

SPORTS	MENU TIPS
Cavs Re-sign Mitchell	Adding Sweet Potatoes For Healthy Treat
Page 4	See Page 5

Ohio receive F for accountability on school vouchers
Ohio received a grade of F in a recent report by a pro-public education group measuring each state's commitment to public education by looking at laws around funding and accountability in the privatization of schooling. In the 2026 Network for Public Education report, Ohio's overall ranking out of 50 states and the District of Columbia was 38th, or the 14th worst. That was an improvement compared to the 2024 report, when Ohio was 42nd, or 10th worst.

Teen to get learner's permit at 15
A bill approved this week by the Ohio Senate would allow young Ohioans to get a learner driving permit at age 15, rather the current 15 1/2, allowing up to one year for driver training, instead of six months.

Author Alley to be held at Loganberry
Author Alley will be held at Loganberry Books, 13015 Larchmere Blvd. on August 1-2, 2026. Dozens of local authors will set up shop in the iconic mural-adorned alleyway next to Loganberry, where they'll have the opportunity to connect with new readers and mingle with fellow writers.

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EASTSIDE NEWS

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"COVERING THE NEWS TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW"

READ ON - WRITE ON

NAACP Cleveland Branch Hosts Successful 2026 Teach Truth Day of Action

By MERYL JOHNSON

NAACP Cleveland Branch Hosts Successful 2026 Teach Truth Day of Action

In his book Teaching for Black Lives, Jesse Hagopian wrote: "From the North to the South, corporate curriculum lies to our students, conceals pain and injustice, masks racism, and demeans our Black students."

In 2020, right-wing extremists began pushing legislation that would punish teachers and school districts if they taught honestly about systemic racism, LGBTQIA+ identities, and other marginalized experiences.

As a grassroots response to this wave of state and district bans on teaching honest, complete U.S. history, in 2021 the Teach Truth Days of Action have made strides to center the voices of those who have been especially marginalized over the past ten years."

A highlight of the program was the keynote address by Daneé Pinckney, the 2025 Ohio Teacher of the Year, who inspired attendees through her remarks on education, leadership, and the importance of empowering young people through truthful knowledge.

welcomed community members, educators, students and parents to its third Teach Truth Day of Action event. It was held at the Forest Hills Church in Cleveland Heights.

The event brought together participants committed to advancing honest education and ensuring that history and diverse perspectives remain accessible in classrooms and communities. Attendees participated in engaging workshops, received free books, enjoyed fellowship over lunch, and connected with others dedicated to truthful teaching and civic engagement.

Kayla Blake, a former CMSD student and now a college graduate said, "Although we face the challenges of right-wing extremism, events like the Teach Truth Days of Action have made strides to center the voices of those who have been especially marginalized over the past ten years."

A highlight of the program was the keynote address by Daneé Pinckney, the 2025 Ohio Teacher of the Year, who inspired attendees through her remarks on education, leadership, and the importance of empowering young people through truthful knowledge.

NAACP Cleveland Branch
2026 Teach Truth Day of ACTION
Saturday, June 13, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Forest Hill Church, 3031 Monticello Blvd, Cleveland Hts
Keynote with Daneé Pinckney
2025 Ohio Teacher of the Year

Another FINDING JOY Teach-in!

PLUS Workshops! Free Books! Free Lunch!

Attend the student-led workshop on travel to Ghana!

Ohio Teacher of the Year 2025

Kayla Blake, a former CMSD student and now a college graduate said, "Although we face the challenges of right-wing extremism, events like the Teach Truth Days of Action have made strides to center the voices of those who have been especially marginalized over the past ten years."



Organizers encouraged participants to read banned books in Ohio:

- The Absolutely True Diary Of A Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie — Frequently challenged nationwide for language and mature themes; multiple Ohio districts have reviewed or restricted access at various points.
- The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison — Often contested for sexual content and difficult themes; some districts in Ohio have placed this title in restricted sections or required parental opt-in for access.
- The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood — Cited in several districts for its mature content; restrictions have included temporary removals or placement behind staff approval.
- Gender Queer by Maia Kobabe — Acknowledged nationwide for LGBTQ+ themes; Ohio districts have evaluated or restricted access in alignment with local policies.
- George by Alex Gino — A frequently challenged title in many states for its LGBTQ+ content; some Ohio districts have reviewed or restricted access in response to challenges.
- A Court of Thorns and Roses and other popular adult fantasies — Occasional challenges in community or school libraries citing sexual content; actions have included re-categorization or restricted access in certain districts.



On June 13, 2026, the NAACP Cleveland Branch Education Committee, under the leadership of educator Meryl Johnson, far left, welcomed community members, educators, students and parents to its third Teach Truth Day of Action event. It was held at the Forest Hills Church in Cleveland Heights.



"Dissent is Patriotic" was one of the signs encouraging attendees to know their rights. The ACLU fights for our right to free speech, freedom of religion, freedom to assemble, and freedom of the press. The organization is on the forefront of civil rights issues.



Participants promoted reading banned books. For example, Australian parents are being encouraged to ditch some popular classic children's books, including Possum Magic, Hairy Maclary and The Very Hungry Caterpillar, and instead choose more 'diverse' books to read to their little ones.

MAGA seeks shelter at Black Museum

By C,M, APPLING

When I was a child growing up in the early-to-mid 1970s, my parents made sure to have me read books on African-American history so that I knew about our culture as a people in the United States. And, as I grew from an adolescent into an adult, my interest in black history continued to mature as well since I discovered that, just like other, ethnic/racial groups, our African-American heritage was just as important as any other culture. America itself was literally built upon the backs of our people. And, while the country exploited our free labor while simultaneously restricting our rights as equal citizens, that self-knowledge of strife and struggle makes our historical journey not only worthy but proudly noble.

So, when the National Museum of African-American History and Culture opened its doors to the touring public in 2016, a political transition and seismic shift (a.k.a, backlash) was looming on the horizon as the first, African-American president, Barack Obama, was leaving office after two terms (2008 to 2016) and president Donald Trump was entering his first administration. My wife's church group had planned a trip to Washington, DC, to celebrate the opening of the new museum. And, when I learned of the trip myself, I, too, boarded the crowded

bus to visit the important, cultural landmark.

At the museum, there were four, individual floors. Beginning with the bottom floor, our story started with memorabilia, artifacts and photographs dealing with the American slave trade.

Then, in chronological sequence, continued in historical context, advancing upward through the second and third floors, until you reach the top, fourth floor, that ends with present-day, historical presentation of the accomplishments and contributions we have made over decades.

Recently, this past Fourth of July, in his second term as president, Donald Trump invited his loyal, MAGA followers and faithful supporters to join him in DC to acknowledge his 'successful' (a joke, right?) leadership for the nation's 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. However, unlike on January 6th in 2009 when Trump issued a conservative, clarion call to right-wing fanatics who promptly laid siege to the Capital building in an obvious, insurrection attempt to overthrow the election swearing-in of President Joe Biden. But this time, Trump's MAGA minions abandoned him with only a small

percentage of his previous loyalists attending his patriotic invitation.

This fact alone might have been satisfying enough for African-Americans as we have suffered greatly at the open hostility, hate and disrespect by both Trump and his people. With many Republicans and conservatives now turning on him, his popularity as national leader continues to plummet to untold depths. However, with this 'satisfaction' at the low, visitor turnout, comes a related incident of glaring irony that is yet another bitter pill to swallow as black people and a communal slap in the face.

When the weather turned foul at the Fourth of July gathering, Trump's dwindling followers were swiftly escorted to several, 'safe sites' to protect them from the storm's fury.

Unfortunately, one of these protection areas was inside the National Museum of African-American History and Culture.

That's right. The same people who were waving Confederate flags and signing 'God Bless America' at our nation's capital were moved inside the building dedicated to the legacy of the other people their ancestors' most likely enslaved or, at the very least, oppressed and/or disenfranchised.

When I think about this, I must shake my head negatively as a sad smile crosses my face.

Then, a sense of righteous indignation infuriates my heart.

How dare they seek shelter there! They had no right to be there! Their leader has been trying to erase all evidence of our culture and history across the country during both of his administrations. They want to literally whitewash documented history to make everyone forget about slavery and our civil rights struggles to make themselves feel less guilty about what their ancestors perpetrated. Simultaneously, they are trying to take away our voting rights, are gerrymandering housing districts, are using I.C.E. to stop non-white immigration, and cutting D.E.I.(diversity, equity and inclusion) to make hiring practices untransparent and ultimately, more racist.

Juxtaposing and reversing this situation, it would seem the height of hilarity. To see a bunch of all-black, Obama supporters seeking shelter at a building in the South dedicated to the Ku Klux Klan.

But, the reality of what happened this Fourth of July only proves the racial double-standard and hypocrisy that, in this country, a lot of white people do not appreciate African-Americans---until they desperately need us for something.

Gasoline prices lower for holiday

As millions of drivers filled up and hit the road for the long Independence Day weekend, gas prices were the lowest they've been in several weeks. The national average is down 40 cents from a month ago at \$3.79 for a gallon of regular. While that number is higher than last year, it's a relief from this past spring, when the national average peaked at \$4.56 on May 21. Crude oil prices have fallen to their lowest levels in months, dropping to the \$65 per barrel range.

