

SPORTS

Guardians Clinch Central Crown in Offensive Explosion

Page 4

MENU TIPS

Add Fiber To Your Diet For Good Health

See Page 5

Karamu House Arts Academy's classes to start

Dynamic, engaging arts education classes designed for students from Pre-K through 12th grade, all the way to lifelong learners are being offered at Karamu House Arts Academy. For class information, Karamu House , 2355 East 89th Street Cleveland.

Cleveland hub for human trafficking

More than 700 people in Cuyahoga County were identified as victims of human trafficking last year. But the first local report examining the scope of the problem says that number only tells a small part of the story. The community still doesn't truly know how many people are affected by human trafficking, where they are or how they are being exploited, according to the first "State of Human Trafficking in Cuyahoga County" report released Thursday by the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking.

No answers in Nolan Wells death in Mississippi

The grand jury reviewing the case of Nolan Wells, an 18-year-old who was found dead after going missing following an outing with friends on Mississippi's Horn Island on the Fourth of July, has determined there was no criminal wrongdoing in the teen's death. Wells' mother reported him missing later that night. His body was found Monday, July 6, off the coast of the island, which is about 10 miles south of the Mississippi mainland.

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READ ON - WRITE ON

While the NEORSD builds ‘parks,’ sewer pipes infrastructure under Shaker Square is crumbling

Brandon Chrostowski, founder of Edwins Leadership & Restaurant Institute and Edwins Too, publicly raised concerns about the infrastructure issues at Shaker Square.

After being plagued with years of mismanagement, EDWINS relocated to Cleveland Heights.

One of the biggest issues that Chrostowski dealt with was the sewers backing-up causing major issues for his restaurants and neighboring businesses.

His plea to management went unanswered as millions were being donated specifically to fix the infrastructure of Shaker Square. No one seems to be responsible for those missing funds.

While EDWINS was

lucky enough to relocate, many other tenants are still reeling with a failing sewer system.

NEORSD is busy spending millions of dollars to convince Shaker and Cleveland residents that a sewer park is better than the historical Shaker Lakes.

Sewer and plumbing problems are part of the broader infrastructure challenges the property that have not been dealt with.

Since 2022, the new owners — Cleveland Neighborhood Progress (CNP) and Burten Bell Carr (BBC) — have invested received millions for repairs, but have only done minor fixes, and shoddily, too.

These improvements were part of a \$10 million city-backed acquisition

aimed at stabilizing the aging commercial buildings.

While the official CNP response deny not addressing the infrastructures issues and not coordinating with the NEORSD to address the sewer issues, they have, in fact, done nothing.

Sazani Oceana seafood restaurant, which opened in a spece that EDWINS left, is to close at Shaker Square.

Sazani Oceana, the seafood restaurant opened by Akin Affrica and former Browns wide receiver Josh Cribbs at Shaker Square, closed after service Sunday, Oct. 4, according to a post on the restaurant’s social media.

“We appreciate everyone that walked through our doors, but the economics over the last four to five months have been very tough to sustain,” the restaurant said in the post.

The restaurant at 13220 Shaker Square brought an upscale, seafood-focused option to a space previously occupied by Edwins Too and Fire Food and Drink. When cleveland.com reported on the project in January, Affrica said he saw a gap in East Side dining options beyond fried, takeout-focused



Sazani Oceana seafood restaurant, which opened in a spece that EDWINS left, is to close at Shaker Square.

seafood.

“We don’t have a seafood restaurant on the East Side of Cleveland that’s doing what we’re doing, period. You have to

either go downtown or you have to go west,” Affrica said at the time.

The partners renovated the former Edwins Too space with booth seating,

Woman shot over dispute over a dog

A 33-year-old woman was fatally shot on the city’s West Side Tuesday morning, and a suspect is in custody.

The shooting happened around 10 a.m. Tuesday in the 3100 block of W. 61st St.

This is in the city’s Stockyards neighborhood.

The Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner identified the woman as Veronica

Miller, of Cleveland.

Cleveland EMS transported Miller to MetroHealth Medical Center, where she was pronounced dead.

According to police, a firearm was recovered at the scene.

Cleveland police have since identified the suspect as Antoine Cummings. According to police, Cummings remained at the scene and was placed under

chandeliers and an updated patio. The restaurant took its name from a coastal area on the island of Zanzibar, a connection to Affrica’s Zanzibar Soul Fusion. It officially opened in March 2026.

Sazani is open from 4:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday and Sunday and stays open until 10:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday for folks looking to stop by and say goodbye. The news of Sazani’s closure comes just days after its Shaker Square neighbor La Casa de Luchita’s closed its doors as the owners asses the restaurant’s future. The reimagination of Cleveland’s iconic Luchita’s restaurant opened in July 2025 and quietly closed its doors this summer.



The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) held a program. For more than 20 years, the Council on American-Islamic Relations has been fighting for the civil rights of American Muslims. Our Cleveland chapter is one of the busiest and most dynamic of CAIR’s thirty nationwide affiliates – defending, representing, and educating our community. We work to ensure the equal protection of the law for Muslims in Ohio. By working to uphold the constitution, we reinforce the American principles of justice and freedom for all Americans. Jeff Mixon, right, was in attendance.

Gasoline prices higher again for fall

The national average for a gallon of regular gasoline is one cent lower than last week at \$4.08, but there’s been little movement on the crude oil front. Due to continued volatility in the Strait of Hormuz, crude oil prices remain in the \$85 per barrel range. For the first time ever, the national average in August has been above \$4 per gallon every day. This month is poised to set a new record as the most expensive August at the pump, surpassing the previous August record set in 2022.

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

last week from 8.68 million barrels per day to 9.04 million. Total domestic gasoline supply decreased from 209.4 million barrels to 206.8 million. Gasoline production increased last week, averaging 9.8 million barrels per day. At the close of Wednesday’s formal trading session, West Texas Intermediate fell 13 cents to settle at \$82.23 a barrel. The EIA reports that crude oil inventories increased by 0.1 million barrels from the previous week. At 428.9 million barrels, U.S.

crude oil inventories are 1% above the five-year average for this time of year.

Northeast Ohio Average for Self-Service Gasoline

		Regular
This Week	(10-03-26)	\$3.61
Last Week	(09-25-26)	\$4.61
Last Year	(10-03-25)	\$3.52
National	(10-02-26)	\$4.49

The Victoreen building, which has plagued Woodland Avenue for years was torn down in 2019.

Cleveland Neighborhood Progress’s real estate arm was given the property for development. They have recently sold the property to the Industrial Landbank for \$200,000,00

The City of Cleveland demolished the building at a cost of \$850,000 as part of their Safe Routes to School program in 2019.

Reese Consumer Health. planned to expand the company’s headquarters-production location.

In so doing, the 120-year-old, family-held company hoped to play a visible role in a larger effort to reboot the Buckeye-Woodhill neighborhood.

The 9.4-acre site is bounded by Woodland Avenue to the south and the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority’s Woodhill Garage to the north. To the east is Woodhill Road and the elevated CSX Transportation railroad tracks to the west.

Proposed to be built on the cleared and cleaned land is a 75,000-square-foot facility, with 16,000 square feet of it allocated to offices and the rest to production. Reese Consumer Health President Jeff Reese said that the site offers the ability to expand its facilities by another 50,000 square feet if demand warrants it.

The hope was for the manufacturing company to bring jobs to the community.

At last count, the company has about 65 employees; Reese anticipates hiring more. But he was reluctant to discuss how many new hires might result from the relocation. Part of the reason is that the new production facilities will also make greater use of automation.

According to Cleveland officials, before the Opportunity Corridor was built in 2021, it wasn’t even considered. Not only was there no momentum, there was no available land. The city, the Cuyahoga Land Bank and the Site Readiness for Good Jobs Fund has been aggressively assembling, cleaning up and marketing former industrial lands here.

Part of the neighborhood’s change is due to the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority’s demolition and redevelopment of the massive, aging Woodhill Homes complex underway just across Woodhill Road into a mixed-income community. Several other mixed-income developments nearby have resulted as well.

There is no clear answer yet as to why this project was canceled and relocated to Slavic Village.



The Victoreen building, which has plagued Woodland Avenue for years was torn down in 2019. Cleveland Neighborhood Progress’s real estate arm was given the property for development. They have recently sold the property to the Industrial Landbank for \$200,000,00



A new office building and production facility on Woodland Avenue near the Opportunity Corridor Boulevard for Reese Consumer Health was planned to allow the company to take advantage of growth opportunities. The project plans fell through and the company is looking to build in Slavic Village

VANTAGE POINT

Medicaid recipients may have to meet new requirements to keep benefits

By TONYA SAMS

Beginning January 1, 2027, some adults who receive Medicaid based on their income, rather than age or disability, will be impacted by new federal laws requiring them to meet work or community engagement requirements. Those recipients are starting to receive notifications from the Ohio Department of Medicaid that they must comply with these requirements. The changes are for those ages 19 to 64 who are enrolled in what is called “Medicaid Group VIII” or “expansion Medicaid.”

“Adults who are getting these notifications will have to choose between completing either 80 hours per month of employment or community requirements,” said Karla Perry, a Senior Attorney at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland. “This includes volunteering, job

training, work participation that’s offered through Job and Family Services, getting a GED, and going to college or a technical school. The mandatory 80 hours can also include a combination of these activities.”

Members of that Medicaid recipient group who are excluded from meeting these requirements include those who are currently or have previously been in the foster care system and are under the age of 26, those who meet the definition of blind or disabled by the Social Security Administration, and those who have serious medical conditions. To learn if you are included in this group, contact the Medicaid Consumer Hotline: 800-324-8680, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The timeline previously used to prove that a person is eligible for Medicaid has also changed.

