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“COVERING THE NEWS TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW”

Gun violence on the rise as few crimes solved in Cleveland

Cleveland police are investigating a Thursday night shooting that hospitalized a man.

Police say that officers from the Second District received a call for a man shot in the 3100 block of West 14th Street at 11:50 p.m. Thursday.

When officers arrived at the scene, they located a 25-year-old man with multiple gunshot wounds who was reportedly transported to the hospital by Cleveland EMS.

Preliminary information from police states that “the victim and suspect were in a vehicle together before exiting the vehicle. An altercation occurred between the two, resulting in shots being fired.”

Cleveland Police Second District Detective Bureau is actively investigating the incident.

Last month, two men were shot last month while trying to sell a car on the city’s East side, and one man has now died from his injuries.

The Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner identified the victim as Tayvon Austin, 22, of Cleveland.

According to Cleveland police, when the victims arrived in the 1000 block of E. 71st St. around 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 29, unknown males tried to rob them and gunfire was exchanged.

While fleeing the area,

the victim drove through a fence and struck a home on E. 68th St.

Austin was found inside the car with multiple gunshot wounds. He was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead on Sept. 30.

The second victim, a 21-year-old man, was found lying in a nearby field. Police said he was shot in the leg and is in stable condition at a local hospital.

At this time, there are no arrests.

Shianne Massey, a 23-year-old woman, was found shot and killed in her apartment on the city’s East side Sunday

morning.

“She was a beautiful soul, the life of the party, and someone whose presence, smile, and spirit could fill a room,” posted her mom, Fredille Mcpherson, on GoFundMe.

Her mom said she never heard from Massey when they were supposed to go to brunch Saturday.

According to police, officers were called out to the 7700 block of Euclid Ave. just after midnight on Sunday, Oct. 4 for “unknown trouble.”

When officers arrived, they met with Cleveland EMS and firefighters who had located

Massey.

She was pronounced dead at the scene of a gunshot wound.

Her aunt, Carla Mcpherson, says she is heartbroken.

“She’s priceless,” said Mcpherson. “And we gotta have justice for Shianne. I’m very angry. Our whole family is broken. We’re not sleeping or eating”

There are no arrests and police said this remains an active investigation.

The families are waiting for answers.



Shianne Massey, a 23-year-old woman, was found shot and killed in her apartment on the city's East side Sunday morning. Her family is desperate for answers. Anyone with information is asked to call the police.

A measles case has now been confirmed in Medina County

The Medina County Health Department reported one confirmed measles case and one probable measles case.

The Medina County Health Department will not release any details regarding the measles patients, but is working to notify anyone who may have been exposed.

As of Oct. 8, the number of measles cases in the Buckeye State is 228, according to the Ohio Department of Health.

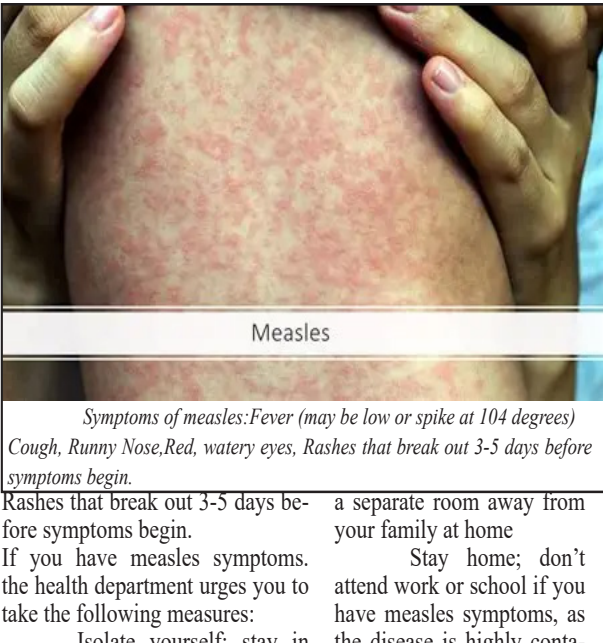
In the release, the Medina County Health Department outlined the following measles symptoms to look out for:

Fever (may be low or spike at 104 degrees)

Cough

Runny Nose

Red, watery eyes



gious

Call first: if you have measles symptoms, call your doctor, and they will instruct you on what to do next.

The Medina County Health Department notes that you should call the emergency room and let them know you are experiencing measles symptoms before coming in.

Get vaccinated:

There are two vaccines that protect against measles, mumps, and rubella. The MMR and MMRV vaccines may be given at the same time as other vaccines.

MMR

Contains a combination of measles, mumps, and rubella vaccines.

Two MMR vaccines are available for use in the United States: M-M-R II and PRIORIX. Both are recommended similarly and considered interchangeable.

MMRV

Contains a combination of measles, mumps, rubella, and

varicella (chickenpox) vaccines.

This vaccine is licensed for use only in children who are 12 months through 12 years of age.

Recommendations

The MMR and MMRV vaccines may be given at the same time as other vaccines. Your healthcare provider can give you more information about each and which to get.

Children — All children are recommended to have 2 doses of MMR vaccines. Doses are given at: 12–15 months old

1st dose

–6 years old

2nd dose

Adults — Adults are recommended to have at least 1 documented dose of MMR.

Some adults at higher risk are recommended to have 2 doses if they don’t have other evidence of immunity.[A] Doses should be separated at least 28 days apart.

Man found dead at Ohio country club in 1972 remains

More than 50 years after golfers found a man’s body near a stream at Chagrin Valley Country Club, investigators are still trying to identify him and determine what happened.

In October 1972, golfers found the man near the No. 3 fairway at the club in Moreland Hills. He was not an employee or regular visitor, and investigators have not identified him.

Decades passed, and he remained a John Doe.

The only photo investigators have of him was taken after his death. It was later altered slightly by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation to help with identification.

prints, investigators could retest them. Wilson said, “You have to remember back then, some of the fingerprinting was done by different departments. They’re stored in different areas.”

According to Moreland Hills Police Chief Todd Dietzel, the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office contacted the department several years ago to ask whether it had a report on the man. The department could not find one. In 2025, police found scene photos in an archived box.

Dietzel had the negatives professionally developed and enlarged, but they did not help solve the case.

The man was white, between 55 and 65 years old, 5 feet 8 inches tall and 128 pounds. He had gray hair, brown eyes, a receding hairline and was partially bald.

“It was thought maybe he was had come in from out of town or was from out of state,” said Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office Chief Investigator Justin Wilson.

If the office can find copies of the man’s finger-

Finding DNA evidence could also help investigators pursue investigative genetic genealogy or DNA analysis.

“So we’re still exploring everything that we can in house and with our partnerships to see if we do have anything that exists with evidence right now that can be tested potentially,” Wilson said.

“It’s still puzzling to this day, but we are still actively working on it right now,” he said.

Dietzel said he believes people deserve the dignity of being identified by name. The medical examiner’s office said the man’s cause of death may have been heart disease.

Anyone who recognizes this John Doe can call the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office at 216-721-561.

Cleveland Police Officer arrested

Cleveland Police Officer Jourdan Hernandez Arrested in Internet Crimes Case

Officer Jourdan Hernandez, 45, of Elyria, was arrested on September 21 in an undercover sting by the Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and is facing felony charges

According to the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s Office, Hernandez was arrested after prosecutors said he communicated with an undercover officer posing as a 14-year-old on social media in late June

Prosecutors allege he importuned the undercover officer at least twice over two days and was given a meeting location, which he did not attend

He is charged with:

Two counts of importuning (Ohio law defines this as soliciting someone under 13 to engage in sexual activity)

One count of possessing criminal tools

Investigators obtained a search warrant for the social media account Hernandez allegedly used to contact the undercover officer, leading to his identifica-

tion and arrest without incident

The alleged offense is dated June 27, 2026

At his Sept. 24, 2026 initial court appearance in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, a judge set Hernandez’s bond at \$25,000 and imposed:

No internet use

GPS and curfew monitoring (out only 6:30 a.m.–9 p.m.)

Case referred to a grand jury

Earlier reports noted a \$100,000 bond in some filings but the court record shows the \$25,000 figure

wkyc.com

wkyc.com

Police and Department ResponseCleveland Police Chief Dorothy A. Todd confirmed Hernandez was immediately relieved of duty after the arrest

The department stated it takes such matters seriously and is committed to upholding integrity and due process

Hernandez was hired in Dec. 2024, graduated from the Cleveland Police Academy in Aug. 2025, and most recently patrolled the Third District

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

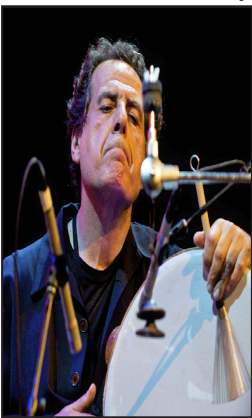
VANTAGE POINT

Award-winning percussionist Haddad will join forces with the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra

Clevelander and award-winning percussionist Jamey Haddad will join forces with the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra. The world music and contemporary jazz concert titled, “Rhythm Nation”, will launch the CJO’s 42nd season.

Haddad’s career includes collaborations with leading musicians from all genres such as Sting, Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Cultural Collective, Esperanza Spalding, Joe Lovano, Dawn Upshaw, and a 20-plus year collaboration with Paul Simon.