According to new data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), gasoline demand increased

last week from 8.77 million barrels per day to 9.13 million. Total domestic gasoline supply decreased from 216.3 million barrels to 214 million. Gasoline production increased last week, averaging 10 million barrels per day.

At the close of Wednesday's formal trading session, West Texas Intermediate fell 92 cents to settle at \$68.58 a barrel. The EIA reports that crude oil inventories decreased by 3.8 million barrels from the previous week. At 408.4 million barrels, U.S. crude oil inventories are about 7% below the five-year average for this time of year.

Northeast Ohio Average for Self-Service Gasoline		
	Regular	
This Week	(07-10-26)	\$3.61
Last Week	(07-03-26)	\$4.61
Last Year	(07-11-26)	\$3.52
National	(07-10-26)	\$4.49

VANTAGE POINT

Win 4 tickets to From the Farm to the Fork

Enter for your chance to win four tickets to From the Farm to the Fork, an intimate multi-course dinner at The Chef's Garden in Huron, Ohio.

This special evening celebrates the height of the summer harvest with a collaborative meal from some of the region's most celebrated chefs, including Brandon Chrostowski, Justin Pioche, Doug Katz, Mona Sang, Michel Nischan, and Jamie Simpson.

It is a one-of-a-kind night built around extraordinary produce, remarkable chefs, and the connection between farmer, chef, and table.

The Prize
Four Tickets to From the Farm to the Fork

A multi-course collaborative dinner

Seasonal ingredients at the height of summer

An exceptional lineup of chefs

A shared table experience at The Chef's Garden in Huron

Raffle Details
\$50 per ticket
Only 100 tickets will be sold

Drawing takes place Wednesday, July 8

Winner will be contacted directly

Also! La Bastille Is Less Than Two Weeks Away
There is still time to join us for one of EDWINS' biggest summer celebrations. Food, music, cocktails, and an unforgettable night in support of EDWINS.

EDWINS celebrates Bastille Day with La Bastille, a multi-day culinary event supporting second chances through hospitality.

EDWINS hosts an annual Bastille Day celebra-

tion called La Bastille, honoring the French national holiday on July 16 while supporting the EDWINS Foundation, which trains and empowers formerly incarcerated adults through culinary arts and hospitality education

The event combines fine dining, live music, auctions, and community engagement, with proceeds benefiting EDWINS' mission of providing education, mentorship, and career opportunities

La Bastille spans three distinct experiences over consecutive days:

Thursday, July 16: An intimate dinner at Grafton Correctional Institution, featuring nationally recognized chefs such as JJ Johnson, Andrew Zimmern, and Jeff Henderson. This dinner reflects the roots of

EDWINS and emphasizes transformation and second chances

Friday, July 17: A farm-driven dinner at The Chef's Garden, celebrating seasonal produce and chef-driven cuisine with chefs like Doug Katz, Mona Sang, and Michel Nischan. This event highlights culinary innovation and the connection to local ingredients

Saturday, July 18: The main celebration at EDWINS Second Chance Life Skills Center, featuring French Mediterranean cuisine, an open bar, live and silent auctions, raffles, and entertainment. An Après la Fête after-party runs from 10 PM to midnight with music, small bites, craft cocktails, and casino games.

YOUR HEALTH

Screen for autism diagnosis early

(NAPSI) Autism affects an estimated one in every 59 children. Though early intervention can make a lifetime of difference, far too many children are not diagnosed early enough.

Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication.

There is not just one kind of autism but rather many subtypes, and each person with autism can have unique strengths and challenges. A combination of genetic and environmental factors can influence the development of autism.

Though ASD can be reliably diagnosed as early as age 2, the average age of diagnosis in the United States is between 4 and 5.

Furthermore, the reported prevalence among white children is 7 percent higher than for African American children and 22 percent higher than for Hispanic children—suggesting missed or delayed diagnoses in those groups.

For young children on the spectrum, early intervention is crucial; it can translate to a lifetime of impact by supporting healthy development, improving communication, decreasing challenging behaviors and leading to positive outcomes later in life.

Learn the Signs: Parents can learn to recognize the early signs of autism. Not all children with autism show all signs of autism. That's why all children should be screened for autism. A diagnosis is the first step toward supporting your children to help them fulfill their potential. Here are some possible signs of autism:

No big smiles or eye contact at 6 months
No babbling, back and forth gestures such as pointing, and little response to their name at 12 months

Very few words at 16 months

No two-word phrases at 24 months

Restricted interests

Repetitive behaviors

Unusual and intense reactions to sounds, smells, tastes, textures, lights or colors

Loss of speech or social interaction at any age.

Take Action: If your child displays any of these signs, ask your pediatrician or family doctor for an evaluation right away.

While every child develops differently, early screening improves outcomes. Studies show, for example, that early intensive behavioral intervention improves learning, communication and social skills in young children with autism spectrum disorders.

The nonprofit Autism Speaks is dedicated to empowering parents to help children with autism live their best possible lives, while working to in-

crease understanding and acceptance for the 70 million people worldwide with autism.

"We hope to give families the tools they need to identify early signs, feel empowered to get their children screened and seek support if they need it," said Autism Speaks President and CEO Angela Geiger. "Autism Speaks is committed to closing the diagnosis gap so all children receive support as early as needed."

If you think your child may be on the autism spectrum or if a child you know is on the autism spectrum, you can get personalized support and answers to questions about autism from the organization's Autism Response Team in English at (888) AUTISM2 and en Español at (888) 772-9050 or by e-mail at familyservices@autismspeaks.org.

At ScreenforAutism.org and DeteccionDeAutismo.org, families can access resources to learn the signs of autism, use an autism screening tool, and find nearby service providers and supports for before, during and after an autism diagnosis.

Weekly Wealth For Your Health

Making better financial choices

By NATHANIEL SILLIN

and spending habits.

There is an opportunity to help your children form strong spending and saving habits at an early age, and doing so can have a concrete impact on their futures. For example, recent research suggests that children with savings – even as little as \$1 to \$499 – are four times more likely to go to college than children with no savings at all. There are many reasons why it's beneficial for children to learn how to manage money from a young age, and getting started sooner rather than later can drastically shape your children's financial futures for the better.

Here are five ways you can encourage your children to develop good saving

Find a balanced allowance. One reliable rule of thumb for weekly allowance is to give your children \$1 for each year of their age. For example, if your child is eight years old, you would give her or him an allowance of \$8 a week. Of course, one size does not fit all, and you can adjust this allowance to fit your family rules and values.

Reward them for saving. Back-to-school shopping presents a great opportunity to teach your children how to differentiate wants from needs. Set a firm school shopping budget, and make a list with your children of what they need for school.

Go over their list to see which items are really necessary versus which items are wants. Once you've deter-

mined what they need, help them calculate how much is left in the budget to spend on wants. Consider rewarding your children by giving them the surplus money to spend as they choose – but only if they've covered all of their necessary supplies first. If you have a teenager who's hoping to drive a new car soon, consider matching his or her savings.

Take them to the bank. Middle school is a good time to replace that savings jar with a savings account, and if your children have been saving cash for years, it can be very rewarding to take that money to the bank or credit union and open their first account with it.

This is a great way to introduce them to the concept of interest, and how savings accumulate over time when left unspent. Visit the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's website for more information on savings accounts for children.

Talk to your children about essential expenses. As your children enter high school, you may

want to consider delving into more complex financial concepts with them. If your teen has a paid job, review their paycheck with them and explain where the money goes and why – for example, if money is withheld for tax purposes. Or talk to them about the larger expenses on the horizon, whether it's a car or college tuition, and discuss all the financial pros and cons of these investments.

Help them earn their own money. Earning income through hard work is one of the best ways to learn the true value of money. Encourage your children to earn money, whether it's through setting up their own lemonade stand, doing chores around the house or neighborhood, or, if they're teens, getting a part-time or summer job. This helps your children supplement their allowance and teaches them the real-life value of working.

Nathaniel Sillin directs Visa's financial education programs. To follow Practical Money Skills on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney

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Islam In The Community

Bodies lie unclaimed and rats run rampant as months on, Gaza's ceasefire remains unfulfilled

Fourteen-year-old Karam dribbles a blue, yellow and white football down a sandy path in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza.

"My dream was to become a footballer," said Karam, who is displaced with his two brothers and sister. "I used to play with my friends in the street."

"Life before the war was beautiful. But now, there is no life," he told CNN.

Around the teenager, Gaza's deep blue, sea-tipped horizon has turned into a panorama of burned

farmland, charred orchards and mountains of rubble.

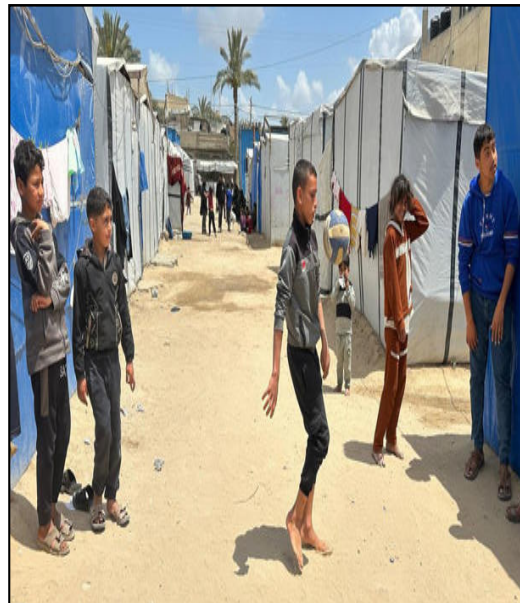
As the US and Iran try to turn their truce into long-term peace, CNN has spoken to residents of the Strip who say they are living in the ashes of what they see as another impotent US-led deal. Israel has barred foreign journalists from independently reporting in Gaza since the start of the war.