“People were required to complete a redetermination every 12 months, but now they have to do it every 6 months,” said Karla. “Proof includes showing work stubs, your class schedule or school enrollment letter, or a letter from the organization where you are doing volunteer work. Recipients must show proof for the month before they apply for benefits. For example, if you were applying in January, you would have to show that you met the requirement in December. Without proving your work or community engagement activities, you could lose your benefits.”

If you lose your benefits, there are ways to try to get it reinstated.

“When people receive Medicaid notifications that their benefits have been denied, they can always re-apply when they meet the requirements,” Karla said. “They also have the right to

ask for a state hearing. It’s informal – a lot of times it’s done over the phone or by video. Usually, a representative from the county will be there to explain why the applicant was denied Medicaid and then there’s an opportunity for the applicant to explain why they disagree with the determination made by Medicaid.”

For more information on Medicaid changes: medicaid.ohio.gov/resources-for-providers/special-programs-and-initiatives/group-viii/medicaid-group-viii

Legal Aid may be able to help those with Medicaid issues. Attend a free Legal Aid Brief Advice Clinic to speak with an attorney. For a full schedule: laslev.org/clinics. To apply for free legal services, call 888-817-3777 or apply online: laslev.org/apply. Tonya Sams is a Development and Communications Manager at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

Weekly Wealth For Your Health

Estate planning to keep peace in the family

When you die, will your kids fight over your money?

It’s an important question that might be hard to answer now, but parents who devote themselves to estate planning with relevant updates over their lifetimes can potentially keep arguments between adult children to a minimum.

As of 2013, American retirees are the sixth most generous in the world when it comes to the amount of assets passed on to family, according to a survey by HSBC, the global British bank.

The latest survey (<http://www.about.hsbc.com.au/news-and-media>) noted that 56 percent of American retirees planned

to leave an inheritance with an average amount of \$176,814.

How you allocate your estate, no matter what the amount, requires planning and proper communication. Here are a few ways to start.

Know where you stand first. If you haven’t updated your estate planning in the last 5-10 years, do so now to fully understand your complete financial picture. Like all personal finance issues, estate planning should be adjusted when significant life changes happen or there is a major shift in assets, such as when a relative needs help.

In short, your estate picture has to reflect current financial realities so before

you decide how to allocate your wealth either before or after you die, seek qualified financial, tax (<https://www.irs.gov/Businesses/Small-Businesses-&Self-Employed/Estate-and-Gift-Taxes>) and estate advice.

Once you’ve determined distribution, confirm your plan. Managing money and family are usually parallel issues until the topic of estate planning arises. For some families, splitting money, property and possessions more or less equally among adult children is a smooth process. However, when it doesn’t result in the fairest outcome for everyone involved, it can be trickier to navigate.

Varying situations for each child might mean that an even split won’t work. Once you are able to determine your assets, start thinking through how you can distribute them.

Re-affirm your executor and powers of attorney. Making a will and designating various health, financial and business powers of attorney as applicable are the standard first steps in estate planning. Certain kinds of trusts might also be relevant. Generally it’s good

to have documents in place (<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/estateplanning>) early in life. As your children get older, it’s a good idea to review those documents and designated leadership.

Start communicating. Hollywood has produced many a movie scene with family members sitting nervously in a lawyer’s office waiting for the will to be read. Such moments make for great comedy or drama, but not great modern estate planning.

Based on what you hope to leave your family, the state of your relationship with your adult children and whatever weigh-in you get from qualified advisers, it’s usually better to communicate your plans to your children in advance in person and make sure your legal documents confirm exactly what you plan to do.

Bottom line: Could your current estate planning eventually put your kids and other family members at odds? Don’t wait – the time to update or start estate planning is right now.

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

YOUR HEALTH

Good reasons to exercise after age of 50

(NAPSI)—For many older adults, growing older seems to involve an inevitable loss of strength, energy and vigor—but that need not be, says the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The frailty and decreased energy associated with aging are largely due to muscle loss due to inactivity. And when it comes to muscle, the old saying is true: “Use it or lose it.”

One of the best ways to keep muscles healthy and strong, the CDC advises, is through exercises called strength training.

Done regularly, strength training builds bone and muscle and helps to preserve strength, independence and energy. These exercises are safe and effective for women and men of all ages, including those who are not in perfect health. In fact, people with health concerns—such as arthritis or heart disease—often benefit the most from lifting weights a few times each week.

Strength training, the CDC adds, can also reduce the signs and symptoms of:

Arthritis—It reduces pain and stiffness and increases strength and flexibility.

Diabetes—It improves glycemic control.

Osteoporosis—It builds bone density and reduces risk for falls.

Heart disease—It reduces cardiovascular risk by improving lipid profile and overall fitness.

Obesity—It increases metabolism, which helps burn more calories and helps with long-term weight control.

Back pain—It strengthens back and abdominal muscles to reduce stress on the spine.

What’s more, studies have shown that people who exercise regularly sleep better and have less depression, more self-confidence and self-esteem, and a greater sense of well-being.

Fortunately, strength training exercises are easy to learn, and have been proven safe and effective through years of thorough research. What’s

more, you may be relieved to learn, there are ways to train without undo strain, aches and pains.

To help, Bob Arnot, M.D., an award-winning journalist, author of 12 books on nutrition and health, host of the “Dr. Danger” reality TV series, previously Chief Medical Correspondent for NBC and CBS News, and Chief Foreign Correspondent for MSNBC and NBC, offers this advice:

Find a few minutes at least two to three times a week to maintain general fitness. Try three or four five-minute bursts of activity such as walking or climbing the stairs at the office.

Take two or three more minutes a day for yoga breathing and movements to help your body maintain balance, usable strength, flexibility and muscular restoration.

Spend another few minutes every day and before any vigorous exercise doing calf stretches and forward bends.

Stay hydrated before, during and after your workout.

To reduce your risk of muscle soreness after exercise, consider a massage, an Epsom salts bath or intermittent hot and cold showers, as well as proper stretching and cooldown.

Muscle strains and muscle pulls are major health concerns for weekend athletes. Signs you should look for alert-

ing you to rest your muscles and avoid overtraining are a higher than normal resting heart rate, disrupted sleep due to an elevated heart rate, muscle cramping and muscle twitching.

Eat right. In addition to lots of fruits and vegetables and a few lean meats, consume foods with magnesium, which helps fight inflammation, and with vitamin B12—especially if you’re over 50—such as fortified cereals. Drink three cups of fat-free or low-fat milk throughout the day or consume the equivalent in yogurt, cheese or other dairy products. Consider an anti-inflammatory diet—cut out sugar, potatoes, tomatoes and eggplant.

Topical pain relievers such as creams, gels and patches work locally. For example, the Salonpas Lidocaine 4% Pain Relieving Gel-Patch provides the maximum strength of lidocaine available without a prescription.

According to the Center for Medicare Advocacy, “[Lidocaine] is a highly effective pain reliever and its unique non-narcotic and nonaddictive properties make it a benign alternative to opioids, without the risks and devastating side effects of opioids.”

These unscented patches can desensitize aggravated nerves and provide numbing relief generally within an hour of application.

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Islam In The Community

Google Earth updates images of Gaza showing scale of devastation

Google Earth updates images of Gaza showing scale of devastation.

Google Earth images of Gaza showing the levels of destruction in the territory caused by the war between Israel and Hamas have prompted shock among social media users and analysts.

Social media users said that satellite imagery that appeared online on Sunday showed the consequences of the Israeli military offensive that followed Hamas' attacks on southern Israel on October 7, 2023.

However, Google reported that its most-recent satellite imagery of Gaza was from June 2026. "We update satellite imagery from our third-party providers on a regular basis," it added.

The imagery went viral on Sunday with Barry Andrews, an Irish Member of the European Parliament, posting on X "the updated Google satellite images of Gaza are quite incredible, for all to see," as he shared imagery of flattened buildings and districts reduced to rubble.

"The Google images act as yet another record

of the systematic destruction of Gaza where at least 82 percent of its buildings have been destroyed or damaged," Chris Doyle, director of the Council for Arab-British Understanding, told Newsweek on Monday. "These images have shocked the world for years. The question is when they will shift the positions of major leaders, not least the U.S.," he added.

Nathan Ruser, an analyst at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, wrote on X that the imagery "shows the reality of Gaza in shocking resolution."



Google Earth images of Gaza showing the levels of destruction in the territory caused by the war between Israel and Hamas have prompted shock among social media users and analysts.



This combined image compares the area shown on Google Earth near the Qadisiyah School in Rafah, Gaza, in 2026 with August 2023.

A Look At My World

If She Cannot Fix It, It's Not Broken

By Dr. JAMES L. SNYDER

Life has its many ups and downs. There are some weeks when there are more downs than ups. But if I didn't have a down, I probably wouldn't appreciate an up.

This past week was one of those down weeks. One day, we lost our electricity for maybe six hours, my printer died on me and some scammer tried to get money out of me by telling me my daughter was in jail and needed bail money.

I'm not sure if it can get any worse, but I'm going to keep my eyes open. Fortunately, the electricity came back, and the scammer, well, let's say he didn't get my money.

The printer was the worst thing that happened. I've had my printer for about six years, and I use it just about every day. I never anticipated that it would just completely die on me one day. But, it did.

I ordered a new printer, and it came on Thursday. My whole day was committed to that printer. It was a new printer with all of the latest upgraded gadgets. Personally, I don't like new things with all the confusing gadgets they have. However, I needed to get a new printer, and so I did.

I set up the printer with Wi-Fi, and it worked very well. The next step was to connect it with my computer. The

printer isn't worth anything unless it's connected to my computer, so I can print out the work I'm doing. At the time, I thought the worst job would be to set up the Wi-Fi for the printer. I was in for a surprise.

For several hours, I worked trying to connect my printer to my computer. I went through everything I could possibly think of to connect the two. If I can't connect the printer to my computer, what good is it really?

After several hours of unproductive work, I was at the point of giving up.

Just then, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came into my office and asked how my printer was working.