Haddad and CJO Artistic Director Paul Ferguson collaborated to as-



Haddad will lead us in an evening of entirely new big band sounds.”
“I’m excited to build a rhythm section and music,” Haddad shared, “that, on a sonic level, isn’t typical for a big band.”
The evening at the Maltz Performing Arts Center at Case Western Reserve University, is dedicated to the memory of Dave Morgan, 1957-2026, a longtime bassist with the CJO. Dave Morgan was a major force in the Northeast Ohio jazz scene as a composer and bassist and will be sorely missed.

The Cleveland Jazz Orchestra is North-east Ohio’s premier jazz voice since 1985. Through inventive arrangements and original music, the CJO brings audiences the best jazz they’ve ever heard and the best jazz they’ve never heard. We are celebrating our 42nd season.

For more information please contact Theresa Lesh, Cleveland Jazz Orchestra Managing Director. To purchase tickets contact the Maltz Performing Arts Center box office.

For more information: clevelandjazz.org

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YOUR HEALTH

Finding help with expensive medications

If you or someone you love is one of the millions of Americans with a chronic disease or a life-threatening condition, pharmaceutical manufacturers and their partners offer you a gift of hope this holiday season.

Pharmaceutical manufacturers are criticized as Scrooge or the Grinch in our country’s health care system. Elected officials and advocacy organizations want to blame somebody for rising Rx costs, and the most obvious target is the Big Pharma.

But in this blame game, very little attention is given to the help the pharmaceutical industry and its partners quietly provide to patients in need through a variety of programs.

Such programs are often based on the patient’s household income, but not always. Patients with no health insurance coverage are often the first group considered eligible. Likewise, those with one or more chronic or life-threatening conditions are a high priority.

If you fall into one of these categories, check out the Patient Assistance Programs (PAPs) found on individual pharmaceutical company websites or through Partnership for Prescription Assistance (www.pparx.org), the website created by PhRMA, the trade association representing pharmaceutical manufacturers, linking patients to more than 475 different assistance programs.

On most of these websites, you can be connected with a

customer support team member who can help determine if you are eligible and get you enrolled. You will be asked to verify that you are insured or uninsured and, in some cases, provide proof of income. You may need your physician to validate your condition. But once approved, access to medication is almost immediate.

(Note: Patients enrolled in Medicare or Medicaid may not be eligible.)

Pharmaceutical manufacturers also offer co-pay assistance, in which the patient is offered help with the cost of medication co-payments. Some co-pay assistance programs do not limit who is eligible.

And, it is important to know that some co-pay assistance programs will not help people on Medicare. Each program sets its own rules.

People searching for an online provider should check out www.RxAssist.org. This site was developed by AstraZen-

eca, a pharmaceutical manufacturer, with the sole purpose of helping people access needed medications. It is one of the best sites available.

The California Chronic Care Coalition (CCCC) launched the website www.mypatientrights.com in California and is taking it nationwide to help people who have been denied treatment or medicines, experienced delays or are dissatisfied with the decisions made by their health plan. Today, this program is operating in 17 states.

It helps patients get the care or treatment they need if denied, or if their plans don’t cover their meds and force them to pay full price. The program is available in 17 states—check the website to see if your state has a program.

This holiday season, if you need help with your medications, you are not alone. Go to the websites cited throughout this article. They can help connect you with low-cost and free alternatives.

Weekly Wealth For Your Health

Saving money when adding a new pet to your home

Whether it’s a dog, cat or another furry (or scaly) friend, many people have pets who are more than just animals – they’re part of the family.

Pets can be friends, they can offer nonjudgmental companionship when you’re feeling down and they can put a smile on your face. To provide the best care for a pet, you’ll want to be able to afford their needs, including the basics like food and health care. With this in mind, think carefully and review your budget before deciding to welcome an animal into your family.

Choose a pet that you can afford. While the initial cost of adopting or buying a pet is relatively small compared to the long-term expenses, the type of pet you choose does matter.

Admittedly, you might visit the pound and fall in love with a dog or cat.

What can you do? The heart wants what the heart wants. Research is a must if you want to take cost-saving measures, though. For example, larger animal breeds might be more expensive to care for, partially because they simply eat more food. And if you’re taking in a dog you’ll want to consider the cost of training, which could set you back several hundred dollars.

Lifespan is another consideration. Hamsters, gerbils and some types of fish only might live a couple of years. A pet turtle, on the other hand, could live several decades.

Keep your pet healthy and happy. Health care can be one of the most expensive aspects of pet ownership. As with humans, it’s often best to invest in preventative care rather than treat emergencies.

Follow your pet’s recommended vaccination

schedule and treatments, spay or neuter cats and dogs and visit the vet at least once a year for a checkup. Finding and dealing with health problems early on isn’t only less expensive, you might be able to prevent serious problems and improve your pet’s quality of life.

Some types of preventative care don’t require a visit to the vet, although you can ask for recommendations. For example, brushing your dog’s teeth (with special toothpaste) can help prevent teeth and gum problems.

Consider pet insurance to cover emergencies. When a pet is part of the family, you’ll do anything to help him or her. You might want to have an insurance policy to help cover emergencies that you might not be able to afford otherwise. Particularly if you have a high-risk breed, a pet that tends to escape or you live in an area with a lot of other potentially aggressive animals.

Before buying a policy, read up on how pet insurance works. There can be important differences between pet and human policies.

Save money on nutritious food. Once you bring a pet home, it’s your responsibility to provide for them. You can ask your vet for food recommendations (and free samples) based on the pet’s type and age. The American Society for the Prevention of

Cruelty to Animals has general nutrition tips for dogs and cats, including age-based diet recommendations.

Once you’ve found a food that you and your pet likes, you might be able to get a discount by signing up for a subscription delivery service online. Or, if you don’t mind the workout, consider buying in bulk at a warehouse club.

Have a plan for when you’re unavailable. Another responsibility pet owners take on is making sure their pet is looked after while they’re away. The least expensive option could be to find a neighbor or friend who also has a pet and exchange free pet-sitting services.

Otherwise, you can look for a well-reviewed doggy day care center or boarding service. You could try one of the several apps that connect you with someone who can feed, walk or play with your pet. If you’re away for several days, the apps can help you find someone who will spend the night or take your pet to their home.

Taking a pet into your home and caring for them can be a rewarding and wonderful experience. It can also be life changing. Review the potential immediate and long-term costs to help ensure that you’ll be able to provide for a pet once they join your family.

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Islam In The Community

Israeli documentary ‘NAZA’ opens in the US, reigniting debate over the war in Gaza

The opening in U.S. theaters of the “NAZA” documentary, in which Israeli military insiders describe what they say was the reckless killing of civilians in Gaza, is likely to rekindle the searing debate over America’s military support for Israel ahead of congressional elections.

Israel’s wartime conduct has sparked global outrage, as have the billions of dollars in American military support provided by the Biden and Trump administrations. The war has bitterly divided Democrats and some

Republicans.

The film received a record 25-minute standing ovation when it debuted at the Venice Film Festival. The backlash in Israel, which holds its own elections at the end of this month, has been just as thunderous.

“NAZA,” named for the Hebrew acronym for collateral damage, contends that Israel used sophisticated systems -- some operated by artificial intelligence -- to hunt and kill suspected militants, carrying out strikes the military knew would kill large numbers of civilians.

The Israeli military has “categorically” denied the filmmakers’ findings and threatened to track down the soldiers who spoke to them. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the film was antisemitic, and a Cabinet minister threatened to strip the filmmakers of their citizenship. Yuval Abraham, one of the co-directors, fears he won’t be able to return home.

At the New York Film Festival premiere last month, a few dozen protesters gathered outside showing images of Hamas’ Oct.



Abraham and co-director Rachel Szor knew the documentary would spark controversy. The film received a record 25-minute standing ovation when it debuted at the Venice Film Festival.

7, 2023, attack that triggered the war. Abraham acknowledged the “massacre” and said it was “completely unjustified.”

Abraham and co-director Rachel Szor knew the documentary would spark controversy. Their previous film, “No Other Land,” made with two Palestinian filmmakers about the struggles faced by Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, got a similar split-screen reception -- winning an Oscar but infuriating many in Israel.

For all the bombastic claims surrounding it, “NAZA” is stark in its minimalism. There are no talking heads, no file footage of airstrikes -- just interviews at night on Tel Aviv rooftops with individuals whose faces and voices are obscured. Some use pen and paper to draw what they are describing.

One recalls targeting people on their way to a food distribution site, while another likens the remote killings to playing a video game. The filmmakers say the subjects spoke anonymously for fear of retaliation and that their claims were carefully vetted.

“We wanted it to be a simple film,” said Szor. “There is something very scary about someone drawing systems that are causing mass killing.”

The subjects talk about developing and using an AI tool to process surveillance in Gaza and suggest targets with Hamas connections, creating a database of tens of thousands. Another AI tool recommends buildings and structures to target, they say.

The interviewees say the systems make mistakes. One subject said approval was given for an operation targeting one Hamas militant that anticipated 500 civilian deaths. The military has denied that claim, but Israeli strikes on senior militants often killed large numbers of civilians.

Most of the key reporting in “NAZA” has been published before, by the Israeli-Palestinian +972 Magazine, the Hebrew-language outlet Local Call and The Guardian, which produced the film.

