

SPORTS
Guardians in 1st Place Tie
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MENU TIPS
Taking Kids Snacking Into the Wild With Mangos
See Page 5

Veterans Service Commission Headquarters to open
Cuyahoga County will celebrate the grand opening of the new Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission Headquarters, 3950 Chester Avenue, a new 30,000-square-foot, modernized facility representing a major step forward in service to veterans and their families. The new amenities greatly expand the Commission's capacity to deliver essential support and provide a more accessible, professional, and veteran-centered environment.

Larchmere Plant Sale to be held
Larchmere Community Association will hold its 27th annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Cummins Hall across from Our Lady of Peace Church, 12601 Shaker Blvd. For more information visit larchmereplant sale@ameritech.net.

Vesper Flights by Helen MacDonald to be discussed
The Nature Center and Loganberry Books will discuss Vesper Flights by Helen MacDonald. A British naturalist, poet and falconer, best known for their memoir, H is for Hawk. Vesper Flights, written more recently, is a collection of essays on the natural world in which MacDonald shares their exceptional eye for detail and observational skills with readers. At Loganberry Books via zoom on May 17 from 1 - 2:30pm

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EASTSIDE NEWS

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"COVERING THE NEWS TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW"

READ ON - WRITE ON

How 'Green' is the redlining/urban removal of historically Black Cleveland neighborhoods



Cleveland Harbor Eastern Embayment Resilience Strategy (CHEERS) will expand lakefront parkland and create a protected cove with natural shoreline habitat as well as an island with trails and lawns. CHEERS for its Black neighbors will be created from Cuyahoga River dredge material. Material that wouldn't be placed on the shores of Rocky River or Avon or any predominately White neighborhoods.



Irishtown Bend is the name given to both a former Irish American neighborhood and a landform located on the Flats of the west bank of the Cuyahoga River. The landform consists of a tight meander in the Cuyahoga River, and the steep hillside above this meander. It is Cleveland's newest park.

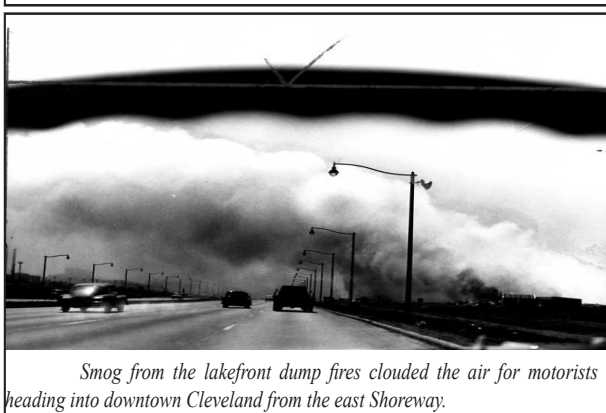
In December 2022, a The Port Authority report found that the Port Authority's CDF 12 at Burke Lakefront Airport was out of capacity for dredge material, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) CDF 10B would be out of capacity by the end of 2023. The construction of new berms on CDF 12 was outlined in the construction safety and phasing plan required for the storage of dredge material in the 2024 dredge cycle.

Cleveland Metroparks announced an additional \$1.1 million in federal money for Cleveland Harbor Eastern Embayment Resilience Strategy (CHEERS), the \$300 million plan to transform the Black neighborhood's Lakefront into a natural shoreline with parks, habitat, and public access.

How? By taking the dredged materials from the Cuyahoga River and dumping these materials in predominately



Gordon Park Landfill, 1968 The initial landfill at Gordon Park included junked cars and other toxic wastes



Smog from the lakefront dump fires clouded the air for motorists heading into downtown Cleveland from the east Shoreway.



Residents enjoy playing baseball at Gordon Park.



The toxic dredged material was placed in historically Black neighborhoods.

Black areas of Cleveland.

Not to worry, the non profit Black Environmental Leaders Association is a stakeholder for the neighborhoods.

Founded in 2020 with an address as a PO Box at the UPS Store in Solon, the nonprofit is headed by SeMia who is a strategic business consultant and thought leader. Over the past 20 years, she has provided consulting services in the private, manufacturing and non-profit sectors. SeMia is currently engaged in the non-profit sector as the local director of Emerald Cities Cleveland. In this role, she actively participates in moving forward an agenda aimed at achieving a successful transition to a sustainable, resilient, prosperous and equitable economy driven by safe, renewable energy. She holds a master's degree in organizational systems design from the Baldwin Wallace University (formerly Baldwin Wallace College), and a bachelor's degree, with a dual major in business administration and interior design, from Ursuline College. She is also a graduate of Neighborhood Leadership Cleveland (Class 9) and the Northern Ohio Executive Leadership Institute. In 2016, SeMia was selected as a candidate for a national leadership program designed to further develop leaders across sectors and geographies. SeMia is a graduate of the CMSD School of Science.

The Black Environmental Leaders Association, since its founding has received more than \$2.7M in grants, from which Bray's salary is \$96,000.00.

U.S. Rep. Shontel Brown, a Warrensville Heights Democrat, has been instrumental in acquiring the funding for CHEERS. Is she aware of the environmental harm that she could be bringing to some of Cleveland's historic and most venerable Black neighborhoods?

The funding Brown secured in federal appropriations legislation brings the total committed to the project's Early Action Project to \$9.1 million.

It would be nice if funding could be used to fill some potholes.

Market at the Food Bank 2026

By KARL BRYANT

The Greater Cleveland Foodbank held their biggest fundraiser of the year, Market at the Food Bank, last Sunday. The supplier of food to the needy in NE Ohio, earned \$545,000 for their programs, through admissions, donations, and bids on Silent Auction items.

Over 30 regional restaurants, food services, and beverage companies provided samples to over a thousand attendees. Keeping in mind the theme of the event, some of the Auction items were gourmet group dinners at high end restaurants. As the event was held at their Coit Rd. facility, guests were able to see, firsthand, how the Food Bank stores, prepares, and distributes their items.

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank Community Resource Center is a helpful, friendly place that acts as a one-stop shop for the community. It provides healthy food, access to more than a dozen social services, and resources like housing, employment, and healthcare. The center is clean and welcoming, resembling a regular grocery store. Staff and volunteers are kind and eager to assist, offering support to families in need and helping them find additional resources if necessary.

The facility also features a test kitchen where people can learn to make meals with food from the food bank. Hours

for the Healthy Choice Market and onsite partners vary, so visitors are encouraged to check the website.



Not-a-dessert custard eggs with truffles and edible flowers offering from Salt, Butter, and Cream at the GC Food Bank's Market at the Food Bank Benefit, which garnered \$545,000 for the organization that provides meals for the NE Ohio needy. (ESDN Photo, Minority Publishers Assn.)



Brandon Chrostowski, founder of Edwins, which trains the formerly-incarcerated to re-enter Society in the Hospitality Industry, prepares his prosciutto and goat cheese delicacy for sampling at the GC Food Bank's Market at the Food Bank Fundraiser last Sunday. (ESDN Photo, Minority Publishers Assn.)

Gasoline prices fall for spring break

Spring Break season is here as the national average for a gallon of regular gasoline jumped nearly 24 cents since last week to \$3.71. The last time the national average was in the \$3.70 range was October of 2023. Gasoline demand increases this time of year as the weather warms up and more drivers hit the road. Gas prices are also rising due to the conflict in Iran.

The national average has gone up 73 cents since the conflict began on February 28th.

Crude oil prices play a major role in what drivers pay at the pump, and prices have surpassed the \$100/barrel mark multiple times in recent days. To help offset rising prices, the

U.S. announced it will release 172 million barrels of oil from its strategic reserves over four months. The move is part of a broader effort by the International Energy Agency to release a total of 400 million barrels of oil, the largest emergency release in its history.

According to new data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), gasoline demand increased last week from 8.29 million barrels per day to 9.24 million. Total domestic gasoline supply decreased from 253.1 million barrels to 249.5 million. Gasoline production increased last week, averaging 9.9 million barrels per day.

Northeast Ohio Average for Self-Service Gasoline		
		Regular
This Week	(05-08-26)	\$2.81
Last Week	(05-01-26)	\$3.21
Last Year	(05-09-26)	\$3.52
National	(05-08-26)	\$2.81

VANTAGE POINT

Gabrielle debuts at EDWINS as part of her Blue Note album

It was an unforgettable evening on Thursday night at EDWINS with Gabrielle Cavassa, appearing as part of her Blue Note album release tour for Diavola.

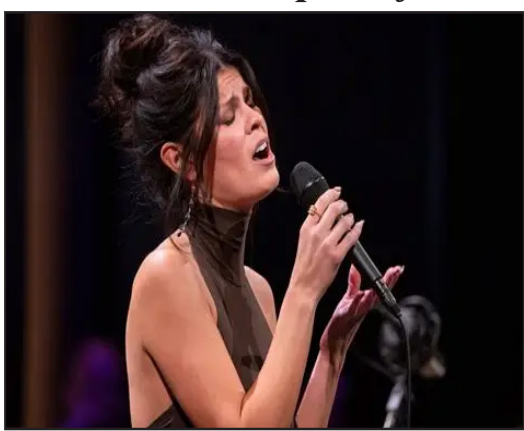
Recognized by Jazz at Lincoln Center and winner of the Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition, Cavassa brought a voice that is intimate, modern, and deeply rooted in jazz tradition. Her new album features collaborations with Joshua Redman, Jeff Parker, Paul Cornish, Larry Grenadier, and Brian Blade, and marks a major arrival for one of today's most compelling jazz vocalists.

This was the kind of show that belongs in a room like EDWINS: close, personal, and full of feeling.

Cavassa was born and raised in Escondido, California, and is of Italian descent. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Music from San Francisco State University.

In 2012, she was a contestant on the 11th season of American Idol, where she performed in the Hollywood rounds before being eliminated.

In 2017, Cavassa



Cavassa

moved to New Orleans, integrating herself into the city's music scene. She soon toured with Adonis Rose and the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra, trumpeter Irvin Mayfield, and collaborated with drummer/singer Jamison Ross, who would co-produce her debut album.

After releasing her self-titled debut album, Cavassa won the Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition at the James Moody Jazz Festival in 2021.

Her first, self-titled album was released and self-published on August 21, 2020. Cavassa cites Billie Holiday, Phyllis Hyman, Ornella Vanoni, and Jeff Buckley as musical influences.

Cavassa performed on Where Are We, a 2023 studio album by jazz saxophonist Joshua Redman and his first to feature vocals. She appeared on Redman's subsequent 2025 album, Words Fall Short, on the track titled "Era's End".

In August, 2024, Cavassa signed to Blue Note Records, and entered the studio to record her label debut.

"I don't feel like I'm a very prolific songwriter. Sometimes it takes me a long time to write things, so I feel grateful whenever I have inspiration. I think it was Michelangelo who said about

sculpture that inside every rock you have to find the sculpture. And I relate to that because maybe your rock is your idea or something. And sometimes things flow out and you don't need to spend so much time chiseling. Like "Bossy Nova," for example, it just flowed out. But "Diavola," the song, was way more about parsing through things and rejecting things. Finally, I had the initial idea, but it was frustrating to find the art within the concept," Cavassa said about her son writing skills.