"Well," I stammered, "I can't connect it to my computer. I've tried all morning and it's not working at all. I don't know what to do."

She looked at me and said something I wasn't really expecting to hear, "Let me see, maybe I can fix it for you."

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has many identities, and one of them is Miss-Fixer-Upper. Everybody knows that there is not a problem she cannot fix.

I recall about five years ago, the bumper on my truck was loose, and I couldn't fix it. I was about to take it to the garage and have the mechanic fix it. I really didn't want

to spend a couple hundred dollars but I didn't have much of a choice.

As I was pondering this, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came out and said, "What's the problem?"

So I explained my problem to her and told her I was about to take it to the garage.

She said, "Let me look at it and see if I can help."

She looked at it for a few moments and then said, "I believe I can fix this, let me go and get something from my craft room."

In a few minutes, she came out with a large paper clip and put it under the bumper, hooking it to the truck. Then she said, "There, I fixed it so you don't have to take it to the garage." That was five years ago, and the paperclip is still working.

I did not think she could fix anything with my printer. But, being the veteran husband that I am, I allowed her to at least look at it. She sat down at my computer, and I walked out to the kitchen to get a cup of coffee, knowing that there was no way she could fix it.

Walking back in with my coffee, she said, "There, it's fixed. Try and see if it prints."

I chuckled; knowing that there was no way she could fix that. I had my computer pull up a document and sent it to the printer.

Wouldn't you know, that document started printing.

"I don't think you will have any trouble with your printer now. But if you do just let me know."

Every time I print something on that printer, I think about The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage who made it possible.

This past year, we celebrated our 54th wedding anniversary. In all those years, I can't think of one problem she hasn't been able to fix. If she can't fix it, then it's not broken. If it's broken, she can fix it. How she does that is above my pay scale.

Pondering this, I came to one conclusion. The only thing she hasn't been able to fix is me. Maybe one day she'll fix me, but then people may not recognize me.

As I was printing a few things, I thought of a verse of scripture.

"He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds" (Psalm 147:3).

There is no problem or difficulty in my life that God cannot fix, if I let him. That's the problem. I need to turn everything over to God and allow Him to do in my life what He is great in doing.

Everything God fixes in my life reveals His amazing grace.Rephrase

Dr. James L. Snyder lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 1-866-552-2543 .or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net

What Do the Google Earth Images Show?

Hamas killed at least 1,200 people and kidnapped over 250 in the October 7 attacks nearly three years ago. Following Israel's military response, 74,016 Palestinians have been killed, with another 175,068 wounded as of Monday, according to The Associated Press, citing Gaza's Health Ministry.

A ceasefire that came into effect on October 10, 2025 has stopped the heaviest fighting, although Israeli strikes have continued in what the IDF said are in response to threats and attacks.

The U.N. Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) said on August 12 that 82 percent of all Gaza structures, or 200,000, had faced some damage, with two-thirds of them destroyed in a statistic which chimes with the latest Google Earth imagery.

His post, as of Monday afternoon, had received five million views, 30,000 likes, and thousands of reposts.

The southern city of Rafah features prominently, with areas that once had rows of homes now appearing mostly cleared, with makeshift shelters visible across wide areas.

In Gaza City, the satellite imagery shows destruction around Al Shifa Hospital, which sustained fierce Israeli assaults during the war. The hospital's urban surroundings differ greatly from previous imagery. Israel accused Hamas of hiding a command post inside and under the compound in claims denied by the group and hospital staff.

Rebecca Wolfe, a conflict and humanitarian response expert at the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy, told Newsweek that little has been discussed about the challenging operating environment during the war in Gaza, which is tiny and densely populated.

A United Nations report published last week said that around 1.9 million people in Gaza had been displaced, with many forced to move more than once. It also said more than 60 percent of the population had lost their homes.

"Targets were often close to critical infrastructure and civilians," Wolfe said. "What is hard to digest is that this wasn't an information problem. Israel very well understood the operating environment and the strength of these weapons. Yet they still used them when targeting individual Hamas militants, even though there were other alternatives to conducting the operation."

The Palestinian death toll from the nearly

three-year Israel-Hamas war has surpassed 74,000, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said the government had notified the Dutch embassy in Israel that its diplomats in Ramallah had to leave within one week.

Saar said the decision was in response to a Dutch ban that went into effect on Sept. 22 on the "import, purchase and sale of goods" originating from Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, which the Netherlands, like most of the international community, considers illegal.

On paper, the cease-fire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza has been in effect for almost a year. In reality, Israel has entrenched and expanded its control in the Palestinian territory — and its leaders say they have little intention of withdrawing any time soon.

Israeli forces have fortified positions, built at least a dozen military outposts and moved farther into the territory beyond the withdrawal line that they agreed to, according to an analysis of satellite imagery by The New York Times.

Analysts, diplomats and people in Gaza say that Israeli actions since the cease-fire appear to be entrenching what was meant to be a temporary partition of the territory into an expanded Israeli-controlled zone and a smaller Hamas-ruled area. The vast majority of Gaza's two million people now live in that smaller area.

At Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital here in central Gaza, Bassem Hassan, director of the laboratory department, deals with medical tests whose results will determine the futures of his patients.

Hassan's team gives doctors the information they need to diagnose a range of illnesses, from kidney disease to diabetes, and without this crucial information, they will not know how to proceed with their cases.

But Israel's genocidal war and siege on Gaza has resulted in widespread damage to medical infrastructure and shortages of key materials needed to make diagnoses.

There has been a suspension of all blood gas testing, which is particularly important for cardiac and intensive-care patients, and shortages of blood-collection tubes, which are essential for clinical chemistry tests.

Automated clinical chemistry analysers, which laboratories rely on for more than 60 percent of their tests, have also stopped operating. Some sterilisation equipment and refrigerators used to store blood and plasma have also ceased working.



This combined image shows the latest Google Earth image of the area around El Shifa hospital with satellite imagery taken in August 2023.

"Given these limited resources, tests are prioritised according to the severity of each case with priority given to kidney, cancer and heart patients as well as those in intensive care," Hassan told Al Jazeera.

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Bootland to lead Monsters

The Monsters are proud to welcome Nick “Booter” Bootland back into the Cleveland fold as the eighth head coach in their history. Cleveland is not entirely unfamiliar to Bootland, who played for the Cleveland Barons spanning four seasons from 2001-05 posting 14-16-30 with 125 penalty minutes in 121 career games. In his time here previously, he enjoyed the Rock n’ Roll Hall of Fame, taking in a Guardians game, spending time at West Side Market and Little Italy, and hiking at Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Tuesday, September 29, 2026 to Friday, October 2, 2026

EAST SIDE DAILY NEWS

SPORTS

A LEA fundraiser boxing show will be held on August 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Metroplex,1620 Motor Inn Drive, Girard, Ohio 44420. For information, contact John Loew at 330-501-5713.

216 Regatta to be held

The 216 Regatta will be held on September 26–27 at the Edgewater Yacht Club, 6700 Cleveland Memorial Shoreway. Classes & Racing: CRW features: Over a dozen One Design classes Nine Handicap (PHRF) divisions Three JAM divisions and four race courses www.clevelandraceweek.com.The event draws over 1,800 national and international participants annually, offering marketing exposure to sailing professionals, amateurs, juniors, and women’s sailors www.clevelandraceweek.com. It maintains a strong sponsorship network, placing it among the top U.S. sailing regattas www.clevelandraceweek.com.

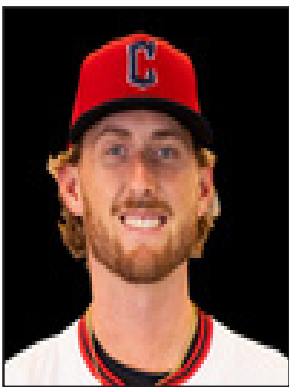
Guardians clinch Central crown in offensive explosion

BY KARL BRYANT

The Guardians clinched the 2016 AL Central Crown with an 11-5 blowout of the Royals. The division title means that they get to rest players with nagging aches and pains for a week, since they earned a Wild Card Round BYE. As a No. 2 Seed, CLE begins Postseason play hosting an AL Division Series opener vs. Chicago next Saturday. The offensive explosion in their clinching game, featured five HRs by a CLE squad that hit exactly162 homers in 162 games.

Now, HRs don’t mean everything, as Houston, who barely made the playoffs by winning the AL West with an 81-81 record, led the Majors with 226 homers, while Milwaukee, who led MLB with a 103-59 record, hit only 154 long balls, which tied for second fewest in the Majors. Yet, it certainly makes it easier to score, when you notch a run with one swing.

The recipient of the



Bibee

scoring largesse was Tanner Bibee (7-15), who at times this season appeared snake-bit, tying for the most losses in MLB. He got the “W,” while allowing three runs in 6.0 innings. Earlier this year, he received moderate support from his Offense, while accumulating tough losses. Since Sept. 8 though, batters in The Land scored 9, 9, 12, and 11 runs in his last four games.

Plus, the Guardians were able to beat Michael Wacha (9-10), who prior to the loss, had been a jinx against CLE this season, previously going 3-0.

Guardians who cleared the fence were Brayan Rocchio, who did it twice; Patrick Bailey, who also did it twice; and



Rocchio

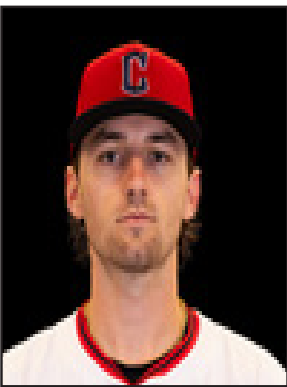
Chase DeLauter. Nathaniel Lowe knocked in four runs with two Sac Flies, and a two-run-scoring single.