The military has issued a lengthy rebuttal

The Israeli military has condemned the film. It says orders “explicitly, comprehensively and clearly distinguish” between militants and civilians and that it strives to minimize civilian harm “to the greatest extent feasible.”

It acknowledged using AI but said the selection of targets is done by intelligence officers and the decision to strike is made by operational commanders. It said many of the interviewees did not seem to be aware of the larger targeting process.

The reporting overall is based on interviews with over 100 confidential sources, done in collaboration with The Guardian’s investigation desk between 2023 and 2025.

“After you watch the film, it becomes much harder to doubt that these are real people,” Abraham said at the New York premiere. “It’s all truthful, it’s all vetted and we feel very, very confident about it.”

Experts and major rights groups have accused Israel of genocide over the killing of civilians, the destruction of most of Gaza and aid restrictions that fueled widespread hunger. Israel adamantly denies the allegations, saying it tried to spare civilians as it responded to Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack and fought to uproot the militants from dense residential areas.

Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted 251 other people in the Oct. 7 attack, all of whom have since been recovered, alive or dead.

Israel’s offensive killed over 74,000 Palestinians, including more than 1,400 since a fragile ceasefire took hold a year ago, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry.

Part of the Hamas-run government, the ministry maintains detailed records seen as generally reliable by independent experts and U.N. agencies. Its figures do not distinguish between militants and civilians, but it says women and children make up around half the dead.

The film’s rollout will be limited

“NAZA” is arriving in theaters without a traditional distributor in the U.S. It’s now playing at New York’s IFC Center, and abroad with the help of independent film studio mk2.



The opening in U.S. theaters of the “NAZA” documentary, in which Israeli military insiders describe what they say was the reckless killing of civilians in Gaza, is likely to rekindle the searing debate over America’s military support for Israel ahead of congressional elections.



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

was to disseminate information, which is why they didn’t sit on the reporting ahead of the film’s release. They hope for a wider viewership in Israel, where the focus is still on the Oct. 7 attack with little discussion of the plight of ordinary Palestinians.

But they also want Americans to see the film and to understand the role their own government played. An academic study published last year found that the Biden and Trump administrations provided at least \$21.7 billion in military assistance to Israel in the first two years of the war.

“Much of what is being described was done with American taxpayer money,” Abraham said. “My country did it, but they would never have been able to do it without (American) diplomatic (and) military support.”

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A Look At My World

Not Everything in Life is Funny

By Dr. JAMES L. SNYDER

I’m the kind of person who finds a sliver of humor in just about everything in life. If I can’t laugh, I guess I’m not awake yet.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is not on board with my attitude. It takes her quite a while to find something to laugh at. If only she could see my bathroom mirror in the morning, she could find something to laugh about.

Several years ago, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I celebrated our birthdays which are two days apart. We went to a restaurant to celebrate. I told the waitress that we were celebrating our birthdays.

She looked at me, smiled, and said, “Tell me, sir, how does it feel to be old?” Then she laughed.

Of course, I laughed back at her, then reached across the table and began squeezing the arm of The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I looked back at the waitress and said, “It sure feels good.” The waitress and I were laughing, and the only one not laughing was sitting across the table from me. For some reason she didn’t think it was funny.

I worried she might bring it up on the way home, but she never did.

I always find ways to

turn something around and laugh at it.

Often, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage would start a conversation by saying, “I was thinking...”

Then, without thinking, I interrupted her and responded, “With what?” Then I would laugh hysterically. Of course, I was the only one laughing at the time. She would look at me with one of “her looks,” and I could tell she was not laughing, even on the inside.

Laughing has been one of my hobbies throughout life. If I can’t laugh, then what good is anything? So I make it a practice to find something to laugh about every day.

After 55 years of marital bliss, I have had many occasions to laugh. Even when people make fun of me, I join in the laughter, which is all right with me.

Driving across town last week, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was driving the Sissy Van. She was coming close to a red light, and being the knucklehead that I am, I said to her, “There’s a red light, make sure you stop.”

Looking at me, she said, “You think that is funny?”

I must’ve, because I was laughing then. She, on the other hand, was not laughing at all. Looking at me, she said, “Would you like to walk home?”

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Mansfield Correction.....\$50.00

Visit Time 8:00 a.m. To 2:00 p.m.

Saturday Reservations Only

Marion Correction.....\$60.00

Visit Time 8:00 a.m. To 3:00 p.m.

Children Under 12 Years Of

Proof Of Childs Age Is Required

For Information Contact: Junie: (216) 795-1705 Or (216) 269-6636

The one thing that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is afraid of is a cockroach. She sees one, grabs her broom, and chases it until she can get rid of it.

Once, as we were going to bed, before she turned off the light, she saw a cockroach right under her pillow. She had a screaming moment and then got her shoe and tried to kill that old cockroach.

Upon getting rid of the cockroach, she looked at me and said, “Did you plant that cockroach under my pillow?”

Of course I shook my head in the negative, but as I thought about it, that would’ve been a good plan for me to use. I had never thought of doing something like that. But it was another bullet in my arsenal.

Several weeks later, I thought about that. In the kitchen, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage had a box of sugar-free cookies, and I was only allowed one per day.

I wanted my second sugar-free cookie, and I didn’t know how to get it without getting caught. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was in the kitchen, and there was no way I could sneak in and get a cookie. So when I came into the kitchen, I looked back down the hallway and said, “Oh, is that a cockroach down the hallway?”

I sounded serious, so she got up to get that cockroach while I sneaked across the kitchen and picked out one more sugar-free cookie without being caught.

Coming back into the kitchen, she said, “I guess it got away because I can’t find it.”

After she said that, she looked at me, looked at the box of sugar-free cookies, and then looked back at me. She wasn’t smiling; she was scowling and growling. She just stood there quietly for several minutes, just staring.

I tried, but I couldn’t control myself, and I started laughing.

Then she said, “What do you think is so funny?”

“Oh, nothing,” I said, trying to control myself, “I was just thinking of a joke.”

Still scowling, she stared at me and said, “I think I know what joke you were thinking of.”

At this point, I was going to ask her to explain what she meant because I was afraid she had caught me. But the laughter was worth it. And I enjoy laughter; it seems to lift my spirit.

Reflecting on this, I was reminded of one of my favorite Bible verses.

“A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones” (Proverbs 17:22).

To me, no medicine is better than a “merry heart.” Sometimes it takes effort to have a merry heart, but it’s worth it in the long run. The real challenge is knowing what I believe is funny. Sometimes I laugh at the wrong thing and suffer for it.

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

Amir and Adel Mason to fight

Amir and Adel Mason to fight on “A Night To Remember III” Professional Boxing Show on Friday, December 11 at The Lacentra in Westlake, Ohio. The Mason brothers will be on the boxing show with six other bouts. Tickets are on sale at NEWHOUSEBOXING.COM. Amir, who is a welterweight , record is 7-3 with two KO wins. Adel, who is a featherweight, record is 3-0 with 2 KOs.

Tuesday, October 6 2026 to Friday, October 9, 2026

EAST SIDE DAILY NEWS

SPORTS

War on the Shore XXIII boxing show will be held on October 17 at 4:00 p.m. at theLasalle Theater, 823 E. 185th St., Cleveland, 44119.

For information, contact Bryan Gedeon at 216-956-1362.

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.

1st Place Browns Surprise Pundits

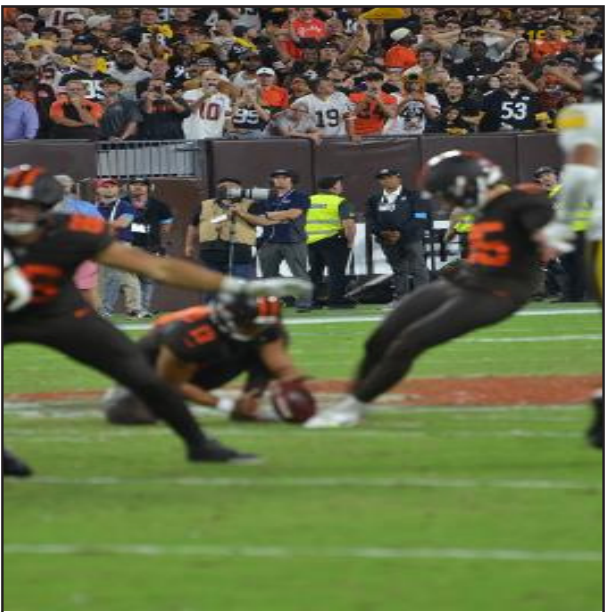
BY KARL BRYANT

The Browns have surprised a lot of TV Talking Heads and other Ne’er-do-well Media types by being in 1st Place in the AFC North after beating the Steelers, 27-24, on Thursday Night Football. They’re now tied with the Ravens for the division lead at 3-1, with the Bengals and Steelers just a game behind at 2-2.

The Browns are touting that they haven’t allowed 300 Passing yards in 49 games. That streak remained alive because, after a Browns Pass Interference penalty, Steelers

QB Aaron Rodgers only had to throw three yards to tie the game with a TD (plus the PAT) in the final minutes. That put him at 299 yards passing. (Browns QB Deshaun Watson also did well, throwing for 268 yards.) Thankfully for CLE, K Andre Smyt was able to come through with a lonng 56 YD FG. It won the game, as Rodgers desperation heave before the final whistle was intercepted by Grant Delpit.

