawn from museum and private collections nationwide that focus on the artist’s arresting, visceral imagery, revealing fascinating insight into Wyeth and the art of visual storytelling.

A distinguished figure in contemporary art, Wyeth is recognized for his fiercely independent, realistic approach to art. This exhibition follows Wyeth’s entire career and looks at a specifically darker thread within his oeuvre of troubling and unnerving imagery. “My life has been full of ghosts,” Wyeth once said in an interview, and in many of the works in this exhibition, he shares these hauntings with the viewer.

“Unsettled is an opportunity to explore a specific aspect of Jamie Wyeth’s career, on that features unease and compelling compositions that may be disturbing, but are certainly engaging,” said DAI Head Curator & Curatorial Affairs Director Jerry N. Smith. “The exhibition is divided into three distinct sections: ‘Strangers and Specters;’ ‘Natural and Supernatural Worlds;’ and ‘Haunted Places and Disturbing Spaces.’ We find in each section Wyeth’s ability to evoke cinematic, immersive experiences and to inspire imaginative responses by the viewer.”

Wyeth stands apart in a shadowy and bizarre realm of his own creation. While frequently

contradicted and even hidden by the artist’s fuller body of work—particularly his well-known coastal views, farmscapes and portraits—a consistent thread of darker, more troubling imagery has been a constant in the artist’s work over the past 60 years. Across the decades of his career, he has focused on these unnerving, even frightening events, zeroed in on uncanny experiences and become a virtuoso of the unsettled. His work has evolved from his youth’s ultra-realistic visions and skillful brushwork into a mature expressionism in which a masterful use of media, color and texture amplifies his canvases.

“Jamie Wyeth, a third-generation artist - son of Andrew Wyeth and grandson of N.C. Wyeth - is distinguished in his own right as an incredibly talented contemporary painter,” said DAI Director & President Michael R. Roediger. “This exhibition follows the development of Wyeth’s artistic skillset, focusing particularly on his use of visceral imagery to leave the viewer ill at ease. We hope when seeing the work, guests take their time and appreciate Wyeth’s visual storytelling, as each work invites viewers to get lost in Wyeth’s fascinating and strange world.”

Several related educational programs will be offered in conjunction with the Jamie Wyeth: Unsettled exhibition. These programs are sponsored by AES Ohio Foundation. They include:

Community Tour: Select April 17 and May 22 from 6–7 p.m. and Select Saturdays: April 5, May 3 and June 7 from 1–2 p.m.

Cost: Members: Free, Non-members: Included with the Price of Admission

Community Workshop: Unsettled Places and Spaces: Saturday, May 10

from 2–4 p.m.

In this workshop, guests will utilize photo-transferred images to create an unsettling scene of their own. An array of additional materials will be provided to add color, experiment with mark making and create mood in this mixed media workshop.

Cost: Members: \$40, Non-members: \$55

Community Workshop: Doorways of Dayton: Saturday, May 24 from 2–4 p.m.

Jamie Wyeth’s use of doors inspires guests to examine the doorways of their own lives here in Dayton whether it be past, present, future, or those we could only dream of.

Cost: Members: \$40, Non-members: \$55

This exhibition was organized by the Brandywine Museum of Art and was made possible by the generous support of Benefactor Sponsors Charles D. Berry Foundation and Patty & Jerry Tatar; Director Sponsor Carolyn Brethen; Promoting Sponsor Susan Ayers; Media Sponsor Discover Classical; and Ongoing Sponsors Culture Works, Montgomery County, National Endowment for the Arts and Ohio Arts Council. Additional support provided by Suzi & Jeff Mikutis and The University of Dayton, and special thanks to The Flower Shoppe and Kohler Catering. Admission to Jamie Wyeth: Unsettled is included in the museum’s general admission, which includes access to all Special and Focus Exhibitions currently on view, as well as the museum collection galleries. General admission is \$15 adults; \$10 seniors (60+), active military and groups (10 or more); \$5 students (18+ w/ID) and youth (ages 7–17); and free for children (ages 6 & younger). Admission is free for museum members. Membership information can be



found online at www.daytonartinstitute.org/membership.