When asked about "Bossy" she said, "I've never had an experience like that before or after. It came extremely easily. It's a song about escapism. It's a song about a fantasy and ultimately choosing the reality of working towards a dream. But yeah, it just really poured out in a complete form. And maybe it's the effortlessness of Bossa Nova and how inspired I was by that. I'm not sure. But that image of relaxation and rest comes easily."

YOUR HEALTH

Your dental visit could save your life

Nurse Sandy Wexler went to her dentist in 2012 for a routine teeth cleaning.

During the exam, her dentist took a moment to feel the sides of her face, jaw and neck, looking for signs of oropharyngeal cancer—a type of cancer that occurs at the back of the mouth or top of the throat.

Her dentist noticed an enlarged lymph node on the right side of Wexler's neck and sent Sandy to see her physician.

It was metastatic squamous cell oropharyngeal cancer.

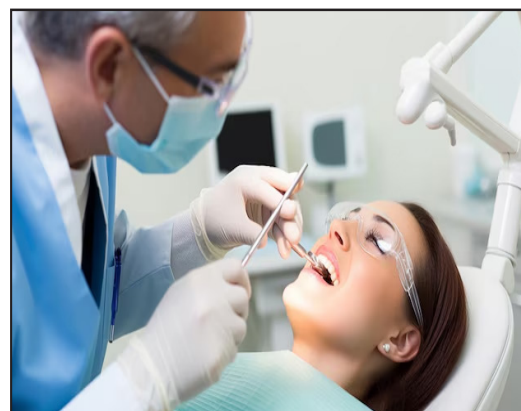
After weeks of radiation and chemotherapy at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Wexler was cancer-free. But had she not seen the dentist when she did, Wexler might not be alive today.

"I credit [my dentist] with saving my life because otherwise it could have been six more months before this could have been diagnosed and found," she said.

The American Cancer Society estimates that there will be 51,540 new cases of oral cancer and oropharyngeal cancer diagnosed this year and 10,030 deaths from them. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has noted that oropharyngeal cancer is on the rise.

As doctors of oral health, dentists see the mouth as a window to overall health and, as in Wexler's case, can identify clues suggesting cancer.

This means more and more dentists are talking with patients about health issues that



At your next dental appointment, don't be surprised if your dentist checks for signs of oral and oropharyngeal cancer and talks to you about the benefits of the HPV vaccine. HPV vaccination can prevent cancers; a thorough exam for signs of oral and oropharyngeal cancers could save your life.

might at first pass seem unrelated but can actually affect oral health. Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination is one such topic. In fact, the American Dental Association has partnered with MD Anderson in an effort to improve public and professional education about the HPV vaccine and HPV-related cancers.

HPV vaccination was first discussed for its benefit in preventing cervical cancer in women, but there are other HPV-related cancers, including those at the back of the throat and the top of the mouth.

The HPV vaccine can prevent infection with those strains of HPV responsible for

60 percent of oropharyngeal cancer cases. Because of this, consistent with the recommendation of the CDC, many dentists are now recommending both their male and female adolescent patients get the vaccine.

At your next dental appointment, don't be surprised if your dentist checks for signs of oral and oropharyngeal cancer and talks to you about the benefits of the HPV vaccine.

HPV vaccination can prevent cancers; a thorough exam for signs of oral and oropharyngeal cancers could save your life.

Your dentist may be the first to spot serious medical problems, such as cancer, while they're easiest to treat.

Weekly Wealth For Your Health

Personal finance gifts for the new graduate

By NATHANIEL SILLINS

The way I see it, the best graduation gift isn't just a check in an envelope—it's coming up with a few great, memorable ideas to help a new grad get a great financial start in life. At a time when money skills for young adults have never been more important, consider the following:

Buy them a session (or more) with a money coach. If you already work with a qualified financial planner or professional tax preparer, why not pay for a session or two for the new grad to help them work out their first budget as a working adult? Take the time to

talk with the professional about specific financial issues as well as their first, formal budget setup if they've never budgeted before.

Help them get a start on their retirement savings. Again, most of these gift ideas can come from one person or a group throwing in cash contributions. Consider taking your new grad out to open a Roth IRA (irs.gov/Retirement-Plans/Roth-IRAs) or Traditional IRA (irs.gov/Retirement-Plans/Traditional-IRAs).

Early retirement investing is one of the most important lessons any new college grad can learn.

If they're continu-

ing school, create a 529 plan or contribute to an existing one. Many new college graduates return to school to start a master's degree or other advanced training. If such an idea makes sense for your finances, consider opening or contributing to a 529 college savings plan (irs.gov/uac/529-Plans:-Questions-and-Answers) to support their continuing education.

A 529 plan is a college savings plan set up by a state or educational institution that offers tax advantages and potentially other incentives to make it easier to save for college and other post-secondary training for a designated beneficiary, such as a child or grandchild. A friend or a relative can set one up and name anyone as a beneficiary—the new grad, another relative, even yourself—and there are no income restrictions on doing so. You'll also be free to change the beneficiary if necessary. One suggestion—before you act, talk it over with the new grad or his or her family members to make sure this is the best approach for helping with their future education.

If your new grad

loves a company, consider buying them a few shares. Again, evaluate this decision against your own finances and parental opinion, but if there is a particular company the new grad has bought merchandise from or otherwise has taken a great interest in, consider going with them to a brokerage to buy a few shares in the company. Make it a lesson not only in the purchase process, but in the valuation, tax and ownership issues anyone has to deal with as a long-term shareholder. Even though he or she will probably own more investments in mutual funds over a lifetime, understanding the ownership of individual stocks will inform all the investing they do.

Money issues can be daunting for today's new graduate. Why not disarm their concerns with some solid advice from experts you trust? By offering up basics in budgeting, saving and investing, you just might become one of their favorites.

Nathaniel Sillins directs Visa's financial education programs. To follow Practical Money Skills on Twitter.

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Islam In The Community

Palestinian officials hail local elections in a Gaza community and the West Bank

Palestinian authorities said Sunday that local elections in a single Gaza community and the Israeli-occupied West Bank were a success and called them a step toward a long-delayed presidential election in the territories and eventual statehood.

The Palestinian Authority, which administers semiautonomous areas of the West Bank but is left out of the U.S.-drafted ceasefire plan for Gaza, has described Saturday's local election in central Gaza's Deir al-Balah as a largely symbolic pilot while the authority seeks to politically link the territories.

It was the first election in part of Hamas-run Gaza in more than two decades. Deir al-Balah, like much of the territory, is devastated by two years of war but was spared an Israeli ground invasion. Turnout there was 23%, but officials cited challenges including large-scale displacement and outdated civil registry records.

Hamas, which controls the half of Gaza that Israel withdrew from last year under the current ceasefire, did not field candidates and did not try to block the vote.

Turnout in the West Bank elections was 56%, or over a half-million people, not dramatically different from elections there in recent years.

Many races were not contested, and candidates were required to accept the program of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which leads the Palestinian Authority. The program calls for the recognition of Israel and renouncing armed struggle, effectively sidelining Hamas and other factions.

Election results, then, were dominated by independents and Fatah, the faction that leads the authority and claimed victory.

"Everyone is aware of the political, security and economic conditions, the fragmentation of Palestinian territory, the war on



A Palestinian man votes in local elections, the first in two decades in Gaza and the first in the occupied West Bank since the start of the Israel-Hamas war in Al-Ubaidiya, West Bank, Saturday, April 25, 2026.

Gaza, and the regional conflict in Iran," Rami Hamdallah, chair of the Ramallah-based Central Election

Commission and a former prime minister, told journalists.

"Simply holding the

elections in Deir al-Balah is a significant achievement, and we hope to hold elections in other bodies across the Gaza Strip in the near future," he said.

The elections in both territories were for the makeup of local councils tasked with overseeing water, roads and electricity.

The elections were the first to take place since reforms were enacted in response to international pressure. Elections now allow voting for individuals rather than slates. With faith in political parties low, they were less important than families and clans in campaigning.

Hamdallah called the vote a reflection of national unity, adding that "we hope that presidential and legislative elections will follow."

The Palestinian Authority, however, has not held a presidential election in 21 years, and support for it and Palestinian President Mahmoud

Abbas has withered during years of corruption and frustration over the sometimes violent advances of Jewish settlers in the West Bank.

The Palestinian Authority is the internationally recognized representative of the Palestinian people. It was ousted from Gaza after Hamas won parliamentary elections in 2006 and violently seized control. Abbas, 90, was elected to what was supposed to be a four-year term in 2005. The authority has not held presidential or legislative elections since 2006.

Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa called Saturday's elections "another step on the path to full independence." Israel under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, however, opposes a Palestinian state.

Many Palestinians want more than local votes as they seek a greater say in their future.

A Look At My World

The Fine Art of Compromise

By Dr. JAMES L. SNYDER

After being married for over 50 years, I have concluded the secret of a happy marriage is a happy wife. What it takes to make her happy is worth all the effort.

Today, most marriages don't work. Divorce is on the rise in our country.

A great philosopher, Groucho Marx, once said, "Marriage is the chief cause of divorce."

There are all kinds of ideas along this line, and many of them are fighting for the crazy award.

This year The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and her adoring husband will celebrate their 55th anniversary. After so many years of being married, I think I have come to some conclusions about how to have a happy marriage. After all, everybody wants to be happy.

I've looked into many aspects along these lines, but the one that really pays off is the idea of compromise. If you can't compromise, you won't get along. It's just that simple.

Over the years, I have struggled with this idea of compromise, trying to figure out what it was and how two people can compromise. I'm not sure I have figured it all out; after all, I'm the husband.

But in a marriage, compromise is not how they compromise in politics. Have

you ever watched politicians compromise on some subject? If that is a compromise, then I have to start all over again. Thankfully, marriage has nothing to do with political compromise.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I have had our differences for years. After all, we are human and have our own ideas about certain things.

The biggest difference we've had throughout the years is the "Broccoli and Apple Fritter". These two things never intermingle. Fortunately, we have compromised: She gets the broccoli, and I get the Apple Fritter. There is just no way to mix the two.

There are other areas of our lives where we've had to compromise. Over the years, I have learned how to use compromise effectively to get things accomplished.

If The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage believes she's getting her way, then everybody's happy. I need to set it up so she believes she won, and when she wins, so do I.

It took me a while to realize that if I win, then nobody's happy. What good is it to win and not really enjoy the winnings? But when she wins, she's happy, and when she's happy, so am I.

After understanding how this works, my life began

to take on a great deal of sunshine and happiness. When I was younger, I was only happy when I got things my way. But as I got older, I realized that a level of compromise can help me get things my way.

For example, when we want to go out to a restaurant to enjoy a meal together, we have to decide which restaurant. For me, it doesn't really matter which restaurant we go to as long as they have food and coffee. But for The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, there is a different restaurant for a different kind of celebration.

This is where I learned what compromise is all about and how to use it to my advantage.

I asked her, "My Dear, which restaurant do you think we ought to go to tonight for our celebration?"

Looking at me, she said, "I would like to go to the Southern Pig and Cattle restaurant."

From my perspective, it didn't matter. I've been there several times, and I know they have food and coffee. That's all that really matters to me.

