

SPORTS

Guardians Play Chi-Sox for 1st Place

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MENU TIPS

A 'Berry' Healthy Way to Help Your Heart

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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READ ON - WRITE ON

Tri-C JazzFest begins a new era, come rain or shine

By VINCE ROBINSON

The threat of rain did nothing to dampen the spirit or energy of the 47th Annual Tri-C JazzFest in Cleveland over the weekend. Thursday's opening reception saw a burst of precipitation that brought darkened skies and hail in some parts, but the sun burst through and festival opener Sheila E and E-Train eventually lit up the stage of the Ohio Mimi Theatre of Playhouse Square.

Cuyahoga Community College President Dr. Michael Baston exuberantly announced this year's Tri-C Jazz Legends Cindy Barber, Dominic Farinacci, Mark David Ribbins, Jim Szabo and former Tri-C Executive Director Terri Pontremoli, with video tributes, then moved his attention to the one and Sheila Escovedo and her band of Bay Area mates.

From there it was on and poppin'.

What followed in the next two days was deluge of national and local talent onstage indoors and outdoors with notables like tap dancer Savion Glover outside with his band, taps on his toes and his feet eventually in front of a seat at

the drums. He sang of injustice and the plight of a people hungry for freedom in explicit terms. Nods on heads in the crowd in front of him under a \$3 million-dollar chandelier affirmed his sentiments as beats from the djembe drum of WeeDee Braimah shattered the early evening air.

This festival was the first with its new Executive Director Orlando Watson at the helm. He was on the receiving end of a proclamation for Cleveland City Councilman Blaine Griffin, who noted Watson returned to Cleveland from Pittsburgh where he programmed the Pittsburgh Jazz festival for three years. While speaking from the heart upon accepting his proclamation, Watson revealed he turned down a job in California when he found out about the opportunity in his hometown where he grew up on 140th and Glendale.

He said, "I studied with all the Cleveland greats, all the Cleveland legends. Robert Hubbard, Ernie Krivda, Steve Enos, everybody. And it was important to come back to my city, invest in my city with my vision and our resources that we have here."

That vision placed Cleveland artists on indoor stages, includ-

ing Hubbard, who opened with his full band for another Cleveland, Grammy Award-winning vocalist Durand Bernarr. Hubb's Groove paid tribute to another Cleveland icon, Levert, with a musical journey of hit after hit by the group and its associated musical partner the Rude Boys, with Joey "Beans" Little gracing the stage to sing their chart-topping It's Written All Over Your Face.

Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb presented native son Durand Bernarr with a proclamation that made Friday, July 25th Durand Bernarr Day to accent the abundant Cleveland storyline. Also onstage in the Hanna

Theatre was Cleveland Laurin Talese, happy to come back to her hometown after spending her time blossoming her career in other places.

Described as "jazz adjacent," many of the acts in this year's festival did not conform to standard ideas about what jazz is, but the concept was clear that engaging folks around the city and from other locations was kept in mind.

And for the purists, there was gem that shined like the finest cut stone the eye could behold. Ron Carter, the most recorded

bassist of all time, performed on the Hanna Stage to a rapt audience who witnessed one of the greatest performances in the history of the jazz festival (subjective opinion by this reviewer who has seen many) with an inspired set of standards.

Short on conversation, the immaculately dressed elder statesman of the genre brought intricate arrangements co-articulated by pianist Rene Rosnes, drummer Payton Crossley and saxophonist Jimmy Greene.

For the smooth jazz heads, Spyro Gyra came with the appropriate flavoring for the occasion. If one had a taste for funk-infused, folk-ish vocal with a splash of vibrant color, there was MonoNeon, replete with an orange knitted headpiece that revealed only eyes and mouth.

And to really stretch the boundaries of adjacency, the Ohio Players closed out the festival with their trip down memory lane.

Although their association has been largely labeled funk from Dayton, Ohio in the company of

bands like Zapp, Heatwave, Slave and nearby Bootsy Collins, some may be aware that the Players were instrumentalists who recorded their jam sessions with out lyrics and penned them as an afterthought with a single word that expanded into lyrical concept like Fire, Pain, Skin Tight and other hits they became known for.

James "Diamond" Williams, one of two remaining members of the original group asked the audience how many years the festival had been around, found out and asked the question, "You mean it took you 47 years to invite us to this festival?"

He and the other member, keyboardist Billy Beck, were given a special award by Watson at the beginning of the show.

It was a very touching moment for them and Watson, who fulfilled his dream turning the ship in a new direction, one he hopes will eventually be a free festival.

Let's hope that dream becomes a reality.



Ron Carter, the most recorded bassist of all time, performed on the Hanna Stage to a rapt audience who witnessed one of the greatest performances in the history of the jazz festival. (ESDN Photo by Vince Robinson)



The 47th Annual Tri-C JazzFest was held on the stage of the Ohio Mimi Theatre of Playhouse Square on Thursday. Sheila E and E-Train opened the festival. (ESDN Photo by Vince Robinson)



Grammy Award-winning vocalist Durand Bernarr paid tribute to Cleveland icon, Levert, with a musical journey of hit after hit by the group and its associated musical partner the Rude Boys, with Joey "Beans" Little gracing the stage to sing their chart-topping It's Written All Over Your Face. (ESDN Photo by Vince Robinson)



The 47th Annual Tri-C JazzFest in Cleveland opened over the weekend. Thursday's opening reception lit up the stage of the Ohio Mimi Theatre of Playhouse Square. (ESDN Photo by Vince Robinson)

Gasoline prices rise, and rise again

The national average for a gallon of regular is four cents lower this week at \$4.49. Even though this week's average is cheaper than last week, gas prices are still the highest they've been in four years. With gasoline demand on the rise and the prolonged closure of the Strait of Hormuz, pump prices are likely to remain elevated as the summer travel season gets underway. Today's national average is 40 cents more than a month ago and \$1.32 more than a year ago.

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

last week from 8.75 million barrels per day to 8.76 million. Total domestic gasoline supply decreased from 215.7 million barrels to 214.2 million. Gasoline production decreased last week, averaging 9.3 million barrels per day.

At the close of Wednesday's formal trading session, West Texas Intermediate fell \$5.89 to settle at \$98.26 a barrel. The EIA reports crude oil inventories decreased by 7.9 million barrels from the previous week. At 445 million barrels, U.S. crude oil inventories are about 2% below the five-year average for this time of year.

Northeast Ohio Average for Self-Service Gasoline

	Regular
This Week (07-03-26)	\$4.75
Last Week (06-26-26)	\$4.61
Last Year (07-04-26)	\$3.52
National (07-03-26)	\$4.49

What race should we call ourselves?

By C.M. APPLING

The experiment known as America has been in operation for about 400 years. During that time, immigrants from every country and nation imaginable has crossed the Atlantic or Pacific oceans in a noble quest to obtain a chance at achieving their capitalistic share of the 'American Dream.' That is, except for one group. African-Americans.

As we all know, African-Americans were brought here involuntarily to be placed in bondage as slaves to create the overwhelming, economic wealth that the country has long benefited from. But, from the time the first, African slave landed on the shores in 1619 to our current era in 2026, we have had difficulty in agreeing on what term we should call ourselves as a collective peoples.

After American slavery was abolished, after the Civil War in 1865, and after Reconstruction until the 1930s, we preferred to call ourselves 'Colored'. Then, in the 1940s and 50s, we changed our designation to 'Negro.' Later, in the 1960s and 70s, we were proud to be 'Black.'

And, since the 1990s, we have been 'African-American.'

Recently, I read an opinion article online that said that the designation 'African-American' is incorrect and that we should call ourselves 'Black' again.

The author of this opinion stated that since we, as a specific ethnic group that created our own culture in America that is different than any group in sub-Saharan Africa that their culture doesn't match our own. The writer argues that a man or woman from Nigeria, or Ghana or Ethiopia, etc., who immigrates to the United States is an actual, first-generation, 'African-American' while we are 'something else.'

I have a problem with the viewpoint the writer attempts to make. I believe we should continue in calling ourselves 'African-American' because 'Black' is not a culture. It is a color.

While it is true 'white' is a color also, 'white' people distinguish themselves by the different hair and eye colors they have. But, they also have different, nationalities ethnicities (like Irish-American, Polish-American, Italian-American, Jewish-American, etc.) where they derive their individual cultures and heritages.

'Black' is often interchangeable with 'African-American.' But, while people from Africa are 'Black' because of their ebony skin complexions, I am not. I am 'beige'. My sister and my wife are

'golden-brown'. My father is 'medium-brown' and my mother is 'white.'

These are all colors. But, none of us are 'Black'. The 'One-Drop Rule' from slavery states that anyone in the United States with any known, African ancestry is considered 'all-black.'

So, while many relatives on my mother's side of the family (including my maternal grandfather) looked 'white' with different hair and eye colors, they were not 'Caucasian' because they did not accept a European identity. They chose to be 'Colored' and not pass-for-white.

Because of my appearance, I am constantly mistaken for Latino or Asian. And, while I do not have a problem with this, both white and black people seem confused when I assert my African-American identity. Although I am well-versed in African-American history and am articulate and intellectual, I find myself considered 'not black enough' because I do not use a lot of slang or know a lot of rap/hip-hop music.

However, I have come to realize that this is a problem with many, ethnic groups, not just African-Americans. For instance, there are some white people with red hair and green or blue eyes who are Italian-American or Jewish-American but are often mis-

taken for Irish-American or Scottish-American. And, there are some white people who have black hair and brown eyes who are Irish-American or Scottish-American but are mistaken for Italian-American or Jewish-American.

Being 'American' is many things to many, different people. And, while white, Republican conservatives and right-wing extremists want to claim the country only for themselves as 'true patriots', being American is a heritage and culture all can call their own.

This is why I believe 'African-American' is still the best designation. Calling ourselves the 'African' part honors and relates to our roots as a people, even if we do not practice any of those native customs or rituals. But, the 'American' part is that which honors our unique history in this society and in the world itself. It involves the slavery, the evolution of jazz, gospel, soul food, the Harlem Renaissance, rock & roll, the civil rights movement, R&B and hip-hop.

As we celebrate America's 250th anniversary this Fourth of July, let us remember that it doesn't matter what we call ourselves. But, I definitely think the term 'African-American' is the best overall to describe our personal, ethnic experience.