Other current and upcoming Exhibitions at the museum include Captivating Clay: Making Faces: 18 Essential Kabuki Plays (on view until March 30, 2025), Kind of Funny (on view until May 4, 2025), The Need for Beauty (on view until May 18, 2025),

A Taste for Pop: gifts from S. Bradley Gillaugh (on view until May 25, 2025), Contemporary Japanese Ceramics from the Horvitz Collection (on view until September 2025) and Themes in Yoshitoshi’s 100 Aspects of the Moon: Heroism & Loyalty (on view from April 12–July 13, 2025).

For more information

about planning a visit, including current museum hours and updates, go to www.daytonartinstitute.org/visit or call 937-223-4ART (4278). Connect with the Dayton Art Institute on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube for additional information, behind-the-scenes photos and videos, and exclusive offers.

Celebrate Arab American Heritage with DML

Dayton Metro Library will celebrate Arab American Heritage Month in April with the following programs for all ages:

Eid al-Fitr Celebration Craft, Wednesday, March 26, 3-4 pm, Electra C. Doren Branch: Patrons can celebrate the end of Ramadan by making a festive lantern to fill their homes with light and hope. (Teens)

Thursday Matinee, Thursday, April 3, 2-4 pm, New Lebanon Branch: Join the Branch for a showing of Amreeka (Rated PG-13, 2009). (Adults)

Preschool Storytime, Wednesday, April 9, 11-11:45 am, Huber Heights

Branch: Stories, songs, and other fun learning activities will center around Arab American Heritage Month. (Ages 3-5)

Between the Sheets: A Romance Book Club, Saturday, April 12, 1-2 pm, Miami Township Branch: Read Her Night with the Duke by Diana Quincy, then meet at the Branch for a discussion. (Adults)

Family Storytime – Arab American Heritage Month, Saturday, April 19, 10:30-11:30 am, Huber Heights Branch: Families can enjoy quality time with books, songs, and activities that will highlight the rich and diverse culture of the Arab people in honor of the

month.

Palestinian Cultural Fair, Saturday, April 19, 1-3 pm, Miami Township Branch: Celebrate culture and customs while exploring history and tradition through stories, music, and hands-on activities. (All Ages)

Teen DIY: Moroccan Tile Crafts, Wednesday, April 30, 4-5:30 pm, Southeast Branch: Make coasters and do printmaking in the style of Moroccan tiles to celebrate the month.

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

Editorial & Comments

Something to Consider:

By: Brenda Cochran
Contributing Writer

Commitment is caring deeply about someone or something. It is deciding cheerfully what you want to do, then giving one hundred percent, and holding nothing back. You give your all to friendship to a task, or something you believe in. When you accomplish this, then you are able to finish whatever you started.

Most of the time we think about the word commitment being associated with a romantic relationship. It seems that there are many people who are afraid of other types of commitment, but if we think about it, there are all kinds of commitments and all of them can be embraced and

not feared. Often these romantic relationships seem to stem from a bad experience, but it might be anything from a previous relationship to a childhood experience, but this fear does not just come out of nowhere.

I think that everyone fears getting hurt- even the brave or strong ones in the world, but they still cry out from their first heartbreak. We have to remember that life is unpredictable. The question is – why should one cower in fear because someone new wants to take you out on a date? It might be because your ex cheated on you. That’s fine, but who says that reality means that all of your future relationships will end disastrously? It is not that you attract cheaters – that’s not possible.

Another type of com-

The Virtue of Commitment



Brenda Cochran

mitment is work. This is definitely a commitment. The world in which we live requires a lot of hard work. In hard works absence it is very difficult to succeed. This type of commitment does not necessarily make us fearful, but it most definitely can spark laziness.

Suppose we think about this -a tough job may not be your forever career,

but for the time being, one can make the most of it? You can show your boss that you have a lot of capability.

If we think about it – every aspect in life necessitates some type of commitment. Your relationships, moving, getting married, having a baby, exercising, shopping, reading a book, traveling, everything requires us to sign on board one capacity or another. If we get right down to it, even those simple things in life require commitment, so there is no reason why we should restrain ourselves to experience the beauty that our world offers. If we did this, we would miss out on a lot of things such as love, a new job or even the ending of a good book.