So now I need to work on my compromise scheme. "Well," I said to her rather seriously, "I was thinking we ought to go to IHOP. I really love their food."

That got her thinking a little bit, and she replied, "I'd like IHOP to, but for our dinner tonight, I would like to go to Southern Pig and Cattle restaurant."

I tried to stretch it out as long as possible and replied, "Well, I'm not into that restaurant as much as you are. I really would like to go to IHOP tonight." I paused a little bit and then said, "Well, if that is what you prefer tonight I'm willing to let you choose the restaurant."

I never see her smile as much as she does when something like that happens. What she doesn't know is that I won the compromise and not her. That gives me a little bit of leverage down the road when we are facing another compromise situation.

I always begin by saying, "Do you remember when you wanted to go to the Southern Pig and Cattle restaurant and I wanted to go to IHOP? And I finally gave into your request?"

She looked at me, and there was a great deal of reluctance in her voice, saying, "Yeah, I remember. So, I'll let you have it this time."

There is nothing quite like winning both times and not getting caught.

Thinking about this, one of my favorite Bible verses came to mind. "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

I'm sure there are many applications to this Bible verse. It applies to all parts of our lives. Being "agreed" is one of the most important aspects of humanity. When applied to marriage, it is a wonderful expectation. Walking together is the blessing of our Christian experience.

Global Sumud Flotilla leaves Sicily and heads for Gaza

Over 50 civilian ships were making their way to Gaza today intending to breach Israel's blockade of the strip and deliver humanitarian aid to the people there.

Fifty-six vessels — including the NGO refugee rescue ship, the Open Arms, and Greenpeace's Arctic Sunrise — set sail from the Italian island of Sicily on Sunday.

"The flotilla departs with a clear set of objectives," organisers Global Sumud Flotilla said on Sunday, "to challenge Israel's illegal blockade, advance the opening of a permanent humanitarian corridor, and intensify co-ordinated international pressure on governments and corporations complicit in its enforcement."

"As the vessels now move beyond Italian waters, the mission enters a phase in which each mile travelled carries increasing political, legal, and humanitarian weight."

"This journey represents a co-ordinated act of international civil resistance at sea. When institutions fail, people act."

Supporters can track the Global Sumud Flotilla's movement to Gaza on the following link: gsumud.link/tracker.

Their previous mission ended last October when the Israeli military seized their ships, kidnapped the activists on board, and held them in Israeli prisons for around a week.

One of Catherine Connolly's sisters is among the latest group of activists to set sail for Gaza with the hope of providing life-saving aid beyond the Israeli naval blockade.

Dr Margaret Connolly has been a long-time activist in the Palestine solidarity movement while running a successful GP practice in Sligo for around 40 years.

Margaret is one of the President's 13 siblings, growing up in Shantalla, Galway, and she is married to long-serving county councillor Declan Bree.

The latest Global Sumud Flotilla is the largest civilian maritime effort to date to break the siege of Gaza, comprising over 80 vessels and 1,000 participants from more than 100 countries.

It is attempting to bring essential supplies, including food, medicine, and baby formula, to address the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip.

Margaret joined the flotilla in Sicily, alongside other Irish volunteers, before it left the port of Augusta on Sunday.

The latest Global Sumud Flotilla is the largest civilian maritime effort to date to break the siege of Gaza. Pic: Baris Seckin/Anadolu via Getty Images

She spoke to The Sligo Champion before departing from Italy, where she declared that 'we cannot stand by while millions are subjected to forced starvation and an illegal siege'.

Margaret told the paper: 'The flotilla is a powerful symbol of international solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza, who are enduring an ongoing genocide and an

inhumane blockade now approaching its 18th year...

"Today, we all know that the vast majority of people in Ireland stand with the Palestinian people in their struggle for their legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination and the establishment of a free, independent and sovereign state of Palestine."

"Our flotilla sails to deliver hope. We are sailing to Gaza to break the 18-year Israeli naval blockade, deliver urgent humanitarian aid, and demonstrate international solidarity with Palestinians facing famine and ongoing conflict."

Margaret explained that there were four Irish people on her boat along with people from Scotland, Norway and the US.

She is the assigned medic for the vessel, though all other duties are shared.

The journey is expected to take between two and four weeks, with a likely chance that they will be boarded by Israeli forces when they near their destination.

Margaret stated: 'They (Israeli Defence Forces) have no right to board our boat. If they do, then we will offer no resistance. We will put our hands in the air and there will be no violence from us. We will offer no excuse to the IDF to shoot us.'

She added that the activists are 'prepared to be arrested'

Catherine Connolly is an Irish politician serving as the president of Ireland since 11 November 2025. She had been a Teachta Dála (TD) for the Galway West constituency from 2016 until her election as president in 2025.

Born in Galway, Connolly began her political career as a member of the Labour Party, for which she was elected to Galway City Council in 1999, and was Mayor of Galway from 2004 to 2005. She left the party in 2006 in a dispute over candidate selection. After unsuccessfully contesting the 2007 and 2011 general elections in Galway West as an independent, Connolly was elected to the Dáil in 2016.

She became Ireland's first female Leas-Cheann Comhairle, serving in the 33rd Dáil from July 2020 to November 2024. Connolly ran as an independent candidate in the 2025 presidential election, supported by Sinn Féin, the Social Democrats, the Labour Party, People Before Profit, the Green Party, 100% Redress, and several independent Oireachtas members. She defeated Heather Humphreys and Jim Gavin in a landslide victory, with her 943 first-preference votes being the largest personal mandate in the history of the Republic of Ireland. She is the third woman to hold the office after Mary Robinson and Mary McAleese.

Ideologically described as left-wing or far-left, Connolly describes herself as a socialist and pacifist. A supporter of Irish neutrality, her foreign policy views were described by Politico as "often anti-Western"; she is critical of NATO, the European Union's increased military and defence spending and



Over 50 civilian ships were making their way to Gaza today intending to breach Israel's blockade of the strip and deliver humanitarian aid to the people there.

general European militarisation. Connolly has condemned the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine and has also described NATO's attitude toward Russia as "warmongering". An outspoken supporter of Palestine,

Connolly is a staunch critic of Israel and has called it a "genocidal state". Connolly advocates for Irish reunification.

Domestically, she supported the legalisation of same-sex marriage and the legalisation of abortion. Connolly is an Irish

speaker and has previously worked as a clinical psychologist and as a barrister.

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Monsters tied at 1-1 in AHL Playoffs

By ANDREW CARTER

The Cleveland Monsters are tied with the Syracuse Crunch, 1-1, after the first two games of the 1st Round of the Calder Cup Playoffs were held in The Land. They won the opener, 3-2, but lost the second game, 4-1. The next three games (if necessary) will be played in Syracuse as that's the usual AHL format for a best-of-five series. Since the Monsters parent club, the Columbus Blue Jackets, did not make the NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs, many throughout Ohio are watching to see how they will do.

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 to Friday, May 8, 2026

EAST SIDE DAILY NEWS

SPORTS

P&C Classic 3 will be held on May 9 at Woods King Armory, 4303 Green Road, Beachwood 44121. For information contact Charles Conwell at 216-352-7625

Tennis in the LAND canceled

The popular Tennis in the Land tournament, which brought world-class WTA 250 tennis to Cleveland each August, will pause in 2026. Organizers explained that the temporary downtown setup, which involved converting parking lots into a full tennis complex, is no longer economically sustainable without a permanent facility and supporting infrastructure. The decision is not due to lack of fan support or sponsorship, as the event had strong attendance and significant media reach over its five-year run.

Guardians Salute Canines, but Vex Fans

By KARL BRYANT

The Guardians held a Bark in the Park, where hundreds of dog-lovers, who for an extra fee, were welcome to bring their four-legged friends. Former Cleveland Brown, Barkevious Mingo, would have loved it.

While the doggies in the crowd wagged their tails in joy at the sight of watering stations (and rest stations), as well as numerous treats provided by the APL, the two-legged CLE fans didn't quite have as much fun, as the Guardians lost a close one to the Rays, 3-2. The pups also were able to Bark at the Parker (Messick) - CLE's Rookie pitching sensation, who left with the lead. He struck out nine in 5.2 innings, giving up just three hits and one run.

Unfortunately, his Bullpen, - specifically, Hunter Gaddis (0-1) - did not cooperate and lost the lead and the game. The Guardians threatened in the 9th, having runners on 2B and 3B, with one out, but the final two batters struck out



Messick

to end it. Daniel Schneemann, who earlier hit a 2-Run HR in the 5th Inning, was the final KS.

Pooch lover Gladys, with Mollie and Lynne, and two human family members, said, "We love the chance to get the girls (dogs) out to the Ballpark. They like seeing the other dogs and playing with them. It would be nice if the Guardians could win, but it's still a fun time."

Dan said, "It gives me a reason to take Don (?) out for a long walk. We get some fresh air, see a ball game, and have some fun."

Devynne (without a pooch) remarked, "We gotta start scoring runs. Don't waste talented work



Gaddis

like Messick's. Otherwise, this is for the birds, or today, for the dogs."

The next day, in No. 1 Draft pick Travis Bazzana's MLB debut, hard-luck starter Tanner Bibee



Schneemann

(0-4) lost, 1-0, because the Guardians could not cross home plate. They got only four hits, while Bazzana was 0 for 2 with two walks.

Luckily CLE salvaged the series finale vs. the



Bibee

Rays, 3-1. Bazzana was 0 for 4, but fellow Rookie Chase DeLauter knocked in two with a single. Kyle Monzardo also knocked in a run. Gavin Williams (5-1) allowed five hits and no



DeLauter

earned runs (one scored on an error) in 7.2 innings, and struck out nine.

CLE, even-Steven at 16-16, now takes to the road, traveling to play the A's and K.C.

Monsters lose to Crunch in Game Two

The Cleveland Monsters fell to the Syracuse Crunch 4-1 on Sunday afternoon at Rocket Arena. With the loss, the Monsters are tied in the best-of-five North Division Semifinals, presented by truenuorth Convenience Stores, 1-1.

Syracuse got the scoring started with a goal from Lucas Mercuri at 3:52 of the opening frame followed by three goals in

quick succession from Gabriel Szturc at 10:18, Jakob Pelletier at 11:07 and Tommy Miller at 13:15 to give the Crunch a 4-0 lead through the first 20 minutes. Following a scoreless second period, Cleveland's Mikael Pyyhtia scored the only goal of the final frame at 6:54 assisted by Luca Del Bel Belluz to make the final score 4-1 Syracuse.

Cleveland's Ivan Fedotov stopped two shots



The Cleveland Monsters fell to the Syracuse Crunch 4-1 on Sunday afternoon at Rocket Arena.

Browns Fill Needs in 2026 Draft

By KARL BRYANT

The Browns held a Draft Day 1 Watch Party at Cleveland Public Hall, which was attended by thousands of raucous fans. The team filled two huge needs with their two Round 1 selections on Day 1.