Afterwards, during their second clinching celebration in three days - the first in Boston for earning a Postseason berth and the second in K.C. for winning a Division title - CLE Manager Stephen Vogt told the Media, “We’ll get some rest. This team was on fumes.” He added, “There’s so many people who have contributed to this win, this (Division) Championship, and I think that’s what makes this feel really good.” Skipper Vogt has won a division title in each of his first three years at the helm in The Land. Stat gurus note he’s



Bailey

just the 8th Manager to do so in MLB history The clinch made Sunday’s regular season finale superfluous, as numerous players got rest. Parker Messick started for CLE, but just got a short workout, allowing one run in 3.0 innings.



DeLauter

Austen Peterson (0-1), making his second MLB appearance, got the 3-2 “L” as he went 5.0 innings, and allowed two HRs to K.C.’s Vinnie Pasquantino.

The Guardians next will play Chicago, the Wild Card team who



Lowe

they overtook to win the Division. At Press Time, the White Sox completed the sweep of Houston, the AL West Champ.

They won the first game of the Wild Card Round, 6-3, and just won the close-out game, 7-3.

Browns Win Home Opener

BY KARL BRYANT

The Browns won their Home Opener over the Panthers, 21-18. Embattled QB Deshaun Watson won his second straight game to avoid the Home Boo Birds, who were expected to be in singularly deafening timbre, should the Browns have gone belly-up.

Watson went 16 of 30 for 144 yards, with two TD tosses to TE Harold Fannin, Jr. He was sacked twice Former Buckeye Quinshon Judkins gained 70 of the Browns 132 yards on the ground. Watson scrambled for 45 of those, including a key 21-yards run on the game-winning drive. Backup QB Shedeur Sanders came into the game to complete a pass for no gain when Watson had to leave the field for one play, following a Roughing the Passer Penalty on the same drive.

Carolina’s Bryce Young took to the air often, going 26 of 48 for 291 yards, with a TD and an INT by OSU’s

Ronnie Hickman. Mason Graham had two of CLE’s three sacks of Young. Isaiah McGuire had the other. Chuba Hubbard gained 82 of the Panthers 98 yards rushing. One odd play, they recovered a Browns fumble by Malachi Corley on a re-kick of the 2nd Half kickoff.

CLE had a 10-3 lead at the Half, and held the lead until about three minutes into the 4th Quarter, when Carolina K Ryan Fitzgerald booted his 4th FG of the game to give the Panthers a 12-10 lead. CLE retook the lead, 13-12, on an Andre Szmyt 45 YD FG, only for Young to hit John Metchie III with an 8 YD TD Pass three minutes later, to give Carolina an 18-13 lead, after they failed on a 2-point PAT.

Fortunately, that lead was short-lived as Watson led the Browns on the game-winning drive, culminating with the 14 YD TD Pass to Fanin, just inside the Two-Minute Warning. They added a 2-point PAT. It wasn’t over

yet, though, as Carolina had two more chances.

The Browns held them on Downs, and then in turn, were held on Downs, to give the Panthers one last gasp. Fortunately, Hickman came up with the INT on the Browns 46 on the sixth play of the drive to let CLE kneel down to run out the clock.

CLE Coach Todd Monken ran to the Dawg Pound following the victory, just like he’d run to high-five Browns fans in the End Zone at Tampa Bay following his first NFL win there the week before.

Afterwards, he exclaimed, “We got the greatest fans in the world, man. All Browns fans want is to be part of something special, something to cheer for. Just give them a chance, right? Play tough, play physically, that’s what they want. And the better we play, the more we deserve to be cheered. When you don’t, they don’t. That’s what we live by.”

Steelers outlast Bengals

BY ANDREW CARTER

Aaron Rogers went 29 of 34 for 292 yards and three TDs, with an INT. Ben Skowronek, Roman

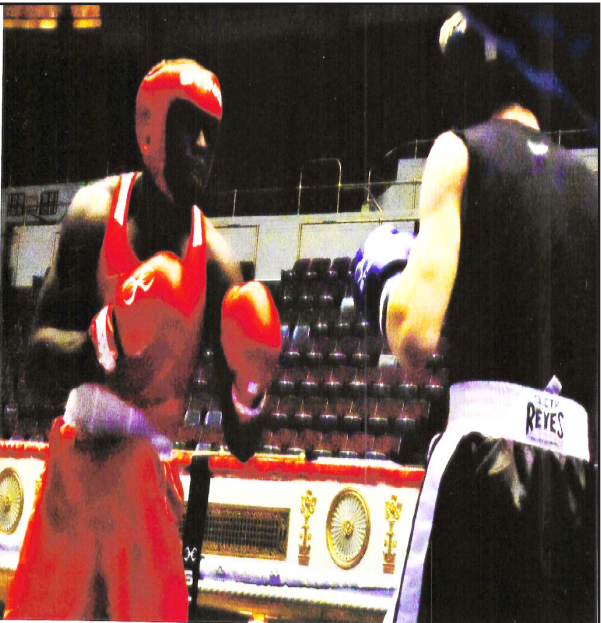
Wilson, and DK Metcalf caught TD Passes. Chris Boswell kicked three FGs, including the game-winner, a 33 YD FG with 2:37

to play.

A last minute Cincinnati drive was snuffed out by a strip-sack of Joe Burrow by Steeler Derrick Harmon and a fumble recovery by Sebastian Joseph-Day, which sealed a 30-27 win. Burrow went 28 of 37 for 282 yards and three TDs.

Jaylen Warren had 127 of the Steelers 138 run yards. The Bengals were held to 83 yards rushing.

Steelers Coach Mike McCarthy stated about the squad, “It’s a hard-working football team. They have a good work ethic.”



The 2026 USA Boxing National Open was held in Cleveland from September 28 to October 2. There were 650 entrantces in the tournament. On September 30, Braylon Lane lost to Demario Smith(red) from Atlanta, Georgia Sp. Dec. (4-1).



On September 30, Tyrin Jones from Akron won by Um Dec. during the 2026 USA Boxing National Open was held in Cleveland from September 28 to October 2. There were 650 entrantces in the tournament.

BEEZWAX

By John Martin

TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN.

WHICH MEANS MY COFFEE IS NOW PUMPKIN FLAVORED WHETHER I ASKED FOR IT OR NOT!

MATINEE IDOL

After Quentin revealed his secret identity as Matinee Idol to Voodoo Doll and pleaded with her to stop her sensual and sinister siege, her own, original identity as Veronique reappears...

Quentin? Mon Dieu! Que s'est-il passe? What have I done---?!!?

Don't worry, V. Everything will be fine. We'll find a way to purge the Voodoo Doll persona from your psyche somehow...

BY G.M. APPLING

After Quentin suggests to rid Veronique of Voodoo Doll's alternate personality, she reacts with surprising resistance...

No!!! I can't live the rest of my life without her! I---I just---can't---!

TO BE CONTINUED

On The Town

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

The powerful Urban stage production 'Sugar' to come to the Garfield Heights Performing Arts

Cash Team Productions proudly presents SUGAR The Stage Play, an original urban stage production coming to the Garfield Heights Performing Arts Center for ONE SHOW ONLY — Saturday, October 17, 2026, at 7:00 PM.

Set against the backdrop of 1970s South Side Chicago, SUGAR The Stage Play takes audiences into a world where loyalty is tested, secrets can have deadly consequences, and redemption may come from the most unexpected place.

At the center of the story is Sugar, a respected man caught between the life he knows and the possibility of becoming something more. When betrayal, murder and long-held secrets collide, Sugar finds himself fighting not only for his name and his future, but ultimately for his soul.

Filled with unforgettable characters, drama, humor,

suspense and powerful moments of faith and redemption, SUGAR explores the complicated ties between family, friendship, love and loyalty.

“A Story of Love. Loyalty. Betrayal. And Redemption.”

Cash Team Productions invites Cleveland and surrounding communities to experience this original theatrical production live on stage.

ONE SHOW ONLY- Saturday, October 17 at 7:00

PM at Garfield Heights Performing Arts Center, 4900 Turney Road, Garfield Heights.

TICKET INFORMATION General Admission: \$35.00 VIP Admission: \$50.00

VIP admission includes preferred seating.

Tickets may be purchased through Eventnoir, or payment may be made through Zelle: 216-474-3072 or Cash App: Svernagreen1

Cash Team Productions is a Cleveland-area theater stage production company committed to creating entertaining, original productions that bring compelling stories and memorable characters to the stage.

SUGAR The Stage Play continues that mission with a story rooted in the streets of 1970s Chicago while exploring timeless themes of choices, consequences, family, faith and redemption.

The Cleveland Jazz Orchestra 2026-27 Season: The World According To Jazz

The Cleveland Jazz Orchestra proudly announces its 42nd season titled: The World According to Jazz. This season celebrates the power of jazz to transform individual lives, erase boundaries between nations, and hold our collective memories and life stories in song. This season marks the CJO’s 6th year calling the Maltz Performing Arts Center its season home.

The season will feature a number of local greats as well as internationally revered percussionist and regular band member

for Paul Simon, Jamey Haddad. The season will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of two jazz legends—Miles Davis and John Coltrane, one of Broadway’s leading composers and lyricists—Harold Arlen, and the greatest producer of music of any genre—Quincy Jones.

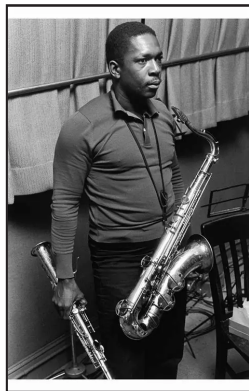
Rhythm Nation on Friday, October 16. Amplifying the World’s Heartbeat: An Evening with Jamey Haddad

Virtuosic percussionist Jamey Haddad brings his world sounds and mastery of over 1,000

instruments to the Maltz Stage for a unique jazz



Davis



Coltrane

concert with a focus on the rhythm section. The evening will highlight Haddad’s decades-long career as Paul Simon’s percussionist, his collaboration with Yo-Yo Ma’s Silk Road Ensemble, and Haddad’s own group, Under One Sun.