When we think about our lives today, we can

admit that modern life has produced a lot of comfort, opportunities and conveniences. This is what we always wanted. We should be the generation that feels fulfilled. The fact is that life today seems to be more of a mess. It seems that a lack of commitment is definitely the main reason for this. There are also some reasons for this. One is laziness, and this is due to the fact that we have lots of options and we tend to jump from one option to another – always hoping that the new thing will be the answer. Another reason is that everything seems to be feasible. Looking back, what was in reach of anything was limited. All you have to do is think of the choices you had – there were not a lot. Today we are encouraged to follow our dreams, so why not

follow them?

There are so many possibilities such as your dream job, habit or any passion you may have in mind. The first job is to commit to it and continue bringing commitments in all areas of your life. You will find that your life will become much more rewarding and fulfilling than you ever imagined.

The following is a quote by Marian Wright Edelman. “There comes a time when you will roll up your sleeves and put yourself at the top of your commitment list.”

The following is a quote by Martin Luther King. “Everyone has the power for greatness, not for fame, but greatness, because greatness is determined by service.”

Classified



Request for Proposal RFP GD 25-19

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Due Date: 04/17/2025, 10:00 AM EST via OpenGov

Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority (RTA) seeks proposals to obtain a third-party administrator with an on-staff attorney(s) to assist in the proactive and aggressive management of its self-insured and state-funded claims.

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

Direct questions to dhoward@greaterdaytonrta.org



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Due Date: 04/24/2025, 10:00 AM EST via OpenGov

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

Direct questions to mcollier@greaterdaytonrta.org

Michelle Collier, Senior Purchasing Agent

Education

Senator Bernie Moreno Visits Sinclair College...
Continued from Page 1



After hearing a brief overview about the college from Dr. Johnson, Senator Moreno's guided tour was led by Dr. Andrew Sheperd, Chief Research Officer for Sinclair's UAS Program. As part of the tour, Senator Moreno was able to co-pilot Sinclair's Airbus 320, a full-flight simulator purchased by Sinclair in the summer of 2024, which allows one to practice flying an aircraft in a realistic environment, in this case, Senator Moreno flew the AirBus 320 from a simulated Dayton International Airport. Senator Moreno also had the opportunity to

control the Flyability Elios 3 Drone, an indoor drone that provides mapping and inspection data. This was made possible inside Sinclair's Building 18, the Deb Norris UAS Indoor Flying Pavillion, which is the nation's first permanent, custom-built flying facility for UAS training and applied research support. In addition to the number of Associate and Certificate Programs provided, Sinclair's UAS Program offers a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Unmanned Aerial Systems, which is unique to the Miami Valley Region and Ohio. Sinclair is a nation-

al leader in unmanned systems education and research, focusing on applied research and development, training and education, advanced simulation, data analytics, and commercialization and technology transfer. Since 2008, Sinclair College has been at the forefront of UAS innovation, creating key research, industry, and government partnerships, developing leading advanced technology curricula, and investing significantly to establish a nationally prominent program dedicated to meeting the workforce needs of the growing UAS industry. Positioned to provide critical training and edu-

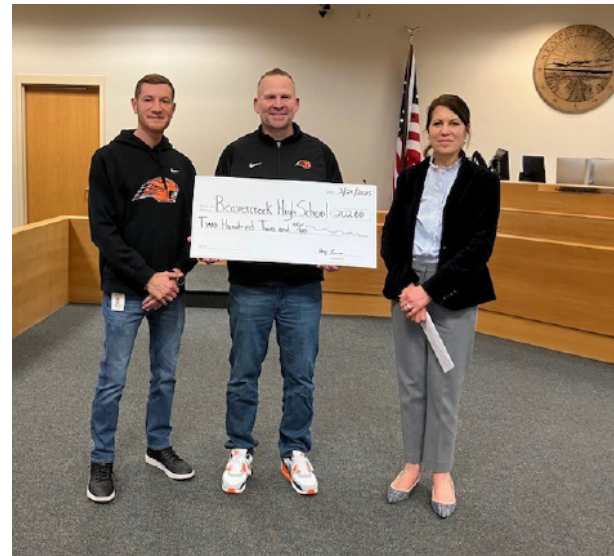


cation, research and development, and commercialization and economic development support, Sinclair offers students and

clients comprehensive aviation technology programs, equipping them for careers in state-of-the-art manufacturing, maintenance and operations of complex UAS and AAM systems.