VANTAGE POINT

United Way of Cleveland names new leadership

United Way of Greater Cleveland today announced four Greater Cleveland leaders, Michele Connell, Paul Dolan, Neal Restivo and Vanessa Whiting, will serve as its 2026-2027 Campaign Co-Chairs, helping lead a region-wide effort focused on the hardworking Greater Clevelanders that our local businesses count on every day—people who are employed but still can't afford the basics.

The four highly respected leaders bring deep experience from some of the region's most respected organizations. Connell serves as Global Managing Partner, US LLP at Squire Patton Boggs; Dolan is Chairman and CEO of the Cleveland Guardians; Restivo is Chief Executive Officer of Oatey Co.; and Whiting is President and CEO of A.E.S. Management Corporation. Their leadership comes at an important moment for Greater Cleveland. United Way's recently released ALICE Report found that 41% of Cuyahoga County households, or 227,000 local families, continue to struggle to make ends meet, even as poverty has declined and employment has increased. ALICE, which stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, refers to households that earn above the federal poverty level but still cannot consistently afford basic necessities. The report highlights a growing gap between wages and the cost of living,

leaving many working families struggling to afford essentials. Our latest ALICE data tells us that more people are working, but many working families are still falling behind. Too often, the people working the hardest are the greatest at risk. That tells us that work is no longer enough," said Sharon Sobol Jordan, President and CEO of United Way of Greater Cleveland. "These findings are exactly why our United Way is focused on upward mobility and explain why demand for our work continues to grow. Thousands of hardworking Greater Clevelanders are reaching out to us for help. In fact, 2 out of 3 callers to United Way 211 are working. That's why this campaign matters — to

make sure our United Way is here for the hardworking people who keep our lives, our businesses, and our economy running every day."

As Campaign Co-Chairs, Connell, Dolan, Restivo and Whiting will help engage businesses, employees, donors, volunteers and community leaders in support of United Way's annual campaign. Through the campaign, United Way connects residents to immediate support through United Way 211 while investing in practical solutions that help keep working people working, strengthen housing stability and childcare access, advance workforce opportunities, and create pathways to financial security and upward mobility.

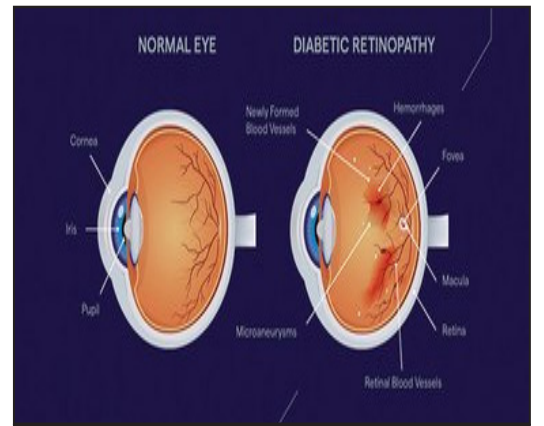
YOUR HEALTH

Diabetics should see doctor about eye health care

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than one in 10 Americans can expect to be diagnosed with diabetes. If you or someone you care about is ever among them, you may be surprised to learn that one of the most important ways your doctor can help detect the condition is with an eye exam.

That's because a serious complication of diabetes is diabetic retinopathy. The disease causes damage to the blood vessels in the back of the eye. It can affect up to 80 percent of patients living with diabetes and is the leading cause of blindness amongst working age adults. It can affect up to 80 percent of people with diabetes. Diabetic retinopathy has no early warning signs, and symptoms such as blurred vision do not occur until diabetic retinopathy is in an advanced state.

Fortunately, early detection and timely treatment can reduce the risk of vision loss due to diabetic retinopathy by 95%. Primary Care physicians now have access to a simple and affordable solution called the Welch Allyn® RetinaVue® Care delivery model, available from Henry Schein. The RetinaVue care delivery model is a turnkey solution that consists of three core components, including the RetinaVue 700 Imager, RetinaVue Network software for secure transfer of patient images and Professional Medical Services to analyze and diagnose patient images and networks the doctors already have. The imager's ease of use and lightweight, portable design make it well-suited for use across clinics, at the



Managing your diabetes is the best way to lower your risk of diabetic retinopathy, advises the National Institutes of Health. That means keeping your blood sugar levels in a healthy range.

bedside or even in the home. In a fast and non-invasive procedure, your primary care physician can take a photo of your retina and send it to an ophthalmologist to analyze the blood vessels there. Thanks to this technology, you won't even need to leave the doctor's office and may not need to make another appointment with the ophthalmologist, although doctors do recommend that anyone living with diabetes get an annual retinal exam.

Managing your diabetes is the best way to lower your risk of diabetic retinopathy, advises the National Institutes of Health. That means keeping your blood sugar levels in a

healthy range. You can do this by:

- Getting regular physical activity, Eating healthy Carefully following your doctor's instructions about taking insulin or other diabetes medicines.

Treatments include injections of drugs that can slow or even reverse the damage; laser treatment to shrink retinal blood vessels; and a type of eye surgery called vitrectomy that replaces the vitreous humor with another clear fluid.

For further facts on diabetic retinopathy, you can visit the National Institutes of Health at www.nei.nih.gov/learn-about-eye-health/eye-conditions-and-diseases/diabetic-retinopathy.

Weekly Wealth For Your Health

Crypto currency security questions to ask

(NAPSI)—If you're like many people, you may be curious about crypto. From crypto direct deposits and debit cards to decentralized saving and lending and cross-border payments, the crypto-economy is rapidly challenging many of the core ideas around what money is and how it can be put to work. As cryptocurrency grows in popularity and use cases, you may have questions about how this digital currency works—and how secure your personal information and finances will be. Read on for answers to some common questions about crypto safety and security.

How can I be sure that my crypto transactions will be secure? When you make a cryptocurrency transaction, a record of that transaction is documented via a secure, decentralized database known as a blockchain. Blockchain technology essentially creates a transparent public ledger where all crypto transactions are permanently recorded and published, and can be examined and verified—but cannot be edited.

Although publicly recorded crypto transactions do include specifics, the coded information on the blockchain ledger does not include the name or personal information of the people involved; this helps keep your identity and privacy safe.

Essentially, the decentralized nature of the blockchain technology that cryptocurrency is built upon means that crypto is difficult to hack; transactions cannot be manipulated, and your personal information will stay private and safe.

Still, it is important that you take precautions as a crypto user to help keep your

information and transactions secure. Using a trusted cryptocurrency exchange such as Coinbase to buy, sell, transfer and store your crypto is one important way to help protect and secure your assets.

Will my personal information be easy to find and steal? One of the benefits of using cryptocurrency is that you don't need to provide personal information such as your name or address every time you make a blockchain transaction. Instead, you use something called a "public key" that helps identify you, while still keeping your personal information pseudonymous. That means there is less risk of your identity or financial information being stolen or compromised.

Keep in mind that to buy and sell crypto on an exchange such as Coinbase, you do need to provide information including your name, birth date and address to help comply with legal mandates and to help protect you against fraud. This personal data, however, is not shared on the blockchain when you make a transaction. It's important to understand that the crypto exchanges used to access the blockchain have varying practices (and track records), when it comes to security. When selecting an exchange, choose one that uses best-in-class security practices, takes multiple steps to help ensure your account is safeguarded and offers educational resources to help you protect your assets.

Through our dedicated approach to security, Coinbase has never, to date, experienced a breach of our cryptocurrency storage systems. As the largest US-based cryptocurrency trading platform, Coinbase is currently trusted by approximately 98 million verified users, 13,000 institutions, and 230,000 ecosystem partners in over 100 countries. They trust Coinbase to easily and securely invest, spend, save, earn, and use crypto. The company is based on the radical idea that anyone, anywhere, should be able to easily and securely send and receive Bitcoin. It offers a trusted and easy-to-use platform for accessing the broader crypto economy.

What steps should I take to protect my identity and digital assets? Just as with any other digital account, it's extremely important to take steps to protect and secure your personal information. Do your due diligence on setting up a cryptocurrency wallet and take actionable steps to secure it. I recommend always using strong, random passwords that are unique to each of your accounts (tools such as LastPass or 1Password are great for creating and securely storing strong passwords for all of your digital accounts). It's also important to use two-factor authentication wherever possible, ensuring that the email address you use for communications about your cryptocurrency account is secure. Also, stay alert and aware of any scam and phishing attempts.

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Islam In The Community

'We will not withdraw': Israel says troops will stay in Lebanon, Syria and Gaza security zones

Israel's defence minister said Wednesday that Israeli forces would remain in so-called security zones established in Lebanon, Syria and Gaza "until further notice."

"The IDF will remain in the security zones in Lebanon, Syria and Gaza until further notice, in order to protect Israel's residents and communities from jihadist terrorists," Israel Katz said, according to the defence ministry. "We will not withdraw from the security

zones," Katz said at a function held in honour of Israeli soldiers killed during the 2006 war in Lebanon.

Katz also reiterated an earlier warning to Iran, saying the Islamic republic would be struck with "full force" if it attacked...

Israel and Lebanon signed a US-sponsored framework agreement on Friday to pave the way for peace between the two countries and disarm Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah.

Israeli officials, including Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu, have repeatedly ruled out withdrawing troops from southern Lebanon, where Israeli forces continue to clash with Hezbollah fighters.

They maintain that any troop withdrawal would happen only after Hezbollah has been disarmed across Lebanon.

Hezbollah drew Lebanon into the Middle East war in early March with rocket fire aimed at Israel to avenge the killing of Iran's supreme leader in US-Israeli strikes.



A Palestinian nurse carries an injured child at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, following a reported Israeli strike on a displacement camp in al-Mawasi, on June 27, 2026



Smoke rises from an Israeli airstrike in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza Strip, Saturday, June 27, 2026. (AP Photo/Abdel Kareem Hana)

A Look At My World

How to Get Out Of A Pickle!

By Dr. JAMES L. SNYDER

resist the fun of it.

Throughout my time on this planet, I have gotten into many pickle situations that I could not escape. Each pickle was different from the last, which made dealing with them quite a problem for me.

In reviewing my life, I must confess that the biggest pickle situations started upon my marriage to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I do not see a connection, but I won't rule it out.

It was the latest pickle I got into that I am most concerned about.