The future looks and sounds bright with Jamey Haddad and the CJO.

Legends of Jazz on Friday, November 16.

Celebrate the



King Oliver

Cornetist and bandleader (Joe) King Oliver was born in 1885 in New Orleans

His career began in hometown brass bands, dance bands, and other small groups in Crescent City cabarets and bars.

Claimed to be the spiritual father of syncopated ("hot") jazz, he moved to Chicago in 1918 and formed King Oliver’s Creole Jazz Band (June 1922) with cornetists Louis Armstrong, clarinetist Johnny Dodds, trombonist Honore Dutrex, pianist Lil Hardin, drummer Baby Dodds, and bassist-banjo player Bill Johnson.

Oliver began recording in 1923 what are now considered historic masterpieces.

After Armstrong departed in 1924, Oliver completely reorganized his band to include saxophones.

He went to New York, had a successful but brief club engagement before his group disbanded.

He toured widely in the Midwest and upper South from 1920-1936, but made no further recordings after 1931. Considered to be an important New Orleans-style musician, his recordings have been reissued.

His tune "Dipper Mouth Blues," later known as "Sugar Foot Stomp," became a classic.

Although he was an excellent bandleader, Oliver’s playing style was superseded by Louis Armstrong’s and by 1937 he was forgotten and in failing health.

He died in Savannah in 1938.

100th Anniversary of the birth of two jazz greats: Miles Davis and John Coltrane

You may know the birth of cool, modal jazz, and electric rock fusion, but have you heard the cascading sheets of sound Paul Ferguson’s arrangements lend to "A Love Supreme", "The Maids of Cadiz", or "Kind of Blue" for a full jazz orchestra? Leading us through this evening will be many CJO favorites: Jack Schantz, Brad Wagner, Chris Coles, Chris Burge, among others. You do not want to miss this celebration of musical innovations that changed jazz forever.

Blues in the Night on Saturday, April 24. Blues in the Night is a co-production with The Musical Theater Project with the music of Harold Arlen.

For in our 11th annual collaboration with The Musical Theater Project, Paul Ferguson and Bill Rudman will co-host a concert spotlighting one of America’s most innovative composers for Broadway and Hollywood: Harold Arlen. “Over the Rainbow” is just for starters! How about “Stormy Weather,” “I’ve Got the World on a String,” “Come Rain or Come Shine,” “That Old Black Magic” and “Paper Moon”? All of them and more will be performed by vocalists Evelyn Wright, Erin Keckan, and Michael Shirtz.

Bright Lights big City on Saturday, May 27.

The Sounds of Quincy Jones: from Basie to Broadway to

Chris' Cinema Trivia & Movie Match Up

By CHRIS APPLING



TRIVIA - (Biographies)

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

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

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

rejects the female, Creole tradition of being kept by a wealthy, white man to instead become a Catholic nun and teach slave children to read and write?

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

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

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



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

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

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

Da 'Round Da Way Rewind Review

'Guess Who's Coming to Dinner' is a classic movie

By C.M. APPLING

Before the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950's and '60's, the history of American movie cinema followed the dictate of Jim Crow society. 'Separate but equal' was the rule that said whites and blacks could not use the same restrooms, water fountains, restaurants, etc.

Whites rode in the front of the buses and blacks rode in the rear. In the film world, a few times where black characters were included in white motion-pictures, the interracial scenes were usually edited out of the movies especially when they were shown in Southern states. Sometimes, the films were banned from Southern theatres altogether.

With this precedent governing the state of racial affairs in the country, the very idea of interracial love on the big screen was considered the ultimate taboo and the most dangerous.

Before the '60's, black men were still being lynched at an alarming rate. Historically-speaking, white male/black female race-mixing wasn't accepted either. But, since most of the previous miscegenation had been between former white, slave masters and their black mistresses, this did not disturb the ruling, white power structure, even though this type of mixing on-screen was considered controversial as well. So, if the film industry was going to break the racial boundary of presenting a black male/white female romance on screen, how would they accomplish this monumental feat without the risk of serious, racial backlash from the white community? The answer: Sidney Poitier.

In the 1950's, both Sidney Poitier and Harry Belafonte were handsome, black actors who were stretching the limits of race relations in film by becoming leading men opposite white, female actresses. While Harry was the handsome, light-skinned,

more 'militant' leading man, Sidney was the handsome, dark-skinned, more 'integrationist' leading man. It was this 'highroad' aspect of 'turning the other cheek' and wanting to 'blend in' with white society that made Sidney a Hollywood favorite and ultimately a legend.

The film industry set the interracial road Poitier was to follow by having him star with Caucasian women. First, in 1963's Lilies of the Field, and later in 1965's A Patch of Blue, the Caribbean-born actor played roles that were beneficent and altruistic to society. With this unsailable image, he became the first black man to win an Academy Award for Best Actor in Lilies. After appearing in these movies, Poitier was in the position to do no wrong. He was 'Super-Sidney': the perfect, mannerly, intelligent, good-looking 'Negro' who was above reproach. He became white movie audiences' ideal, 'acceptable' black person. And, the role that would brand the 'S' on his chest to white audiences for good was Guess Who's Coming To Dinner?

Released in 1967, Poitier portrays an older, black doctor who becomes engaged and eventually marries a younger, white girl (Katherine Houghton). However, he refuses to marry her unless they have the approval of her white parents (Spencer Tracy and Katherine Hepburn).

The in-love, interracial couple travel to her parents' home to inform them of their relationship, future intentions and to ask them to invite his black parents (Roy Glenn, Jr. and Beah Richards) over for dinner the same night. Poitier's character has to leave for a medical assignment soon and Houghton's character wants to follow, so they need an answer quickly.

In reality, Poitier and Houghton's characters are being somewhat selfish and self-serving by asking

for their four parents' blessing in such a short amount of time. However, it really should be a no-brainer for Houghton's family. 'Super-Sidney' is handsome, mannerly, and a Nobel Prize candidate as a physician! What more could any parent, white or black, want for their daughter? The real crux of the dilemma is that Tracy and Hepburn's characters are two liberal, middle-class parents who are supposed to be 'sophisticated' and 'hip' and so accepting of the issue of racial equality and interracial marriage. But, when they discover it is THEIR daughter who wants to marry a black man, they really have to search their conscience to resolve their own, unintentional bigotry and prejudices they never thought they possessed.

In the end, in true Hollywood, 'happily-ever-after' style, Poitier and Houghton get both sets of parents' permission to marry and they leave to the airport to begin their new lives as husband and wife. What is interesting to note is by this time, in the mid-to-late 60's when the picture was made, black politics had begun to shift. Some in the African-American community began to believe the integrationist ideas as outdated and moved from following Martin Luther King, Jr.'s philosophies to Malcolm X' and The Black Panthers' more radical ideas.

Guess Who's Coming For Dinner? was an important message film and will always be remembered as one of Sidney's best.

It will also be credited for creating a new genre of great, black male/white female relationship movies that would come decades later like The Great, White Hope (1970, starring James Earl Jones and Jane Alexander), Jungle Fever (1991, starring Wesley Snipes and Annabella Sciorra) and Save The Last Dance (2001, starring Sean Patrick Thomas and Julia Styles).

MENU TIPS

Add fiber to your diet for good health

(NAPSI)—It may not be the first thing most people think about when it comes to looking fit and living healthfully, but dietary fiber can be good for just about every, well, fiber of your being.

These facts may provide you with some food for thought on adding more fiber to your diet.

How To Add Fiber To Your Diet

It's wise to get fiber from the food you eat. To do so, pick foods that are naturally high in fiber such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and products that have been fortified with added fiber. Read the labels of the foods you buy and try to find those that provide 10 percent or more of the Daily Value for fiber.

Eat a variety of different types of dietary fibers to get all of the benefits dietary fibers have to offer.

Fortunately, it's easier than ever to find foods that are high in fiber. Lately, the food industry has begun adding dietary fibers to a myriad of foods and beverages that people enjoy every day.

Added dietary fibers can now be found in yogurt, cereals, breads, fruit juices, milk, tortillas, baked goods, ice cream, hard and chewy candies, and nutrition supplement bars and beverages.

However, it's important to remember that people should try to eat a variety of different types of dietary fibers to get all the benefits that dietary fibers have to offer.

Why To Add Fiber To Your Diet

The health benefits

of dietary fiber include:

Weight management: Scientific studies consistently show that the more fiber in your diet, the lower your risk of obesity.

Improved digestion: Some dietary fibers can help regulate your digestion and help your intestines defend you from germs.

Lower cholesterol: Certain dietary fibers reduce the risk of heart disease by helping to lower blood cholesterol.

Reduced glycemic response: Some dietary fibers can slow down the absorption of glucose and lower the glycemic effect of food.

Healthy microflora: Some dietary fibers can give a boost to the beneficial bacteria in the intestine (and defeat the bad ones) to help them fight inflammation and possibly even cancer.

Increased mineral absorption: Certain dietary fibers help the body to better absorb minerals, especially calcium.

Increased insulin sensitivity: Some dietary fibers have been shown to improve insulin sensitivity.

Increased satiety: Research suggests that some fibers can encourage the body to produce hormones that leave you feeling fuller, longer.

No single fiber or food provides all of these necessary health benefits. So you need to eat a wide variety of fiber-containing foods to improve your well-being.

Where To Learn More

For further information on fiber and its health benefits, visit www.fiberfacts

A lesson from Mariah

By C.M. APPLING

As an op-ed journalist who frequently writes about race relations, both domestic and foreign, I try to offer advice and insight into the tumultuous dynamics of cultural differences that focus on inter-racial issues. And, as a light-skinned, middle-aged, African-American man who has lived in the United States his entire life (but has sometimes been mistaken for other races), I have an acute perspective in the unending, social dissonance between whites and blacks.