Last fall, Israel and Hamas signed a two-phase agreement after two years of bombing and siege in Gaza following the October 7,

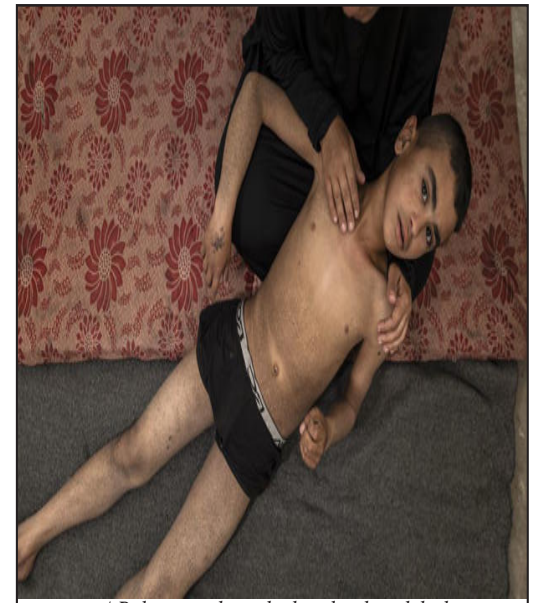
2023 attacks in Israel.

Both parties have accused each other of violating the terms - which envision the eventual withdrawal of Israeli soldiers, the full disarmament of Hamas, the deployment of an international force and a new Palestinian governing body.

More than eight months on, there is little sign of progress. Instead, Gazans face a "dangerous status quo," Nikolay Mladenov, a former UN official tasked with implementing the deal, warned in May. On Thurs-



Karam, a Palestinian teenager (center), is displaced in a central Gaza tent camp. The cost to rebuild Gaza after Israel's campaign would be \$71.4 billion, according to the UN. - Mohammed Al-Khatib



A Palestinian boy who has developed dark spots on various parts of his bodies due to poor hygiene conditions in shelters. - Mahmoud Abu Hamda/Anadolu/Getty Images

A Look At My World

Getting old is not as bad as I thought

By Dr. JAMES L. SNYDER

I was celebrating and eating an Apple Fritter. I'm not sure what I was celebrating at the time, but it doesn't matter as long as I'm celebrating with an Apple Fritter. Life has its way of opening up doors of celebration.

While I was in this celebratory mood, I happened to remember that I turn 75 years old this month.

Just the thought of that surprised me and made me pause while eating my Apple Fritter. I did not think I was that old, but reflecting on my journey filled me with gratitude and appreciation for how far I've come.

But 75? That has to be old. I never thought I would get old.

As a teenager, I often made fun of my grandparents because they were so old. Both my grandfathers experienced significant hair loss, while my grandmother's hair was turning gray. I can't tell you how many times I laughed at them, of course, it was always behind their back. I always wanted to keep in good standing with my grandparents.

As a young person, I always thought getting old was a terrible experience, and I was going to do everything in my power to avoid it.

As I watched my grandparents and saw all the difficulties they experienced with old age, I promised myself I wasn't going to walk down that same pathway. I was going to enjoy life to the very end. Of course, I had no idea what the end was.

I must say that I have enjoyed my life every step of the way. My birthday was just something I celebrated once a year and had nothing to do with my getting older. Occasionally, I forget what birthday I was celebrating.

Often, when scammers call and want to help with my medical insurance, they ask me how old I am. Usually, I answer, "I'm not quite sure how old I am because my age changes every year and I just can't keep up."

Then I hear the magical "click," and they are gone. Hallelujah!

However, as I look ahead to my 75th birthday, I must admit that getting old hasn't been nearly as bad as I had thought. When I was in my 20s, I assumed that when I got to my 70s, I would be in some nursing home and not even know where I am or who I am.

As I continued munching on my Apple Fritter, I just thought about my life, and here I am, soon to be 75, and I have everything I want.

Yes, there are times when I can't walk as strongly as I used to. Sometimes my hip gives away a little bit. The only travel I can afford these days is to my doctor's offices. I did not know how many doctors I was supporting.

I've seen so many doctors in the last several years that I probably qualify for some doctoral degree.

When I see how some older people struggle to walk or talk, I feel thankful for my health and grateful for the family that supports me every day.

I remember a month or so ago, I was sitting in the doctor's waiting room when I noticed people walking past me. At the time, most of them were older people, and some were walking very slowly with canes. I noticed that most people, if they weren't older than me, at least looked and acted older than me.

I let out a sigh of relief and said to myself how lucky I was not to be "that old."

As I finished my Apple Fritter, I continued thinking about my age and the benefits I have of being as old as I am.

First, I'm retired, and I don't have to go to work every day. For about 50 years, I pastored churches, which meant I was at church every day of the week. Now I'm retired, and I don't have to go to any office. My office is at home.

Also, I have Social Security and a retirement fund, so I don't have to worry too much about a weekly salary. I'm not rich, but I have enough to live on for the rest of my life as long as I live frugally.

But there is another benefit to getting old that I hadn't thought about. That benefit boils down to grandchildren and even great-grandchildren. I have nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren at my disposal. I mean, what can be better than that?

All I have to do is tell them Grandma has fresh cookies, and they come right over.

I haven't celebrated my 75th birthday yet, but in a few weeks, I will, and I'm going to celebrate as I've never celebrated any birthday in my life. I just hope I remember it. I am happy to be as old as I am, and I'm not sure how much older I'll get, but I'm always going to walk down that happy path.

As I was thinking about my upcoming birthday, I remembered a very interesting verse in the Bible.

"The glory of young men is their strength; and the beauty of old men is the grey head" (Proverbs 20:29).

The older I get, the more wisdom I will have. There is no time in life where wisdom is more appropriate than old age. I'm going to examine my grey hair and see how much wisdom I have.

He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 1-866-552-2543.

day the Board of Peace created to advance the ceasefire plan in Gaza touted two days of "highly productive" meetings in Cyprus, but the path forward remains unclear.

Officials have not yet set a timeline to bring in a Palestinian technocratic committee to take governance of the enclave from Hamas, and the proposed international force to support Gaza's security infrastructure is yet to materialize.

Israel has further entrenched its occupation of Gaza beyond the "yellow line" and continued to target Hamas members. Last month, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he ordered the military to seize control of 70% of the enclave and suggested it could take even more.

Meanwhile, Hamas has regrouped, refused to give up its weapons and extended its control in the enclave. Then on Monday, the group announced it would dissolve its government in Gaza, a move analysts say puts pressure on Israel to fulfill its requirements as stated by the deal.

The death toll is steadily mounting. At least 1,059 people have been killed and 3,429 injured in Gaza by Israeli attacks since the ceasefire deal was signed on October 11, the Palestinian Ministry of Health said on June 21.

One child has been killed in Gaza every day on average since October, according to a CNN tally of health ministry figures. In June an independent UN commission found that Israel was continuing to commit genocide against Palestinians by deliberately targeting children in the Gaza, an accusation Israel rejected as "a political blood libel disguised as a UN document."

Those living in Gaza say diplomats' references to "peace" do not reflect their reality - where the brutality of war has endured. "You can be bombed anytime in any place," said Sally Saleh, an aid worker displaced in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza. "There is no actual ceasefire here."

More than 1.9 million people - nearly all of Gaza's population - have been displaced, according to the UN, many multiple times. That number has remained stubbornly static, aggravating inhumane consequences of long-term homelessness.

Months into the truce, many people are staying in unventilated, improvised tents where rashes and other ectoparasitic infections - when parasites burrow into the skin - have increasingly been spreading, the UN warned at the end of May.

In its most recent report, the UN said such infections had hit more than 80% of all displacement areas.

Rats, cockroaches and weasels run amok, tearing through limp tent sheets and biting children and newborn babies in their sleep. In some cases, they are "directly attacking people," said Saleh, the head of emergency in Gaza for the UK-based NGO Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP). Elderly people and those with disabilities are less able to avoid rodents, especially at night.

"We have spoken to parents whose children have been bitten by rats, who are terrified that it will happen again," Saleh said.

Elsewhere, residents have resorted to digging cesspits as latrine stocks run severely low, leading to soil and water contamination, according to Hosni Nadeem Mohanna, a water municipality spokesperson in Gaza City.

Rats are burrowing into aid parcels, forcing people to throw away scarce rice or flour supplies. Some Palestinians even try to hang food containers on the ceiling of their tents to keep them out of reach.

The Israeli government last month said it was launching a "large-scale pest control campaign" with the UN at a number of sites.

More broadly, the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), the Israeli agency tasked with facilitating aid distribution in Gaza, said it has coordinated the entry of approximately 600 trucks daily since last October - the minimum required under the deal. "The humanitarian situation in Gaza is stable, supported by a continuous and consistent flow of aid," COGAT posted on X earlier in June.