Juvenile Court Helps BHS Students Participate in Graduation

Judge Amy Lewis of Greene County Juvenile Court presented a check for \$202.00 to Beavercreek High School Principal Dale Wren and Student Nutrition Supervisor Josh Ashley to assist students whose outstanding fees may impede them from participating in graduation. When Court employees learned that some students



were not permitted to walk at graduation if fees were still owed, a collection was taken to eliminate some of those outstanding costs. "We do everything we can to make sure if they earned credit, that they can walk across that stage," says Wren. "We notify parents in advance, offer payment plans and all sorts of opportunities. We don't want to stop these kids from walking due to something out of their control." Still, Wren admits that the amount of outstanding fees "is significant." Though a majority of the fees are not food related, some are, and Wren says that they will never let a child go hungry. "We will always let a child eat, even if they do not have the money to pay for lunch. However, this does contribute

to some of the outstanding fees." "We will make sure that the Court's contribution goes toward those students having the greatest financial need," continued Wren, explaining that there are many processes in place to assist with this. "Every little bit helps tremendously." "It is so important that these youth are able to celebrate and feel proud of their accomplishment of completing high school," added Judge Lewis.

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SERVICE SCHEDULE
Adult Bible Study - Sunday 9 AM
Worship Service - Sunday 8 AM & 10:30 AM
Sunday School - Sunday 10:30AM



Reverend Father
Benjamin E. K. Spence-Hardy II, Rector
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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


WAYMAN CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH
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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Church Sunday School.....9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m.
Women's Bible Study - Monday.....6:30 p.m.
Noonday Bible Study - Wednesday.....12:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting - Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.
Bible Study - Wednesday.....7:30 p.m.


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Toll Free: 1-844-679-9343
email:bcfchurch@swohio.twcbc.com




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& Wednesday.....1:00 p.m.
Bible Study/Prayer Meeting - Every
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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 Earlham 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



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Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 12:00 noon
Word & Worship 6:30 p.m.

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




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Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Mid Week Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.
Dr. William T. Cox, Sr., Pastor

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH
3801 Fairbanks Avenue
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: Dixonumcdayton.org

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Midweek Bible Study- Wednesday.....6:00-7:30 p.m. Via Zoom
Prayer Meeting - Saturday.....10:00 a.m.
Text In Prayer Request 1-888-646-9678

Advertise Your Church in the Dayton Weekly News

Religion

Celebrating Black American Contributions to the Family of God and Beyond

By: Brenda Cochran
Contributing Writer

Members and friends of Shiloh Church located at 5300 Philadelphia Drive, enjoyed the opportunity to honor and celebrate many Black Americans who have contributed much to areas of the arts, that included Vocalist, Gospel and Spiritual Music, Dance, Poetry and Percussion. These contributors were present to not only highlight artistry, but to do so for three very special days. Attendees from the Dayton community were entertained in high fashion.

Prior to the beginning of the Sunday service, people were able to view the exhibits that were not only educational but very well displayed. The prelude for the service also included the Crossroads Saxophone Quartet playing “When the Saints Go Marching In” followed by Reverend Jay McMillen providing an Opening Prayer and the singing of “Lift

Every Voice and Sing” for the Hymn of Praise.

Rev. McMillen expressed his appreciation for all in attendance and further shared his appreciation for Terry Ogletree, who has worked for the celebration – each year. According to Rev. McMillen, “Thanks to Terry to inspire us as a people.” The Reverend noted that next year will mark her thirty years of making each celebration an inspirational and wonderful one.

The children in attendance were invited to join Reverend McMillen for a Chat. His initial question was “Have you ever been Tempted?” He then gave examples of how often we are all tempted, but stressed that “We are all powered in Faith.” He then provided the Gospel Lesson – taken from Luke 4: 1-13.

The Three community Advocates were then individually introduced who each stood while Reverend McMillen shared information about each which was printed in the Program

Bulletin. The Community Advocates included the following:


Charity Adams, described as representing a testament to courage as she became the first African American woman to be commissioned as an officer in the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps During World War II.

Genieve Caldwell-Becoming a trailblazer as the first African American Female Elementary school principal in Montgomery County serving several schools in the Miami Valley.