Last week The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was ready to go to Publix for grocery shopping. As she went out the door, she looked back at me and said, "Is there anything you want me to get at Publix?"

Immediately, I responded by saying, "Yes, my dear. I sure would like an Apple Fritter."

Stopping in her tracks, she looked back at me and said, "Just keep dreaming, that will never happen in a million years."

I knew how she would respond, but I could not help but respond anyway. Her questions always put me in a playful pickle, and I could not

As she closed the front door, I could hear her laughing hysterically, and I kinda knew why she was laughing.

I certainly was not going to hope for an Apple Fritter that day. I enjoy an Apple Fritter every once in a while when I can get it behind The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's back. She does not like it, but I love it. On the other hand, she loves broccoli, and I hate broccoli.

That is the only difference we have between ourselves.

Getting back to work in my office, I forgot about the Apple Fritter incident. Yes, every once in a while, I would think about an Apple Fritter, but I knew that was beyond me. The only way I can get an Apple Fritter is to sneak behind her back and not let her see me.

Don't let her know this, but every year she, her daughter, and her granddaughter go to St. Augustine for a week. They have been doing that for at least 20 years. It is during that week that I find myself enjoying an Apple Fritter. The last time I did it, I forgot to throw away the receipt, and it was on the counter. When she got back, the first

thing she found was the receipt for my Apple Fritters. I need to learn my lesson from that.

I let that go to the back of my mind and focused on the project I was working on.

In a few hours, I heard the front door open and remembered that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was out shopping. She had returned and was coming into the kitchen with all her grocery bags.

Then I heard something I had never dreamed of hearing in my life. As she was putting the groceries away in the kitchen, she yelled back to me, "Honey, I got your Apple Fritter."

When I heard that, I laughed to myself and said, "I'm not falling for this trick this time."

Then she walked into my office, and in her hand was the Apple Fritter. "Here's the Apple Fritter you wanted. I'll put it out in the kitchen for you to have later." Then she went back to the kitchen.

I was in a pickle and did not quite know what to do. I knew this was a trick, but I did not quite understand its dimensions. No way would she buy me an Apple Fritter. There had to be something attached to it, and I had to find out what it was.

Being in a pickle like this is not something I yearn for at any time of year. What I had to do was figure out what to do at this point. Why did she get me an Apple Fritter? There is something behind this, and I have been working to figure it out.

Later on, I went out to the kitchen to get a cup of coffee, and there was the Apple Fritter. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "You can have your Apple Fritter now with your coffee." Then she smiled at me, a very suspicious smile that I could not quite explain.

Of course, I am going to eat the Apple Fritter. But I'm also going to keep in mind that this Apple Fritter has me in a coil I can't explain. Do not get me wrong, I enjoyed eating every bite of that Apple Fritter.

I do not know when I will figure it out, but my eyes and my ears are open. Every day, I am going to keep a lookout for what is behind this Apple Fritter pickle.

As I reflected on this recent pickle, I was reminded of a verse in the Bible.

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:5).

It is not easy for me to acknowledge my "lack of wisdom," but when I do, I begin the path to finding the wisdom I need at that time. Whether I can fix the pickle I'm in now is worth trying. It might also help me get ready for the next pickle I have to face.

Israeli attacks killed at least four Palestinians, including a 13-year-old girl, and wounded several others in the Gaza Strip, as Israel continued its assault on the enclave and expanded raids across the occupied West Bank.

Palestinian news agency Wafa reported on Sunday that an Israeli drone struck the al-Salatin area, west of Beit Lahiya in northern Gaza, killing at least two people and wounding at least one more.

In southern Gaza, Israeli forces bombed a tent sheltering displaced Palestinians in Khan Younis. Israeli warplanes fired a missile at the tent, wounding several people who were taken to hospital.

Medical staff at Nasser Medical Complex said they received the body of one unidentified man after the attack.

They said that in a separate incident, 13-year-old Eileen al-Farra was killed by shrapnel from Israeli tank shelling, also in southern Gaza.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said it helped transfer 14 Palestinians held captive by Israel from the Kerem Abu Salem crossing to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in central Gaza. It also helped them to contact and reunite with their families.

The ICRC said it has facilitated the transfer of more than 2,500 released detainees since 2023 through the same mechanism.

But the organisation said Israel had not allowed it to access Palestinian detainees held in Israeli detention centres since October 2023.

It said authorities must disclose the fate and whereabouts of all detainees, allow visits, and ensure they can communicate with their families.

Al Jazeera's Tareq Abu Azzoum, reporting from Gaza City, said: "Israel has intensified its air strikes on Saturday, mainly targeting makeshift tents, specifically in Gaza City and the al-Mawasi area, which has been designated as a safe zone under the talks and the map of the ceasefire agreement that was reached last year."

"These attacks have been accompanied by an expansion of Israel's ground activities in eastern portions of Gaza City, with Israeli forces expanding the space of the yellow demarcation line."

Senior Lebanese official slams US-brokered deal with Israel, warns of divisions of Israeli troops face resistance from residents as they push into a town in Syria

Gaza's Health Ministry said Israel's genocide in the enclave has now killed at least 73,054 Palestinians and wounded 173,480 since October 7, 2023.

Hospitals received three bodies and treated 43 wounded people over the past 24 hours, the ministry added.

In occupied East Jerusalem, 110 Israeli settlers stormed the Al-Aqsa Mosque under heavy Israeli police protection, according to the Islamic Waqf Department.

The Waqf said settlers entered through the Mughrabi Gate, toured the courtyards and performed provocative rituals in the eastern area of the compound.

Israeli police imposed tight restrictions on Palestinian worshippers, harassed them, blocked some from entering and confiscated identity cards at external gates.

In Hebron, Israeli forces prevented the call to prayer at the Ibrahim Mosque for the eighth consecutive day.

Munjid al-Ja'bari, the mosque's director, said Israeli forces had blocked the call to prayer at all times over the past eight days, Wafa reported. He said the restrictions aimed to tighten Israeli control over the mosque and empty it of worshippers.

Israeli forces also shot a young Palestinian man in the foot with live ammunition during a raid on Qalandiya camp, north of occupied Jerusalem, and arrested two others.

In Bethlehem governorate, Israeli forces arrested two young men after raiding Beit Sahour and searching a family home.

In Nablus, Israeli forces arrested 11 Palestinians after storming and searching homes in several areas. They also raided Sebastia, northwest of Nablus, arrested two Palestinians, including journalist Anas al-Hawari, and destroyed a vehicle.

Palestinian groups warned that Israel is escalating its attacks on medical workers and civil society organisations.

The Palestinian NGO Network called for international pressure to secure the release of detained doctors, including Mazen al-Rantisi, Khaled Ayash and Hussam Abu Safia.

The Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs said Palestinian women held in Damon prison face harsh conditions and deprivation of basic rights.

It said prisoner Lina Muhammad Wazwaz, a teacher and mother of four, suffered severe pain from

tight handcuffs after her arrest and later sustained a facial injury during a prison raid.

The first strike targeted a group of people in northern Gaza's Beit Lahiya, killing two and wounding another, according to the Palestinian Red Crescent Society.

Another Israeli strike in southern Gaza killed a man, according to health officials at Nasser hospital.

And the 13-year-old girl, Eileen al-Farra, was killed by shrapnel from Israeli tank shelling in southern Gaza, according to Nasser hospital.

The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the strikes but said one of them targeted a " Hamas terrorist," without elaborating.

Palestinians on Sunday reported heavy tank shelling across Gaza and quadcopters — a type of unmanned aerial vehicle — buzzing overhead.

The heaviest fighting in Gaza has eased after a fragile ceasefire deal was

reached in October between Israel and the Hamas militant group, but Palestinians continue to report new casualties almost daily. Israel says it targets Hamas and other militants who pose a threat and in response to ceasefire violations.

Israel has killed more than 1,040 people in Gaza since the ceasefire went into effect, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, part of the Hamas-led government.

The ministry maintains detailed casualty records that are seen as generally reliable by United Nations agencies and independent experts.

It does not distinguish between civilians and militants but says women and children make up around half of all deaths.

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17-year-old Mexico star in World Cup

"Gilberto Mora, 17, started against Czechia and made men's World Cup history. Pelé was the first World Cup player under age 18 when he debuted for Brazil in 1958," The Associated Press relayed. "The youngest in World Cup history was Norman Whiteside of Northern Ireland, who played in 1982 at 17 years, 41 days. Mora is the first 17-year-old to see World Cup action since Femi Ogburni and Bartholomew Ogbeche for Nigeria in 2002."

Tuesday, June 30, 2026 to Friday, July 3, 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>

Guardians Play ChiSox for 1st Place over 4th of July

By KARL BRYANT

At Press Time, the Guardians are just one game out of 1st Place in the AL Central. They will be hosting the frontrunning White Sox in a big four game series over 4th of July Weekend.

They started the current 10-game Homestand playing Seattle, and opened with a loss, but won the final two games of that series, 4-3 and 6-5, to move to a 14-14 record in one-run games on the season. (They finished 4-2 against the Mariners on the year.) The Guardians then lost the first two games of the next set against Texas, but at Press Time, captured the series finale, 9-4, in a Daytime Getaway Game.

The nine runs were a bounty for a team that plays as many low-scoring, one-run games as the Guardians. Joey Cantillo (7-3) was the recipient of the offensive largesse and in fact, similarly was gifted in his prior "W," an 8-1 victory, back on June 20. In between though, was a No Decision in a tough 3-1 loss to the Mariners last Friday. That day, he'd struck out nine, just like he did in the 8-1 win in his previous outing, but his teammates could only muster one run. He'd allowed one run (on a HR) and just two hits. Reliever Tim Herrin (0-3) took the "L" in that one.

But, in the game completed at Press Time, CLE scored five times in the 2nd Inning and never was headed. They were busy playing a version of "Guards Ball," as Austin Hedges got down a Sacrifice Bunt on the Squeeze Play to score Brayan Rocchio. (Yea!

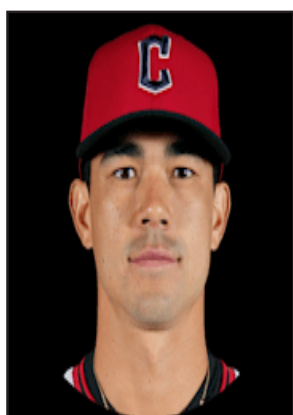
US Men Advance

By ANDREW CARTER

The USMNT advanced to the Round of 16 by winning their first knockout stage game against Bosnia-Herzegovina, 2-0. They'd finished first in their Group Stage, with a 2-1 record. Bosnia had finished 3rd in their Group Stage Play with a 1-1-1 record.