But human rights agencies say it is not enough, citing Israeli restrictions on the entry of power generators and spare parts and the killing of relief workers entrusted with distributing aid.

Those restrictions are forcing some agencies to cut back their operations, including water deliveries, "putting further strain on the population," added Saleh.

Israel's widening "yellow line"

The Israeli military's recent expansion of the "yellow line" has been "driving fresh waves of displacement," warned Saleh. Overhead, strikes and gunfire "across densely populated areas" have "intensified," she said.

The Israeli military's ongoing expansion of seized territory in Gaza, and the movement of the

so-called "yellow line," has been driving new displacement, warned Saleh. Overhead, strikes and gunfire on densely populated areas have "intensified," she said.

Even when families do find a fresh patch of land, mounds of solid waste and sewage pools blight the environment, after Israel's campaign rendered desalination plants, wastewater treatment and sewage management systems inoperable or inaccessible. That, combined with reams of uncleared rubble, create a hotbed for mosquitoes and rodents, according to Mohanna, the water municipality spokesperson.

In Gaza City alone, around 25 million tons of debris have accumulated, Mohanna said. Severe limits on the entry of waste compactors and rubble removal machinery curb authorities' ability to efficiently collect waste, he told CNN. Some relief workers are using donkeys and bulldozers to remove solid waste, according to Louise Wateridge, a

communications officer for the UN's children's agency in the Middle East and North Africa.

CNN has reached out to COGAT for comment.

"I wash my shoes every day because of the sewage," said Saleh. "Gaza now is just a place where no creation can live."

The most potent reminder of the bloodshed lies in the thousands of people buried under debris. Palestinian officials have recovered 784 bodies since the truce last October, the health ministry in Gaza said. However, at least 7,500 remain missing, buried under the rubble, the Palestinian health ministry told CNN on June 28.

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Cavs re-sign Donovan Mitchell

BY KARL BRYANT

The Cavs re-signed star Donovan Mitchell to a four-year contract extension. It's speculated this was a signal to Hometown Hero LeBron James - a Free Agent - that they are committed to winning right now in The Land. It's definitely a positive move in the LBJ Sweepstakes.

Tuesday, July 7, 2026 to Friday, July 10, 2026

EAST SIDE DAILY NEWS

SPORTS

War on the Shore XXIII Pro-AM boxing show will be held on July 11 at 4:00 p.m. at the Lasalle Theater, 823 E. 185th Street. For information, contact Bryan Gedeon at 216-956-1362.

Pickleball Classic to be held

ClevelandPickleball.com Classic 2026 - Registration is now OPEN! Saturday, August 8, at 38575 Lakeshore Blvd, Osborne Park, Willoughby. \$55/player and includes one event Mens / Womens / Mixed This is the 5th annual Cleveland-Pickleball.com CLASSIC tournament! Bringing together the best of Northeast Ohio Pickleballers! <https://app.pickleballden.com/external-tournament/1307841>

Despite Treading Water, Guardians Send Three to ASG

BY KARL BRYANT

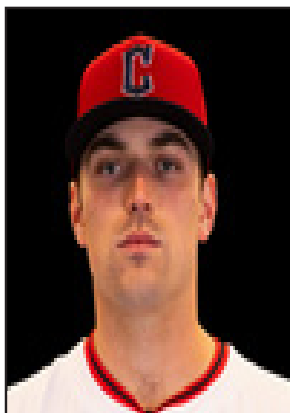
The Guardians are treading water, as they're just 4-6 over their last 10 games. Yet, thanks to the underperforming AL Central, they're in a virtual tie for 1st Place with the White Sox. So as an upper echelon AL team, they got three players named to the All-Star Game.

Two of them are Rookies. One is standout starting pitcher Parker Messick (7-5, 2.80 ERA, 109 Ks). He got called up the last month of 2025, but his seven appearances, where he



Messick

was 3-1, do not disqualify him from being considered a Rookie this season. The other is 2B Travis Bazzana (.245, 7HR, 27 RBI), who was the overall No. 1 Pick in the 2024 MLB Draft. It was pointed out that the



Smith

last CLE Rookie position player to be named to the ASG was Sandy Alomar, Jr. in 1990. He's now the Guardians 1B Coach.

The third member is Cade Smith, (2-1, 26

Saves, 2.76 ERA, 61 Ks in 42.1 innings), who eminently has assumed the Closer role from the suspended Emmanuel Clase. Smith leads MLB with those 27 Saves.

Getting back to the Guardians 2026 season performance, they are 1 of only 5 AL teams playing above .500. The NL has 11 teams above .500. Parity is the great equalizer in the Junior Circuit.

On their last Home-stand, after lodging two exciting back-to-back "walk off" wins vs. Chicago at Progressive Field,

the Guardians lost the final two of the four-game set to remain exactly where they were before the series began.

After a day off, they began a road trip with a 3-1 loss to Minnesota and followed that with a 6-5 loss.

Fortunately, CLE's long ball bats came alive as they took the series finale, 5-2. Gabriel Arias and Chase DeLauter went deep before Patrick Bailey welcomed Twins Rookie Woosuk Go to the Big Leagues with a 9th Inning moon shot. Gavin

Williams (10-4) struck out 11 in 7.0 innings. Smith earned his 27th Save.

As the ChiSox were swept by the BoSox, 8-1, CLE actually picked up a game. And so we have a virtual tie for 1st.

The Guardians leave the "Land of 10,000 Lakes," and head South in the extreme opposite direction of the US to play three in "Little Havana" in Miami, where the Old Orange Bowl used to sit.

Then, it's the All Star Break.

Abdullah Mason stops Albert Bell to defend Lightweight Crown

Albert Bell handed Abdullah Mason the toughest test of his career in their collision of Ohio natives and former sparring partners, but Mason ultimately closed the show for a successful hometown title defense.

After scoring two knockdowns in the opening 40 seconds of Round 12, Mason (21-0, 18 KOs) controversially stopped Bell (28-1, 9 KOs) to retain his WBO lightweight title for the first time Saturday night at the Wolstein Center in Cleveland. With his victory, Mason, 22, remains the youngest male world champion in boxing.

Bruce "Shu Shu" Carrington the ring and continuing to let his hands go. Palacios sought to box with Carrington, mixing aggression with well-placed shots to land short left hands and right hooks around Carrington's guard.

Ultimately, Carrington's quicker reflexes and hand speed allowed him to outland Palacios in nearly every exchange, though the Mexican southpaw had his moments, including a body shot in the 11th round that hurt Carrington.

Nevertheless, the

champion maintained his composure, relying on his footwork and counter-punching to regain control in the final round.

Carrington won a unanimous decision.

Carrington said, "These are the fights that I have been wanting. There were some tough moments, including the body shot. But it's part of the game."

"Body shots are the worst, but I had to fight on. I have that warrior mentality."

"I want to unify. I want to fight the best of the division. And that's whoever the champions are."

Tiger Dominates in Homecoming Cleveland native and welterweight contender DeLante Tiger Johnson (18-0, 8 KOs) used a disciplined jab to control Christopher Guerrero (16-1, 9 KOs) en route to a 10-round unanimous decision.

Johnson established his jab from the opening bell, mixing in right hands and counter hooks. Guerrero had difficulty closing the distance, but was able to land right hands in the fifth.

The U.S. Olympian regained control by



Abdullah Mason faced Albert Bell in Cleveland. Mason closed the show for a successful hometown title.

the following round, exchanging at close range to land combinations before cruising down the stretch.

"Thank you to Cleveland for coming out," said Tiger. "I hadn't fought here in 10 years. It was a very hard camp. It means everything to fight here. A lot of people don't know where I come from. I had to overcome a lot of adversity."

"Tell Devin Haney to come see me."

Lightweight:

Unbeaten standout Scooter Davis (12-0, 10 KOs) earned a workmanlike eight-round unanimous decision against Carlos Ramos (18-5-1, 10 KOs).

Super Featherweight: Ibrahim Mason (3-0, 3 KOs) scored a second-round TKO against Erik Hanley (1-3, 1 KO). Time of stoppage: 1:59.

Lightweight: Abdurrahman Mason (3-0, 2 KOs) defeated Alvaro Huizar Cabral (1-1) via four-round unanimous decision.