After trading their No. 6 pick to K.C. to move down to No. 9, and picking up 3rd Round and 5th Round picks, they chose Outland Trophy winner OT Spencer Fano of Utah. With the 24th pick in the 1st Round, they chose WR KC Concepcion from Texas A & M. One wag commically remarked, "At least they were able to fill their need

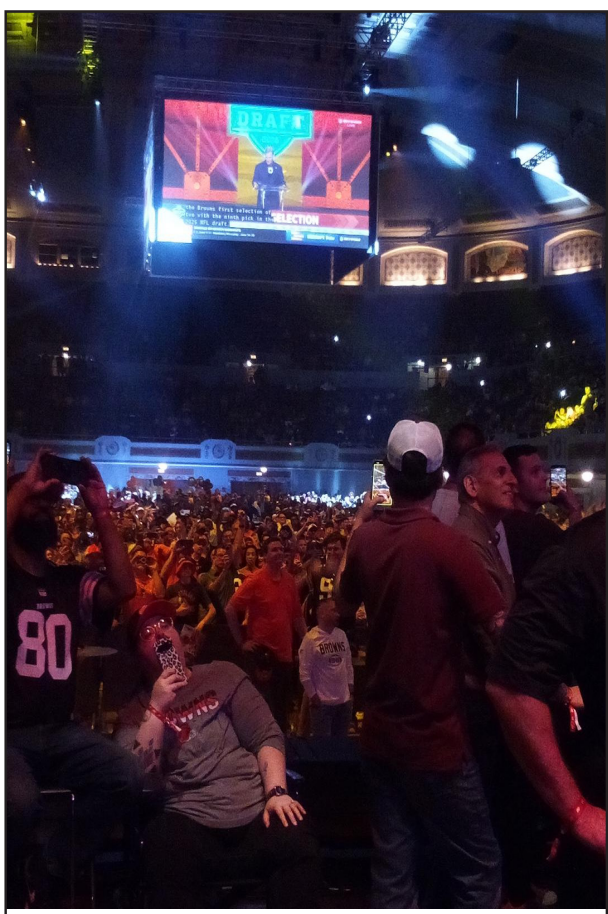
at Shortstop," in reference to perennial Gold Glove SS Dave Concepcion of Cincinnati's '70's Big Red Machine.

The Browns then filled other needs in the next two days. They chose WR Denzel Boston from Washington, DB Emmanuel McNeil-Warren from Toledo, OT Austin Barber from Florida, C Parker Brailsford from Alabama, LB Justin Jefferson, also from Alabama, TE Joe Royer from Cincinnati, QB Taylen Green from Arkansas, and TE Carsen Ryan from BYU.

After Press Time, the Browns will hold a Ground-breaking Ceremony for their new Stadium in Brook Park.

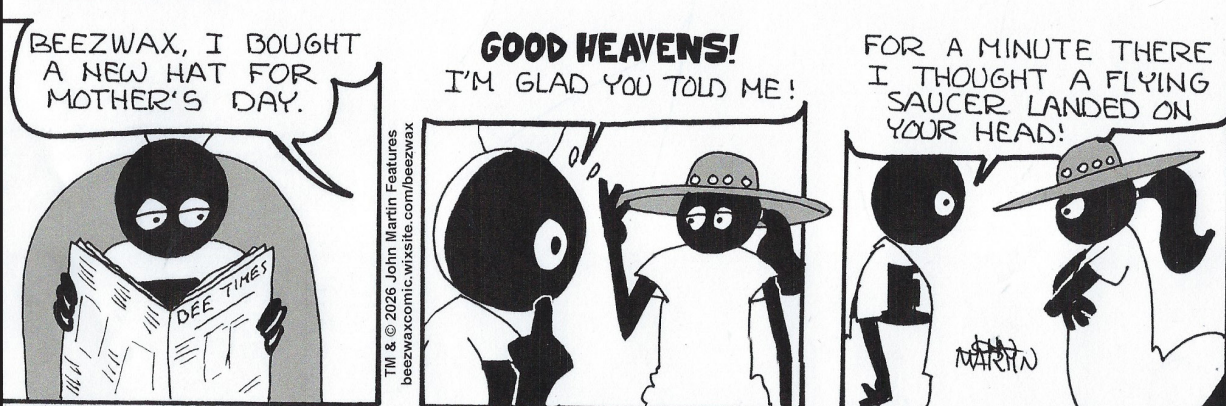


Cleveland Browns Mascots Chomps and Brownie the Elf dance for joy at the Browns Draft Party with CLE's selection of OL Spencer Fano from Utah, with their initial 1st Round pick in the 2026 NFL Draft. Fano won the Outland Trophy as the nations top interior lineman and should fill a very important need. (ESDN Photo by Minority Publishers Assoc.)



Thousands of Browns fans at a raucous Watch Party at Public Hall, await with bated breath, for NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, on the Big Screen from Pittsburgh, to announce CLE's 1st Round Draft pick. (ESDN Photo by Minority Publishers Assoc.)

BEEZWAX By John Martin



MATINEE IDOL BY G. M. APPLING



On The Town

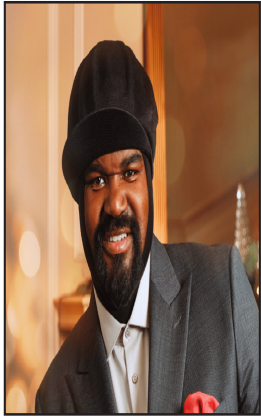
MOVIES * MUSIC * THEATER * DANCE * RESTAURANTS * NIGHT LIFE

Gregory Porter will perform at the Mimi Ohio Theatre

Gregory Porter will perform on September 26 at 8:00 p.m. at the Mimi Ohio Theatre.

This is a rescheduled performance from April 26, 2026

With his rich baritone voice and his mastery of the deepest traditions of soul, jazz and gospel, Gregory Porter has established himself as one of



Porter
America's most versatile and acclaimed vocalists. His artistry and sensitiv-

ity is plain to the ear whether he's putting his stamp on beloved standards by heroes like Nat "King" Cole or demonstrating his own writing talents with original songs strong enough to stand with the many classics in his repertoire.

Produced by Troy Miller (Jamie Cullum, Laura Mvula), All Rise is Porter's sixth studio album and fourth for the iconic Blue Note

label. Like his 2013 breakthrough *Liquid Spirit* — the Grammy Award winner for Best Jazz Vocal Album — Porter's latest is a confident display of his many gifts, starting with his ability to convey feelings of both exaltation and sadness with uncommon directness and warmth.

On December 13, 2023, Porter performed at the Royal Albert

Hall in its "Christmas at The Royal Albert Hall" programme.

In September 2024, Porter announced a 12-night tour of the UK, commencing in April 2025, including a night at Manchester's new Co-op

In 2025, Porter participated in the sixth season of *The Masked Singer UK* as "Dressed Crab", where he finished in second place.

Ali Siddiq, a Houston-born comedian and storyteller, comes to Conner Palace

Ali Siddiq, a Houston-born comedian and storyteller, comes to Conner Palace on June 5.

From Houston, TX, Ali developed his unmistakable voice in one of the most unlikely places — behind the walls of incarceration, where storytelling was survival, currency, and community. Comedy Central would later send him back inside a Texas jail to film *It's Bigger Than These Bars* (4M+ views). Today, that same voice has made him one of the most watched, respected, and consistently viral comedians



Siddiq
ans in the world.
Now, fresh off his 2026 NAACP Image Award nomination for his standup

special *Ali Siddiq: My Two Sons*, the only independently produced YouTube special to ever receive a major award nomination, Siddiq will perform brand new material in theaters across the country.

Crowned by *Vulture* as "stand-up comedy's most prolific storyteller," Ali Siddiq has built a dedicated massive fanbase clamoring to attend his live shows and watch his masterful independently produced and released specials. He premiered his four-part stand-up series *The Domino Effect 1-4* in 2022-2024 which has amassed over 47 million views. The storytelling saga cemented Ali's reputation as a master craftsman of narrative comedy. Each chapter became a cultural event, landing Ali among the top-viewed comedians on YouTube year after year.

Also during that time, Ali released the special *Don't Judge A Book By Its Cover* (2023) which has amassed 6 million views. In 2025 alone he released 3 more hour standup specials, *My Two Sons* (12M+

views), *Rugged* (7M+ views) and *Mondays* (3M+ views). Deadline included Ali in their list of "Comics Who Won 2025" and *My Two Sons* earned Siddiq a 2026 NAACP Nomination for "Outstanding Variety Series or Special." He will be releasing 3 more new hour specials in 2026 that have already been filmed. An emerging comedy mogul, Ali also executive-produces and distributes multiple specials for other comedians including Malik S. and Ryan Davis, with a 2nd special from Marcus D. Wiley coming up on February 1.

Siddiq debuted his comedy album in 2010, his half-hour television special in 2016 and his hour-long TV special in 2018. Siddiq was the winner of Comedy Central's inaugural *Up Next* competition in 2013 and was a finalist on NBC's competition TV show *Bring the Funny* in 2019. He was the co-host of R&B afternoon radio show *Uncle Funky Larry Jones & Ali Siddiq on KMJQ* (Majic 102.1) in Greater Houston from January 2021 to January 2024.

Siddiq was born in Houston, Texas, and grew up primarily on Hillcroft in the Third Ward. He attended Jane Long and then Paul Revere middle schools. After his parents' separation, Siddiq and his siblings were raised by their mother, living for a brief time in the projects. He and his siblings also went on to live with other family members. At age 10, Siddiq was almost run over by a car, which resulted in his mother and aunt getting into a fight with the driver after she refused to apologize. When he was 18 years old, Siddiq's maternal half-sister Ashley died at the age of eight.

He began selling illicit drugs at age 14. Siddiq attended Texas Southern University (TSU) and was arrested four days after he turned age 19 for cocaine trafficking. He was convicted of "delivery of a controlled substance" and served six years of a 15-year sentence, primarily at Darlington Unit in Rosharon, Torres Unit in Hondo, Bill Clements Unit in Amarillo and Ellis Unit in Huntsville.

At age 25, he was released from Texas prison on October 21, 1997. He worked at Sharpstown Mall following his release, first at a department store and next at Sunglass Hut. It was during his incarceration, while telling jokes to fellow inmates to lighten the

mood, that he discovered his ability to make people laugh. While in prison, he worked in the prison laundry, and his workmates were his captive audience.

Siddiq first performed stand-up at the Just Joking comedy club in Houston in December 1997, where he entered an open mic during "Apollo Night" which tended to attract a college crowd.

Chris' Cinema Trivia & Movie Match Up

By CHRIS APPLING

TRIVIA - (Science Fiction)

1. In the movie *Ghost* (1990), who is the Oscar-winning, African-American actress who starred as a psychic, scam-artist who actually becomes able to speak with the dead and helps white actor Patrick Swayze (as the murdered, lead character), warn his still-alive girlfriend (Demi Moore) about his killer?

2. In what movie did mixed-race actor Jaye Davidson star opposite white actors James Spader and Kurt Russell as the ageless, race-less, alien dictator of a planet that crosses ancient, Egyptian history with space-age technology?

3. In the movie *Species* (1995), who is the African-American actor/director that starred as an 'empathy': (a psychic that can sense strong emotions/feelings) who assists a special, government

task force track down an escaped, extraterrestrial that looks like a blonde, super-model?