The USMNT only Group defeat was a literal last second surprise loss by a squad made up of mostly reserves - since they'd already qualified - to Turkey - a squad who'd already been eliminated. Yet Bosnia proved to be a tough opponent.

Folarin Balogun scored at 45' mark to give the US a 1-0 lead Halftime lead. Yet, they



Cantillo

A Bunt.) Gabriel Arias next scored on a Wild Pitch. Suddenly, the full Sun sky lit up as David Fry clobbered a 3-Run HR. A 5-0 lead! Can you believe it?!

Cantillo, who struck out four, was removed while leading 5-1, after giving up a walk to lead off the 6th Inning. The Rangers scored twice in the frame. He ended up being charged with one of the runs. Back on June 7, he'd given up seven runs to the Rangers in a 10-0 loss, so, all in all, a much better outing.

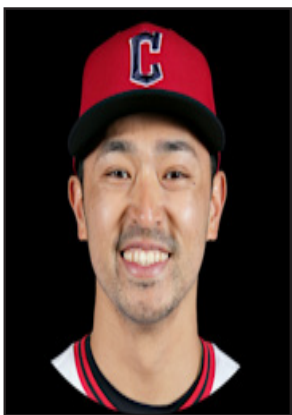
With the score, 5-3, Steven Kwan led off the 7th Inning with a triple that bounced around the LF fence, and if he would have been given the "Go" sign at 3B, surely would have scored on an Inside-the-Park HR. Chase DeLauter, who recently had been welcomed back into the lineup from the IL, singled him home.

DeLauter stole 2B, was Wild Pitched to 3B by Winston Santos, and scored on another Wild Pitch. The Progressive Field Grounds Crew then was summoned by the Rangers for some landscaping of the pitchers mound. Mind you, Santos - sporting a 9.00 ERA - is not to be mistaken for Sandy Kaufax perusing an odd blemish on the hill, but the Umps humored him anyway.

Then in the 8th Inning, Hedges, the man who'd

would not score again until the 82' mark, when Malik Tillman blasted in a free kick from outside the Penalty Box. Unfortunately, Balogun already had received a Red Card at 64' and the US had to play a man down the rest of the match. USA G Matt Freese made three Saves in the Shutout. Bosnia-Herzegovina G Nikola Vasilj recorded no Saves.

The bad news is that Balogun, the USMNT top goal scorer, will have to sit out their next match against Belgium, who advanced to the Round of 16 with a 3-2 extra time win over Senegal. That will make things even tougher for the USA for that match on July 6.



Kwan

worked the Squeeze Play earlier, flexed some muscle as he powered a 2-Run HR over the LF wall. Cantillo and five relievers combined for the 9-4 win.

The nine-run explosion was a welcome sight for the fans, who have been watching the Guardians struggle to score runs. Ned commented, "I can't believe they got that five-spot in the 2nd Inning. That must've made Cantillo feel pretty good to get that kind of early support." Kelly, with three daughters in tow, remarked, "We're having a pretty good time today. We have some wiggle room with a lead, so we've been able to do some fun things with the girls, and not be hold-

ing our breath on every pitch."

Robert, who's seen his share of games over the years, noted, "At least we were able to enjoy the game in this unbearable heat. They have to do more with having water available to fans,

when it's a scorcher. If we were losing, we really would not be happy campers. We got into the shade, got to see some Offense, and can leave with a smile on our faces."

Meanwhile, the Guardians don't get too

long to celebrate as they get no off day, as they immediately welcome the White Sox for the aforementioned important four-game series.

The celebrations will be for America's 250th!

Mason to face Bell

Abdullah Mason's Cleveland homecoming will now come with an all-Ohio twist.

After former world champion Joe Cordina was forced to withdraw due to a visa issue, unbeaten Toledo native and WBO No. 6-ranked contender Albert Bell has stepped in to challenge Mason for the WBO lightweight world title on Saturday, July 4, at Cleveland State University's Wolstein Center.

Mason-Bell headlines TNT Sports and DAZN's inaugural The Fight event, a new monthly live boxing series, and will be broadcast co-exclusively in the U.S. on TNT, truTV and DAZN and worldwide on DAZN.

The Mason-Bell, Bruce Carrington-Rene Palacios, Tiger Johnson-Chrisopher Guerrero and Scooter Davis-Carlos Ramos fights will be broadcast LIVE beginning at 8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT.

Promoted by Top Rank, in association with Pulse Boxing and TGB Pro-



Mason

motions, tickets are on sale via Ticketmaster.com.

Mason said, "New opponent, same mission. Much respect to Albert Bell for stepping in. Everyone, show up to the Wolstein for my title defense. Appetite for smoke!"

Bell said, "The opportunity was presented, I said yes. If you know my story, it's been a long road."

Bell (28-0, 9 KOs) was scheduled to face Cuban Olympic gold medalist Andy Cruz in an IBF lightweight world title final eliminator on July 18 in Carson, California. Instead, the unbeaten Ohioan now gets his first world title opportunity two weeks earlier against Mason. The 33-year-old returns following a 10-round unanimous decision over Keith Hunter last August in his hometown.

The Fight is a new monthly boxing series from TNT Sports and DAZN, built to deliver the sport's biggest matchups and rising stars on a consistent national stage, elevated further by a star-studded on-air broadcast team.

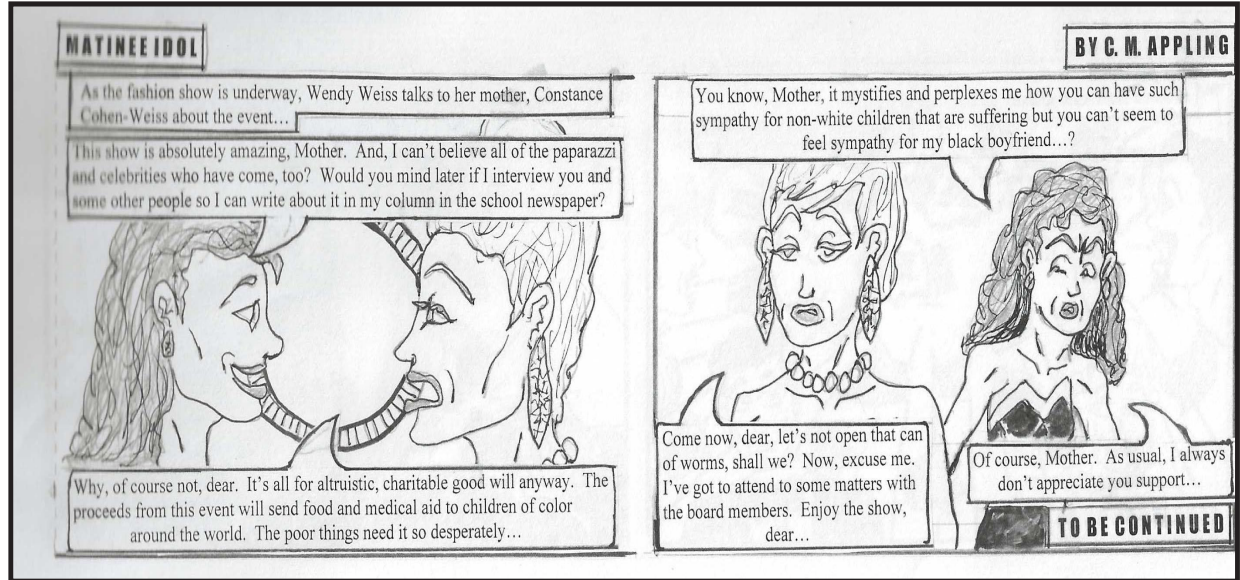
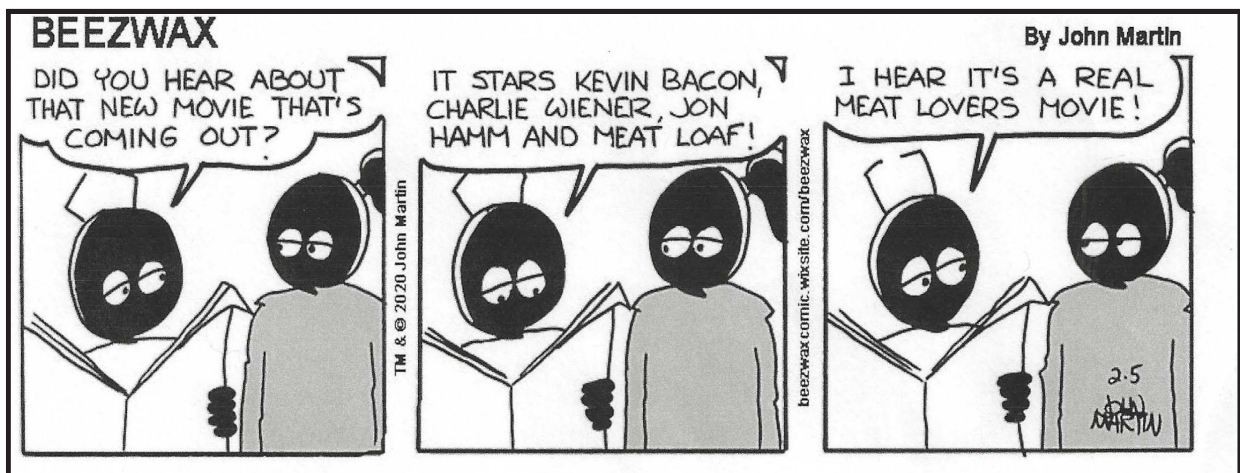
Featuring top fighters from leading global promoters, each event airs live on TNT Sports and DAZN platforms in the U.S. and streams worldwide on DAZN, creating a seamless, multi-platform experience that brings fans closer to the action than ever before. Across TNT Sports' networks and platforms, including Bleacher Report and House of Highlights, additional original programming and digital content will spotlight the personalities, storylines and stakes driving each event.



Bell



Billboards promoting the Abdullah Mason fight in Cleveland are posted throughout the city promoting the fight between Mason and Albert Bell on July 4 at the Wolstein Center. This billboard was located at E. 96th and Woodland Ave.