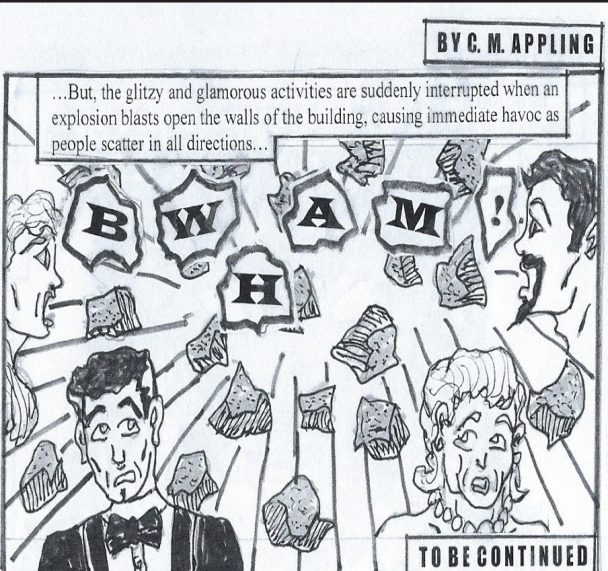
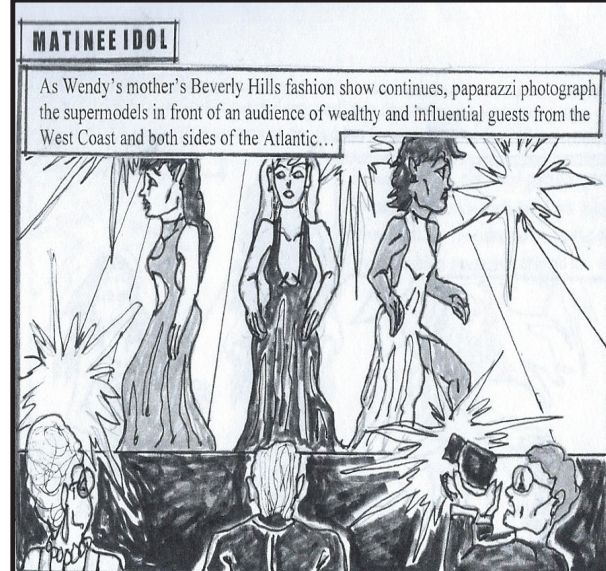
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Super Featherweight: Ibrahim Mason (3-0, 3 KOs) scored a second-round TKO against Erik Hanley (1-3, 1 KO). Time of stoppage: 1:59.



DeLante 'Tiger' Johnson defeated Christopher Guerrero. Johnson won by unanimous decision. "Thank you to Cleveland for coming out," said Tiger.



On The Town

MOVIES * MUSIC * THEATER * DANCE * RESTAURANTS * NIGHT LIFE

'The Lion King' to come to the State Theater for a summer extravaganza

'The Lion King' is on stage at the State Theater from July 8 to August 13.

Giraffes strut. Birds swoop. Gazelles leap. The entire Serengeti comes to life as never before. And as the music soars, Pride Rock slowly emerges from the mist. This is Disney's THE LION KING, making its triumphant return to Playhouse Square!

More than 100 million people around the world have experienced the awe-



inspiring visual artistry, the unforgettable music, and the uniquely theatrical storytelling of this Broadway spectacular – one of the most breathtaking and beloved productions ever to grace the stage. Winner of six

Tony Awards®, including Best Musical, THE LION KING brings together one of the most imaginative creative teams on Broadway.

Tony Award®-winning director Julie Taymor brings to life a story filled with hope and adventure set against an amazing backdrop of stunning visuals.

THE LION KING also features the extraordinary work of Tony Award®-winning choreographer Garth Fagan and some of Broadway's most recognizable music, crafted by Tony Award®-winning artists Elton John and Tim Rice.

There is simply nothing else like THE LION KING.

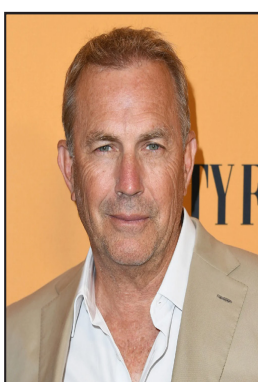
'The Bodyguard: The musical' to come to E.J. Thomas Hall in Akron

THE BODYGUARD will be performed on October 27 and 28 at Akron's E.J. Thomas Hall as part of their Broadway In Akron series.

The international award-winning smash hit musical "The Body =guard" is back!



Houston



Costner

Based on the

1992 film starring Whitney Houston and Kevin Costner, THE BODYGUARD is a thrilling, romantic musical that combines high-stakes suspense with unforgettable music. Former Secret Service agent turned bodyguard, Frank Farmer, is hired to protect superstar Rachel Marron from an

unknown stalker. Both expect to be in charge of their situation - what they don't expect is to fall in love.

A "BRILLIANT" (The Times), breathtakingly romantic thriller, THE BODYGUARD features a whole host of unforgettable classics including "Queen of the Night," "So Emotional," "I Will Always Love You," "I Wanna Dance with Somebody," "Saving All My Love," and "One Moment in Time", alongside thrilling plot twists and emotional drama.

THE BODYGUARD is an electrifying combination of romance, suspense and chart-topping music that will captivate audiences from start to finish.

Houston's first two albums, along with The Bodyguard soundtrack, rank among the best-selling albums of all time and made her the first black artist to score three RIAA diamond-certified albums. "I Wanna Dance with Somebody (Who Loves Me)" and "I Will Always Love You" are among the best-selling singles ever; the latter remains the best-selling single by a woman and has been certified diamond by the RIAA. Houston scored eleven number-one singles on the Billboard Hot 100 and remains the only artist to have seven consecutive singles top the chart. She has been inducted into multiple halls and walks of fame, including the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame, and the Grammy Hall of Fame (twice). Guinness World Records named

Houston the highest-earning posthumous female celebrity.

Her assets amounted to \$250 million, earned over a 25-year career. Her life and career have been the subject of multiple documentaries and television specials.

Tickets are on sale now.

MENU TIPS

Adding sweet potatoes for healthy treat

Sweet potatoes are trending and are all the rage—as they should be! One medium California sweet potato has only 105 calories and 0g of fat, yet this versatile veggie contains more than 80 nutrients including protein, manganese, carotene, potassium, calcium, vitamin C and more than an entire day's worth of vitamin A. Plus, California sweet potatoes are rich with antioxidants and loaded with dietary fiber—nearly twice as much as a white potato.

Make a beta-carotene-rich soup by adding uniformly chopped California sweet potatoes, butternut squash, and carrots to a homemade or store-bought chicken stock. Throw in a can of white beans, a handful or two of kale and garnish with chopped flat-leaf parsley. Serve with freshly grated Parmesan.

What's better than home fries for breakfast? California sweet potato home fries! Switch out white potatoes for California sweet potatoes, throw in some chopped onions, bell pepper and a sprinkle of cayenne or paprika and you've got sweet potatoes O'Brien to go with your bacon and eggs.

Mashed California sweet potatoes make a delicious accompaniment to a store-bought or homemade roasted chicken. Steam the sweet potatoes until tender, mash, and stir in warmed butter and milk. For garlic mashed, simply throw a few cloves of garlic into the steamer and mash them with the sweet potatoes.

Brunch is always a great way to entertain family and friends. Whether it's Easter, Mother's Day or a regular old Sunday, why not wow your guests with a delicious spread? Coffee, mimosas, Danish, croissants, fruit salad and of course something with eggs.

This breakfast strata will more than satisfy: California Breakfast Strata with Sweet Potatoes

toes, Chiles and Goat Cheese
Serves 10 to 12
Ingredients:
1 tablespoon cooking oil
1 pound orange-fleshed sweet potatoes, cut into ¼-inch dice (about 3½ cups)
12 ounces loose breakfast sausage or breakfast sausage patties
One 7-ounce can chopped green chiles
Nonstick cooking spray

10 ounces crusty Italian or French bread, with crusts cut or torn into ¾-inch pieces (about 10 cups)

4 ounces chèvre (spreadable goat cheese), crumbled (about 1 cup)
3 tablespoons chopped fresh sage
8 large eggs
2 cups milk
¼ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon pepper
Instructions:
In a large skillet over medium heat, warm the oil. Add the sweet potatoes and cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes. Add the sausage and cook, breaking it up and stirring occasionally, until the sweet potatoes are lightly browned and tender and the sausage is cooked through, about 8 minutes. Stir in the chiles and set the skillet aside.

Coat a 2½- to 3-quart casserole dish with cooking spray. Arrange ½ of the bread in the dish. Top with ½ of the sweet potato mixture, ½ of the cheese and ½ of the sage. Repeat 2 times. Set aside.

In a large bowl, whisk the eggs, milk, salt and pepper. Pour the egg mixture over the casserole and set aside for 20 minutes, pressing on the bread occasionally to help it absorb the liquid.

Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 350° F. Cover the casserole with foil and bake for 50 minutes. Remove the foil and continue baking until the top is browned and the center is set, about 10 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes before cutting and serving. For more information about California sweet potatoes and for delicious recipes,

Just Jazz

By NANCY ANN LEE

Eddie Jefferson

Singer-lyricist Eddie Jefferson created in the late 1940s the style that came to be called jazz vocalese.

Upon hearing saxophonist James Moody's version of Coleman Hawkins' "Body and Soul", Jefferson wrote lyrics to the tune which has become the jazz standard "Moody's Mood for Love".

He inspired later vocalese groups such as Lambert, Hendricks and Ross.

Jefferson was born in Pittsburgh in August, 1918.

His early career was guided by his father who was in show business.

Jefferson and his brother Charlie, formed a song and dance act, the Candy Kids, heard on local radio for several years. His first recordings were made in 1952-53.

Until 1962, Jefferson worked with James Moody, whom he rejoined in 1969.

In 1976, he formed a partnership with saxman Richie Cole that lasted until his murder in Detroit in May 1979.

Jefferson was a master lyricist who created profound, funny and joyful lyrics. He combined elements of jive talk, slang, musical diction, story-telling and rhythm into musical poetry.

In his gravelly voice, he precisely delivered brisk bop lines with passionate power, breaking boundaries of American song.