This Sunday, the Browns travel to the Big Apple to play the Jets, and the Steelers play host to the Colts.



CLE PK Andre Szmyt (25) kicking game-winning 56 YD FG in the Browns 27-24 win over the Steelers. It was the Browns 8th straight win on Thursday Night Football. (ESDN Photo by Bill Moore (Minority Publishers Assn.)



Steelers DL Keanu Benton (95) about to lower the boom on Browns QB Deshaun Watson in Thursday Night Football clash won by CLE, 27-24. (Esdn Photo by Bill Moore (Minority Publishers Assn.)



An all-branches-of-the-military Color Guard participated in the opening of the Guardians 2026 Postseason journey in The Land before ALDS Game 1. (Minority Publishers Assn.)



Cavalier star Jarrett Allen, who was the last interview at Cavs Media Day, spoke of “winning as a collective of talent.” Cavs 2026 Training Camp then moved to Malaga, Spain, to keep players away from distractions, if beckoning sun-drenched, golden Mediterranean beaches isn’t a distraction. (ESDN Photo by Minority Publishers Assn.)

Buckeyes down Hawkeyes in big win

BY KARL BRYANT

OSU’s Jeremiah Smith stretched to reach the goal line to score on a 12 YD TD Pass with 12 seconds left in the 1st Half at Iowa. After Intermission, he caught a 57 YD TD Pass to break open a close game and allow the Buckeyes to cruise to a 31-14 win over the previously undefeated Hawkeyes.

Heisman hopeful Smith caught 11 passes on the day for 206 yards - his second straight game eclipsing 200 yards. He’d caught four TD passes the week before for 217 yards. He now holds OSU career records for receptions (207), yards (3371), and TD catches (36).

Buckeye QB Julian Sayin threw 27 times, and completed 20 for 324 yards, with the two TD tosses to Smith and another TD of 15 yards to Devin McCuin.

OSU rushed for 160 yards. Ja’Kobi Jackson rushed 14 times for 72 yards and a 7 YD TD Run. VASJ’s Bo Jackson ran 16 times for 70 yards.

Iowa QB Hank Brown also threw 27 time, but completed just 12 for 132 yards, with an INT thrown to Jaylen McCain, plus he fumbled the ball away, which was recovered by Christian Alliegro.

The Hawkeyes were only able to gain 39 yards on 21 rushes (1.9 y/c). With the game long since decided and subs getting some reps, Iowa backup QB Jeremy Hecklinski went 5 for 5 for 67 yards while taking his team downfield for a 4th Quarter TD.

Afterwards OSU Coach Ryan Day told the Media, “We went on the road in a tough environment against a very good team and we won, and with a certain style. That will give this team confidence.”

The Buckeyes return to the Horseshoe at Ohio Stadium Saturday to face Maryland, against whom they are prohibitive favorites.

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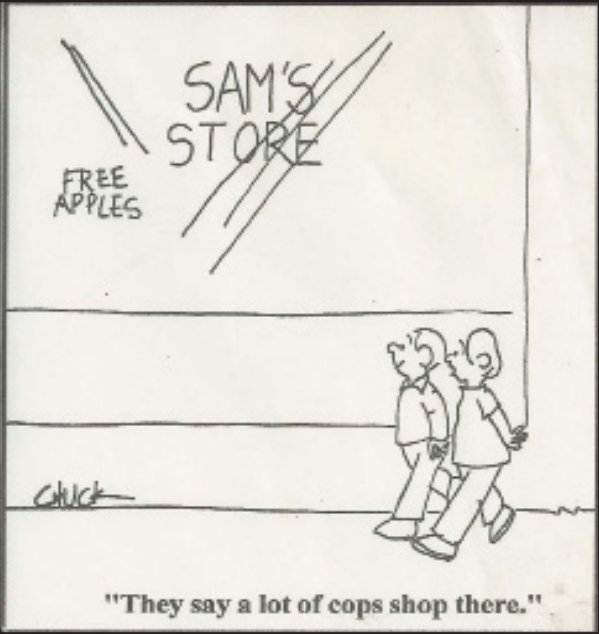
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Cavalier star Donovan Mitchell reacts to a grilling by Demetrius, Desmond, Grace, Cayden, and Rowan - a cabal of hard-hitting Cavs Jr. Reporters, during Cavs Media Day.(ESDN Photo by Minority Publishers Assn.)



BEEZWAX By John Martin

MATINEE IDOL BY C. M. APPLING

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 Eventnoire, or payment may be made through Zelle: 216-474-3072 or Cash App: \$vernagreen1

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

Several film festivals to come to Cleveland

The Chagrin Documentary Film Festival kicks off its 17th annual edition this Tuesday and will run through Sunday. This year brings 75 films from 31 different countries and several of them from Cleveland and Ohio filmmakers including “The Bulldogs,” an intimate look at East Palestine, Ohio, following the 2023 train derailment; “Lagerland,” which looks at the history of beer brewing in Cleveland; “Micronations,” which explores the DIY sub-

culture of self-declared monarchs, backyard kingdoms and diplomatic summits; and “Tina’s At The End Of The World,” which takes a look at the karaoke bar located in the Gordon Square neighborhood,

Celebrating their 20th edition, the Cleveland Jewish Film Festival kicks off Thursday and runs through Oct. 18. The festival will show several features and two shorts programs at venues like the Cedar Lee Theatre, the Cleveland Cinematheque and the Mandel Jewish Community Cen-

ter. Film information and tickets can be found here :<https://mandeljcc.org/FilmFest>

Saturday brings the 3rd edition of the Akron Independent Horror Short Film Festival. Presented by Killer Video, this event will feature three hours of short films at the historic Akron Civic Theatre (182 S. Main Street, Akron 44308).

More information and tickets are available at: <https://www.thekvm.org/events>

Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. also brings the latest film for the Ohio Goes To The Movies series, “Kill The Irish-

man.” The film tells the story of Cleveland mob-enforcer Danny Greene. The film stars Ray Stevenson, Vincent D’Onofrio and Christopher Walken. It will play at Atlas Cinemas Lakeshore 7 (22624 Lakeshore Blvd, Euclid 44123), and as with all Ohio Goes To The Movies events, it is free!

Opening widely this week is a companion piece to one of the most acclaimed films of the last 25 years, “The Social Network,” in “The Social Reckoning.” This new film, like the first, was written by Aaron Sorkin but this one was also directed by Sorkin. (“The Social Network was directed by David Fincher, who opted to not return for this film.”) “The Social Recoking” tells the story of Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen and Wall Street Journal reporter Jeff Horowitz as they expose the internal operations and hidden data collection of Facebook. Mikey Madison, Jeremy Allen White and Jeremy Strong star.

Also opening is the horror film “Other Mommy,” which stars Jessica Chastain and Jay Duplass. The film tells the story of an 8-year-old girl and her family as they are terrorized by a shape-shifting, paranormal entity. When I’ve seen the trailer before other films, it has definitely gotten a lot of audible reactions.

Another film with a similar title also opens called “Your Mother Your Mother Your Mother” starring Mahershala Ali, John Cho and Giancarlo Esposito. It follows a devout Muslim hitman in Houston who becomes a grieving single father

Movie Match Up

By CHRIS APPLING



TRIVIA - (Horror)

1. Damien: Omen II (1978) was the sequel and second installment about the Antichrist, 'Damien Thorn': the Devil's own son as a 13-year-old teen at a military academy, but who is the black actor who played the unlucky scientist that is killed in an elevator tragedy once he discovers that Damien's genes are those of a jackal, not a human?

2. Former dredlocked blue-eyed, African-American actor Gary Dourdan was known best as 'Shaka Zulu': boyfriend of neohippie/activist 'Freddie' (Cree Summer) on A Different World, but in what sci-fi horror sequel did he star opposite Sigourney Weaver as part of a group of 'space pirates' who become the only line of defense between Earth and a hostile, extraterrestrial invasion?

3. Who is the R&B superstar that had a cameo role as an African-American football player whose team becomes 'possessed' by an

alien intelligence that had taken control of the school's teachers?

4. In Scream 3 (1999), the third and final installment of the scream trilogy, who is the young, dark-skinned black actor that plays an actor in the movie and once starred as 'Kenny': the childhood friend of 'Rudy Huxtable' (Keisha Knight-Pulliam) on the classic sitcom, The Cosby Show?

5. Actress Loretta Devine is best known for being the friend of 3 other, African-American women in Waiting To Exhale (1995), or as the history teacher on T.V.'s Boston Public, but in what horror film did she star as the Pam Grier inspired, police cop on a college campus being stalked by a serial killer who murders victims based on city myths?

ANSWERS: 1. Meshach Taylor 2. Aliens Resurrection (1997) 3. Usher (Raymond) 4. Deon Redman 5. Urban Legend (1999)



MOVIE MATCH-UP - (Tales From The

ACTORS:

1. Lamont Bentley
2. Corbin Bernsen
3. Brandon Hammond
4. Clarence Williams III
5. Tom Wright

c) gang-banger faces guilty conscience
d) mortician that condemns 3 thugs to hell
e) racist, white politician haunted by living, slave dolls

ROLES:

a) abused boy with magical, drawing power
b) black, zombie politician

ANSWERS:

1, c; 2, e; 3, a; 4, d; 5, b

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 unassailable 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

A delicious way to show your love (NAPSI)—You can express your warm feelings for anyone you care about with something fresh and wonderful you baked yourself.