On The Town

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

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

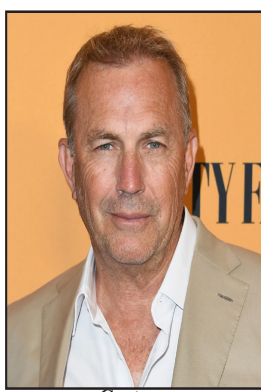
THE BODYGUARD will be performed on October 27 and 28 at Akron's E.J. Thomas Hall as part of their Broadway In Akron series.

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

Based on the 1992 film starring Whitney Houston and Kevin Costner, THE BODYGUARD is a thrilling, romantic



Houston



Costner

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.

Tickets are on sale now.

Neil deGrasse Tyson "Search For Life In The Universe" to come to State Theatre

Neil deGrasse Tyson "Search For Life In The Universe" to come to State Theatre on October 7 at 8:00 p.m.

"To declare that Earth is the only planet in the universe with life would be inexcusably bigheaded of us."

The discovery of about half a dozen planets around stars other than the Sun has triggered tremendous public interest. Attention was driven not so much by the discovery



Tyson

of extra-solar planets, but by the prospect of them hosting intelligent life.

In any case, the media frenzy that followed was somewhat out of proportion with the events. Why? Because

planets cannot be all that rare in the universe if the Sun happens to have a bunch of them. Even if they were teeming with buoyant aliens, the odds against these life forms being intelligent may be astronomical.

Ordinarily, there is no riskier step that a scientist (or anyone) can take than to make sweeping generalizations from just one example. At the moment, life on Earth is the only known life in the universe, but there are compelling argu-

ments to suggest we are not alone...

Tyson was awarded the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal in the same year. From 2006 to 2011, he hosted the television show NOVA ScienceNow on PBS. Since 2009, Tyson has hosted the weekly podcast StarTalk. A spin-off, also called StarTalk, began airing on National

Geographic in 2015. In 2014, he hosted the television series Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey, a successor to Carl Sagan's 1980 series Cosmos: A Personal Voyage. The U.S. National Academy of Sciences awarded Tyson the Public Welfare Medal in 2015 for his "extraordinary role in exciting the public about the wonders of science."

MENU TIPS

A 'Berry' healthy way to help your heart

(NAPSI)—A little heart-shaped fruit can be a big help to your heart. According to research, strawberries may play an important role in helping to reduce the risk of heart disease.

"Strawberries are at the top of the list of foods I recommend for packing the most nutrition into everyday meals, especially when considering cardiovascular health," said Sylvia Klinger, MS, RD, LDN. "It's an easy sell with their versatility and naturally sweet taste."

Here are 12 more reasons to enjoy California strawberries:

1. High in vitamin C (more per serving than an orange) and may boost immunity.
2. Considered a superfruit with loads of antioxidants and anthocyanins.
3. Versatile and can be added to both savory and sweet dishes.
4. Low in sugar, naturally sweet with only 45 calories per cup.
5. A source of potassium to support healthy blood pressure.
6. A good source of dietary fiber.
7. Available year-round and easy to freeze.
8. Grown by caring strawberry farmers who use sustainable farming practices.
9. Loved by kids and ideal for snacks and lunches.
10. Ideal for adding appeal to summertime dishes and special occasions.
11. Grown to perfection in ideal growing conditions along California's coast.

12. Globally loved and voted America's favorite fruit.

Try this recipe for a tasty way to enjoy strawberries: Grilled Salmon with Strawberry Ginger Salsa

Serves: 6
Salsa:
Prepare at least one hour ahead.

1 English or seedless cucumber, finely chopped
1 green onion, thinly sliced

1 Tbsp. cilantro, cut into strips
1 tsp. fresh ginger, freshly grated

1 yellow pepper, diced small
3-4 Tbsp. seasoned rice wine vinegar

2 cups fresh California strawberries, hulled and diced small

Sauce:
1 stick unsalted butter
1 clove garlic
1 Tbsp. honey
2 Tbsp. soy sauce
1 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice

6 salmon fillets (or fish of choice), skinless
Mix cucumbers, green onion, cilantro, ginger, yellow pepper and vinegar. Cover and chill at least one hour. Just before serving, add strawberries.

In a small saucepan, melt butter with garlic over low heat. Stir in honey, soy sauce and lemon juice and cook 2 minutes; set aside. Prepare a charcoal grill;

when ready, brush sauce on salmon pieces and place on a well-oiled fish-grilling rack. Place rack over coals about 4 inches from fire and grill approximately 4 to 5 minutes on each side. Brush with the sauce again after turning and again when done. Transfer to warm platter and top with salsa.

For more information and healthful recipes, follow @castrawberries on Facebook, or visit www.californiastrawberries.com.

Just Jazz

By NANCY ANN LEE

Coleman Hawkins

Mention tenor saxophone stylists today and Coleman Hawkins is the first name that comes up. He was a pioneer whose full-bodied warm tones and buoyant rhythmic feel have inspired countless jazz musicians since the 1930's.

Hawkins was born in St. Joseph, Mo. in 1904. His music studies began on piano, cello and, by age nine, tenor.

He gained fame as a soloist for his first recordings with Fletcher Henderson's band in 1923. He left the band in 1934 to perform and record in Europe with Benny Carter, Django Reinhardt and others.

In 1939, he returned to the U.S., formed a nine piece band (until 1941) which recorded his biggest, "Body & Soul," and, then a nationally recognized artist, he assembled the band for the first bop record session (on Apollo) in 1944.

Hawkins continued to tour internationally and to record with major jazz luminaries until the late 1960s. By then, his health was declining due to heavy drinking. He died on May 19, 1969 of bronchial pneumonia in New York City's Wickersham Hospital.

Hawkins was the most influential person in the evolution of the tenor saxophone, enjoying great artistic and commercial success and the first tenorman to creatively reconstruct ballads. He was considered a legend in his own time and is still admired today for his extraordinary artistry.

Countless recordings he made are still available.

Da 'Round Da Way Rewind Review

Black superhero Luke Cage: Hero For Hire

By C.M. APPLING

During the 1960s and '70s, Marvel Comics created what would become some of the most famous and successful, black and/or African-American superheroes in the comic book industry that would later be portrayed by talented, African-American actors in Hollywood. Wesley Snipes as Eric Brooks a.k.a. Blade: the sword-wielding, hybrid being with all of vampires' strengths but none of their weaknesses. Halle Berry as Ororo Munroe a.k.a. Storm: the white-haired, African, mutant X-Man who controls the weather. And, the late Chadwick Boseman as King T'Challa a.k.a. Black Panther: the African sovereign of the technologically-advanced nation of Wakanda with a super-powered, cat costume.

However, in 1972, Marvel invented a black superhero in the #1 first-issue of Luke Cage: Hero For Hire, who was modeled after the 'ghetto heroes' of the 'blaxpotation era' in motion-pictures that mirrored actors like Richard Roundtree, Pam Grier, Fred Williamson, Jim Kelley and Jim Brown. In the historical canon of the comic book, Luke Cage was a wrongly-imprisoned man who was subjected to secret experiments in prison that gave him the super-human abilities of extreme strength and invulnerable skin. After the character's debut, he remained one of Marvel's 'second-tier' superheroes who took a back seat to more iconic ones. That was until 2016 when Marvel decided to approve a streaming series on Netflix focused on him.

The Luke Cage series was produced by Cheo Hodari Coker and lasted two seasons. However, during those two seasons, Coker was able to make the show and its predominately-black cast some of the most complicated, complex and three-dimensional ever seen for a black super-

hero. The series was part of the extended, MCU (Marvel Cinematic Universe) and was interconnected with three, other, Netflix series based on 'street-level' superheroes: Daredevil, Jessica Jones and Iron Fist.

The main character, Carl Lucas a.k.a. Luke Cage was portrayed by actor Mike Colter. Tall, bald and muscular, with a mustache and goatee, Carl Lucas escaped from the brutal and corrupt, Seagate Prison with his new super-powers and became a fugitive who changed his name and identity to Luke Cage to 'disappear' in Harlem, New York. But, he finds himself drawn into the local neighborhood's crime problems and decides to take a stand to bring justice to the 'hood.

Luke is aided by the 'fine' and tough Mercedes 'Misty' Knight (Simone Missick) who was a former, female, basketball prodigy who eventually became a police detective. Playing the role of 'sidekick', like in the comics, Misty loses an arm and has it replaced with a strong, cybernetic, substitute limb.

Cornell Stokes a.k.a. Cottonmouth (Mahershala Ali) is Mariah's gangster cousin who was raised by their criminal grandmother, Mama Mabel and Uncle Pete. Back in the day, Mabel ran numbers, guns and prostitution (but no drugs).

When she discovers that Pete went behind her back to make a drug deal, she has teenage Cottonmouth shoot him (even though Pete was the only one to encourage his musical keyboard ambitions). As an adult, he ran the Harlem's Paradise nightclub and crime until Mariah killed him.