Chris' Cinema Trivia & Movie Match Up

By CHRIS APPLING

TRIVIA - (Biographies)

1. In the HBO cable film *The Josephine Baker Story* (1991), actress Lynn Whitfield portrayed the great, American expatriate dancer who fled to Paris, France and became an international sensation and the richest black woman in the '20's and '30's; but who is the veteran, black actor that portrayed a U.S. serviceman that inspires her to return to performing after she experiences great pain and loss?

2. In what musical mini-series do actor Lawrence Hilton Jacobs and actress Angela Bassett portray a '60's, lower-class, black couple from Gary, Indiana who take their five sons (Jackie, Tito, Jermaine, Marlon and Michael) to audition for Motown Record's President Berry Gordy to become the most famous, musical family in history?

3. Who is the light-skinned, green-eyed actress/singer in *The Courage To Love* (2000) that portrayed the story of Henriette Delille: a quadroon in

pre-Civil War New Orleans who rejects the female, Creole tradition of being kept by a wealthy, white man to instead become a Catholic nun and teach slave children to read and write?

4. In *Lincoln* For Love: *The Natalie Cole Story* (2001), actress Teresa Randle portrays the young-adult Natalie while Diahann Carroll portrays Cole's mother, but who is the African-American actor who portrayed the singer's legendary father, Nat King Cole?

5. In what film does African-American director Julie Dash have actress Angela Bassett portray the special bus rider who made history by sparking the '60's Civil Rights Movement when she was arrested for refusing to give up her Jim Crow seat for a white passenger?

ANSWERS: 1. Louis Gossett, Jr. 2. *The Jacksons: An American Dream* (1997) 3. Vanessa L. Williams 4. James McDaniel 5. *The Rosa Parks Story* (2002)



MOVIE MATCH-UP - (*The Jacksons: An American Dream*)

ACTORS/ACTRESSES:
1. Angela Bassett
2. Lawrence Hilton Jacobs
3. Holly Robinson-Peete
4. Billy Dee Williams
5. Vanessa L. Williams

a) dad, Joe Jackson
b) assistant Suzanne DePasse
c) producer Berry Gordy
d) mom, Katherine Jackson

ROLES:

Da 'Round Da Way Rewind Review

Dwayne Johnson's Top 10 Films

By C.M. APPLING

In the 1970's, Italian-American actor Sylvester Stallone burst onto the silver screen as the golden-bronze, boxing prizefighter of the *Rocky* (and now *Creed*) drama franchise. Later, Stallone became an action-movie icon in the 1990's. Also in the 70's, former, champion bodybuilder and Austrian immigrant Arnold Schwarzenegger would depart the steroid-enhanced sport to 'flex his muscles' in motion-pictures to, like Stallone, become an action-film celebrity. However, even though African-American actors like Jim Brown and Carl Weathers had the chiseled physiques of Stallone and Schwarzenegger, neither achieved the popularity status of the white stars.

Then, at the turn of the millennium, a third-generation, WWE (World Wrestling Entertainment) athlete with bulging biceps would make the triumphant transition from wrestler 'The Rock', to actor and, eventually, an action super-star of Hollywood blockbusters.

The copper-skinned, interracial offspring of a light-skinned, African-American father and a Samoan-Polynesian mother, Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson has not only attained the equal popularity that his Caucasian forerunners did, but has crossed racial lines in film where his 'characters of color' have produced racially-ambiguous-looking, movie sons and daughters.

And, although he plays an ensemble character, Luke Hobbs, in the *Fast & Furious* action franchise, Johnson has 10 films that attest to his talent the best:

#10 *The Game Plan* (2007) Comedy. In this movie, Johnson is a successful, yet egotistical, NFL star who must suddenly adjust to single fatherhood when the young, mixed-race daughter of his now deceased, white ex-wife appears on his doorstep. A Walt Disney picture, it is family-friendly fun.

#9 *Hercules* (2014) Action. Playing the mythological, Greek legend of the God, Zeus, and a mortal woman, John-

son is the half-breed strongman who, having competed his documented '12 labors', assists a benevolent King and his daughter to take down a tyrannical warlord.

#8 *San Andreas* (2015) Action. As a LAFD search-and-rescue helicopter pilot, Johnson navigates the catastrophic landscape and terrain to find his estranged, white wife and their only, mixed-race daughter after California's San Andreas fault triggers a magnitude 9 earthquake that devastates and demolishes the state like no natural disaster before it.

#7 *Pain & Gain* (2013) Drama/Comedy. In this dark comedy, Johnson plays one of two, black bodybuilders (the other one being Anthony Mackie), in Miami, who are convinced by a weight-lifting, Caucasian gym owner (Mark Wahlberg) to kidnap a wealthy businessman to extort his money. (Johnson plays against type when his character becomes drug-addicted).

#6 *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle* (2017) Comedy/Action. In this funny film, Johnson is one of four, adult avatar characters in an old, magical video game that four, very different, high school students are drawn into. The kids must adjust to their avatar identities and play the game to completion in order to escape and return to reality. (This film reunites African-American comedian Kevin Hart with Johnson in their second movie together).

#5 *Gridiron Gang* (2006) Drama. In this role, Johnson is an African-American counselor at a juvenile detention facility who decides to turn the young inmates into a football team. His team must not only overcome the various problems that sent them to the facility, but also the opposition from legitimate, high school coaches who don't want their kids to play against the criminal juveniles. This film explored Johnson's ability to play a very serious role.

#4 *Central Intelligence* (2016) Comedy/Action. In their first film together, Johnson plays a lethal, CIA agent who attends his high school reunion with a totally different, muscular physique after he was

bullied and humiliated as an adolescent for being fat. Johnson's character recruits a fellow, former classmate (Kevin Hart) whose accounting and numerical skills can help him save America's spy satellite system.

#3 *Walking Tall* (2004) Drama/Action. A remake of a movie classic, Johnson plays the military, special forces son of an African-American father and a Caucasian mother who returns to their home in rural, Washington state to become a beloved sheriff after he rids the small town of corrupt cops and a seedy casino run by a former, Caucasian, childhood schoolmate (Neal McDonough).

#2 *The Rundown* (2003) Thriller/Action. In his second, solo-starring motion-picture, Johnson is a bounty-hunter with aspirations of becoming a restaurant-owning chef. His final 'job' is to track down and return the adult, white son (Seann William Scott) of his shady employer, in the Brazilian jungle, but ends up teaming up with the son and a female, Latina, rebel leader (Rosario Dawson) to find a golden treasure that will free the local people from the exploitation of an Caucasian, American excavator (Christopher Walken).

#1 *The Scorpion King After* appearing in the successful sequel, *The Mummy Returns*, as a cameo character (the 'Scorpion King'), a third film in the franchise is a 'prequel' that precedes the *Mummy* timeline.

5000 years ago in ancient Arabia, Johnson is 'Mathayus': an Akkadian assassin who helps unite an army of nomadic tribes to kill a vicious and cruel leader who uses the prophetic visions of a sorceress to predict the outcomes of his battles. With Kelly Hu as the beautiful, Asian Sorceress and the now deceased, African-American actor Michael Clarke Duncan as Mathayus' massively-built, Nubian fighter friend, Balthazar, it follows in the *Mummy* franchise tradition (which borrowed heavily itself from the *Indiana Jones* franchise), provided action and comedy and began Johnson's ascent into movie stardom.

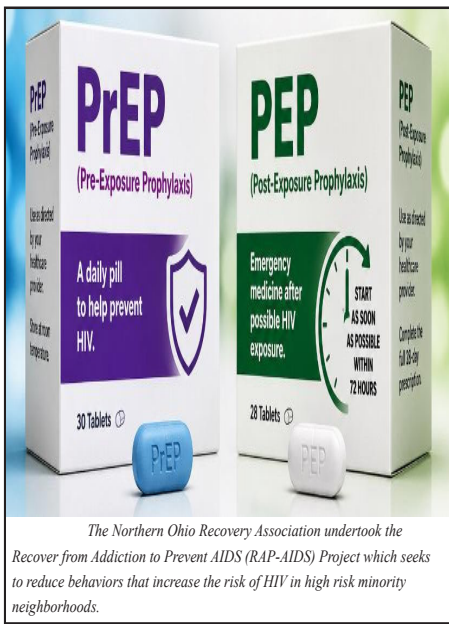
NORA tackles HIV through RAP AIDS Project: Help Spread the Word about PrEP and PEP

JEFF MIXON
Director, RAP-AIDS Project

One day in the foreseeable future, as the residents of Glenville, Hough, St. Clair-Superior, Buckeye-Woodland and Union-Miles glance at the phenomena of generational trauma and AIDS through rearview mirrors, the Northern Ohio Recovery Association (NORA) will be one of the organizations occupying their thoughts.

"Where there's addiction, there's trauma," according to Michael Johnson, a nationally recognized trainer and lecturer in the field of addiction.

Just as trauma can lead to substance use disorders (addiction), there is a substantial body of scientific literature documenting the connection between addiction and HIV/AIDS (Lier, A.



The Northern Ohio Recovery Association undertook the Recover from Addiction to Prevent AIDS (RAP-AIDS) Project which seeks to reduce behaviors that increase the risk of HIV in high risk minority neighborhoods.