Karl Kennebrew- Serves as the President of the IUE-CWA, the Industrial Division of the Communications Workers of American, representing over 150,000 active and retired members – having served over thirty years as an employee of General Motors and Chrysler becoming the first African American International President of IUE-CWA in 2019.

Following the recognition of the Community Advocates, the Sanctuary Choir provided a selection entitled “River Jordan” followed by the congregation reading of The Prayers and The Lord’s Prayer. A beautiful rendition of “There is a Balm in Gilead” was then performed by soloist Elana Elmore.


Reverend McMillen then introduced Willis “Bing” Davis, Curator & Owner of Ebonia Art Gallery who served as Guest




YOUR SOUL MATTERS: STEAL AWAY

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

BE STILL, AND YOUR SOUL WILL SPEAK



“He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” Luke 22:41-42 NIV



Charity Adams Earley (December 5, 1918 – January 13, 2002) was the first African-American woman to become an officer in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (later WACs). She was the commanding officer of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, comprised of African-American women serving overseas during World War II. Adams was the highest-ranking African-American woman in the army after the war.

A monument honoring her was dedicated at Fort Lee (as it was then called), Virginia, on November 30, 2018. The base has since been renamed Fort Gregg-Adams in honor of Earley and Lieutenant General Arthur J. Gregg in 2023, the first-ever U.S. military base bearing the names of African Americans.

Recognizing Charity Aams Earley during Women's History Month is an honor. The Negro Spiritual I have chosen for Commanding Officer Earley is "Steal Away." As someone who has served, I can relate to "stealing away to Jesus." I imagine that Earley had many opportunities to seek solace and connection, finding comfort and relief from the discrimination she faced as a Black woman and the first Black military woman to hold the position of commanding officer.

We currently live under an administration that prioritizes self-promotion. Therefore, we must encourage ourselves and one another to "Steal Away, steal away, steal away to Jesus" daily.

LOVE YE ONE ANOTHER

Speaker. Mr. Davis is widely known for the artistry he produces for many in the Dayton community. The Ebonia Gallery located in the historic Wright Dunbar Business District is where fine arts and crafts are produced by Bing, Audrey and son, Derrick Davis. The many highlights of Willis “Bing” Davis life and the many facets of his life were provided to all in

a printed program. Taken from Jeremiah 8:22, Davis provided an inspiring message highlighting “Problems of the World.”

Special Music followed with Elana Elmore singing “Round About the Mountain” who also provided a brief explanation of this music. Additional musical selection followed given by GodSpeak: Praise Team.

A Very inspirational part of this wonderful service was held as the entire

Congregation formed a huge “Bonding Circle of Peace” singing “Let There Be Peace on Earth” followed by The Blessing.

This wonderful occasion ended with Fellowship and Lunch in Ome-ga Hall.

Health

Red Cross Giving Day



American Red Cross

The Central & Southern Ohio Region of the American Red Cross is issuing a call to help ensure no one faces a disaster alone by donating on Red Cross Giving Day, March 26.

During the first 50 days of 2025, Red Cross volunteers responded to more big disasters in the U.S. than days — including many local volunteers heading to Kentucky after flooding devastated the eastern part of the state. And that’s on top of everyday crises like home fires that have upended lives here throughout the region. Meanwhile, more Red Cross blood donations have gone uncollected so far this year due to weather than throughout all of 2024.

“This year’s disasters have set a whirlwind pace, displacing thousands of people from their homes across the country and disrupting the nation’s blood supply for patients,” said Stephanie Byrd, Red Cross Central and Southern Ohio Region Chief Executive Officer. “As we enter spring disaster season, families are relying on us to come together as a community and support them when help can’t wait during

future crises. Join us today by making a financial donation or giving blood or platelets.”

Visit redcross.org today to make a financial donation or schedule an appointment to give blood or platelets in March:

MAKE A FINANCIAL DONATION: Donations will be part of Red Cross Giving Day, which aims to rally 30,000 individuals to help people affected by disasters big and small. A gift of any size makes a difference. For example, a donation of \$3 can provide a comfort kit with supplies like a toothbrush, comb and shampoo, and a gift of \$11 can provide a nutritious meal, snack and drink.