Great baking can be easier and more fun when you start with no-knead bread.

In fact, Fleischmann’s Simply Homemade makes fresh, homemade bread in less than an hour, which can be great for last-minute recipes and when you want to create a thoughtful (end edible!) gift. Here are two delicious ideas to try, using the basic mix as a starter: Cherry Lime Coffee Cake
Prep Time: 10 minutes
Rise Time: 25 minutes
Bake Time: 30 to 35 minutes
Yields: 8 to 9 servings
1 cup milk
1 package Fleischmann’s Simply Homemade Country White No Knead Bread Mix
½ cup cherry preserves
Freshly grated peel from 1 lime
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

1 package (5 ounces) dried cherries (¾ cup)

Lime Glaze:
1 tablespoon lime juice
½ cup powdered sugar
¼ teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Pour milk into a large microwave-safe bowl. Microwave until milk is warm (105° to 115°). Sprinkle contents of yeast and sugar packets over milk and stir to combine.

Let mixture sit for 3 minutes. Stir in cherry preserves, lime peel, 1 teaspoon vanilla, dried cherries and bread mix. Place dough in a greased 8-inch round OR 8x8-inch square pan.

Cover and let rise in a warm, draft-free place for 25 minutes. Bake in a preheated 375°F oven for 30 to 35 minutes, until golden brown. Combine glaze ingredients in a small bowl until smooth.

Remove cake from oven and let cool in pan 5 minutes. Brush top with lime glaze. Cool completely.

French Toast Bake
Prep Time: 15 minutes
Chill Time: 8 hours or overnight

Bake Time: 50 to 55 minutes
Yields: 6 to 8 servings
½ loaf prepared Fleischmann’s Simply Homemade Country White, Multi-Grain OR Stoneground Wheat No Knead Bread Mix

5 eggs
2 tablespoons pure maple syrup
1 cup milk
1 cup heavy cream
½ cup sugar
1 tablespoon pure vanilla extract

Topping:
¼ cup butter OR margarine, softened
½ cup brown sugar

Chop bread into cubes; place in a greased 8x8-inch pan.

Combine eggs, syrup, milk, cream, sugar and vanilla in a large bowl. Whisk until smooth. Pour mixture over bread. Combine topping ingredients; sprinkle over top.

Cover and refrigerate overnight. Uncover and place in cold oven. Set oven to 350°F and bake for 50 to 55 minutes or until set. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. Serve warm with additional syrup.

For more recipes and tips, visit www.Simplyhomemadebread.com or www.facebook.com/simplyhomemade-mix.

Just Jazz

By NANCY ANN LEE

Amos 'Junior' Wells

The roots found in the blues and vocalist - harmonica player Amos 'Junior' Wells, born in 1932 and raised in Memphis has made his contribution through recordings and live shows.

In the 1950s Wells made some sides for small, independent labels --- States, Profile, Chief and USA. But he composed very few original blues. Instead, he borrowed from Rice Miller (Sonny Boy Williamson II) whom he met when he was eight years old.

Although laws prohibited minors in Chicago taverns, as a teenager, Wells was playing in the bands of Tampa Red, Little Johnny Jones and Memphis Slim before he created his own band, The Aces.

Discovered in 1966 by blues enthusiast Bob Koester, who had just launched Delmad Records.

Wells' recorded an LP, "Hoodoo Man Blues", which led Wells to the concert, college and festival circuit. He toured Europe several times, once with the Rolling Stones.

After 1965, Wells' career went in many directions. He became associated with Buddy Guy, and remained a regular in Chicago clubs. He tried Brown around 1966.

Recently, Wells recorded two albums (Better Off With the Blues [1993] and Everybody's Gettin' Some [March 1995]) for the Telarc International, Cleveland - based label.

R&B singer Freddie Jackson dies

R&B singer Freddie Jackson, whose hits include “You Are My Lady” and “Rock Me Tonight (For Old Times Sake),” has died. He was 69.

Jackson was originally from New York City. He began his professional music career in the late 1970s with the California funk band Mystic Merlin. Among his well-known R&B/soul hits are “Rock Me Tonight (For Old Times Sake)” (1985), “Have You Ever Loved Somebody” (1986), “Jam Tonight” (1986), “Do Me Again” (1990), and “You Are My Lady” (1985).

[4] He contributed to the soundtrack for the 1989 film, All Dogs Go to Heaven with the Michael Lloyd-produced duet “Love Survives” alongside Irene Cara. He also appeared in the movie King of New York.

Born in the Harlem section of New York City, Jackson was trained as a gospel singer from an early age, singing at the White Rock Baptist Church of Harlem.

There he met Paul Laurence, who



Jackson

would later become his record producer and songwriting partner. After completing school, Jackson joined Laurence’s group LJE (Laurence Jones Ensemble) and played the New York nightclub scene.

During the late 1970s, Jackson moved to the West Coast and sang lead with the band Mystic Merlin (with which he released three studio albums, 1980–1982), but soon returned to New York to work with Laurence at Hush Productions.

Jackson sang on demo recordings of Laurence’s compositions, and also served as a backing singer for Melba Moore after she saw his nightclub act in 1981. In 1984, Jackson landed a recording

contract with Capitol Records, and released his debut album, Rock Me Tonight in 1985. The Laurence-penned title track stormed the R&B chart, spending six weeks at number one, and made Jackson an instant hit on urban contemporary radio. “You Are My Lady” gave him a second straight R&B chart-topper, and also proved to be his highest-charting single on the Billboard Hot 100, peaking at No. 12.

With “He’ll Never Love You (Like I Do)” and “Love Is Just a Touch Away” also hitting the R&B Top Ten, Rock Me Tonight topped the R&B album chart and went platinum. Jackson issued the follow-up Just Like the First Time 1986, on the heels of a number one R&B duet with Melba Moore, “A Little Bit More” (from her album A Lot of Love).

Another platinum seller, Just Like the First Time continued Jackson’s dominance of the R&B singles charts; “Tasty Love,” “Have You Ever Loved Somebody,” and “Jam Tonight” all hit No. 1,

while “I Don’t Want to Lose Your Love” went to No. 2.

The pace of Jackson’s success slowed with the 1988 release of Don’t Let Love Slip Away, which nonetheless featured another two R&B chart-toppers in “Hey Lover” and “Nice ‘N’ Slow.” The title track of 1990’s Do Me Again and “Love Me Down” duplicated that feat, and “Main Course” just missed, topping out at No. 2. Even so, Jackson’s earlier placings in the lower reaches of the Billboard Hot 100 had long since disappeared, and some critics[who?] charged that his albums were growing too similar to one another.

Jackson appeared as a lounge singer on the 1989 The Golden Girls episode “Two Rode Together” and sang the Disney song “It’s a Small World” to Sophia. Also in 1989, Jackson sung the duet “Love Survives” with Irene Cara for the soundtrack to the film All Dogs Go to Heaven.

Seeking a new beginning, Jackson parted ways with Capitol/EMI in late 1993,

and signed with RCA/BMG Records. His label debut, Here It Is, appeared the following year, with diminished commercial returns. Following a Christmas album, Jackson split with RCA and recorded Private Party for the smaller Street Life imprint of Scotti Brothers Records in 1995.

Several years of silence ensued, until Orpheus issued Life After 30 in late 1999; the equally low-key release Live in Concert followed in 2000.

At the end of 2010, Jackson released a new album on the Entertainment One Music label, entitled For You, and produced by hit songwriter Barry Eastmond. The album featured the single “I Don’t Wanna Go.”

On August 26, 2014, Jackson released the single “Love & Satisfaction,” written by Dustin “Dab” Bowie, Gregory Bowman, Kameron Corvet, Bertram Ford Jr, and Selasi “The African Kid,” and released by the entertainment company Climax Entertainment. [8] The single received some positive reviews and airplay, and allowed Jackson to rein-

troduce himself as he toured internationally in support of the release, as well as appear with artists Jeffrey Osborne, Peabo Bryson, Melba Moore, and Stephanie Mills at various performances and festivals. In late 2016, Jackson announced that he was recording a new album and that a new single would be released early the following year to mark his true return to recording studio and on May 1, 2017, the lead single “One Night” from his forthcoming album Love Signals was released via Climax and reached No. 1 on the internet radio Indie Soul chart associated with the Internet Broadcasters Alliance on June 12, 2017, while reaching in the top 50 of independent R&B, smooth jazz, and soul charts around the US and Europe.

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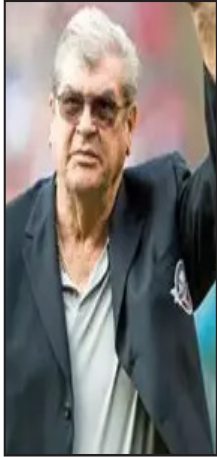
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Cleveland strikeout king Sam McDowell dies

Sam McDowell, a six-time All Star who led the American League in strikeouts four times before becoming a counselor for athletes suffering from addiction issues and depression, died Monday at his home in The Villages, Florida. He was 84.

“Sam spent eleven of his fifteen seasons in a Cleveland uniform as one of the game’s most feared hurlers. A strikeout king. He was a cherished member of our Alumni Ambassador program and loved sharing stories with our fans when he



McDowell

visited Progressive Field. Most importantly, Sam’s life was a story of redemption,” Guardians senior vice president of public affairs Bob DiBiasio said in a statement.