J. et al., 2024). These authors concluded that untreated substance use disorders not only increase the risk of acquiring HIV, they worsen health outcomes for people living with HIV. Substance use can lead to injection-related transmission, risky sexual behavior and re-

duced adherence to HIV treatment - creating a Trauma-Addiction-HIV pipeline. So, in 2022, the Northern Ohio Recovery Association undertook the Recover from Addiction to Prevent AIDS (RAP-AIDS) Project which seeks to reduce

behaviors that increase the risk of HIV in high risk minority neighborhoods. Funded by the federal Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI), the RAP-AIDS Project is a culturally responsive prevention initiative that integrates recovery support, HIV prevention education and community engagement. The program is designed to strengthen protective factors, reduce behavioral health risks and promote healthy decision-making through evidence-based educational strategies and culturally relevant community activities.

that prevent (PrEP) and treat (PEP) HIV infections. Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) is highly effective at preventing HIV infection. FDA-approved PrEP options include Truvada (daily oral pill), Descovy (daily oral pill) and Apretude, an injection administered by a health care provider every two months after the initial dosing schedule. Taken consistently, PrEP reduces the risk of acquiring HIV through sexual contact by 99%. When taken as prescribed, it also reduces the risk of HIV acquisition through injection drug use. Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) is an emergency course of HIV medications that can help prevent HIV infections after possible exposure. For PEP to be effective, it must be started within 72 hours of possible HIV exposure

and must be taken for 28 straight days. Many communities disproportionately affected by substance misuse and HIV have also experienced trauma, poverty and social inequities. RAP-AIDS emphasizes safe, supportive environments, positive adult relationships, life skills training and opportunities for community connection that reinforce resilience and recovery. The reasoning behind the RAP-AIDS approach, according to NORA founder and CEO Anita Bradley, is that "sustainable reductions in HIV are more likely when people are supported as whole individuals, equipped with accurate information, connected to effective medical and behavioral health resources and are surrounded by communities that support recovery."

At the Northern Ohio Recovery Association, the emphasis is always on serving the entire community because their slogan is true: No One Recovers Alone.

Pictures worth a thousand words

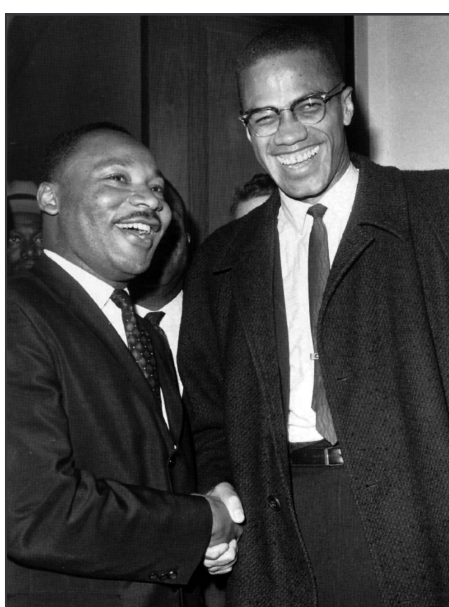
By C,M, APPLING

Ever since mankind began, human beings have recorded history through primitive drawings. Later, as artistic skills advanced, history was recorded through paintings. In 1816, the first camera was invented. And, in 1837, the daguerreotype method was created by French man Louis Daguerre that gave the most lifelike, reflective image of photographs at the time.

Capturing the image of someone or something in a photograph is mostly used for nostalgia purposes. To remember a specific person or event to last a lifetime. However, sometimes when this is done, the person taking the photograph has no idea that the image they are capturing might come to symbolize a unique event that becomes iconic--for either good or bad reasons.

When it comes to African-Americans, there are a few photos that have reached iconic level in the community for their historical relevance. For instance, the only photo of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X shaking hands together and smiling at the 1964 Civil Rights Act debate at the Senate. Or, the 1968 picture of the Rev. Jesse Jackson on a balcony pointing upward in the direction of the shooter who assassinated Martin Luther King, Jr. And, who can ever forget in 1955, the photo of Chicago 14-year old Emmett Till's body lying in an open casket with his bloated, beaten and disfigured face after he was lynched and thrown into a river for allegedly whistling at a white girl in the South?

However, now that technology has evolved, cameras have become obsolete and everyone carries smartphones that act as cameras, phones, watches, calculators and computers. With this new tech, people of all races have been able to capture photographic documentation as things happen in real time. In the African-American community, this includes when, in 2020, multiple people witnessed white, Min-



The only photo of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X shaking hands together and smiling at the 1964 Civil Rights Act debate at the Senate.

neapolis police officer Derek Chauvin choking black George Floyd to death for supposedly using a phony, \$20 bill. In Floyd's dying breath, he called for his mother and said repeatedly, "I can't breathe", that became the impetus that launched the Black Lives Matter movement into overdrive.

Also, in 2017, in Charlottesville, Virginia, white supremacists marched in the Unite the Right rally when a white female named Heather Hayer was protesting against the neo-Nazis with others when she was run over by a car driven into the crowd by a racist participant. And, in early 2026, President Donald Trump's I.C.E. (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) agents have caused 6 deaths and 2 fatal shootings while trying to deport illegal migrants of color, including the murders of white, U.S. citizens Alex Pretti and Renee Nicole Good.

While these various photographs and video recordings have become etched for all eternity into our communal consciousness, there are even some pictures that transcend immortality as they display an even deeper meaning or message that speaks volumes without saying a word.

In 1936, there is a photo taken in Germany of a sea-like crowd of Adolph Hitler's followers saluting him with the 'Sieg Heil' arm extension. But, in a close-up, on the right-hand side near the middle, there is a

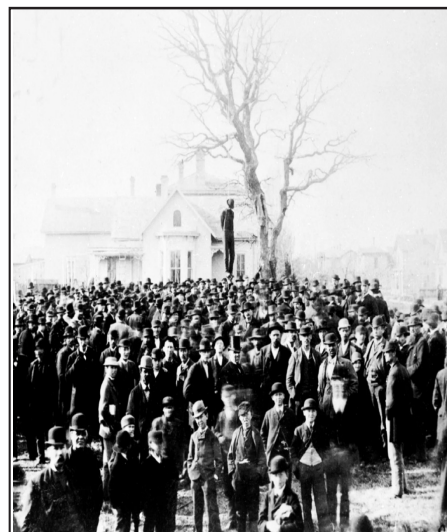
single man with his arms crossed not saluting. Believed to be either August Landersson or Gustav Wegent, this image shows the resilience of one man standing strong, deciding not to give in to peer pressure to join something he fundamentally disagrees with.

In 1937, there is a famous photo the NAACP printed in their paper of the lynching of black man Rueben Stacy in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Standing around his dead body are many white adults, as well as several children, including a 10-year old-looking girl with a smile on her face. This image not only shows the wanton cruelty of man against his brother, but how that hate and evil can corrupt and pervert even children.

In 2014, in Ferguson, Missouri, after a grand jury did not indict white police officer Darren Wilson for the death of 18-year old, African-American Michael Brown, a picture was taken of a crying 12-year old boy named Devonte Hart. The pre-teen was carrying a sign that read 'Free Hugs' and he embraced a white officer named Bret Barnum. Unknown to all, Devonte's white, lesbian parents, Jennifer and Sarah Hart, abused and starved him and his 5, other, adopted siblings. Tragically, the disturbed, gay couple drove themselves and their children off a cliff in a van in 2018. The 'hug' picture symbolized how the country sought redemption for the slaying



Minneapolis police officers and Officer Derek Chauvin choking black George Floyd to death.



The NAACP printed in their paper of the lynching of black man Rueben Stacy in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Standing around his dead body are many white adults. Publishing the pictures were a public record of the lynchings in the South. The NAACP hoped public pressure would outlaw the practice.

of Michael Brown with the innocent forgiveness of another, black boy, Devonte Hart.

And, more recently, on July 4th, 2026, a white supremacist, fringe group called the Patriot Front, marched in Washington, DC, to 'celebrate' the 250th anniversary by carrying upside-down American flags and Confederate flags. Before the masked racists marched, a photo was taken of them by Cheny Orr of them riding the subway while a pensive and nervous-looking African-American woman sits in a seat, surrounded by them. This photo

captures perfectly the essence of black Americans' plight and legacy in the United States: constantly surrounded and threatened by white racism and danger.

The saying goes, "A picture is worth a thousand words". In the historical context of African-Americans, this has been proven to not only be true sometimes, but so truthful that it takes on a meaning that encapsulates and freezes time, in a symbolic image of racial struggle and significance, too powerful to put in words.

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Is freedom of the press going down the drain? Where in The Land is this article?

By PAT WHITE

On July 7th the following article posted in The Land.

Today, it cannot be found on the community newspaper's website.

Executive director Chris Mosby has yet to respond to an email request.

According to The Land:

"The Land is a local, nonprofit news organization that reports on Cleveland's neighborhoods and the inner-ring suburbs. Through in-depth solutions journalism, we aim to foster accountability, inform the community, and inspire people to take action.

We encourage other media to "steal our stories" as long as they credit The Land.

(so...this article, "Residents lose trust in local government over plan to drain Lower Shaker Lake," was originally posted in The Land before "disappearing." Who made the call to make this story disappear? Readers have the right to know if their community newspaper is being censored.