4. In what futuristic film did black, acting icon Denzel Washington star as an ex-cop turned prison inmate who is released to find a computer-generated, supercriminal (Russell Crowe) who is 'sampled' from the profiles of the worlds' worst serial-killers?

5. Who is the rapper/actor that starred in *Deep Blue Sea* (1999) as a bormagain chef that works on an isolated, marine-biology 'island' that becomes under attack by the super-smart sharks their scientists were experimenting on to find a cure for Alzheimer's?

ANSWERS: 1. Whoopi Goldberg 2. 'Stargate' (1994) 3. Forest Whitaker 4. 'Virtuality' (1995) 5. L.L. Cool J

MOVIE MATCH-UP - (James Bond Enforcers)

TITLES:
1. Goldfinger (1964)
2. Live Or Let Die (1973)
3. The Man With The Golden Gun (1974)
4. Never Say Never Again (1983)
5. A View To A Kill (1985)
ACTOR S / CHARACTERS:
a) Euro-Asian actress Barbara Carrera as 'Fatima Blush'

b) Asian actor Harold Sakata as deadly-derby tossing 'Odd Job'
c) Caribbean-born actress Grace Jones as steroid-enhanced 'May Day'
d) Hispanic actor Herve Villechaze as tiny terror 'Nick Nack'
e) African-American actor Clifton James as hookhanded 'Tea-Hee'
ANSWERS: 1. d; 2. e; 3. b; 4. a; 5. c

MENU TIPS

Resetting healthy eating habits

(NAPSI)— A good health reset can happen any time of the year. It simply takes a commitment to making small, sustainable changes that add up to impactful, healthy habits. Dr. Samara Sterling with The Peanut Institute says it's best to begin by concentrating on the good habits you already follow. "Set yourself up for success by building on the healthy things you like to do," says Sterling. "For example, if you typically eat one serving of fruit a day, figure out a way to increase that to two servings."

Over time, as you amp up your healthy habits, the detrimental ones tend to fade away more easily.

As part of a good health reset, Dr. Sterling recommends incorporating more protein, especially plant-based proteins, into a daily diet.

"Proteins and healthy fats make you feel fuller for longer and can help eliminate the urge to snack and consume empty calories," explains Sterling.

Peanuts are an example of a powerful plant protein. Just one serving of peanuts delivers seven grams of protein, 19 vitamins and minerals and heart-healthy fats.

"Peanuts are categorized as a superfood because they're nutrient-dense and deliver superior health benefits in a very small serving," says Dr. Sterling. "If you combine superfoods, like kale and peanuts or quinoa and peanuts, you're really maxi-

mizing your nutritional intake." There's more good news because peanut butter also packs protein.

"Research has shown that the consumption of small amounts of peanuts or peanut butter has been associated with a reduced risk of cancer, heart disease and diabetes," says Sterling. "It's easy to incorporate peanuts and peanut butter into breakfast, lunch or dinner."

Mediterranean Grain Medley with Peanuts
3 Tbsp. peanut oil
2 garlic cloves, minced
½ tsp. hot pepper flakes
½ red bell pepper, diced
1 yellow squash, diced
8 oz. snap peas
2 cups beluga lentils or brown lentils, pre-cooked
1 cup jasmine rice, pre-cooked
2-inch piece of ginger, grated
1 cup peanuts, plain, roasted
1 bunch green onions, chopped
Salt to taste
Lime juice to taste
Cilantro as garnish
Heat a sauté pan and add peanut oil. Add garlic and pepper flakes, cook for 30 seconds. Add bell pepper and squash, sauté for 3-4 minutes. Add snap peas, cook for an additional minute. Add lentils, rice, ginger, lime juice and salt, mix well. Heat the grains for 1 minute then toss in the peanuts and green onions. Serve warm, enjoy!

For more delicious and healthy recipes, visit peanutinstitute.com.

Just Jazz

By NANCY ANN LEE

Eastern Rebellion

A much underrated jazz pianist, Cedar Walton has been nearly overlooked by fans and the press, even though he has consistently performed since rising to prominence in the mid-60s with Art Blakey's *Jazz Messengers*.

With his new version of the *Eastern Rebellion* quartet (initially formed in 1975 with saxman George Coleman and the late Sam Jones) Walton has gained more attention.

Drummer Billy Higgins, a charter member of the quartet, has regularly worked with Walton since the 1950s.

Recordings in the past few years have included bassist David Williams, a Walton collaborator since the 1970s, and young London-born saxophonist Ralph Moore, the spark plug who ignited the dormant *Rebellion* on a 1990 session when Freddie Hubbard couldn't play.

Moore joined Walton's energetic mainstream jazz trio to record *Mosaic* (Music Master's, 1992).

Eastern Rebellion's second album, *Simple Pleasure*, released in 1993, featured mostly Walton originals.

Da 'Round Da Way Rewind Review

Denzel Washington's Top 11 Films

Past dramatic and/or romantic, black leading men in motion-pictures include Paul Robeson, Lorenzo Tucker, Sidney Poitier, Harry Belafonte, Billy Dee Williams, etc. But, if there is one, African-American actor who has left his indelible imprint on film for the last, thirty-five years, it has been Denzel Washington. Washington has worked with African-American filmmaker Spike Lee in four movies: *Mo' Better Blues* (1990), *He Got Game* (1998), *Inside Man* (2006), and the epic biography, *Malcolm X* (1992) that outshined all of his other cinematic contributions. Denzel has been nominated for more Oscar Awards than any other African-American actor in history (a total of 9). And, even though he began his career in a throwaway comedy called *Carbon Copy* (1981), [playing the illegitimate, half-black, adult offspring who seeks out his wealthy, Jewish-American father after his mother dies], Washington has starred in 11 films that revolve around black themes or have some racial significance to them:

#11 *The Great Debaters* (2007)---Biography. As a professor at predominately-black Wiley College in 1935 Texas, Washington's character begins an all-black, student debate team that ultimately wins the opportunity to face off against Harvard University's debate champions. Although the intention of showing black students on par with America's finest, Ivy League institution is laudable, the film itself is average.

#10 *Mississippi Masala* (1991)---Drama/Romance. Denzel plays an African-American, southern, blue-collar carpet cleaner who falls in love with an East-Indian woman whose parents own a motel. Rather than being your usual, black/white, interracial romance, this film explores racial prejudice among two, non-white ethnicities and the bias between shades of black and brown.

#9 *Out Of Time* (2003)---Thriller. In Florida, Washington is a black police

chief who is tricked and betrayed by his girlfriend and must find the case-evidence money he gave her before the authorities catch up to him. Directed by African-American filmmaker Carl Franklin, it is one of the few, Hollywood motion-pictures bankrolled for a black director.

#8 *A Soldier's Story* (1984)---Drama/Mystery. Adapted from the Pulitzer prize-winning, off-Broadway production of *A Soldier's Play*, it takes place during World War II at a segregated, all-black, Army base in Louisiana. Washington's enlisted private is revealed to be the killer of a self-hating, black sergeant whose murder was being investigated by a black, northern captain. It is a phenomenal foray of the ravages of racism on the black psyche.

#7 *Ricochet* (1991)---Action/Thriller. One of Denzel's first roles as a leading man, he plays a black, rookie, L.A. cop turned assistant district attorney whose life is methodically deconstructed by a former, white, psychotic criminal he busted when he was a street officer. Washington's Cosby-esque, film family offers a progressive portrayal of a middle-class black family (that is ultimately assisted by the character's ghetto associates).

#6 *The Bone Collector* (1999)---Thriller/Suspense. Uniting with a white, female, street cop, Washington is a brilliant, published, forensic criminology expert (who is paralyzed from the neck down), striving to catch a serial killer that leaves parts of his victims' shaved bones behind. As the quadriplegic scientist, Denzel displays what limitlessness can be achieved by a disabled minority.

#5 *The Equalizer* (2014)---Thriller/Suspense. Directed by African-American filmmaker Antoine Fuqua, Denzel is a retired, government, special agent working at a franchise hardware store. After defending a young, white prostitute from Russian mobsters, he later finds himself taking down the Russian enforcer

the Russian Mafia boss also. As a black hero, Washington delivers vengeful satisfaction to the bad guys.

#4 *Devil In A Blue Dress* (1995)---Drama/Suspense. Adapted from black author Walter Mosley's novel of the same name, Denzel is a 1940's, unemployed, World War II veteran who, hired to find a mysterious woman, becomes caught in the intrigue between two, mayoral candidates in L.A. Directed by African-American Carl Franklin, it has a black sensibility and shows blacks of all hues and complexions.

#3 *Glory* (1989)---Historical Drama. Based on a true story, Denzel plays a rebellious ex-slave who joins the first, all-black, Civil War union regiment (led by a white colonel). Washington won his first Oscar, as Best Supporting Actor, as Private Trip (who cried a single tear while being whipped by northern officers for leaving his post---to get a decent pair of shoes!).

#2 *American Gangster* (2007)---Biography. In the 1970's, a white, New York cop is determined to bring down Washington's character, Frank Lucas: a black, Harlem mobster and drug lord who became so powerful that he threatened the white, Mafia families of the time. As a ruthless criminal, Denzel is nonetheless mesmerizing in the role.

#1 *Training Day* (2001)---Action/Thriller. In his Best Actor, Award-winning role, Denzel portrays a corrupt, African-American, L.A. narcotics cop who pretends to train a new, white, rookie partner only to manipulate him in his money-stealing scheme. Like his *American Gangster* character, he is not a role model in this film by any means. But, the bold audacity of his character is riveting from beginning to end. Thus, his performance deserving of an Oscar while it also highlights African-American filmmaker Antoine Fuqua's ability as a director.

Cuyahoga County Public Safety & Justice Services Scholarships Expand Access to Public Safety

The Cuyahoga County Department of Public Safety and Justice Services has partnered with College Now to offer program aims to lessen the financial burden of the next generation of

prospective firefighters, law enforcement officers, dispatchers, advocates, and other public safety professionals.

The deadline to apply is May 15. "Investing in

a scholarship program that supports students pursuing careers in public safety is critical at a time when many public safety agencies are facing challenges in recruitment and retention," said Public Safety and Justice Ser-

Director Brandy Carney. "By reducing the cost barrier, we are uplifting those who feel called to serve and strengthening the overall safety of our neighborhoods and communities."

Applicants for

the Cuyahoga County Public Safety & Justice Services Scholarship must be residents of Cuyahoga County, and meet income requirements to be Pell Grant eligible.

Applicants

must be pursuing a career in a public safety or justice services-related field.

Applicants must be a high school graduate or have obtained a GED.

Summer concerts coming to Cleveland

The best of global music returns with City Stages, the Cleveland Museum of Art's (CMA) FREE summer concert series, on Wednesdays July 22 and 29 in Ohio City's Hingetown neighborhood. The concerts take place outside Transformer Station, and all are welcome to attend. This year's concerts feature West African group Kaleta & Super Yamba Band and South Korean group Insun Park & Generals.

Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m., and visitors are encouraged to arrive early and grab dinner and a drink at one of Ohio City's bars or restaurants



Kaleta & Super Yamba Band

or visit one of the local shops. Seating is limited—bring camp chairs and enjoy an evening of music and dancing in the street. Come for the music and stay for the party.