McDowell’s

baseball career and post-career sobriety served as the inspiration for the Sam Malone character from the iconic television sitcom “Cheers.”

McDowell had a 15-year career in the major leagues from 1961-74, including 11 in Cleveland. The left-hander had a 141-134 record in 425 games, including 346 starts. He had 2,453 strikeouts, 103 complete games and 23 shutouts. McDowell also pitched for San Francisco, the New York Yankees and Pittsburgh.

In 1965, McDowell went 17-11

and led the American League in ERA (2.18) and strikeouts (325). He was 20-12 in 1970 and led the AL in both strikeouts (304) and walks (131). Cleveland traded him to San Francisco after the 1971 season.

McDowell’s 9.21 strikeouts per nine innings remains a Cleveland franchise record and his 2,159 strikeouts with the club are second. He was inducted in the franchise’s hall of fame in 2006.

McDowell said in his 2022 autobiography that he attempted suicide in

1963, but survived because when he pulled the trigger it was on the lone dead shell among live rounds in the chamber. He quit drinking in 1980 and went on to earn an associate’s degree in sports psychology and addictions from the University of Pittsburgh after entering rehab.

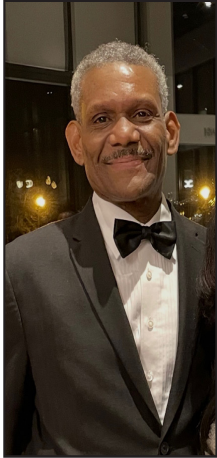
He was certified as a counselor two years later and was a recovery consultant for the Baseball Assistance Team (B.A.T.). He was recognized with the B.A.T Lifetime Achievement Award in 2022.

Services held for Mark Todd Bradford

Services for Mark Todd Bradford were held on October 3 at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 4069 Eastwood Lane. Rev. Dawan Buie officiated. He died on September 21. He was 59 years old.

Bradford, born in Cleveland on March 11, 1967. He was a vibrant, kind-hearted soul with an infectious laugh whose joy for life touched everyone he met.

Growing up in Warrensville Heights, Ohio, Bradford was active in his school and community from an early age. He graduated from Warrensville Heights High School in 1985, where he was a proud member of



Bradford

both the Warrensville Heights Debate Team and Football Team.

He went on to attend Central State University, earning a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration.

Honoring a commitment to service, he served in the United States Marine

Corps Reserve. He dedicated his life to helping others through his work professionally through Social Work and Crisis Management, a career that reflected his deep compassion and respect for all people.

Bradford was baptized at an early age at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Mark served as an Acolyte and was a member as a Youth of the Sunday School. Throughout his life, he remained a faithful member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church.

An avid outdoorsman, he was happiest when he was on the water or exploring nature. Whether he

was casting a fishing line, paddling his kayak along serene waters, or embarking on new travel adventures, Bradford embraced every moment under the open sky.

Above all else, Family was the cornerstone of his life. Bradford had recently purchased his retirement home in Warrensville Heights to be close to his mother and brother in the community where he grew up. He was a true friend to all who knew him and leaves behind a legacy of Love, Laughter, and Warm Memories.

He was preceded in death by his Paternal Grandparents, Rauls and Willie Kate Bradford; maternal

grandparents, John and Lucille Page; Uncle, Roy Eugene Bradford; and Aunt, Peggy Page.

He is survived by his Father, Carl Louis Bradford; Mother, Lois Page Bradford Roberts; Brother, Carl Page Bradford; Uncles, Rauls Bradford and John Bradford; Aunts, Glenna Bradford Swafford (Raymond) and Elizabeth Betty Page Miller (Moreno); Cousins, Deidra Bradford Oates (Tony), Monica Reese, Valerie Samuel, Scott Ferguson, Hailey Carter, Zachary Brooks, and Lauren Reese; Goddaughter, Leeah Jones; along with a host of extended Family Members, Cousins, and dear Friends.

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This surprising mammal fossil is giving scientists something to chew on

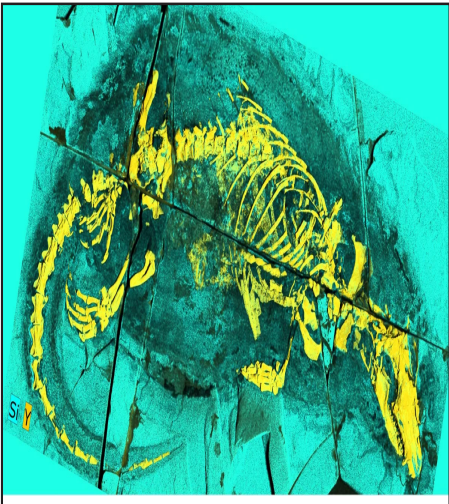
Researchers say a small fossil from the middle Jurassic provides some of the oldest evidence of chewing and swallowing as well as suckling — all distinctly mammalian traits. Researchers say a small fossil from the middle Jurassic provides some of the oldest evidence of chewing and swallowing as well as suckling — all distinctly mammalian traits.

This fossil of a mammal biting a dinosaur captures a death battle’s final moments. Over the years, a section of the Inner Mongolia region of China has coughed up heaps of remarkable fossils, ranging from feathered dinosaurs to flying reptiles.

“To say it’s [a] hot spot is actually [an] understatement,” says Zhe-Xi Luo, a paleontologist at the University of Chicago.

This fossilized feather dates back 66 million years to the late Cretaceous. “It is, without a doubt, the best feather we’ve ever found from the age of dinosaurs,” says Jingmai O’Connor, an associate curator at the Field Museum of Natural History. A fossil feather from the age of dinosaurs may explain why only some birds survived.

For new dis-



This fossil of a mammal biting a dinosaur captures a death battle’s final moments

coveries, everyday mysteries, and the science behind the headlines, follow NPR’s Short Wave podcast.

Many of these fossils wind up at the nearby Paleontological Museum of Liaoning, a facility that Luo and his colleague, Thomas Martin of the University of Bonn, visit each year to examine new finds. A decade ago, a specimen in a thick slab of shale caught their eye.

It was the fossilized bones and soft tissue impressions of an ancient mammal that lived some 165 million years ago. “Early fossil mammals — in fact, they are exceedingly rare,” says Luo.

This animal, which the team named *Megacauda sungei* and have described in the journal *Nature*, was a

prize discovery. The remains were so intact that it was possible to determine that it was likely capable of chewing food and then swallowing it, and also suckling — traits that are shared by mammals.

Luo and his colleagues conclude that these evolutionary innovations — and their presence among our ancient mammalian relatives — extend deep into the past to at least the middle Jurassic.

“It’s all there in one remarkable fossil,” says Luo.

The fossil was about the size of a chihuahua, but somewhat hard to discern from the rock surrounding it.

Paleontologist Dany Azar holds up one of his treasures that he discovered in Lebanon in a piece of amber from



An artistic rendering of *Megacauda sungei*. The animal was the size of a chihuahua and a bit of a mutt. Its back end resembled a platypus but its sharp teeth suggested it was a predator. April Neander/University of Chicago

the early Cretaceous: The oldest mosquito ever found.

“The fossil itself is actually very dark,” explains Luo. “The bones are black, the slab [is] dark. And it’s kind of difficult to have beautiful photographs.”

One of his collaborators, Chang-Fu Zhou of Shandong University of Science and Technology, snapped a different kind of vivid image using a technique called X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy. “It would make this bone pop out in different colors,” says Luo.

Paleontologist Lazarus Kgasi in front of the Ditsong National Museum of Natural History in Pretoria, South Africa, where he

works as a laboratory manager and junior curator. Kgasi, who began working on fossil sites as a hired labourer with no knowledge at all of fossils, has over time emerged as a prominent figure in South African paleontology, and one of only a handful of Black South Africans in what remains an overwhelmingly White-dominated field.

The resulting image rendered the skeleton a bright yellow and it showcased a curious combination of characteristics. The back end, which includes the pelvis, hind limbs, and tail, resembles a modern-day platypus. These features suggest that this animal was likely semi-aquatic and foraged in the water. “The big tail is good for

swimming,” says Luo.

“However,” he continues, “its teeth and the jaw would be very different from platypus. So the head is very much of a predator.” Indeed, Luo and his colleagues found a smattering of small salamander bones inside the fossil that they suspect the animal had eaten by first cutting and shearing with its sharp teeth.

There was something else that Luo instantly noticed about the fossil. “My eyes zeroed in on these tiny hyoid bones,” he recalls.

The human hyoid bone sits in the throat, half an inch or so above the Adam’s apple, and supports the backside of the tongue.

The team later CT scanned the fossil, including the underside of the skull, which exposed a delicate roof of the mouth as well as a series of bone hooks and ridges.

With this combination of rarely preserved features, “we are able with great confidence to reconstruct the whole muscular skeletal machinery,” says Luo.

This reconstruction revealed that the animal was likely capable of doing two things that are unique to mammals.

The first is

swallowing food after chewing it. Other vertebrates tend to bite and gulp. But mammals “chew down all the food with our teeth,” Luo says. “And then we swallow one bolus of food down to our esophagus at a time.”

Consider, for a moment, a carnivore that chews meat, an herbivore that crunches on vegetables, and an insect-eater that chomps bugs. This diverse array of foods all get chewed up and then swallowed down a mammalian throat in a similar way.