Mariah Stokes-Dillard (Alfre Woodard) is Cottonmouth's cousin and the phony, 'lip-service' politician trying to revitalize the city with her New Harlem Renaissance project. Her Crispus Attucks building was a front to store Cottonmouth's dirty

Chris' Cinema Trivia & Movie Match Up

By CHRIS APPLING



TRIVIA - (Comedies)

1. In the 'Player's Club' (1998), rapper/actor Ice Cube wrote, directed and executive-produced the film about an African-American girl (Lisa Raye) who pays for her college tuition by dancing at a strip club, but who is the black comedian who plays "Dollar Bill:" the club owner and who now has his own T.V. sitcom about a comedian who is raising his sister's 3 kids because she is a drug addict?
2. Comedian D.L. Hughley went from hosting a show on BET to starring in his own T.V. sitcom 'The Hughleys,' about a successful, snack vending machine entrepreneur who moves his African-American family to an integrated suburb, but in what movie did he star as one of four, close, male friends and whose character was married to a reserved, proper wife who was afraid to try new love techniques?
3. Cedric The Entertainer is best known as Steve Harvey's best friend on 'The Steve Harvey Show,' but in what film did he star as a black minister who is hired by

- an African-American family to hold the funeral for a recently departed loved?
 4. In 'Showtime' (2001), white, acting legend Robert DeNiro stars as a cop who is hired by a T.V. production company to have a camera crew follow him on his daily patrol to star in a 'reality show' about police officers, but who is the black, comedy legend who plays DeNiro's partner that uses this opportunity to fulfill his acting dreams?
 5. Martin Lawrence made his comical, motion picture debut as one of the hot, neighborhood homies on a sweltering summer day in Bed-Stuy, N.Y. in Spike Lee's 'Do The Right Thing' (1989), before starring in his own, FOX sitcom 'Martin,' but in what movie does he star as an employee at a medieval theme park who is transported back in time to the 1300s in England?
- ANSWERS: 1. Bernie Mac 2. 'The Brothers' (2001) 3. 'Kingdom Come' (2001) 4. Eddie Murphy 5. 'Black Knight' (2001)



MOVIE MATCH-UP - (Martin Lawrence)

FILMS:

1. 'House Party' (1990)
2. 'Boomerang' (1992)
3. 'Bad Boys' (1995)
4. 'Life' (1999)
5. 'Big Momma's House' (2000)

ROLES:

- a) wrongfully imprisoned

- for more than 40 years
 - bad-breathed, D.J. for Kid 'N' Play
 - disguised in under cover cop mission
 - ad exec friend of playboy
 - switches places with police partner
- ANSWERS: 1, b; 2, d; 3, e;

Abdul Ahad Momand, Only Afghan to Fly in Space, Is Dead

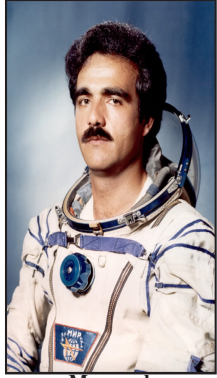
Abdul Ahad Momand was an Afghan cosmonaut and aviator. He became the first, and so far the only, Afghan citizen to journey to outer space. He was one of Soyuz TM-6's crew members and spent nine days aboard the Mir space station in 1988 as an Interkosmos research cosmonaut.

Momand is a holder of many records as an Afghan cosmonaut. He became the first person to take the Quran to space and recite it there.

When he spoke to his mother on the phone from space, Pashto became the fourth language to be officially spoken in space. He became the first Afghan citizen and the fourth Muslim to visit outer space, after Sultan bin Salman Al Saud, Muhammed Faris, and Musa Manarov.

Following the collapse of Mohammad Najibullah's left-wing government, amidst the civil war that followed the Soviet withdrawal, Momand emigrated to Germany in 1992, where he was granted asylum. He subsequently lived in Stuttgart and worked as a printer and as an accountant. He became a German citizen in 2003.

Momand was born sometime in 1959 in Sardeh Band, Andar District, within the Ghazni



Momand

Province of Afghanistan. He belonged to the Momand tribe of the Pashtun ethnic group. After completing his education in Habibia High School, he entered the Kabul Polytechnic University in 1976 at the age of 17, and graduated two years later before being drafted into the military in 1978.

Momand was then sent to the Soviet Union for pilot training. There, he studied at the Krasnodar Higher Military Aviation School of Pilots and the Kiev Higher Air Force Engineering School before returning to Afghanistan in 1981, where he rose through the ranks, becoming a chief navigator at Bagram Air Base. He returned to the Soviet Union in 1984 to train at the Gagarin Air Force Academy. Not long after graduating in 1987, he was selected as a cosmonaut candidate for the Interkosmos project.

The other cos-

monaut candidate sent for training was Mohammad Dawran, an Afghan MiG-21 pilot with the rank of Colonel. While Dawran had more political connections than Momand and held a higher military rank (since Momand was a captain at the time), Dawran's appendicitis was the deciding factor in Momand being chosen for the primary crew. Dawran then became part of the backup crew for Momand's mission.

Along with Commander Vladimir Lyakhov and Flight Engineer Valery Polyakov, Momand was part of the Soyuz TM-6 three-man crew, which launched at 04:23 GMT 29 August 1988. Momand's inclusion in the mission was a significant symbol during the Soviet-Afghan War.

During his nine days stay on the Mir space station in 1988, Momand took photographs of his country and participated in astrophysical, medical, and biological experiments. He also spoke to then-President Mohammad Najibullah of Afghanistan, and brewed Afghan tea for the crew.

Momand was also recorded reciting the Quran in space at the request of the Afghan Government while his legs were held by another crew member outside of the shot to prevent him from floating away.

Lyakhov and Momand returned to Earth aboard Soyuz TM-5. The 6 September planned landing of Soyuz TM-5 was delayed because of mechanical complications on the Mir. Radio Moscow reassured listeners that Lyakhov and Momand were fine and in touch with Mission Control. However, their sanitation facilities were on board the jettisoned orbital module and consequently they soiled themselves during the delay. A recording, colloquially called the der'mo tape, was played of them laughing about this. A day later, the retro-fire was successful, and at 00:50 GMT Soyuz TM-5 landed near Dzhuzkagan. During touchdown, there was no live radio coverage, but only live television pictures of Mission Control.

As Momand returned to Afghanistan, he was greeted by a large crowd that threw flowers at him, as the Mujahideen fired a barrage of rockets towards the city of Kabul. The city was the site of 25 separate rocket attacks in a single day, resulting in 35 dead and 165 injured.

Momand was awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union on 7 September 1988 as well as the Hero of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Order of Lenin.

During his flight



Abdul Ahad Momand recited the holy Quran in the space and spoke Pashto. He was connected to his family in Afghanistan

to space, his mother was extremely distraught over the safety of her son. President Najibullah called Momand's mother into the President's office and arranged an audio/video conference between Momand and her. By this event, Pashto became the fourth language spoken in space.

On his return, he was made deputy minister of civil aviation.

Momand was in India sorting out a complaint regarding Ariana Airlines during the collapse of Najibullah's government in 1992. Momand decided to emigrate to Germany, and applied for asylum there, becoming a German citizen by naturalisation in 2003. He worked in the printing service and subsequently

became an accountant residing in Ostfildern near Stuttgart. He received the Russian Medal "For Merit in Space Exploration" in 2010. He returned to Afghanistan in 2013, at the request of then-President Hamid Karzai, for the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his space mission as shown in the BBC Persian documentary "Kabul to the Galaxy."

Momand was married to Zulfara and had two daughters and a son. He was fluent in four languages: Pashto, Persian, Russian and German.

Momand died of cancer in Stuttgart, Baden-Württemberg, Germany, on June 21.

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George Gresham, Health Care Union Powerhouse, Dies

George Gresham, the former longtime president of the 1199 Service Employees International Union has died, officials said. He was 71.

Gresham led SEIU — one of New York's largest unions, mostly representing health care workers — from 2007 to 2025. He died Friday after battling a long illness, SEIU said.

Beyond New York, 1199SEIU is also the nation's largest health care workers union.

Posting on X, Mayor Mamdani praised Gresham as "a giant of New York's labor move-



Gresham

ment and a relentless champion for working people. From the hospital floor to the presidency of 1199SEIU, he dedicated

his life to fighting for the dignity, safety and economic security of health care workers and their families," he said.

Mamdani announced that on Saturday the Big Apple would lower flags to half-mast at all municipal buildings to honor Gresham.

"From his start as a hospital worker to leading 1199SEIU, George Gresham was a legendary labor leader who never stopped fighting for working people, communities of color, and the dignity every New Yorker deserves," Governor Hochul said in a statement.

"His voice helped shape New York's labor movement and strengthen the rights of health care workers across our state."

Gresham, who was born in Virginia and later moved to New York City, started out as a housekeeper at Columbia Presbyterian hospital before eventually rising to the president of the union.

During his tenure leading SEIU, he advocated for fair wages, affordable health benefits, retirement benefits, education benefits, childcare and safe staffing for health care workers. He was also revered as a civil rights activist push-

ing for quality healthcare, women's rights, living wages, racial and immigrant justice, and gender and LGBTQ equality.

George's visionary leadership, 1199SEIU was a powerhouse for progressive change," SEIU said in a statement. "He understood that the fight for economic justice is inseparable from the fight for racial, immigrant and social justice. He didn't just win industry-leading contracts; he won dignity, respect and a voice for over 450,000 healthcare workers across the East Coast."

Services held for Tony Brown, Host of Public Affairs Show

Tony Brown, a television journalist, educator and civil rights advocate who grew up in West Virginia, has died.

He was best known as the commentator of the long-running syndicated television show Tony Brown's Journal.

He died June 17 at his home in Newport News, Va., at age 93. His death from coronary heart disease was an-



Brown

nounced on Friday on his Facebook page.

Brown was born April 11, 1933, the

youngest of five children to Royal Brown and Catherine Davis Brown in Charleston.

Royal Brown left before he was born. Tony Brown was raised by a family friend named Elizabeth Sanford and her daughter, Mabel Holmes, who took him in at just two months old. When Brown was 12, after Sanford and Holmes passed away, he went to live with his mother.

He was a 1951 graduate of Garnet High School, a historic African-American high school in Charleston named for Henry Highland Garnet, who was born into slavery in Maryland and became U.S. consul to Liberia.

At Garnet, according to his obituary, he joined the track team and excelled in academics, especially English and drama. He performed in school plays and performed segments of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar on WGKV radio in Charleston.

"His primary education at Garnet formed the foundation of a life devoted to learning, leadership and service. Brown carried those early lessons with him throughout his life," according to his obituary.

Brown enlisted in the Army in 1953 and then studied at Wayne

State University in Detroit, where he earned a bachelor's degree in sociology in 1959 and later a master's degree in psychiatric social work.

In 1962, Brown turned to journalism, joining the Detroit Courier as a drama critic and rising as an editor, establishing himself as a prominent voice in the city.

Brown first moved into television in 1968 when he started as public affairs programmer at WTVS, Detroit's public television station. Soon after his hiring, Brown produced the station's first show for African Americans called CPT or Colored People's Time.

In 1971, he became executive producer and sometime the host of the monthly television program Black Journal. In 1977, the program was renamed Tony Brown's Journal.

Brown regularly highlighted African American economic and political progress on the program bearing his name.

A New York Times obituary for Brown reported an estimate that, over the course of nearly four decades, he had interviewed more than 1,000 guests, including Lena Horne, Jesse Jackson,

Angela Davis, Bill Cosby and Sammy Davis Jr.