Kaleta & Super Yamba Band on Wednesday, July 22, 7:30 p.m.

Kaleta & Super Yamba Band are fronted

by Afrobeat and juju veteran Leon Ligan-Majek, aka Kaleta. The singer-guitarist from Benin in West Africa lived his adolescent life in Lagos, Nigeria, where Afrobeat was born. Kaleta's guitar chops earned him decades of touring and recording with Fela Kuti, King Sunny Ade, Lau-

ryn Hill, and more. Afropop Worldwide fell in love with Kaleta, saying, "His James Brown grunts have got to be some of the best in the business!"

The members of Super Yamba Band have honed their craft performing with a diverse range of artists, such as David Byrne, Rubblebucket, Yeasayer, and Between the Buried and Me, to name a few.

Insun Park & Generals on Wednesday, July 29, 7:30 p.m.

Experience a groundbreaking fusion of rock, Korean traditional music, and mask-

dance rhythms with Insun Park & Generals. A master of the Gangnyeong Mask Dance, designated as Korea's National Intangible Cultural Heritage, Park leads the band, blending her dynamic vocal and dance performances alongside the talents of Donghyuk Heo (composer/guitar), Hyunmo Yang (drums), Johyun Kim (taebyeongso/flute), and Hahyunki Back (bass guitar). Park stands out as one of the few female masters of the Gangnyeong Mask Dance, a tradition historically dominated by men. With her band, she creates a dynamic blend of ancestral art and contemporary sound, seamlessly merging tra-

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The MAHA movement is mad about the weedkiller glyphosate

In a sign of the simmering discontent within the Make America Healthy Again coalition, some of its most visible figures rallied outside the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday, lobbying criticism at the Trump administration for siding with a pesticide-maker.

Inside, the justices were hearing arguments in a highly-anticipated case involving the glyphosate-based herbicide, Roundup.

"You cannot claim to care about health while protecting poison. You cannot tell Americans to eat real food while protecting the cancer-causing chemicals sprayed on it," wellness influencer and "MAHA mom" Vani Hari, who goes by the "Food Babe," told the assembled crowd at the "People Versus Poison" rally.

Many of those who spoke were longtime allies of Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. who brought his supporters into the MAGA fold when he endorsed Trump.

A French farmer sprays Roundup 720 glyphosate herbicide produced by U.S. agrochemical giant Monsanto in 2018 on a field of no-till corn in northwestern France. The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday heard a dispute over labels on the popular Roundup pesticide, which thousands of plaintiffs blame for their cancers.

The Supreme Court heard case on how to label risks of popular weed killer

The case in front of the court centers on whether Bayer, the German company that now owns Monsanto, can be shielded from lawsuits that have been filed in state courts over claims that the company failed to warn consumers about the cancer-causing effects of glyphosate.

The Trump administration's decision to back the pesticide maker in the case, coming on the heels of an executive order supporting the expansion of domestic production of glyphosate, has angered the MAHA movement.

A decade ago, the



A French farmer sprays Roundup 720 glyphosate herbicide produced by U.S. agrochemical giant Monsanto in 2018 on a field of no-till corn in northwestern France. The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday heard a dispute over labels on the popular Roundup pesticide, which thousands of plaintiffs blame for their cancers.

World Health Organization concluded that glyphosate — the most widely-used weedkiller in the world — is "probably carcinogenic," though the Environmental Protection Agency did not agree with that finding.

Just last month, leading scientists in the field of environmental health issued a consensus statement, saying that glyphosate can cause cancer and called for urgent action. Bayer disputes this.

Glyphosate is one of the animating concerns for the coalition, but the rift underscores a broader tension — what MAHA advocates described as a "profound contradiction" in a recent letter to EPA administrator Lee Zeldin.

While the Trump administration "claims to prioritize health," it "continues to approve, expand, and normalize chemical exposures that directly undermine that goal," the letter states.

David Murphy, a former finance director for Kennedy's presidential campaign, was among those who signed the dispatch to Zeldin. In an interview with NPR, he said they had believed "this type of stuff wouldn't happen," given Trump's very public support for Kennedy who, as an environmental lawyer, brought lawsuits against Monsanto over glyphosate.

"It's really pretty appalling that they've gone down this road," says Murphy, co-founder of United We Eat, which advocates for regenerative agricultural practices.

Kelly Ryerson, another well-known figure in the MAHA world who goes by the

name Glyphosate Girl on social media, says her optimism about the Trump administration has soured over the past year, as those who worked for the chemical industry were placed in key positions at the Environmental Protection Agency.

"Once things fell into place, all the special interests poured in," she says. "I don't think it's game over yet, but it's been a really frustrating moment."

From the outset, Zeldin has pursued a deregulatory agenda at the EPA with zeal, even inviting companies to email his agency so they can be exempted from air pollution standards.

Under his watch, the agency has moved to roll back drinking water standards for PFAS, also known as "forever chemicals" and weakened protections against air pollutants, such as mercury, arsenic, ethylene oxide and more. It greenlighted pesticides and insecticides, with known health risks; proposed that a safe level of exposure of the human carcinogen, formaldehyde, exists; and elected not to regulate endocrine-disrupting chemicals, known as phthalates, in consumer products.

And it cancelled millions of dollars in research grants on the health effects of chemicals and pollutants.

The broad efforts to undo protections has touched "pretty much everything we eat, breathe, drink and use in our homes," says Betsy Southerland, an environmental scientist with the Environmental Protection Network, a volunteer organization of former

EPA employees.

In a statement to NPR earlier this month, the EPA said it's "committed to transparency and rigorous gold-standard science" and "values open communication with the public and MAHA community" and takes the concerns outlined in the letter "seriously."

In fact, MAHA figures including Ryerson recently met with President Trump and cabinet officials at the White House to discuss their concerns over the administration's stances on pesticides and other issues.

During his appearances on Capitol Hill this month, Secretary Kennedy was grilled about the administration's defense of the pesticide industry and weakening of protections against mercury pollution, another issue that Kennedy had worked on as an advocate.

Kennedy largely sidestepped the questions. At one point during a particularly heated exchange with Rep. Steven Horsford, D-Nev., he responded: "It's not my agency."

"PR stunts" instead of action

For some in the MAHA coalition, it's starting to feel like they're getting lip service instead of real change. Alexandra Muñoz, who has a PhD in toxicology and advocates with many in the MAHA coalition against pesticides, says EPA actions do not "align with MAHA and a regulatory approach that's needed to stop harmful chemical exposures now."

Instead, what Muñoz increasingly sees are "PR stunts" from the Trump administration aimed at appeasing advocates like her, even while officials do little to deliver concrete new protections.

"There is this constant effort to lie to everybody and say that what they're doing is MAHA and say that they care about people's health," she says. "It's laughable."

For example, Muñoz points to the splash made

early this month in what Zeldin called "a landmark set of actions by EPA to safeguard the nation's drinking water."

In a joint announcement with Kennedy, the EPA revealed it was adding microplastics and pharmaceuticals to what's known as the Contaminant Candidate List, which the agency is required to update every five years under the Safe Water Drinking Act. The designation can set the stage for more research and regulatory action — but doesn't actually guarantee that will happen.

Chris Frey, a professor of environmental engineering at North Carolina State University, says in reality there are hundreds of contaminants on that list which have never seen any regulatory action.

"While to the public that probably sounds like, 'oh, EPA is doing something that will protect public health, that's kind of like the waiting room where contaminants go to be ignored,'" says Frey, who worked at the EPA during the Biden administration.

What's more, the EPA has dismantled the key office responsible for independent research on toxic chemicals and lost hundreds of scientists.

"The agency has basically cut itself down at the knees," he says.

Environmental advocacy groups are now locked in legal battles with the Trump administration over many of these actions on toxic chemicals.

The administration doesn't appear inclined to change course, even though this is a political issue with broad appeal, says Sarah Vogel with the Environmental Defense Fund, one of the groups suing EPA over PFAS drinking water standards and more.

"What I see is an administration scrambling to try to give this grassroots base a bone, and I don't think they're buying it because they're actually following these issues," she says.

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Scientists see Trump's firing of the National Science Board as an attack on research

The White House abruptly dismissed the entire board overseeing the National Science Foundation, informing each of its 22 seated members in a terse email on Friday that they had been "terminated, effective immediately." The move follows a Trump administration push for deep cuts in the NSF and raises concerns in the scientific community that a tradition of independent decisions for allocating federal science grants could be jeopardized.

One of the fired board members, Willie May, who is vice president for research and economic development at Morgan State University, says he's "deeply disappointed" but not surprised. "I have watched the systematic dismantling of the scientific advisory infrastructure of this government with growing alarm, and the National Science Board is simply the latest casualty," says May, a chemist and former director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

The reference is to the Trump administration's weakening or marginalizing of

science advisory bodies across government, including the ousting of advisory boards at the Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. got rid of members of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. At the Food and Drug Administration, the Trump administration also moved to eliminate a long-standing policy of having outside experts review new drug applications.

President Trump references a map while talking to reporters about Hurricane Dorian on Sept. 4, 2019. The map appears to have been altered by a black marker to include Alabama. Scientists push back on Trump plan to break up a critical climate and weather center.

The National Science Board was established by Congress in 1950 and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. It's a major funder of basic science, math and engineering research, especially at colleges and universities across

the United States. Members are appointed by the president to staggered, six-year terms, and do not require Senate confirmation. The board — made up primarily of academics and industry leaders — is charged with identifying issues critical to the NSF's future, submitting the NSF's budget and approving its programs and awards.

In a written statement sent to NPR by email, the White House said the firing of the board was in line with a 2021 Supreme Court case, *U.S. v. Arthrex*, that "raised constitutional questions about whether non-Senate confirmed appointees can exercise the authorities that Congress gave the National Science Board."

"We look forward to working with the Hill to update the statute and ensure the NSB can perform its duties as Congress intended. The National Science Foundation's work continues uninterrupted," according to the statement.

Legal scholars contacted by NPR were mostly confused when asked about the White House statement. Duke University law professor Jeff

Powell, a leading expert on the appointments clause of the Constitution, says there is "a puzzling disconnect between firing the Board members and the [White House] statement." He said that if *Arthrex* applies, "eliminating the [NSB] members leaves it unaddressed."

The Trump administration's firing of the NSF board is just the latest move aimed at the agency. In the White House's preliminary budget request for 2026, it sought to cut \$4.7 billion from the NSF budget — more than half of the agency's \$9 billion budget. The administration has also rescinded thousands of already-approved NSF grants.

Concerns over the creation of a partisan science board

Roger Beachy, a professor emeritus of biology

at Washington University, was one of the board members fired on Friday, though his term was set to expire shortly. He is concerned the NSB could become partisan, "[taking] ... orders from the administration rather than being independent" — though he emphasizes that it's too early to know for sure.

Beachy is worried that basic research could take a back seat to short-term goals as defined by the White House. "If we target what we know to be a focus of the administration," he says, then fields that interest the administration, such as nuclear energy and quantum machinery, may be all that gets funded.

Astronomer and physicist Keivan Stassun, who also served on the board until Friday, shares that concern. He told NPR that the National Science Board was created to safe-

guard "far-reaching, long-term investments that may not pay off for a generation."