Secondly, this fossil appears to have been capable of suckling, which embodies something even more fundamental.

“That ability to suckle mother’s milk literally defined our biology,” says Luo. “And that’s why our group is called mammals. We’re named after the mammary glands.”

This is some of the oldest fossil evidence of an animal with both these key mammalian abilities.

“It’s a fascinating specimen,” says Jessica Theodor, a paleontologist at the University of Calgary who wasn’t involved in the research. “The whole setup looks more like what we see in modern mammals.”

Theodor would like to see some of the images in greater detail, but she says a fossil like this tracks the evolution of lactation, which she likens to a kind of dietary and hormonal conversation between mother and baby.

“The conversation is beginning very far back in the Mesozoic — in the Jurassic and Cretaceous,” says Theodor. “That’s amazing to me that it’s this old and this fundamental.”

For Luo, this fossil is the latest evidence of how new ways of feeding have helped mammals and their predecessors diversify — even back when they were the little guys on the proverbial block.

“Mammals, they’re never dominant in the age of dinosaurs,” he says. “But nonetheless, they hold out relatively well compared to all other vertebrates.”

By the time of the Jurassic period, there were already proto-mammalian gliders, swimmers, land-dwellers, tree-dwellers and diggers.

Each one was making a living in its own distinct way — all united in their shared ability to chew, swallow and suckle.

Fresh Air -NPR

Akron could avoid \$300 million treatment facility under proposed consent decree change

The city of Akron has reached an agreement with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. EPA on an amendment to its existing federal sewer consent decree that would allow the city to forgo construction of the Enhanced High Rate Treatment

facility, eliminating a project with an estimated cost of more than \$300 million.

The amendment must be approved by the U.S. District Court before it can take effect.

Akron has been under a consent decree to improve water quality

in the Cuyahoga River and its tributaries by addressing combined sewer overflow events and other wet-weather discharges into local waterways. When heavy rainfall overwhelms combined sewer systems, which carry both wastewater and stormwater, excess

discharge can enter rivers and streams and raise bacteria levels.

The city says that since 2014, it has completed 24 of the 26 major projects outlined in the federal sewer consent decree. A 25th project, the Northside Interceptor Tunnel, is under con-

struction and scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

The city says Akron ratepayers have invested nearly \$1 billion in improvements through the consent decree.

Akron officials say the final project remaining, the Enhanced

High Rate Treatment facility, would not provide enough additional water-quality benefits to justify its estimated \$300 million cost.

Instead, under the proposed amendment, the city said it would disinfect wastewater treatment plant

discharges for two additional months each year, April and November.

The city said that approach would meet EPA-approved bacteria limits while providing greater protection for people using the river for recreation.

The proposed

amendment will be subject to a 30-day public comment period before being submitted to the court for approval.

The amendment would not take effect unless approved by the U.S. District Court.

Opal Lee, ‘Grandmother of Juneteenth,’ celebrates 100th birthday at future site of new museum

Opal Lee, the Grandmother of Juneteenth, turns 100 today, and her team has two marquee events scheduled for her centennial celebration.

The morning begins with a “Clearing the Way” ceremony at the future site of the National Juneteenth Museum, and former First Lady Michelle Obama headlines the museum’s evening event at the Fort Worth Convention Center.

“100 years? Gee whiz. I guess it’s alright for old people to make their mark,” Lee told KERA News and the Fort



Opal Lee, the Grandmother of Juneteenth, turns 100 today, and her team has two marquee events scheduled for her centennial celebration.

Worth Report last year. “When I have my 100th birthday I’m going to

shut it down. If I make it to 101, that’s gonna be gravy.”



The morning begins with a “Clearing the Way” ceremony at the future site of the National Juneteenth Museum.

Lee earned her nickname and national recognition after she

set out on a campaign to make Juneteenth a federal holiday.

In 2016, when she was 89, Lee hosted a series of 2.5-mile walks in cities on the way from Fort Worth to Washington D.C.

The 2.5 miles represented the 2.5 years between President Abraham Lincoln’s signing of the Emancipation Proclamation and when General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston to inform enslaved Texans of their freedom.

“I decided that the rest of the cotton-picking country

needed to know about Juneteenth too,” Lee said. “Because in Texas, we celebrated Juneteenth, and so I started advocating Juneteenth from one town to another, from one city to another, and after a while—and I’m so proud—it’s a national holiday.

“I could do a holy dance, but they tell you, when I do a holy dance, I’m twerking, whatever that is.”

Lee’s campaigning was successful, and in 2021,

then-President Joe Biden made Juneteenth a federal holiday.

Age has slowed Lee a little, but it hasn’t curbed her ambition. Her current focus is on seeing the National Juneteenth Museum in Fort Worth become a reality.

The museum has a goal to raise \$70 million before breaking ground. They’ve raised over \$50 million so far and need another \$20 million to reach their goal.

Over 1,000 children are buried at juvenile detention centers nationwide

When Veronica Spears read the letter, she began to shake.

“What’s wrong?” her husband asked.

At the time, she said, she couldn’t find the words to respond.

“The letter said they found out that my grandfather had a brother that was in a reformation institution,” she later told NPR in an interview. “And he passed away at the age of 12. We never knew.”

Spears’ family is one of 16 that researchers with Georgetown University’s Center for Youth Justice have linked to children who died at the House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored

Children in Cheltenham, Md. The center has been working since February to identify children who died at 40 reform schools and youth detention centers across the country, as well as any surviving family members, as part of its Forgotten Children Initiative.

Veronica Spears’ great uncle is one of the Black youth that died while being held at the House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Children that operated from 1870 to 1937 in Cheltenham, Md. The graves are located in a wooded area adjacent to the Maryland Veterans Cemetery. She is pictured here in Ft. Washington, Md.

Veronica Spears’ great-uncle is one of the Black youth that died while incarcerated at the House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Children, which operated from 1870 to 1937 in Cheltenham, Md. The graves are located in a wooded area across the street from the facility.

To date, the researchers have identified the graves of over 1,000 children across 29 states. The largest burial site is located near the House of Reformation, now the Cheltenham Youth Detention Center. More than 230 Black boys were found buried in the woods across the street from the facility.

The small headstones are easy to miss, especially in the fall, when they seem to sink into the fallen leaves. A few pieces of trash from a nearby worksite mix with the leaves.

Chuck Cope-land, Spears’ cousin, hiked through tall trees and thorny brush one morning in late September. A pastor who lives about two hours away, he leaned in to read one of the headstones.

“He didn’t count for nothing. He meant nothing to them,” he said, grimacing. Then he read, “Thirteen years old from Baltimore, Mark Davis, 1885.”

Established in 1870, the House of Ref-

ormation, where Mark Davis died, was the first juvenile detention facility for Black children in the American South, according to the Georgetown researchers. It was created to get Black youth out of adult prisons. Children as young as 5 years old were incarcerated for criminal offenses, as well as a number of non-criminal reasons, including being poor, homeless or orphaned, researchers found.

While there, the boys were forced to work without food and disciplined by white guards with a “brass-studded belt,” according to a report from the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services. In the 1920s,

the boys were leased to neighboring farms, with the institution taking most, if not all, of their pay. They were also forced to work in the reformatory’s broom factory in conditions described by Baltimore City labor union investigators in 1926 as a “firetrap,” according to the report.

The Georgetown researchers have not discovered why Spears’ great-uncle, Arthur Hamilton, was incarcerated in the institution, and they have not found his remains at the burial ground. The family was told he died of tuberculosis in 1917.

Marc Schindler was a senior official at the Maryland Depart-

ment of Juvenile Services when the state rediscovered the burial ground in 2024. When he went to work for Georgetown University, he continued researching similar sites across the country. His team has so far found graves tied to 40 institutions, from Salem, Ore., to Augusta, Maine.

Some of the graves are next to juvenile detention centers still in operation.

“I’m hopeful that in states around the country, people will step forward and we can see an appropriate response to what I think is unquestionably a national tragedy,” Schindler said.

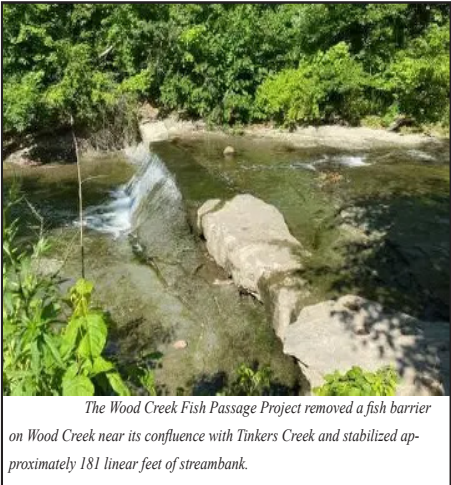
As states learn about these burial sites, some state lawmakers

around the country have begun looking at options for restitution. In Florida, lawmakers established a \$20 million fund for survivors who attended an infamous reform school that closed in 2011. In Arkansas, officials created a memorial to honor 21 Black boys who died in a fire at a correctional facility in 1959. This year, Maryland lawmakers created a commission to research and identify all the children buried in Cheltenham. The commission, housed in the state attorney general’s office, includes family members of the children, who will weigh in on the future of the site and how the state should make amends for how it treated the children at the reform institution.