For those who are able, any donor who gives \$140 or more in March will receive a choice of a Red Cross monopack or a pair of socks as a thank-you for supporting our mission. Donors can make their gift and claim their thank-you by visiting redcross.org any time during March.

GIVE BLOOD OR PLATELETS: To help overcome the significant weather impact on blood donations, the Red Cross also urges the public to give lifesaving blood or platelets by making an appointment today at RedCrossBlood.org, on the

Red Cross Blood Donor App or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS. People of all blood types are needed now to help avoid further strain to the blood supply.

The Red Cross is expanding its health offerings by performing free A1C testing (commonly used to screen for pre-diabetes and diabetes) on successful blood, platelet and plasma donations in March. Additionally, all who come to give blood, platelets or plasma March 1-31 will receive a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. See RedCrossBlood.org/March for details on both offers.

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 CruzRojaAmericana.org, or follow us on social media.

Study Shows Racism a Major Issue Impacting Ohio’s Maternal and Infant Mortality Rate



By Susan Tebben

A new study shows Ohio’s struggle to improve infant and maternal mortality has roots in systemic issues like health care access, poverty and, above all, racism.

Using the stories of thousands of Ohioans and a specific focus in an area with some of the highest infant mortality rates, advocacy group Groundwork Ohio and Dayton-based non-profit health care company CareSource put together an analysis of the causes of infant and maternal mortality rates in the state, efforts that have been made to stem the problem, and future solutions.

“Reducing infant mortality requires more than data — it demands that we listen to the voices of pregnant women, understand their challenges and act with urgency to remove barriers to care,” Deirdra Yocum, interim president of CareSource’s Ohio market, said in a statement announcing the study.

A 2024 March of Dimes report card showed Ohio’s infant mortality rate at 7.1 deaths for every 10,000 births, ranking Ohio 43rd in the country. Maternal mortality was reported as 24.5 deaths per 100,000 births in the state, a statistic that has worsened in the last year, according to the report card.

“We stand at a pivotal moment where incremental progress is no longer enough,” according to the Groundwork / CareSource study. “Tackling infant mortality demands bold, unified action.”

Groundwork has been continually monitoring mortality rates as part of its early childhood advocacy work. A previous study by the group looked at the rates compared to 10 years ago, when Ohio was one

of the worst in the country for infant mortality.

That study showed progress in the last decade, but still found areas of “inadequate” progress.

The research the group did with CareSource acknowledged a “notable improvement” in overall infant mortality rates up to 2022, but it also found the disparities in outcomes between Black and white babies have grown.

“Black infants in Ohio continue to die at more than twice the rate of their white counterparts, a devastating disparity that underscores inequities in health care access and outcomes,” researchers wrote.

Dayton and Montgomery County were recognized as having some of the highest rates of mortality in the study. Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County data from 2023 showed an infant mortality rate of 9.8 deaths per 1,000 live births in that area, compared to the overall state rate of 7.1 per 1,000 births.

“For decades, Black women in Dayton have faced higher barriers to prenatal care, increasing the risk of adverse outcomes for both mothers and infants,” the study stated. “These barriers are compounded by implicit bias within the health care system, leading to delays in care and lower-quality treatment.”

Racism came up as a main issue for reducing maternal and infant mortality in the state, with ties to everything from health care to education and socio-economic status. Economic stability is one of the “most significant barriers” in vulnerable communities, according to the study, with transportation, housing and food insecurity creating “cascading issues.”

“By addressing root causes like racism, economic instability and fragmented systems, we can reimagine a future where every baby celebrates their first birthday and every family has the resources to thrive,” said Lynanne Gutierrez, president and CEO of Groundwork Ohio.

Included in the infant

and maternal mortality report was data from Groundwork’s Ohio Family Voices Project, in partnership with the Stanford Center on Early Childhood. The project surveyed current mothers and pregnant individuals on everything from pre-natal medical care to child care, and looked at factors that had a “negative influence” on the quality of care.

Top factors that had a negative influence for participants in the study were income, health insurance coverage, the participant’s own health and their race or ethnicity.

“Health disparities rooted in entrenched inequities within health care, governmental, education and economic systems demand bold reimagining and restructuring,” researchers stated. “Significant policy shifts, better resource allocation and inclusive decision-making are necessary to create meaningful, sustainable change.”