But when those investments do pay off, he says, society is stronger. The Board's role is to ensure such decisions are made "wisely, soberly, patriotically," and in the national interest, he says.

California Democratic Rep. Zoe Lofgren, the ranking member on the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, which oversees the NSF, calls the administration's move an "attack on science."

She points out important advances and technologies, such as the internet, CRISPR gene-editing technology, and Doppler radar, where NSF funding played an important role. "At one time, [NSF] grants were merit-based," she told NPR. "Now they appear to

have more political influence in addition to a falling off just in terms of the volume."

Texas Republican Rep. Brian Babin, who chairs the House Science Committee, said in an email to NPR: "Every President expects advisors to serve in a manner consistent with executive and legislative priorities. I look forward to seeing whom President Trump selects to fill the NSB and refocus our science agencies on their core mission: pursuing science."

To be sure, there are some scientists who are less alarmed. Gennady Samorodnitsky, a professor of operations research and information engineering at Cornell University, has received NSF funding in the past. "It is the task of the government to figure out what's best for society," he says. "The money comes from the govern-

ment, so ultimately [the government] makes the decisions."

Willie May, however, is concerned about what the cuts to science funding and the chaos at the NSF says to America's rivals abroad.

"At a moment when the United States faces intensifying global competition in science and technology — when other nations are investing aggressively in the research and the STEM workforce that will underpin innovation for the next century — we are systematically undermining the institutions and the people dedicated to keeping our country at the leading edge," he wrote to NPR.

"That is not good for our country; it is not in the interest of American workers, American industry, or the next generation of scientists who are watching what we do at this critical time," he says.

A little boy loses his orange 'Balloon' but gains a new friend in this kids' book

When author Bruce Handy's son Isaac was about four years old, he loved and lost an orange balloon. "He'd been upset," the older Handy remembers, "and he had promised to himself one day if he ever got a

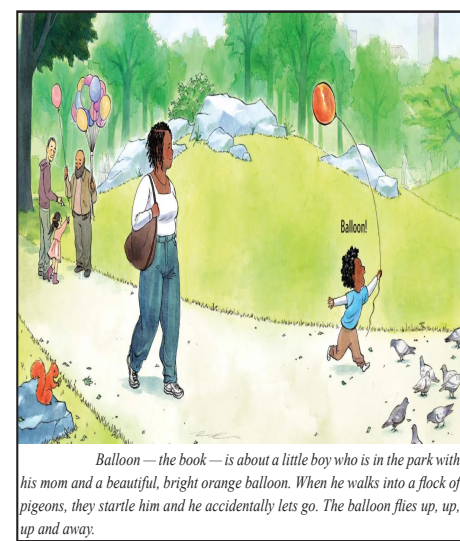
pet, he would name it Balloon, in honor of this balloon that he lost."

Six months later, Isaac and his sister got kittens. "And he did it," says Handy. His sister named her cat S'morze and Isaac named his cat Balloon. Handy was so moved by his son's loyalty to an inanimate object that he decided to write a children's book about it.

Balloon — the book — is about a little boy who is in the park with his mom and a beautiful, bright orange balloon. When he walks into a flock of pigeons, they startle him and he accidentally lets go. The balloon flies up, up, up and away.

Julie Kwon illustrated Balloon — a mostly wordless picture book. "With all respect to Bruce," Kwon laughs, "it's definitely harder when there's no words." Though they clarify that Handy did provide notes. "It was very descriptive," Kwon adds. Handy gave her descriptions of what he was imagining, how the book would look, and how it would all play out. "That was all very helpful," she says.

Kwon illustrated the book with pen and ink. "I really tried to not use orange in anything except the things that were meant to be orange," she



Balloon — the book — is about a little boy who is in the park with his mom and a beautiful, bright orange balloon. When he walks into a flock of pigeons, they startle him and he accidentally lets go. The balloon flies up, up, up and away.

explains. "I tried not to use any, like, orange-adjacent colors too much. There's not a lot of red in this book, for example, because I didn't want that to conflict with the orange." She also had to make sure that she chose the right shade of orange. "It's got to be one of like, the strongest, most pure oranges you can get," Kwon says.

After the little boy loses his balloon, he sees round orange objects everywhere he looks — is that his balloon? No — it's just a lollipop, a frisbee, a basketball. "Julie did a great job inserting orange objects

throughout this book to torture this poor little boy," says Handy. The kid's despair grows until...

He explodes. "There's one page which I think, yeah, in the process we referred to it as the 'crazy page,'" says Handy. "I can't even remember what the note was, probably something like, 'everywhere he looks, he sees orange, orange, it's just like an explosion of orange.'" Handy says it's his favorite spread.

"I really enjoyed drawing that," adds Kwon. "The illustrations, you know, they

take on so much more responsibility in a way. In a classic book... you do have the text to communicate." It made Kwon think — "What can an image communicate at the end of the day, you know, what else can we put in here to make things more interesting for the reader?"

Losing a balloon is, of course, one of the most universal childhood experiences. It's why it's so easy to relate to the little boy in this story, says author Bruce Handy. "You invest these things with meaning or life or something," he says. And illustrator Julie Kwon agrees. "I would get so sentimentally attached to just basically garbage," she remembers about her childhood self. "I'd find like, a rock that I just liked the shape of and I'd want to like, hold the rock with me."

Careful readers will catch a glimpse of the little boy's balloon later in the story. The last orange illustration, though, is of the boy's new friend, who he names Balloon. "Hopefully it is reassuring to kids," says Handy. "I think that there's real emotion there. And I think it's important to honor that emotion."

Odisha bank settles claim after man brings sister's skeleton

A shocking incident from Odisha has drawn national attention after a man brought his deceased sister's skeletal remains to a bank branch to withdraw money from her account. Following public outrage, Odisha Grammeen Bank confirmed that the claim has now been settled.

The bank stated that Rs.19,402 has been released to the legal heirs after the required documents, including the death certificate and legal heir certificate, were submitted.

The incident involved Jitu Munda from Keonjhar district, whose sister Kakra Munda had died two months ago. With no immediate family members surviving, Jitu approached the bank to withdraw the remaining funds from her account. However, he was asked



A shocking incident from Odisha has drawn national attention after a man brought his deceased sister's skeletal remains to a bank branch to withdraw money from her account. Following public outrage, Odisha Grammeen Bank confirmed that the claim has now been settled.

to provide official documents to process the claim.

Unable to understand the formal procedures and reportedly lacking awareness, Jitu returned to the village cremation ground, exhumed his sister's remains, and carried

them to the bank-an act that triggered widespread shock and criticism. In a statement, the bank said reports claiming that officials demanded the physical presence of the deceased were "incorrect." It added that the

man was unwilling to follow the explained procedures and lacked awareness of the process.

Local residents criticised the situation, alleging insensitivity and arguing that authorities could have verified details at the village level instead of insisting solely on paperwork.

Police later intervened, assuring assistance on humanitarian grounds. The remains were subsequently reburied.

The bank reiterated its commitment to transparency and responsible service, while its sponsor, Indian Overseas Bank, clarified that standard documentation such as a death certificate is mandatory for claim settlement.

What to know about the Trump Justice Department's case against the Southern Poverty Law Center

The Southern Poverty Law Center has been indicted on fraud charges for its use of paid informants to monitor and track racist organizations, Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche announced Tuesday.

The indictment was handed down by a federal grand jury in Alabama, where the organization is based. The SPLC faces 11 counts including wire fraud, bank fraud and conspiracy to commit money laundering.

Blanche, speaking alongside FBI Director Kash Patel at a news conference, said the organization paid at least eight people, including those affiliated with violent extremist groups like the Ku Klux Klan and Nazi organizations, at least \$3 million between 2014 and 2023.

"The SPLC was not dismantling the groups," Blanche said. "It was instead manufacturing the extremism it purports to oppose by paying sources to stoke racial hatred."

Patel said that the SPLC "used the money they raised from their donor network to actually pay the leadership of these very groups."

"This is a serious and egregious violation of a group that purported to dismantle violent extremist groups, but in turn, actually only fueled the hatred," Patel said. Earlier on Tuesday, SPLC's interim CEO Bryan Fair revealed the group was under criminal investigation, though at the time he said the details of the investigation were unknown.

Only the organization itself was charged in the indictment, although officials said the investigation is ongoing and individuals could face charges.

Fair accused the administration of "weaponizing" the legal system.

"Today, the federal government has been weaponized

to dismantle the rights of our nation's most vulnerable people, and any organization like ours that stands in the breach," Fair said.

The SPLC, founded in 1971 to fight white supremacist groups, has a wider mandate beyond its hate group tracking, including filing litigation on voting rights and prisoner rights.

The organization has previously criticized the Trump administration and has argued that Cabinet members have used their power to "roll back civil rights, deepen racial injustice, and rig the system against us."

During a December congressional hearing, House Republicans accused the group of "being partisan and profitable." In October, Patel severed FBI ties with the nonprofit, alleging that it "long ago abandoned civil rights work and turned into a partisan smear machine."

The SPLC says it has used informants when tracking and exposing hate groups, including white supremacists. Fair on Tuesday said that the organization "frequently" shared insight from informants with local and federal law enforcement, including the FBI, but that the nonprofit no longer works with paid informants.

"These individuals risked their lives to infiltrate and inform on the activities of our nation's most radical and violent extremist groups," Fair said. "When we began working with informants, we were living in the shadow of the height of the civil rights movement, which had seen bombings at churches, state-sponsored violence against demonstrators and the murders of activists that went unanswered by the justice system."

Fair vowed that the SPLC would "vigorously defend ourselves, our staff and our work."

Notable SPLC civil cases on behalf of clients

The Southern Poverty

Law Center has initiated a number of civil cases seeking injunctive relief and monetary awards on behalf of its clients. The SPLC has said it does not accept any portion of monetary judgments.

Sims v. Amos (1974)

An early SPLC case was *Sims v. Amos* (consolidated with *Nixon v. Brewer*) in which the U.S. District Court for the Middle of Alabama ordered the state legislature to reapportion its election system. The result of the decision, which the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed, was that fifteen black legislators were elected in 1974.

Brown v. Invisible Empire, KKK (1980)

In 1979, the Klan began a summer of attacks against civil rights groups, beginning in Alabama. In Decatur, Alabama, Klan members clashed with a group of civil rights marchers. There were a hundred Klan members carrying "bats, ax handles and guns". A black woman, Bernice Brown, was shot and other marchers were violently attacked. In *Brown v. Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan*, filed in 1980 in the USDC Northern District of Alabama, the SPLC sued the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan on behalf of plaintiffs, Brown and other black marchers. The civil suit was settled in 1990 and "required Klansmen to pay damages, perform community service, and refrain from white supremacist activity," Chalmers wrote in *Backfire*, that the Klan had been in serious decline since the end of the 1970s. He described the "Klan summer of 1979", as a "catastrophe" for the Klan, as the SPLC's newly established Klanwatch, which became a "powerful weapon" that "tracked and litigated" the Klan. According to Chalmers, "[b]eginning with the Decatur street confrontation, the SPLC's Klanwatch began suing various Klans in federal court for civil rights violations", and as a re-

sult, the Klan lost credibility and its resources were depleted. As a result of the SPLC, the FBI reopen their case against the Klan, and "nine Klansmen were eventually convicted of criminal charges" related to the Decatur confrontation of 1979.