And, through my news articles, I continually attempt to heal the ugly scars that wound the country any time there is a racial incident or hate crime of one culture against the other.

In the black community, the historical phenomenon of ‘passing’ is when a very fair-skinned black person with Caucasian features tries to deny their real heritage and cultural roots by making the choice to ‘cross the color line’ and adapt an all-white identity. ‘Passing’ began during the antebellum, slave era in the South. Sometimes, the white-looking offspring of the slave master and his light-skinned slave mistress was allowed to leave the plantation to be ‘white’, similar to how President Thomas Jefferson emancipated his octoroon (one-eighth black) children by slave Sally Hemings. Then, after Reconstruction, during the Jim Crow era of segregation in the South and into the early 20th century, white-looking blacks would leave their southern relatives to pass in the North in an effort to obtain better employment opportunities and to escape the oppressive and dangerous environment darker blacks had no choice but to suffer and survive in.

In white literature and motion-pictures, one of the fictional and cinematic stereotypes blacks were stigmatized with was the ‘tragic mulatto’ where a white-looking, racially-mixed black person was alienated and ostracized by both the white and black communities. Films like Imitation of Life (1934) portrayed Peola as a ‘tragic mulatto’ who abandoned her dark-skinned mother to pass-for-white only to guiltily regret her decision when her broken-heated mother dies.

However, in the Harlem Renaissance of 1920s and 30s New York, prolific, black authors like Langston Hughes



wrote The Ways of White Folks (1934) and Nella Larson wrote Passing (1929) which examined the phenomenon through an afro-centric lens to rightfully reclaim the narrative.

Also during this time, a black man (who was ironically named Walter F. White) used his Aryan/Nordic appearance of blond hair and blue eyes to embody the essence of bravery, intrepidness and courage by traveling into the Jim Crow South to pass as a white reporter to investigate lynchings and hate crimes. Later, White would help create and lead the first, interracial board of the venerable and respected NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People).

In the mid-20th century, Hollywood moves like Pinky (1949) and Lost Boundaries (1949) both sought to instill black pride in its passing protagonists, as does African-American author Alex Haley’s TV mini-series adaptation of his book, Queen (1993) about his paternal grandmother But, the TV mini-series The Feast of All Saints (2001) by authoress Anne Rice explored the complex hierarchy of mixed-race Creoles, caught between privilege and oppression, in 19th century New Orleans, Louisiana.

In my own family, most of my late, maternal grandfather’s, white-looking siblings had dark hair, but my grandfather had brown hair and blue eyes. My mother (before she became elderly), had white skin, black hair and brown eyes. My grandfather could pass for any, Northern, European race and my mother can pass for any Southern, European race, but both proudly identified as black. They adhered to the American made, racial doctrine of the One-Drop Rule that stated that anyone with a drop of black blood ancestry is black. But, when I tried to interview my grandfather in the mid-1980s for a college, family history report, when I asked him

“What does it

feel like to look white but be black?”, he grew seriously silent and deeply contemplative. I don’t think he knew how to articulate and describe the unique, racial experience he had lived. And, while I always remember my mother as a happy, fun, loving individual, nonetheless, underneath the surface, I always felt an unspoken sadness that involved her Caucasian appearance.

I, myself, have an olive complexion, dark hair and brown eyes that can be associated with being Hispanic or Middle-Eastern. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, when I was in junior high and high school, I was sometimes mistaken for one of the Jewish students. But, even in a progressive, integrated school environment, there were still microaggressions of black, racial jokes directed at me. Then, in 1990, two entertainment events happened that changed my life.

First, on the Donahue TV talk show, the Irish-American host had a panel of five, white-looking black people to discuss race and their decisions not to pass as white, to live as black and to support promoting the book Colorstruck by authoress Benita Porter. The second event was when neophyte, superstar vocalist in the making Mariah Carey released her first album and debuted the iconic single, Vision of Love.

Benita and the other, four panelists reminded me of my mother’s family but they were able to verbally articulate the social complexities of how it feels to look like the opposite race of what you actually are and the sometimes vehement, various reactions they receive from both racial communities. I have read Colorstruck dozens of times over the last, four decades and have re-watched that Donahue episode on a VHS tape I recorded (before having it transferred into a

When I first saw and heard Mariah Carey’s Vision of Love video on BET’s Video Soul show with her white skin, brown eyes and curly, honey-blond hair, I empathized with her as

she belted out her future hits with refined, R&B/Pop/Gospel/Hip-Hop-infused excellence.

I was instantly one of her die-hard fans from the beginning. But, when I read her autobiography, The Meaning of Mariah Carey, I was absolutely horrified and aghast by the overwhelming amount of racism she encountered in the 1970s and 80s North that seemed reminiscent more of my mother or Benita’s 1950s pre-civil rights movement childhoods or worse, my grandfather’s family in 1910 Georgia before they moved to Cleveland in the Great Migration to the North.

Mariah Carey had a golden-brown-skinned father who was African-American and Venezuelan and a brunette, white mother who was Irish-American. Her older brother, Morgan, and older sister, Alison, were both dark-haired and white-skinned. When she was 5 years old, a string of unbridled, incomprehensible, racial hate crimes broke up her interracial family like her parents’ car was blown up and their dog was fed glass and died. After her parents’ separation, Mariah was raised alone with her white mother who had no idea how to protect her from racism. They lived and moved many times to various, all-white environments, in poor areas, in Long Island, New York, with Mariah being the only ‘non’ white. When her mixed roots were eventually revealed, she encountered unbelievable trauma: two kindergarten teachers laughed and mocked her when she colored her father brown in a family drawing; on a bus ride to school a white boy spit in her face; and, a group of white girls surrounded her and chanted “You’re a n****r!” in unison at her.

All African-America families have their encounters with racism that is handed down as ‘generational trauma’. This also occurs with interracial families when one of the parents is black. And, while I’m not trying to acknowledge, verify or give credence to the ‘tragic mulatto’ syndrome, nevertheless, mixed kids/people are sometimes rebuffed by both sides of the white and black divide. In the early 1990s, a popular T-shirt design in the ‘hood once stated, “It’s a black thing. You wouldn’t understand”. Well, there could also be a T-shirt that states, “It’s a light-skinned thing. You wouldn’t understand.”

For the most

part, many black people believe that light-skinned people have it better than dark-skinned people. And, to be truthful, I believe they have a valid point. The darker you are, the harder it seems in a white-dominated society. But, it really goes deeper than just skin complexion if you’re black. How African-Americans react to racism also depends on where you were raised and who raised you.

Through Mariah’s trauma, what she experienced in childhood in New York could be considered equal or even worse in its entirety to that of a dark-skinned person in Mississippi. But, she was raised alone by her white mother with no black relatives close by to help and protect her. She only had her music (in which she diligently strove to succeed in her career) and her faith through her father’s black, Pentecostal-denominational aunt.

My own, African-American wife is a devout member of her predominately-black, Episcopal church. She frequently asks me, “Why are you always writing about race?”

She herself found solace and satisfaction in her religion so why can’t I? Well, as an educated, African-American man, I feel it is my duty to uplift the community by writing articles on race to clarify all the injustices we are subjected to, in order to erase the ignorance,. in order to move forward.

Just as my grandfather, my mother and I had no words to express our own encounters of being mistaken for other races, as a journalist, I give voice to African-Americans in our community who might not have the chance to verbalize how race affects them. And, to a larger extent, to inform the white community about issues that involve members of their race who, for whatever reasons, may cause injury, harm or insult based on hate, stereotype, ignorance or delusions of superiority.

I have self-published several, African-American and multicultural comic books with superheroes of all colors and creeds. If I created a superhero for myself, I would be either ‘Equalizer-Man’ or ‘Mr. Harmony’. My heroic mission would be to “fight against the evil of racism and inequality and to insure multicultural harmony and peace.” Of course, in today’s 2026 political environment, even my su-

perhero would have a hard time striving for justice.

Despite both the Obama (a transcendent, not tragic mulatto) and Biden, Democratic-led administrations, Republican conservative president Donald Trump was elected twice which means half of the country/nation is still potentially racist. Mariah managed to survive her multiple clashes with racial trauma and thrive in her chosen field of entertainment.

African-Americans, as well as interracial families in particular, can learn a crucial lesson from her by being stoically positive in the center of abject and blatant bigotry, reach for you dreams with fervent ferocity, and support each other as egalitarian human beings against those who are evil-spirited and use hate seeking to divide us.

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Greater Cleveland Film Commission to Connect Acting Community with Local Industry Resources

The Greater Cleveland Film Commission (GCFC) will host its first annual Talent Connection on Saturday, October 10, bringing current and aspiring actors together with local professionals and organizations that can help them build a career in the film and media industry.

Hosted by the GCFC Associate Board of young professionals, the free, open-house-style event will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at MidTown Collaboration Center, 1974 E. 66th St., Cleveland, OH 44103.

Registration is required. The Talent Connection is designed specifically for actors and those interested in pursuing acting professionally. Attendees will have the opportunity to speak one-on-one with representatives from local talent and casting agencies, acting schools and other industry resources.

The event is designed to answer the practical questions that often come with getting started including where to find training and representation, and what resources are available to actors in Northeast Ohio.

“This event is really about helping actors understand that there are steps they can take right here in Northeast Ohio,” said Lowell Perry, GCFC Chief Diversity Officer, VP Corporate & Community Engagement and SAG-AFTRA actor with credits including Deja Vu, Nashville, and Nothing But the Truth. “As an actor myself, I know that entering this business can be intimidating. Having access to people who can provide information, guidance and resources can make a real difference in helping someone figure out what their next step should be.”