An obituary prepared by his office said "Tony Brown's Journal" was the longest-running series in the history of the PBS network.

In 2002, he was inducted into the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences' Silver Circle.

Beyond writing a widely syndicated newspaper column, Brown was the author of several books, including "Black Lies, White Lies: The Truth According to Tony Brown" (1995), "Empower the People: A 7-Step Plan to Overthrow the Conspiracy That Is Stealing Your Money and Freedom" (1998), and "What Mama Taught Me: The Seven Core Values of Life (2003)."

"Tony Brown leaves behind a legacy and life defined by education, service and an unwavering belief in telling the truth," his obituary observed.

"His influence will continue to resonate through the institutions he shaped, the voices he amplified, and the generations he inspired. Brown, in the community he called home in his later years, will be remembered not only for what he accomplished, but for the example he set."

Flock cameras tracking you

Automated license plate readers have created an extensive surveillance network across Northeast Ohio.

A review of federal court filings and police records found at least 1,717 cameras operating in Cuyahoga County. Most are supplied by Flock Safety, and 51 of the county's 59 municipalities use them. Mounted on poles, buildings and roadways, the cameras photograph passing vehicles around the clock and allow police to search those images later.

These are five takeaways from the original article, which draws on internal Flock and police data released in federal court records.

1. 1,717 cameras form a countywide surveillance network

Cleveland has the most cameras, with 310. Suburbs including Lakewood and Beachwood also have extensive coverage.

2. Police can track vehicles across city lines

Law enforcement agencies say data sharing is crucial when suspects cross jurisdictional boundaries. Privacy advocates counter that it creates a massive database containing the travel patterns of countless innocent drivers.

3. Ohio has few rules governing the technology

4. Concerns have expanded beyond crime fighting

5. A federal judge says bigger constitutional questions remain.

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Abdullah Mason and Albert Bell kicked off fight week today with a public workout at Zelma George Recreation Center

Abdullah Mason and Albert Bell kicked off fight week today with a public workout at Zelma George Recreation Center in Cleveland, just three days out from their all-Ohio world title showdown.

Cleveland-born Mason (20-0, 17 KOs) will defend his WBO lightweight world title against unbeaten Toledo native Bell (28-0, 9 KOs) on Saturday, July 4, at Cleveland State University's Wolstein Center.

They were joined by WBC featherweight world champion Bruce Carrington (17-0, 10 KOs), who will defend his crown against Mexico's Rene Palacios (19-0-1, 10 KOs) in the co-feature, and U.S. Olympian Tiger Johnson (17-0, 8 KOs), a Cleveland native who will take on Christopher Guerrero (16-0, 9 KOs) in a 10-round welterweight clash.

Also appearing were Mason's brothers, Ibrahim

Mason (2-0, 2 KOs) and Abdurrahman Mason (2-0, 2 KOs), who will compete in separate four-rounders on the undercard. Ibrahim faces Erik Hanley (1-2, 1 KO) in a super featherweight fight, while Abdurrahman takes on Alvaro Huizar Cabral (1-0) at lightweight.

Mason-Bell headlines TNT Sports and DAZN's inaugural The Fight event, a new monthly live boxing series, and will be broadcast co-exclusively

in the U.S. on TNT, truTV and DAZN, and worldwide on DAZN.

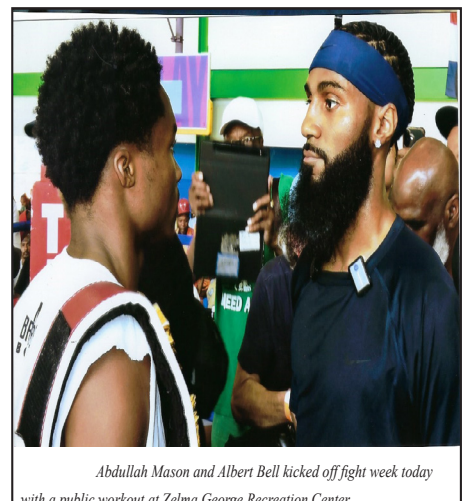
Mason-Bell, Carrington-Palacios, Tiger-Guerrero and the Scooter Davis-Carlos Ramos eight-round lightweight opener will be broadcast LIVE beginning at 8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT.

Promoted by Top Rank, in association with Pulse Boxing and TGB Promotions, tickets are on sale via Ticketmaster.com.

Before the



Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb, in blue, welcomes the Mason brothers, Amir, Adel, Abdur-Rahman, Abdullah and Ibrahim, to their public workout at Zelma George Recreation Center to promote Abdullah Mason's fight at the Wolstein Center on July 4.



Abdullah Mason and Albert Bell kicked off fight week today with a public workout at Zelma George Recreation Center.

Does the Bibb administration do their homework? MMY US has been a disaster in Louisville -now you are welcoming them here?

The Cleveland Deal:

The city named MMY US its preferred modular housing manufacturer and announced a \$2.56 million historic tax credit award for the Wellman-Seaver-Morgan building at 7000 Central Ave.

Cleveland on June 30 said it has named MMY US its preferred modular housing manufacturer and won a \$2.56 million Ohio historic preservation tax credit award tied to the Wellman-Seaver-Morgan Engineering Company building at 7000 Central Avenue.

The announcement matters because it links two city priorities: adding housing faster and putting a long-vacant industrial landmark back into use. The city says the project fits into its Housing Innovation District, which spans Central, Hough and St. Clair-Superior and is meant to speed housing production through zoning, permitting, construction methods and infrastructure upgrades.

Cleveland says MMY's planned operations could create up to 150 manufacturing jobs and expand the region's ability to produce off-site housing. That could help, at least in theory, with the time and cost pressures that make new homes harder to deliver.

But this is still a step in the pipeline, not a finished factory opening. The city says MMY intends to locate in the Wellman-Seaver-Morgan building only after state and local incentives are completed.

Why the tax credit matters

The tax credit is not a completed renovation or cash payment. It is a financing tool that helps support the building's rehabilitation and signals that the project has moved forward. News 5 reported that state histor-

ic credits are not paid out until projects are finished.

For Cleveland, the bigger picture is the Midline: a long-term effort to turn more than 350 acres of former industrial land into an employment district, innovation corridor and greenway. If the MMY plan advances, the city could gain a manufacturing use for one of its signature East Side industrial buildings.

What happened in Louisville should have given Cleveland pause on the project:

According to news reports, "Louisville has pumped \$1.5 million of \$1.7 million awarded so far into a British-controlled company to create a factory to pump out prefabricated homes. Now the city wants to give it even more money, but nearly a year after the city sold the company the land to build demonstration homes, the WAVE News Troubleshooters found nothing has been built.

MMY US won the contract to build up to five demonstration homes.

There was also a big press conference when the city announced it would help the company establish its factory in the Parkland neighborhood, promising jobs for people living in the West End, but WAVE found some of those promises haven't been fulfilled a year later.

In the Chickasaw neighborhood, the only activity WAVE found at this vacant lot at 913 S. 42nd Street sold to MMY US was a contractor cutting the grass. The grass was knee-high at the other location at 531 S. 18th in the Russell neighborhood also sold to the company by the city. The project had a deadline.

"Substantial completion of the project must be completed within 90 days," said a city worker at the

Landbank Authority meeting approving the sale of the property.

The Authority seemed satisfied the company would move quickly when it approved the sale a year ago.

"They have been cleared through planning, they have been cleared through construction review, what we have been told is that we're looking at the first one to be completed at the end of July (2024)," said the staffer.

However, city records show MMY US only got the permits in March this year for the 42nd Street house. A far cry from the pomp and circumstance of the mayor's 2024 ribbon cutting where MMY US CEO Robin Bartram Brown spoke.

"Our mission is really clear," Bartram Brown said. "To deliver a high-quality product on time, and on budget, for a diverse range of clients."

The company has been building the modules, finished ones are stored in view within the factory gates. MMY US is building an apartment building in Sellersburg with its partner, Family Scholar House.

"MMY is a global modular housing manufacturer that has decided to open up its very first location right here in West Louisville with a \$6.1 million investment," said Mayor Craig Greenberg during his press conference.

Public records cast doubts on the Mayor's claims. MMY US' own contract proposal to get city money to help outfit its factory said it was key to building a government building in Saudi Arabia in 2020, but MMY US didn't exist until it was incorporated in Kentucky in 2023. MMY US says MMY Group partnered with another firm to build that Saudi building. WAVE can't

verify its \$6.1 million investment. MMY US' proof of funds page was redacted by the city, but scoring notes from the city's contract review team said MMY US didn't provide any financials to them either. MMY US said it just bought the factory for \$2 million last week, demonstrating its financial commitment.

Also, the latest British company filings from 2023 said the parent company MMY Global had an average employee headcount of one.

"How can you give it to someone who has never built modular, has never built anything in the United States?" asked Businesswoman Robin Hall.

Hall has lots of questions about Robin Bartram Brown and MMY US. She met him through her business partner Michelle James in 2022. He was in the medical glove business and they created a company called Tutum Distribution to handle the pitch. Remember that name.

"He was meeting with officials, with city officials, meeting with individuals in legislation," said Hall.

Hall said Bartram Brown used her business address to create MMY US without her knowledge. Hawkins said she was told creating jobs was a priority, and that there would be training.

"When you have a company that comes into an underserved area, you would definitely have to train," said Hawkins. In a letter to the city, MMY US said it's trying to improve its number of workers from those zip codes. It said they have already filled their unskilled positions and are struggling to find skilled workers. "We can't just give taxpayers dollars to development projects that don't do what they say they're going

to do," said Hawkins. More Taxpayer Money Proposed Hawkins plans to ask tough questions as the city crafts its next budget. The mayor wants to invest \$15 million into the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and mentioned the company by name during his budget address.

"MMY US, building its first modular housing manufacturing facility in Louisville's Parkland neighborhood," said Greenberg. He proposed that the city invest another \$1 million into the company to build 24 more modular houses in the remaining council districts, even though the first two locations are still vacant.