Creating that change involves listening to the lived experiences of those having children and the providers who help them, along with breaking down “political and bureaucratic barriers.”

The groups recommended a host of different changes for the future of the state, including expansions to comprehensive health care access, strengthening of assistance programs, expanding diversity in the health care workforce, improving child care accessibility and supporting trauma-informed systems of care.

“Both small-scale organizational politics and broader systemic challenges impede progress, creating unnecessary friction,” the study said. “Overcoming these obstacles requires trust, open communication and a shared commitment to achieving common goals that prioritize the well-being of mothers and babies.”

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Therapist, Doctor of
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Dr. Alicia Baker
Licensed Physical
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Physical Therapy,
Certified Doula

Lauren Braswell
APRN, Certified
Nurse Midwife, Co-
owner of Uzima
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DeShae Jackson
Certified Doula and
Owner of Here We
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Jericia Colvin
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Red Cross Sound the Alarm Campaign Starts in Dayton

Dayton area event is April 5

The Greater Miami Valley Ohio Chapter of the American Red Cross kicks off its 2025 Sound the Alarm campaign March 22.

Sound the Alarm is part of the larger Red Cross Home Fire Campaign which aims to reduce home fire deaths and injuries through providing disaster preparedness information, home fire safety instruction and the installation of FREE smoke alarms. Since the program’s inception in 2014, more than 36,000 families in Central & Southern Ohio have been made safer through the Red Cross Home Fire Campaign. Of the approximately 62,000 disasters the Red Cross responds to across the country every year, more than 90 percent are home fires.

Volunteers are still needed the event in the chapter being held in partnership with the Trotwood Fire Department. Residents in need of FREE state-of-the-art smoke alarms can

call the Red Cross hotline to make an installation appointment 844-207-4509.

Saturday, April 5 with Trotwood Fire Department, Station 71 5345 Olive Rd. Trotwood, OH 45426 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Volunteers who sign up to participate would be working with other Red Cross volunteers and members of local fire departments. Anyone interested in volunteering should visit our Regional Sound The Alarm Hub to register.

This work is made possible thanks to generous financial donations from our regional sponsors:

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About the American Red Cross: The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org/Dayton and join us on X and Facebook @ARCCsor.

Montgomery County Prevention Coalition Offers Support Group for Survivors of Suicide Loss

Losing a loved one to suicide is devastating. Finding resources for emotional support can be challenging for grieving families. The Montgomery County Prevention Coalition (MCPC) will soon start the next session in a series of support groups for survivors of suicide loss.

“As part of our work with the Montgomery County Coroner’s Office, we reach out to families following a death by suicide. It’s heartbreaking to hear their stories and to fully understand the grief they are experiencing,” said Montgomery County Coroner Kent Harshbarger. “We reached out to the MCPC to inquire about resources available to help these families process those feelings.”

That inquiry prompted conversations among members of the MCPC’s Suicide Prevention Committee.

“Committee members came up with the impactful idea to create regular

support groups that would help the families manage through the grief with others who are experiencing similar loss,” said Jordan Hodges, Program Coordinator at Montgomery County ADAMHS and MCPC Volunteer. Last year, the MCPC launched a series of support groups to help those survivors heal. The support group is a 10-week, evidence-based series designed to address survivors’ grief and determine the next steps in their healing process.

The MCPC will host the next series of the support group beginning Wednesday, March 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cassano’s Pizzeria Meeting Room (4429 OH-725. Bellbrook, OH 45305). “We learned that people who can share their stories of grief with others who are experiencing similar feelings find support in the healing process. We hope to spread the word about this group far and wide to reach anyone in Montgomery County who

is grieving after a suicide loss,” said Hodges.

Those interested in joining a support group can register at this link.

For more information or to schedule interviews, please contact Colleen Oakes at coakes@mc-adamhs.org or 937-443-0416.

What is the MCPC? – The MCPC is comprised of community leaders with a passion to prevent substance misuse and promote positive mental health. The mission of the coalition is to mobilize Montgomery County to prevent youth substance use and promote positive mental health through the implementation of evidence-based prevention strategies and community collaboration. The vision of the coalition is a community where every individual lives a substance-free life with optimal mental health.