At approximately 11:15 a.m., attendees will hear brief remarks from Perry, professional actor Peter Lawson Jones, and actress and GCFC Associate Board Secretary Hayley Johnson. Jones, a longtime Northeast Ohio actor, has appeared in more than 20 films with credits including A Man Called Otto alongside Tom Hanks, White Boy Rick, Chicago Fire, and most recently the Cleveland-produced feature Last Shop on Walnut. Johnson has heavily been involved in Cleveland’s independent film scene, with her most notable credit playing Nancy in the feature film, Broken, streaming on Prime Video and Tubi.

The event also reflects the GCFC Associate Board’s role in helping connect the Film Commission with a new generation of Northeast Ohio professionals.

“The Associate Board is made up of young and mid-level professionals who want to help strengthen Cleveland’s film industry and expand awareness of the opportunities that exist here,” said Matt Ferraro, GCFC Associate Board Chair. “The Talent Connection is one way we can bring those resources directly to people who are interested in pursuing a career in this industry and help them make meaningful connections.”

In addition to the talent-focused resources, attendees can learn more about becoming a GCFC Member. GCFC memberships include benefits such as free access to GCFC workshops, invitations to networking events, advance movie screenings and discounts on select industry services. Memberships also directly support GCFC programs that create career pathways for current and aspiring film professionals.

The GCFC Associate Board will also highlight its October raffle and silent auction to help raise funds to support the Film Commission’s work and programming.

The first 100 attendees will receive two VIP Tickets to Phoenix Theatres Great Northern Mall, courtesy of GCFC’s “A-List” Sponsor. Attendees must be present to receive their tickets.

Light refreshments sponsored by Shannon Ahlstrand Photography and Giant Eagle.

Talent Connection Details Saturday, October 10, 2026 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. MidTown Collaboration Center 1974 E. 66th St.

For more information about Talent Connection and other GCFC programs, visit clevelandfilm.com.

Enchanted Forest returns for the fall season at the Wilderness Center

The pumpkins are nearly ready to glow, the Fireflies are preparing to lead the way, and some familiar woodland creatures are getting ready to tell their stories.

Enchanted Forest returns to The Wilderness Center October 9–10, continuing a family tradition more than 30 years in the making.

Public ticket sales are now open for the signature fall event, which invites families to experience the forest after hours while discovering the wildlife that calls Ohio home.

Rather than a traditional haunted trail, Enchanted Forest is designed to make the nighttime woods welcoming, memorable and educational. Guests are led along a pumpkin-lit trail by volunteer “Fireflies,” stopping along the way to meet larger-than-life woodland characters.

Flying Squirrel, Mouse, Coyote and other forest residents entertain visitors with stories, songs and plenty of personality while sharing a little about their lives, habitats and roles in the natural world. Guests may even encounter a new character in the forest this year.

“For more than 30 years, Enchanted Forest has been part of fall for families in our community.

What makes it so special is that underneath all the costumes, pumpkins and fun, children are building a connection with nature,” said Angela Henary, Marketing & Outreach Manager at The Wilderness Center. “When families attend Enchanted Forest, they’re not only creating memories together — they’re supporting the environmental education work that allows us to continue creating those connections throughout the year.”

More Than a Night in the Forest

For more than three decades, Enchanted Forest has introduced generations of families to nature through an experience that blends environmental education with the excitement of a fall tradition.

The event is also The Wilderness Center’s largest environmental education fundraiser of the year. Proceeds help support the nonprofit organization’s environmental education efforts and its mission to inspire and nurture a connection between people and nature through habitat conservation, environmental education and community engagement.

Enchanted Forest returns to The Wilderness Center October 9–10, continuing a family tradition more than 30 years in the making.



Fall Tradition Brings Woodland Creatures to Life at The Wilderness Center on October 9 and 10.



Enchanted Forest returns to The Wilderness Center October 9–10, continuing a family tradition more than 30 years in the making.

Rainbow Terrace fire survivors unhappy with lack of answers

Kyanna Bell is among those calling for more investigations into the cause of the natural gas buildup and explosion, after losing the father of one of her children.

Kyanna Bell stood at a podium in disbelief with her three children Thursday, 15 months after a natural gas explosion destroyed her apartment building. Two of them, her 13-year-old son Tyrone Bell and 11-year-old daughter Azaria Bell, still carry burns on their face and arms from the blast. Her youngest son, 9-year-old Cordale Sheffield, displacing more than 100 people, including many children.

Earlier this week, Mayor Justin Bibb and fire investigators held their own press conference to say the cause of the explosion at Cleveland’s Rainbow Terrace Apartments in June 2025 is still “undetermined.”

Bell calls it “unbelievable.”

“Undetermined, how fair is that?” Bell asked a crowd of reporters. “These kids is traumatized. These families are traumatized.”

Bell stood with dozens of people whose homes were destroyed during the Rainbow Terrace fire to demand more answers about what happened leading up to that explosion. With them stood their Councilmember Richard Starr and Attorney Stanley Jackson, who’s representing the families.

Cordale Sheffield, 32, suffered fatal injuries and died several weeks after the explosion and fire.

Starr and Jackson joined the families in saying more needs to be done to find answers. Jackson says his firm will start its own investigation, while Starr said City Council is preparing to subpoena officials to get them to testify in public.

On June 25, 2025, a blast leveled a multi-story apartment building in the Garden Valley neighborhood, displacing more than 100 people, including many children. The site of the explosion was buildings 7051 and 7055 where the gas built up.

After more than a year, investigators this week said they were unable to pin down the cause.

Based on witness statements and surveillance footage, the Cleveland Division of Fire’s Fire Investigation Unit believes that there was a rapid accumulation of natural gas in the lower levels of two of those buildings when an unknown heat source came in contact with the gas. That resulted in an explosion that caused widespread fire, heat and smoke damage.

Many of Rainbow Terrace’s tenants used public housing vouchers. Starr, who grew up in public housing, said he’s concerned that negligence may have led to the explosion. He said residents would often complain to him about maintenance issues at the complex.

“A fire explosion don’t just happen,” Starr said. “Something caused it. What initiated that fire? What took place? So, I want the families to know, hey, you ain’t fighting alone.”

Families at the press conference shared harrowing experiences of living through the blast and losing almost everything they owned.

Lorenzo Sanders, whospoke at the news conference, said he was on the third floor in one of the buildings where the explosion happened. He lost two pets in the resulting fire but managed to get out.

“I had to escape from the third floor using sheets just before the fire department arrived,” Sanders said. “I didn’t go down the staircase; there wasn’t no elevator. I didn’t have anybody calmly walk me out the building. I was trying to survive.”

Sarah Johnson, a spokesperson for Bibb’s office, said the law department is preparing to release body-worn camera video and other records from the investigation. She said these must be reviewed for redactions, but that the city is “committed to releasing those materials as rapidly as possible.”

“We understand the significant public interest surrounding Rainbow Terrace,” Johnson said. “The City will continue to be open about what occurred, what the investigations found, what we could not find, what we were unable to confirm, and the information on which those findings are based.”

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Kyanna Bell (center) stands with her son Tyrone Bell (left), daughter Azaria Bell (second to the right) and son Cordale Sheffield Jr. (right) to demand more answers about the Rainbow Terrace fire.



Homes in Twinsburg exploded. The incident occurred on Hiram Lane in the Woodlands neighborhood when contractors from Windstream’s Kinetic Fiber Internet team were working near a gas line



Mayor Justin Bibb and fire investigators held their own press conference to say the cause of the explosion at Cleveland’s Rainbow Terrace Apartments in June 2025 is still “undetermined.”



Dominion Energy has had multiple crew members on the scene since the explosion at a house on East 57th Street in August 2021. It is required, according to spokesperson Neil Durbin, to conduct an investigation of the service line and file a report with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.



While many other house explosion investigations have been solved, Cleveland seems helpless in finding the answer to the Rainbow Terrace explosion.



In September of this year explosion occurred at 4:49 a.m. on East 160th Street north of Miles Avenue. The first engine arrived on scene at 4:55 a.m. Cleveland Fire Lt. Mike Norman said the fire was called under control at 5:59 a.m. The abandoned house was a total loss.

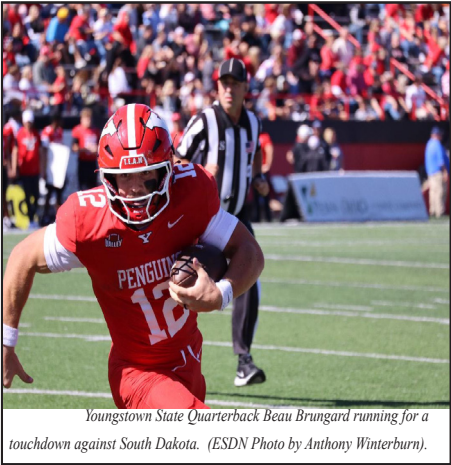
Youngstown State trounces South Dakota

By THOMAS A. MILLER

“Just do your job, and that’s what 11 players did. It was a challenge coming off last week’s game. We felt that a team was going to come in here and think they can run the football down our throat and thought that we couldn’t run the football. Not that they did but the perception after last week’s game and in the Missouri Valley Football League you got to put that game behind you and I’m proud of our young men.”

Those were the opening comments from Youngstown State head football coach Doug Phillips after he led the number 11th ranked Penguins to a 47-28 beating over the 8th ranked South Dakota Coyotes.

This was game number 4 for both teams. It was played in sunny



Youngstown State Quarterback Beau Brungard running for a touchdown against South Dakota. (ESDN Photo by Anthony Winterburn).

conditions with temperatures in the 70’s in front of a pro Penguin crowd of 8,849 at the Ice Castle at Youngstown State University.

Last week the Penguins lost to South Dakota State 27-20.

South Dakota also had a road loss to Boise State 38-24. They came into this game 3-1 (0-0).

Both teams are from the powerful Missouri Valley Football Conference that has 6 teams in the FCS top 25 rankings this week. was the 13th meeting between the programs with YSU leading the series 8-4.