Wood Creek Fish Passage project finished

The Cuyahoga River Area of Concern (AOC) and Cleveland Metroparks are celebrating the completion of the Wood Creek Fish Passage Project, a significant restoration effort that reconnects aquatic habitat and improves fish movement within the Cuyahoga River watershed. Community members are invited to join project partners on October 14, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Hemlock Creek Picnic Area in Walton Hills to commemorate this important environmental milestone.

The free public



The Wood Creek Fish Passage Project removed a fish barrier on Wood Creek near its confluence with Tinkers Creek and stabilized approximately 181 linear feet of streambank.

event will highlight the ecological benefits of the project and its role in ongoing efforts to restore and protect the Cuyahoga River ecosystem. Attendees can enjoy food, learn about the restoration work, participate in a native planting activity, and, weather permitting, assist

with fish sampling and identification. Registration is available at <https://CuyRiverAOCWoodCreekProject-Celebration.eventbrite.com>. This event is sponsored by generous donations from Stantec and Cleveland Metroparks, plus many other organizations. Additional funding has been provided through a grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, with funds from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

The Wood Creek Fish Passage Project removed a fish barrier on

Wood Creek near its confluence with Tinkers Creek and stabilized approximately 181 linear feet of streambank. This project was designed and constructed to allow fish from Tinkers Creek to move upstream into Wood Creek and improve habitat within the project site.

“The goal of this project was to restore connectivity of Wood Creek to facilitate migration of fish,” Cleveland Metroparks Aquatic Biologist, Mike Durkalec, said. “The Tinkers Creek fish community has come a long way in recent decades, but Wood

Creek has been cut off very near the confluence from any upstream fish migration until now. Given improvement of Wood Creek water quality we fully expect a diversity of native fish to quickly capitalize on the removal of the barrier and move into and thrive in the creek.”

This project is one of many in the region that are helping address the river’s remaining critical environmental issues, known as Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs). These BUIs were identified after the lower 46.5 miles of the Cuyahoga

River, its tributaries, and the adjacent Lake Erie shoreline were designated an Area of Concern in 1987 due to pollution and human activity that severely harmed water quality and the ecosystem. Today, local, state, and federal partners are working together to restore the river and bring it back to health. When all the necessary restoration work is complete, the Cuyahoga River can be delisted or officially removed from the U.S. EPA’s list of Great Lakes Areas of Concern.

The Cuyahoga River AOC Advisory

Committee is composed of local stakeholders representing agencies, park systems, watershed groups, businesses, and residents who advocate for healthy water and restoration. The Committee’s role is to develop strategic priorities for removing Beneficial use Impairments (BUIs) and implementing Management Action Projects (MAPs), and to advise Ohio EPA on measures necessary to delist the AOC. Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District is the facilitating organization that staffs the Advisory Committee. www.cuyahogaoc.org

Cleveland Arts Prize to be held

The 66th annual Cleveland Arts Prize, Northeast Ohio’s highest and most prestigious arts award, will be held at the Cleveland Museum of Art on October 29 at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Arts Prize 2026 Winners:

Recipients are selected by a distinguished jury of experts, previous winners, and prominent figures in the arts and culture community.

Akron Children’s Emerging Artist Award · Theatre

Chris Webb

Chris is a globally recognized spoken word artist, an Emmy-winning journalist, and a filmmaker from Cleveland, Ohio.

From 2015 to 2020 he toured with the world’s largest spoken word tour, Poets in Autumn, where he performed original pieces annually for 50 U.S. cities and international dates, including London, Kenya, and the Caribbean. From 2020 to 2025 he joined WKYC 3 to document powerful perspectives from Cleveland’s marginalized and emerging communities, ultimately earning a 2021 Emmy.

As a filmmaker, Chris has been featured on MTV, BET, and the Tribeca Film Institute among others. He is a Cleveland School of the Arts graduate and trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow, Scotland before earning his degree from the California Institute of the Arts in Los Angeles.

As an ad director, Chris has produced work for the White House, the Essence Festival, The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the National Civil Rights Museum, and other local and national vendors. His ad work has earned Telly, Webby, and Promax recognition.

As a storyteller, Chris’s one-person show, “The End of Black Excellence,” premiered at the Cleveland Public Theatre in 2025 to sold out shows and overwhelmingly positive feedback. The show toured nationally during the summer of 2026 with dates including the Black Creator’s Summit in Los Angeles, and the Contemporary American Theater Festival in West Virginia.

Mid-Career Artist · Design

Aimee Lee

Aimee Lee is a papermaking artist and culture bearer who advocates for Korean pa-



Webb

permaking practices. Her initial Fulbright research helped her build the first hanji studio in North America here in Cleveland and write her award-winning book, Hanji Unfurled (The Legacy Press, 2012).

She exhibits and is collected internationally; her work has shown at Allen Memorial Art Museum, Cleveland Museum of Art, Fuller Craft Museum, Museum of Nebraska Art, and the Korean Cultural Centers of the Korean Embassy in D.C. and Abu Dhabi (UAE) and Korean Consulate in NYC.

Many collections hold her art including Cleveland Museum of Art, Kent State University Museum, and the libraries of Brooklyn Museum of Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, Stanford, UCLA, Yale, Harvard, Oxford, and Rijksmuseum.

Lifetime Achievement Award · Visual Arts

Dexter Lee Davis

Visual artist Dexter Lee Davis creates raucous collage-based works made by layering and combining fragments of hand-carved woodblock prints together with scraps of found paper.

Recycling everything around him into something new, he transmutes the ordinary into something evocative, forcing us to reconsider the limits and possibilities of our material world. A survivor of multiple episodes of urban violence, his daily practice of art making offers a space of freedom, liberation, and refuge.

He is a lifelong resident of Cleveland, a Cleveland Institute of Art alumnus who studied in France after graduation and has served as a guard at the Cleveland Museum of Art for 30 years.

Special Citation from the Board of Trustees Barbara Stanczak

Working primarily in wood and stone, her sculptures explore the relationship between natural and crafted forms. They have been exhibited in



Lee

more than 40 exhibitions across the country, including a solo exhibition at the Akron Museum of Art and the Medici Museum (formerly the Butler Institute Extension) in Warren.

Born into a German family with a centuries-long artistic tradition, she moved to Cleveland in 1963 after marrying renowned painter Julian Stanczak (CAP 1969). While helping guide his distinguished career, she established her own legacy as a sculptor and as a beloved educator, leading the Cleveland Institute of Art’s Foundations program for 36 years.

Also honored are:

The Connor Foundation (established by Chris and Sara Connor and run by daughter Erin Connor Reif) supports organizations primarily in Northeast Ohio that align with four core pillars: Health & Wellness, Education, The Arts, and The Preservation of Nature.

Their support of the arts by making the arts more accessible to the general public is apparent through their support of Playhouse Square, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, moCa Cleveland, and The Cleveland Orchestra, just to name a few.

Héctor Castellanos-Lara

Artistic Director for Parade the Circle and Dia de Muertos, Artist and Community Leader 2026 Robert P. Bergman Prize

Artistic Director of Parade the Circle, who has collaborated with the Cleveland Museum of Art for more than two decades through Parade the Circle, Chalk Festival and Winter Lights.

Having collaborated extensively with the Cleveland Museum of Art for more than two decades through Parade the Circle, Chalk Festival, and Winter Lights, he now serves as the Artistic Director of Parade the Circle.

He has also contributed to projects with Cleveland Public Theatre, MetroHealth, ArtHouse, Journey Center for Safety and Healing, the Allen



Davis



Héctor Castellanos-Lara: Artistic Director for Parade the Circle and Dia de Muertos, Artist and Community Leader 2026 Robert P. Bergman Prize



Terry Stewart: Emeritus President and CEO of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, where he served from 1999 to 2013. His leadership brought the Induction Ceremony to Cleveland every other year and kept the Library and Archives in the city.

Memorial Art Museum and Julia de Burgos Cultural Arts Center.

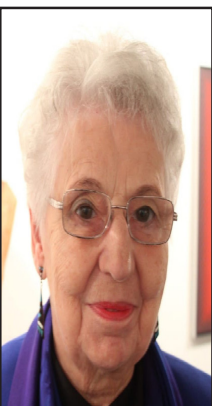
Beyond exhibitions and installations, as an artist Héctor’s work has transformed lives through education and healing.

Martha Joseph Prize for Distinguished Service to the Arts

Terry Stewart Emeritus President and CEO of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, where he served from 1999 to 2013. His leadership brought the Induction Ceremony to Cleveland every other year and kept the Library and Archives in the city.

Serving as CEO of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum from 1999 to 2013, he is a true community and civic champion.

Through his leadership as CEO of the Rock Hall, Terry enhanced a strong relationship with the New York City-based Foundation which resulted in initiating the “every other year” location of the Rock induction Ceremony in Cleveland. This was a



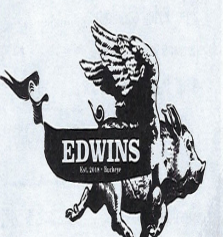
Stanczak

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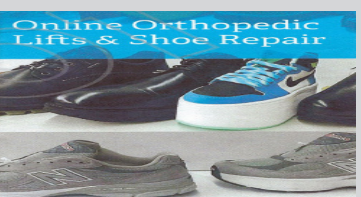
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