Residents lose trust in local government over plan to drain Lower Shaker Lake

July 7th, 2026 By: Peter Gelderloos

This past Mother's Day, two mother wood ducks were paddling around on Lower Shaker Lake, one with five recently hatched chicks, the other with nine. A giant snapping turtle was warming its shell in the sun, and half a dozen midland painted turtles were up on a log doing the same. A kingfisher and a green heron flew for cover, startled by a passerby, and an osprey circled and then dove, plucking a large fish out of the water.

All this would be gone if the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) moves ahead with its plan to remove the dam and drain the lake. The Sewer District is trying to address a serious concern: dangerous flooding could result downstream if the dam breaks. However, many residents are upset and distrustful toward irregularities with how the NEORS has advanced their plan to drain the lake and what they see as a lack of a fully developed alternative plan.

"By federal law, by statute, they're supposed to do alternatives analysis, which they did not do," says Jim Nemastil. Nemastil is a geographer and Cleveland Heights resident since 1979. He has done alternatives analysis for the RTA and since 2015 he has been "monitoring soil erosion around the cliffs of the Chagrin River."

Nemastil also points to the Sewer District's noncompliance with [the National Historic Preservation Act](#), which requires any projects subject to federal permitting to undergo a review on possible impacts to historic sites.

When asked what would happen if the Sewer District went ahead with their plan to drain the lake, Nemastil replied, "It would permanently alter the historic landscape of the parkland. It would destroy the area as we see it today."

Lower Lake is one of the four Shaker Lakes, sitting in the middle of an extensive parkland that is a defining feature of the cities of Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights. The original two lakes, Horseshoe and Lower Lake, were created by dams built by a religious community of Shakers who inhabited the Heights in the 19th century. As the Shakers dwindled, they deeded several hundred acres to be held as parkland in perpetuity. The cities of Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights sprung up around the lakes and early developers installed Marshall Lake and Green Lake.

Jeff McManus compares the situation to Meadowbrook, a nearby stream that has been entirely disappeared into a culvert. McManus is a Cleveland Heights resident, biologist and professional researcher. "That whole brook was wiped out from an ecological perspective," he explains. "If the lakes didn't exist, that same thing would have happened to Doan Brook."

The Sewer District drained Horseshoe Lake in 2019, promising at the time to preserve Lower Lake. Lower Lake is the most accessible of the four Shaker Lakes, with walking trails and easy access by car or by foot. This is a stark contrast to Marshall Lake and Green Lake, which are each surrounded by private residences and largely cut off to the public.

"We need a place like this after the stress of working all week," says William Maul. He and his friend Lamont Edwards have made the trek from Noble Rd, at the other end of Cleveland Heights. The two are relaxing on the banks of Lower Lake at a spot where many neighbors go fishing. Mr. Edwards agrees. "It's so important to have places where you can come out into nature." The two are distressed to learn of NEORS plans to drain the lake.

In 2020, after draining Horseshoe Lake, the Sewer District [spent several million dollars](#) dredging and repairing the dam at Green Lake, according to reporting from Cleveland.com. Then in July 2025, they suddenly announced that Lower Shaker Lake would have to be permanently drained. Their estimate for repairing the lower dam had jumped to \$55 million.

The Sewer District exercises major leverage through their budget. [They have offered to pay \\$45 million](#) to remove the dam and drain the lake. But if the two cities opt to repair the dam and keep the lake, the Sewer District will leave them to foot the entire bill on their own.

There's no doubt that the Doan Brook watershed is facing a number of problems. Given the increasing severity of storms caused by climate change, as well as sinkholes and the buildup of sediment, the lower dam is "at risk of catastrophic failure," says Dr. Brice Grunert. Dr. Grunert is a limnologist at Cleveland State University who has been involved in studying the Doan Brook watershed and Lake Erie.

There's also a problem with water quality due to algae. "In the current watershed configuration of Doan Brook, the lakes act as a major source of algal biomass," according to Grunert. Thanks to the forested areas along the riparian corridor, he adds, Doan Brook has better water quality than other streams in the area like the nearby Dugway Brook.

However, the problems in the watershed go beyond the lakes. "I would not expect that removing Lower Shaker Lake on its own would remove all risk of flooding in the watershed," Grunert explains. "Flooding occurs at a watershed scale." And throughout the Doan Brook watershed, impermeable surfaces like paved roads and parking lots, the many culverts and sewer tunnels managed by the Sewer District, suburban lawns, and the three major golf courses all increase runoff and flooding during a storm. And with the runoff come pesticides, fertilizers and sediment.

The conversion of lawns to meadows, food forests and gardens would decrease runoff and sedimentation, reduce pollution and flood risks, and have added benefits for the climate and people's health, especially for disadvantaged populations with limited access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

Shifting to permeable pavements throughout the watershed would also improve water quality and decrease flooding risks, yet Nemastil and other critics argue that the NEORS is taking a piecemeal approach to the problem that forecloses on more effective approaches.

Over 4,300 people have signed [a petition](#) to save the lakes and stop the Sewer District's plans. At city council meetings in both Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights, residents have been all but unanimous in their support

(Continue on page 8)

Is freedom of the press going down the drain? Where in The Land is this article?

on saving Lower Shaker Lake. Many have expressed doubt or distrust over the way the Sewer District has pushed ahead with the plan to drain the lake without conducting all the necessary studies or looking into alternatives.

"There were concerns from the beginning," says Amy Weinfurter, a Shaker Heights resident and member of the Shaker Lakes Conservancy community group, "because of the way Horseshoe Lake was drained without a full analysis of the consequences of draining and breaching the dam."

Nemastil echoes this lingering distrust of local government and the Sewer District. "You go way back, and they say they're going to save Horseshoe Lake. Then they say they're going to save Lower Lake. And now they're not going to save any of them. They're doing what they want to do, they don't care about what the citizenry wants."

The Sewer District, says Jeff McManus, "did this whole public engagement process. They were working the whole time from a plan that would require cutting down a thousand trees but they never said anything about that until the process was completed. I went to one of the early public engagement events." McManus describes NEORSR representatives presenting the public with "this list of things we could add to the park: a play area, a sensory garden, different paths. They never asked people, 'would you prefer that we add various artificial amenities or keep it as a more natural environment?' Once they made the plans, their presentations to the public were more like PR events than attempts to get meaningful feedback. They never tried to see if the public actually liked their plans."

The NEORSR used an expedited process with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) known as an NWP 27, which allowed it to bypass impact studies. Though the Sewer District has not changed its plans in the face of immense public opposition, in early May the USACE forced the NEORSR to delay construction by at least half a year because the NWP 27 "does not authorize dam removal activities." The Sewer District claims this was a recent change to USACE policy. However, according to the USACE itself, earlier versions of the NWP 27 also excluded dam removal. The newest version simply clarified that exclusion. In other words, the Sewer District has always been out of compliance in its plans to remove Horseshoe Lake and Lower Shaker Lake.

When asked for comment, a representative of the Sewer District responded with a link to their public relations website, which includes incorrect claims about USACE policy. The representative did not answer questions that have been posed by dozens of residents and concerned citizens about the lack of a public environmental assessment, alternatives analysis, or historic landscape review.

Emily Kao is executive director of the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership (DBWP), a nonprofit that receives funding from the Sewer District, the City of Cleveland, and several private companies. "As a highly modified urban stream, Doan Brook faces three primary, interconnected ecological challenges" Kao explained. These were impervious surfaces, invasive species and artificial impoundments like "dams and culverts" that "break up habitat connectivity, block the natural downstream movement of sediment and nutrients and stagnate stream flow." Such impoundments accelerate other problems because they decrease "dissolved oxygen" in the water and "suppress native biodiversity while favoring invasive or generalist species."

In response to questions about public concerns or criticisms of the Sewer District's plans, Kao said "the DBWP does not take public positions on specific private or municipal land use designations."

Cleveland Heights Mayor Jim Petras, who campaigned on a platform to save the lake, declined to comment on any concrete actions he has taken to stand up to the Sewer District. Shaker Heights city council members did not respond to requests for comment. The office of Shaker Heights Mayor David Weiss referred questions to their Director of Communications/Marketing, Ann McGuire, who also did not respond.

Residents invested in preserving the lakes say there has been an absence of meaningful communication from the various government agencies involved.

"From a climate perspective, we want people to live in walkable inner ring suburbs like the Heights," argues Jeff McManus, "not in sprawl suburbs where they have to drive everywhere. Having this beautiful lake people can walk to from their house is really rare and really valuable."

Dr. Grunert acknowledges that removing the dam is the cheaper option, but as an ideal scenario he imagines preserving at least a part of Lower Lake and allowing the rest to transition to "a wetland complex that focuses on forested wetlands that integrate into an open canopy wetland complex that the brook flows through. This would increase water capacity and mitigate flooding, improve water quality and natural flow, while maintaining a park space."

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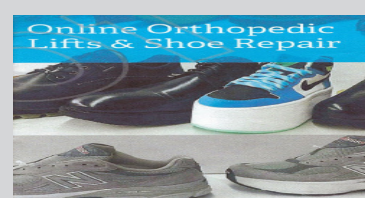
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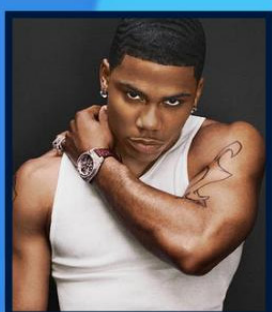
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