They last met in 2024 where South Dakota won 27-17.

Youngstown State is led by senior quarterback and 2025 Walter Payton award winner Beau Brungard who has 1,057 yards passing with 12 touchdowns and 291 yards rushing with 4 touchdowns this year.

He looks like a potential 2026 repeat Walter Payton award winner. If he does, he will be the third player in history to do so. South Dakota is led by freshman quarterback Austyn Modrzewski who has 970 yards passing with 14 touchdowns through 4 games. The head coach for the Coyotes is Matt Vitzthum who is 3-1 in his 1st year as a Coyote.

The Penguins are led by Coach Doug Phillips who is 33-37 as a Penguin in his seventh year.

The betting line for this game was the Penguins as a ½ point favorite and yes, they covered the spread.

Youngstown State won the coin toss and went straight to work on a 7 play 75-yard drive capped off by a 10-yard touchdown rush by receiver Lynn Wyche-El.

The extra point by Andrew Lastovka was good. YSU 7-0.

South Dakota got the ball for the first time and scored on a 7-yard rush by quarterback Jackson Proctor. The extra point by Bodhie Ing was good to tie the game at 7-7. That was the end of the first stanza.

At the beginning of the second quarter Brungard was heating up on a 2-yard touchdown run. The extra point was good.

Six minutes later Wyche-El ran 41 yards to the house. The extra point was no good and YSU led 20-7.

South Dakota had the next score and that was a 9-yard catch by Tysen Boze from Modrzewski. The extra point was good and South Dakota moved a little closer to the score 20-14.

To close out the second quarter Andrew Lastovka had a chip shot 23 yard field goal. The half time score was YSU 23-14.

There were only two scores in the third quarter. The first was a 22 yard run by backup quarterback Jackson Proctor for South Dakota.

The extra point was good. Six minutes

later YSU intercepted and then scored on a 21 yard field goal by Lastovka. The game got closer as YSU led 26-21 after 3 quarters. In the third quarter, your 2025 Walter Payton Award winner Brungard took over.

At the 11:54 mark Brungard tossed a 4 yard pass to Andrew McDonald. The extra point was good. Six minutes later Brungard took it in himself from 9 yards out.

The extra point was good. After a fumble recovery by YSU they scored on a 7 yard run by Brungard. The extra point was good and YSU

was up 47-21. With 32 seconds left in the game South Dakota scored on a 1 yard run by Carson Flether. The extra point was good and your final score was Youngstown State 47 South Dakota 28.

In the stats department Brungard rushed for 170 yards. He also passed for 159 yards. Your top receiver for the day was Jayden Gilbert who had 3 catches for 41 yards.

The Penguins will travel to Southern Illinois tomorrow to take on the 3-2 fighting Salukis who are ranked number 24 in the FCS rankings.

Report highlights kids with disabilities dying in foster care

The woman who calls 911 says there’s a diabetic teen boy in distress, but when police and paramedics arrive at the house in Mesa, Arizona she comes outside to say he’s just “pretending that he’s dead on the floor” because he wants attention.

When those first responders go inside, they find something tragically different.

Fifteen-year-old Christian Williams isn’t breathing. His lips are blue and his heart has stopped.

The small ranch house — lit up from inside in the dark, desert night — is a residential treatment facility for seven young men in foster care. The facility provided specialized mental health care for Christian, who, in the one month since he’d come to the group home, was in and out of the hospital for complications from his Type 1 diabetes.

“I’ve never even dealt with a diabetic. I don’t know anything about that,” the woman who called the police, a staffer at the foster care home, tells an officer, recorded on the officer’s body camera.

Paramedics begin CPR, steadily pushing on Christian’s chest, in an attempt to revive him.

An NPR investigation — including an analysis of federal data on hundreds of thousands of children — shows that kids with disabilities are the largest group that go into foster care.

More significantly, they suffer the worst outcomes in foster care — getting trapped in the system longer than children without disabilities and dealing with lifelong harm.

Trump administration tells states to end ‘orphan tax’ on foster kids One reason, NPR found, is the extreme complexity of the system.

“Caring for children with disabilities in foster care involves much more than meeting their medical needs,” explained Bobbi Andrew-Green, an Alaska foster parent to children with complex medical needs. She navigates child welfare, mental health, Medicaid, special education, home nursing and other service systems. “It is beyond complex to the point where some days, I’m dizzy,” she said.

Disability encompasses a wide range of



Bobbie (left) and DeForrest Williams hold a portrait of their son, Christian Williams, at their home in Buckeye, Ariz. Christian died at age 15 of diabetes complications while in a residential foster care program.

conditions. In our reporting, we came across children who used wheelchairs, were blind or deaf, had intellectual disabilities or used ventilators and sometimes were sent to foster homes that weren’t accessible for them.

But the largest group of children in foster care are those with a behavioral health disability. “Up to 80% of children in foster care enter with a significant mental health need,” according to a report from the American Academy of Pediatrics that cites multiple research studies.

“This is the group that everybody gives up on and it’s because they have disabilities,” said Nancy Thaler, who leads a federally-funded program to understand how to better care for “children with complex behavioral health conditions.”

These kids “are so hard to understand and, frankly, take some sophistication to treat,” said Thaler. Often, they’re diagnosed with mental health issues, trauma, brain injuries, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, intellectual disabilities and autism and would have lived in state institutions years ago, she said.

They end up in child welfare in large numbers, often in the most institutional settings — including therapeutic group homes and residential treatment centers — because of their “behaviors that are off-putting or scary,” according to Thaler.

“It’s hurting other people, hurting themselves, damaging property. That’s the range of things that they do,” Thaler said.

“These kids can recover and be very successful,” Thaler said, “This is doable.”

But there’s one big roadblock: Child welfare programs largely depend on 100-year-old models of therapy that, Thaler

said, don’t work with these disabled children.

Instead, that treatment often makes their behaviors worse.

Missing numbers, worse outcomes.

There aren’t even clear numbers on how many children and youth in foster care have disabilities. Researchers use a broad range: From 25 to 80%.

The lower percentage reflects how disability is counted in federal foster care data. The higher one reflects research suggesting that the vast majority of children and youth in foster care have some mental health issue — either one that contributed to them going into care, or one that resulted from the trauma of being removed from family and going to a foster home.

The federal government keeps and analyzes extensive data on foster care demographics and knows a lot about other populations. Black children make up 24% of the foster care population, according to NPR’s analysis. (Add biracial ones, according to the research group Child Trends, and it’s 35%.) Hispanic kids represent 21%.

These numbers have helped researchers and policymakers understand how children from these groups, especially from poor families, are disproportionately represented in foster care, and the harm that often results for them and their families. One research study, for example, shows that 53% of Black children in America will be the subject of a child protective services investigation by the time they turn 18.

But the numbers that could give clarity on disabled kids in foster care are harder to come by — partly because of the sometimes hazy definitions of disability but also because of the failure of child welfare providers to even count

them.

Few foster homes will take kids with behavioral challenges. Ohio may have a solution

NPR obtained data from the government’s mandated data collection system, the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). But our analysis found there was too much missing data to get a statistically valid count of kids with the label “emotionally disturbed,” the one category of foster youth with mental health conditions.

NPR analyzed the federal data on 505,591 children in foster care in 2025 and quickly found limitations to those numbers. Only 60% of the children are marked as disabled or not disabled. Of the group that was left, almost half have a disability.

Despite the data’s limitations, NPR’s analysis and reporting show that disabled children and youth who go through foster care have some of the worst outcomes. Among the findings:

As the foster care population ages, children with disabilities make up a larger and larger percentage of the total. They stay in foster care 50% longer than kids without disabilities. They are the least likely to be reunited with their parents or to be adopted.

Among children who don’t have a disability, 32% live with a relative, a preferred foster care placement. But only 20% of disabled children stay with a relative.

Disabled children are more likely to go to the largest residential living facilities — including group homes, treatment centers, psychiatric institutions and in-patient hospitals. About 10% of disabled kids in foster care live in these institutional settings, more than double the rate (4%) for children without a disability. Other researchers have shown that disabled foster children are also more likely to be sent to treatment programs out of state, often far from their families.

They’re more likely to move from place to place. NPR’s analysis found disabled children in foster care move to an average of 4.6 placements, while children without disabilities go to a more-stable 2.7 places.

And they’re more likely than other kids in foster care to die. One re-

searcher found children with physical disabilities die at nine times the rate of other children in foster care.

The leftover kids:

Children with disabilities “There’s no question that kids with disabilities are entering into foster care at a higher rate,” Adams said. “They stay in foster care longer. They are more likely to be placed in congregate care facilities than family homes.”

Congregate care refers to a common placement for disabled youth — a highly-structured and supervised group-living residential setting that is intended to provide temporary care for a child until they can be reunited with family — a primary goal of foster care, when possible — or placed in a smaller foster home.

Over the last two decades, child welfare agencies have tried to reduce reliance on these institutional settings. Still, about 12% of all children in foster care live in congregate settings, and those kids are far more likely to be disabled.

States are “over-using” these expensive congregate care facilities, said Adams.

At HHS, Adams has started a campaign called A Home for Every Child to address the national shortage of family foster homes. To increase homes for children with disabilities, he said states, which run foster care programs with federal funding, need to take additional steps, including raising payment rates for those foster parents.

Adams said he saw this problem acutely in Idaho, where he previously ran the Department of Health and Welfare. He was puzzled when, after 2021, the number of children going into foster care dropped, but the state’s costs for child welfare were rising.

An examination showed that children with no disabilities were leaving foster care while disabled ones stayed. Many of them were in large, congregate care facilities that were expensive to begin with and charged “skyrocketing” rates starting with the pandemic.

“A lot of states are dealing with the paradox of shrinking kids, but increasing budgets.

And I think you’ve identified one of the primary drivers of it,” Adams said of NPR’s findings of the disproportionate number of disabled children in foster care.

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