Vietnamese fishermen (1981)

In 1981, the SPLC took Ku Klux Klan leader Louis Beam's Klan-associated militia, the Texas Emergency Reserve (TER),[68] to court to stop racial harassment and intimidation of Vietnamese shrimpers in and around Galveston Bay. The Klan's actions against approximately 100 Vietnamese shrimpers in the area included a cross burning, sniper fire aimed at them, and arsonists burning their boats.

In May 1981, U.S. District Court judge Gabrielle Kirk McDonald issued a preliminary injunction against the Klan, requiring them to cease intimidating, threatening, or harassing the Vietnamese. McDonald eventually found the TER and Beam liable for tortious interference, violations of the Sherman Antitrust Act, and of various civil rights statutes and thus permanently enjoined them against violence, threatening behavior, and other harassment of the Vietnamese shrimpers. The SPLC also uncovered an obscure Texas law "that forbade private armies in that state". McDonald found that Beam's organization violated it and hence ordered the TER to close its military training camp.

Person v. Carolina Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (1982)

In 1982, armed members of the Carolina Knights of the Ku Klux Klan terrorized Bobby Person, a black prison guard, and members of his family. They harassed and threatened others, including a white woman who had befriended blacks. In 1984, Person became the lead plaintiff in *Per-*

son v. Carolina Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, a lawsuit brought by the SPLC in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina. The harassment and threats continued during litigation and the court issued an order prohibiting any person from interfering with others inside the courthouse. In January 1985, the court issued a consent order that prohibited the group's "Grand Dragon", Frazier Glenn Miller Jr., and his followers from operating a paramilitary organization, holding parades in black neighborhoods, and from harassing, threatening or harming any black person or white persons who associated with black persons. Subsequently, the court dismissed the plaintiffs' claim for damages.

Within a year, the court found Miller and his followers, now calling themselves the White Patriot Party, in criminal contempt for violating the consent order. Miller was sentenced to six months in prison followed by a three-year probationary period, during which he was banned from associating with members of any racist group such as the White Patriot Party. Miller refused to obey the terms of his probation. He made underground "declarations of war" against Jews and the federal government before being arrested again. Found guilty of weapons violations, he went to federal prison for three years.

United Klans of America

In 1987, Dees and Michael Figures won a case against the United Klans of America for the lynching of Michael Donald, a black teenager in Mobile, Alabama. The SPLC used an unprecedented legal strategy of holding an organization responsible for the crimes of individual members to help produce a \$7 million judgment for the victim's mother. The verdict forced United Klans of America into bankruptcy. Its national headquarters

was sold for approximately \$52,000 to help satisfy the judgment.

In 1987, five members of a Klan offshoot, the White Patriot Party, were indicted for stealing military weaponry and plotting to kill Dees. The SPLC has since successfully used this precedent to force numerous Ku Klux Klan and other hate groups into bankruptcy.

The Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery

White Aryan Resistance

On November 13, 1988, in Portland, Oregon, three white supremacist members of East Side White Pride and White Aryan Resistance (WAR) fatally assaulted Mulgeta Seraw, an Ethiopian man who came to the United States to attend college.[83] In October 1990, the SPLC won a civil case on behalf of Seraw's family against WAR's operator Tom Metzger and his son, John, for a total of \$12.5 million. The Metzgers declared bankruptcy, and WAR went out of business. The cost of work for the trial was absorbed by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) as well as the SPLC. As of August 2007, Metzger still makes payments to Seraw's family.

Church of the Creator

In May 1991, Harold Mansfield, a black U.S. Navy war veteran, was murdered by George Loeb, a member of the neo-Nazi "Church of the Creator" (now called the Creativity Movement). SPLC represented the victim's family in a civil case and won a judgment of \$1 million from the church in March 1994. The church transferred ownership to William Pierce, head of the National Alliance, to avoid paying money to Mansfield's heirs. The SPLC filed suit against Pierce for his role in the fraudulent scheme and won an \$85,000 judgment against him in 1995. The amount was upheld on appeal and the money was collected prior to Pierce's death in 2002.

Christian Knights of

the KKK

The SPLC won a \$37.8 million verdict on behalf of Macedonia Baptist Church, a 100-year-old black church in Manning, South Carolina, against two Ku Klux Klan chapters and five Klansmen (Christian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and Invisible Empire, Inc.) in July 1998. The money was awarded stemming from arson convictions; these Klan units burned down the historic black church in 1995. Morris Dees told the press, "If we put the Christian Knights out of business, what's that worth? We don't look at what we can collect. It's what the jury thinks this egregious conduct is worth that matters, along with the message it sends." According to *The Washington Post* the amount is the "largest-ever civil award for damages in a hate crime case."

Aryan Nations

In September 2000, the SPLC won a \$6.3 million judgment against Aryan Nations via an Idaho jury who awarded punitive and compensatory damages to a woman and her son who were attacked by Aryan Nations guards. The lawsuit stemmed from the July 1998 attack when security guards at Aryan Nations compound near Hayden Lake in northern Idaho, shot at Victoria Keenan and her son. Bullets struck their car several times, causing the car to crash. An Aryan Nations member held the Keenans at gunpoint. As a result of the judgment, Richard Butler turned over the 20-acre (81,000 m²) compound to the Keenans, who sold the property to a philanthropist. He donated the land to North Idaho College, which designated the area as a "peace park".

Ten Commandments monument

In 2002, the SPLC and the American Civil Liberties Union filed suit (Glassroth v. Moore) against Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore for placing a display of the Ten Com-

mandments in the rotunda of the Alabama Judicial Building. Moore, who had final authority over what decorations were to be placed in the Alabama State Judicial Building's Rotunda, had installed a 5,280 pound (2,400 kg) granite block, three feet wide by three feet deep by four feet tall, of the Ten Commandments late at night without the knowledge of any other court justice. After defying several court rulings, Moore was eventually removed from the court and the Supreme Court justices had the monument removed from the building.

Leiva v. Ranch Rescue

In 2003, the SPLC, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and local attorneys filed a civil suit, *Leiva v. Ranch Rescue*, in Jim Hogg County, Texas, against Ranch Rescue, a vigilante paramilitary group and several of its associates, seeking damages for assault and illegal detention of two illegal immigrants caught near the U.S.-Mexico border. In April 2005, SPLC obtained judgments totaling \$1 million against Casey James Nethercott, who was then Ranch Rescue's leader and the owner of an Arizona ranch, Camp Thunderbird, Joe Sutton, who owned the Hebronville ranch on which two illegal immigrants has been caught trespassing on March 18, 2003, and Jack Foote, the founder of Ranch Rescue. Sutton, who had recruited Ranch Rescue to patrol the U.S.-Mexico border region near his Hebronville ranch, settled with an \$100,000 out-of-court settlement. [99] According to the *New York Times*, since neither Nethercott or Foote defended themselves, "judge issued default judgments of \$850,000 against Mr. Nethercott and \$500,000 against Mr. Foote. Neither men had "substantial assets" so Nethercott's 70-acre (280,000 m²) ranch—Camp Thunderbird—which had also served as Ranch Rescue's headquarters—was seized to pay the judgment.

Delores Gray Ford, a new voice for District 21

Delores Gray Ford campaign's wants people to vote on May 5. She wants voters' voices to be heard. Gray Ford is running to represent District 21 as a new voice for the district.



Gray Ford to Gray Ford, she will put people first. As an educa-

tor, parent, activist, and elected State Board Member of the Board of Education, 11th district, she has seen firsthand how policies impact families. She will fight for strong, fully funded public schools; good paying jobs

and economic opportunity; affordable health care and housing; safe and thriving communities; and protection of our rights and freedoms - "This campaign is about YOU. Your voice. Your future. Your community."

Gray Ford is a proven leader and a committed advocate as:

Cleveland based social worker, community health advocate, and President

Voting rights under threat

The U.S. Supreme Court, in a 6-3 decision along partisan lines, ruled that Louisiana's 2024 election map, which created a second majority-Black congressional district, was "an unconstitutional racial gerrymander."

Although the court kept Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act intact, Wednesday's decision all but guts the landmark law that came out of the Civil Rights Movement and protected the collective voting power of racial minorities when political maps are redrawn.

It isn't yet clear how the decision will affect November's midterms. Primaries

of the Carl Stokes Brigade.

Former teacher, literacy developer and collaborative author of several books with over 20 years of experience championing educational equality, community wellness, and social justice.

Influenced by Paula Freire's liberation philosophy, Ford Gray leads policy advocacy, drafts pub-

are well underway in most states.

Once considered the jewel in the crown of the civil rights movement, the Voting Rights Act has been largely dismantled since 2013 by the increasingly conservative Supreme Court. The major exception was a decision just two years ago that upheld the section of the law aimed at ensuring that minority voters are not shut out of the process of drawing new congressional district lines.

At issue in the case was the redistricting map drawn by the Louisiana legislature after the decennial Census. Following years of litigation, the state, with a 30% Black population, first fought and then finally agreed to draw a second majority-Black district. Two of the state's six House members are African American.

Normally, that would have been the end of the case, but a self-described group of "non-African-American voters" intervened after the new maps were drawn up to object to the legislature's redistricting.

The Trump administration supported them, contending that the Black voters should not have gotten a second majority-minority district.

On Friday, the court agreed.

"Correctly understood, Section 2 does not impose liability at odds with the Constitution, and it should not have imposed liability on Louisiana for its 2022 map," Justice Samuel Alito wrote in the majority opinion. "Compliance with Section 2 thus could not justify the State's use of race-based redistricting here."

In her dissent, Justice Elena Kagan wrote that she dissented "because the Court betrays its duty to faithfully implement the great statute Congress wrote. I dissent because the Court's decision will set back the foundational right Congress granted of racial equality in electoral opportunity."

lictestimony, and mobilizes communities for meaningful reform.

Founder of BrickHouse Wellness Women Empowerment Group, Social Justice Chair for the National Council of Negro Women, and an executive board member of the Black Women's PAC.

She is a

dedicated mother and grandmother of two CMSD scholars. She received a lifetime of achievement award from President Biden for her work in literacy and countless

Community Service awards for her work in the Cleveland area.

For more information, visit votefordelores-grayford@gmail.com.

Organ or Piano Player needed for church For details, please contact Edward Myers (216) 618-2945



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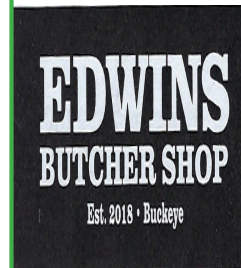
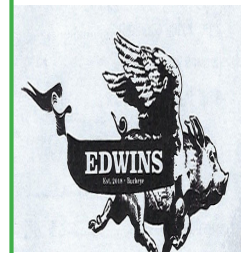
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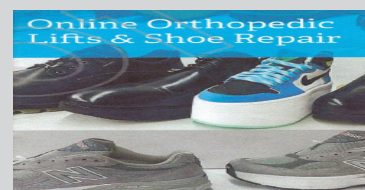


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