"This proposed budget includes funding for a new modular housing pilot project, including new homes for sale in previously overlooked neighborhoods," said Greenberg. Reaction from MMY and the City MMY US declined an on-camera interview. It sent a statement saying: "MMY US Inc. was publicly and competitively awarded Contract #SC00002743 on April 11, 2024, by Louisville Metro Government for the Modular Housing Demonstration Project. We have fully complied with the terms of that Contract. The first exemplar home is now in manufacture, and we remain on track for completion in Summer 2025. The Contract contains no confidentiality provisions. We do not engage in media interviews during active Contracts. That said, we are proud of our impact: we're employing 70 people, many of whom are from the West End and previously unemployed. We have

obtained also show

Bartram Brown began discussing incentives with city officials three months after that letter to Michelle James. Ultimately, the company was awarded \$500,000 the day of that mayoral press conference in February 2024.

Unmet Job Requirements

"If we can do that and help this underserved community at the same time, then it's a win," said Bartram Brown at the press conference.

The city awarded the company another \$1.2 million in September last year to start manufacturing. In exchange, it needed to create jobs, 75 percent of which needed to be from three zip codes surrounding the factory in the Parkland neighborhood. Its latest job report to the city said it employs 84 people, half through a temporary staffing firm. But only four on the payroll are from those required zip codes.

"This is a huge concern, especially with so many broken promises that seems to go along with not producing exactly what they say they're going to produce," said First District Council Member Tammy Hawkins, who represents the area with the factory.

Hawkins said she was told creating jobs was a priority, and that there would be training.

"When you have a company that comes into an underserved area, you would definitely have to train," said Hawkins. In a letter to the city, MMY US said it's trying to improve its number of workers from those zip codes. It said they have already filled their unskilled positions and are struggling to find skilled workers.

"We can't just give taxpayers dollars to development projects that don't do what they say they're going

revitalized a once-dilapidated property, and last week, we completed a \$2.2 million purchase of our facility — a clear signal of our financial strength and ongoing investment and commitment to the West End."

The city sent a statement saying:

"MMY has been a valued partner with Louisville Metro Government since arriving in the market. Every day, from their west Louisville facility, they are working to provide affordable housing, a priority for the mayor's administration. In addition to manufacturing single-family modular housing, MMY is also involved in Family Scholar House projects in Sellersburg, Indiana and in the Phoenix Hill neighborhood. MMY and the Office of Housing and Community Development are in regular communication, in addition to required monthly progress reports. MMY assumed ownership of the four Landbank Authority parcels in June with the intent to install modular homes, which will be among the first in Louisville Metro. With modular housing units, much of the progress takes place at locations other than the placement site. While working with the city and state on the permitting process and final design aspects, MMY filed for an extension, which was granted. Since then, they have secured the necessary permits for the first lot slated for development.

During a recent visit to their plant, MMY officials showed that construction on the first modular home is underway at their

west Louisville facility. It is scheduled to be completed in the next few weeks and should be installed on one of the parcels by the end of the summer. Once the home is ready, it will be sold as affordable housing and will inform the process for the next three to follow.

Filing for an extension is not an unusual request from developers of Landbank properties. In some cases, these properties have been considered vacant or abandoned for years and can be challenging to redevelop. If the purchaser maintains good standing and consistent communication, as MMY has been, the Authority may grant extensions if requested. There are circumstances in which the Landbank Authority may look to reacquire the property, particularly if the developer fails to communicate with OHCD over an extended period or abandons the project."

WAVE asked why the Landbank Authority said the projects had already been approved by construction review and planning a year ago. The city said these were the first modular house projects to be built in the state and needed time for more review.

The council will review the proposals to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund on June 2. WAVE also learned from MMY's reports to the city that it wants to build 1,000 homes in the city over the next five years. It suggested \$45,000 per house was needed to cover its costs. That's \$9 million per year."

What promises has Cleveland made to MMY?

FAST channel on Ceremonial Weigh-
Roku In 1 p.m. ET / 10
a.m. PT
Fight Week Saturday, July 4:
Programming Sched- Mason vs. Bell
ule Fight DAZN & TNT
Broadcast
Friday, July 3: Mason vs. Bell

The Cleveland APL's to keep pets safe over a hot holiday week

The Fourth of July holiday is a time for backyard barbecues, family gatherings and fireworks, but it can also be one of the most dangerous times of the year for pets. With extremely hot temperatures and loud celebrations expected throughout this week, the Cleveland Animal Protective League (APL) is reminding pet owners to take extra precautions to keep their four-legged family members safe.

Heat can quickly become life-threatening for pets. Unlike humans, animals cannot sweat to cool themselves and can rapidly suffer from heat stroke, organ failure or even death.



The Fourth of July holiday is a time for backyard barbecues, family gatherings and fireworks, but it can also be one of the most dangerous times of the year for pets.

Remember, if it's hot for you, it's hot for them ... and they're wearing a fur coat!

When pets spend time outdoors, always provide plenty of fresh water and access

to shade. Before walking your dog, place the palm of your hand on the pavement for several seconds. If it's too hot for your hand, it's too hot for your pet's paws. Save walks and outdoor exercise

for the early morning or late evening when temperatures are cooler, take shorter walks, take drinking with you, and watch for signs that your dog is becoming over heated.

Never leave a pet unattended in a parked vehicle—even for a few minutes, in the shade, with the windows cracked.

The temperature inside a car can reach deadly levels in a very short time. If you see an animal left unattended in a vehicle, try to locate the owner immediately or contact local law enforcement if you believe the animal is in imminent danger.

Ohio law pro-

jects individuals from civil liability who follow the required steps before entering a locked vehicle to rescue an animal at risk of heat-related injury or death.

If the incident occurs in Cuyahoga County, contact the Cleveland APL Humane Investigations Hotline at 216-377-1630.

Fireworks can also be frightening and dangerous for animals. Loud noises often cause pets to panic, hide or run away, so it's important that they are safely confined.

The Cleveland APL recommends taking these simple steps to keep pets safe throughout

the holiday weekend:

Make sure your pet is wearing a collar with an up-to-date ID tag and that their microchip information is current. Dogs should also have a current county dog license.

Keep pets indoors during fireworks displays in a secure, quiet room with windows and doors closed. Playing soft music or white noise may help reduce anxiety.

Consider using anxiety vest or snug-fitting shirt to calm your pet during fireworks.

Double-check that all doors, gates and fences are securely closed before guests ar-

rive or fireworks begin. Never use fireworks around pets. Lit fireworks can cause severe burns and injuries, while unused fireworks contain toxic chemicals that can be harmful if chewed or swallowed.

Never leave alcoholic beverages where pets can access them. Alcohol can cause serious illness and even be fatal if ingested.

Only use sunscreen or insect repellent products specifically labeled for pets. Human products can be toxic if licked or ingested.

Keep citronella candles, insect coils, lighter fluid, matches

and other grilling or fireworks supplies safely out of your pet's reach.

"The Fourth of July should be a fun holiday for the whole family, including our pets," said Sharon Harvey, President & CEO of the APL. "A little preparation can prevent tragedy. By keeping pets cool in sheltered areas with access to lots of water, safely indoors during fireworks, and ensuring their identification is current, we can help make sure they stay safe and at home where they belong."

The Cleveland APL will be closed on Saturday, July 4th. For more information, visit ClevelandAPL.org

Governor DeWine Announces Funding for Structured Literacy Centers

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE), today announced that the University of Akron, Bowling Green State University, and Miami University will receive a combined total of \$2.5 million to support the development and expansion of Structured Literacy Centers across the state.

Structured Literacy Centers provide teachers specialized training on the Science of Reading. These awards build on Governor DeWine's longstanding efforts to bring the Science of Reading into every classroom in Ohio.

"We know that

the Science of Reading is the best method for teaching students how to read," said Governor DeWine. "By supporting Structured Literacy Centers at universities across the state, we will help our future and current teachers master the Science of Reading so they can help every Ohio child become a confident reader and reach their full potential."

The University of Akron will receive \$1 million to expand its Center for Structured Literacy.

Bowling Green State University and Miami University will each receive \$750,000 to advance their own Structured Literacy programs.

"These cam-

pus have committed to be leaders in Structured Literacy. By advancing innovative methods and models, they will play a pivotal role in shaping educational practices throughout the state and delivering impactful results," said ODHE Chancellor Mike Duffey. "I look forward to working together to further this important initiative; our collaboration will be key to achieving lasting impact and continued success in Structured Literacy research."

Structured Literacy Centers equip teachers with strategies to systematically build students' reading skills – from recognizing letters and sounds to developing vocabu-

lary, fluency, and reading comprehension. They also train teachers on how to identify the signs of dyslexia early and provide appropriate instruction and intervention, so more students receive the support they need to succeed.

In addition to training future teachers, Structured Literacy Centers also offer research and professional development opportunities to support current teachers.

UA's Center for Structured Literacy was originally launched in 2024, with support from Governor DeWine and ODHE. The center's core mission is the translation of scientific research on reading instruction,

intervention, and dyslexia for educators. The center provides professional development to help both future and current K-12 teachers understand the Science of Reading, Structured Literacy, and dyslexia interventions.

Bowling Green will use the award to advance its Fostering Advanced Literacy Competencies for Ohio Networks using Structured Literacy (FALCON-SL) program. FALCON-SL will focus on developing Structured Literacy strategies for teachers of students in grades 4-8. The center will create materials and research to extend Structured Literacy learning opportunities into workforce-ready literacy skills grounded in the Science of Reading.

Miami University will use the award in support of its Center of Excellence in Literacy, Advancement, Education, and Development (MULEAD). MULEAD will create materials for professional development in the Science of Reading for school districts, as well as for Educator Preparation Programs that are producing the next generation of teachers.

"In addition to training Ohio's future teachers, expanding these Structured Literacy Centers will help K-12 districts become even more strongly aligned with the Science of Reading," Chancellor Duffey said. "By supporting these centers, we hope they become a model for other institutions and states to emulate across the country."

Governor DeWine has long supported the implementation of the Science of Reading in all Ohio educational settings, including early childhood education, K-12 education, and higher education. Thanks to the Governor's work, and the support of the Ohio General Assembly, the Science of Reading is now the required literacy teaching method for all public schools in Ohio.

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Saturday 10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.

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Culinary Arts

La Bastille at EDWINS on Saturday, July 12 from 6:30 - 10:00 p.m.
Celebrate freedom and second chances at EDWINS' annual La Bastille event on Saturday, July 12. Enjoy an unforgettable evening of French-inspired fare, cocktails, live music, and dancing!

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HEATWAVE

WITH SPECIAL GUEST **NELLY**