

Wright State University

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The Guardian Student Newspaper

Student Activities

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5-2023

## The Guardian the Month of May 2023

Wright State Student Body

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**MAY**

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## Fact Sheet: Mental Health Awareness Month

Alexis Lewis  
May 1, 2023  
News

Since 1949, Mental Health America has recognized May as Mental Health Month to spread awareness of the importance of visibility and education. Here is a quick fact sheet about mental health.

### Facts

Each year, one in five adults in the United States experience mental illness.

According to the 2020 national survey on drug use and health from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the population that experiences mental illness mostly ranges from 18-year-olds to 25-year-olds.

There are many types of mental disorders.

The World Health Organization defines a mental disorder as a disturbance in cognition, emotional, regulation or behavior. WHO recognizes anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, schizophrenia, dissociative disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and multiple others as mental disorders.

Nearly 7% of adults in the United States experience mental illness concurrently with substance use disorders.

According to the SAMHSA 2020 national survey, 6.7% or 17 million people experienced any form of mental disorder at the same time as experiencing a substance use disorder, with 5.7 million people experiencing a serious mental disorder concurrently with substance use disorders.

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Suicide is the second leading cause of death among people between 10 and 14 years of age.

Suicide is a major public health concern and is rising in some populations, according to the National Institute of Mental Health. In a leading causes of death [report](#), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that suicide claimed 45,900 lives in 2020.

People with depression have a higher risk of developing cardiovascular diseases.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness [reports](#) that people with depression have a 40% higher risk of developing diseases of the heart and metabolism. Serious mental illnesses increase this chance of developing later conditions.

## Resources

For those struggling with mental illness, Wright State University Counseling and Wellness offers multiple therapeutic services. For more information, visit the [CWS website](#).

The Raider Cares hotline is a 24-hour crisis phone service at 937-775-4567. CWS also offers self help resources through [TAO Connect](#) and an anonymous, peer-to-peer mental health community through [Togetherall](#).

Dayton Children's Hospital offers a [directory](#) for mental health providers that readers can also use to find the nearest and most accessible location for treatment.

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## Cost-Effective Summer & Getting Outside in Dayton

Eamon Baird  
May 2, 2023  
Wright Life

With the weather warming up and the summer months approaching, here is a list of outdoor events for Wright State University students.

## Dayton Metroparks

According to the Dayton Metroparks [website](#), there are 18 different parks in the Dayton metro area. Anyone interested can participate in the Five Rivers Metroparks Trail Challenge, which features 28 different hiking trails.

Riverscape Metropark is located on Monument Avenue just north of downtown next to Day-Air Ballpark and features many different events throughout the summer.

The park has a large pavilion that hosts concerts throughout the summer. In addition, the park hosts free workout classes, such as Zumba, on May 13 and yoga on May 20.

## Disc Golf

Created in the 1970s, disc golf is a popular outdoor recreational activity that combines elements of frisbee and golf. Dayton hosted the Professional Disc Golf World Championship in 1991.

Readers can watch 1990s footage of the event [here](#).

There are 59 disc golf courses within 25 miles of Dayton, according to the Dayton Disc Golf [website](#). The Dayton Metroparks maintain many of the courses.

## Oregon District

Dayton's Historical Oregon District closes its streets on the weekends to make them more accessible to pedestrians in the spring and summer months. Restaurants provide outdoor seating and retail shops sell items outside.

The Oregon District also provides patrons with a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA), allowing them to drink alcoholic beverages in the designated parameters of the area.

## Festivals

According to the Downtown Dayton website, Dayton is home to many of the region's best cultural and music festivals, fun celebrations and other large-scale events that draw crowds from all over and showcase all that the city has to offer.

Here are just a few of the biggest festivals for the summer of 2023.

Dayton Pride and Parade Festival is on June 2-4. This event celebrating the LGBTQ+ community kicks off at the Courthouse Square.

Dayton Celtic Festival is on July 28-30 at Riverscape Metropark. Celebrating Celtic and Irish Heritage, the Celtic Fest is one of the largest festivals in Dayton. This three-day event features live music, food and beer trucks and a variety of vendors.

Germanfest Picnic is Aug. 11 through 13 at the historical St. Anne's Hill Neighborhood. This festival features a large selection of authentic German food and drinks while celebrating German heritage.

A full list of festivals and events in the Dayton area can be found [here](#).

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## Movie Review: Scream VI—Ghostface In New York

Zachariah Smith  
May 3, 2023  
Movie Reviews  
Pop Culture

Scream VI, released in theaters March 15, 2023, is the sixth film of the Scream franchise, dating from 1996 to the present. Directed by Tyler Gillett and Matt Bettinelli-Oplin and starring Jenna Ortega, this movie leads the killer “Ghostface” to New York City where the killings begin.

### Movie synopsis

Sam (Melissa Barrera) and Tara (Jenna Ortega) are two sisters returning from the previous film who have now settled in New York.

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One year after the Woodsboro killings, with the Ghostface killer believed to be dead, the movie begins with a university professor lured into an alleyway on a busy New York night.

The movie does an enticing job setting the scene on a busy street in nighttime New York, leading the viewer to believe “How could a murder possibly happen here?”

The killer, who has catfished the professor, calls the professor, asking her to leave the bar and meet him on the street to find the bar in a charming manner. Then, while playfully flirting, the killer further leads the professor into a side alley, away from the safe, busy street.

When deep in the alley and still on the phone, the voice on the phone drops into a dark, psychopathic tone before the killer ambushes and stabs the professor. After the stabbing, the killer removes the mask to reveal the killer to be one of the professor’s students.

Upon returning to his apartment, the killer student is on the phone with “Jason,” talking about how “amazing” it felt to stab the professor to death; however, it is not long before he comes to realize it is not Jason he is speaking to.

After the voice on the phone instructs the killer to open the refrigerator, the killer student finds the remains of Jason inside it. Subsequently, the camera flicks to show the real Ghostface standing behind the professors’ murderer, violently stabbing him through the back.

After police discover the double homicide within the apartment, Detective Wayne Bailey calls Sam in for questioning after finding her ID at the scene, along with the Ghostface mask from the Woodsboro killings.

From here out, Sam and Tara understand the killer has returned to hunt them and begin to escape attacks from the killer while simultaneously attempting to bring the killer to the light. And with all Scream movies, the story always has a twist.

## **What will come next for Ghostface?**

Scream VI certainly turns up the violence compared to previous movies, showing graphic stabbings, a lot of blood and the killer even using a shotgun at one point (which is very unusual for a Scream film).

However, the cinematography did not disappoint, with many unique shots across New York, including a scene on the metro where the killer hides amongst many similar Ghostface halloween costumes, stalking Sam, Tara and friends.

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Furthermore, the story is left open for a seventh film, leaving anticipation. Will Ghostface return? Previous movies have ranged from quiet suburbs to major metropolises; could Ghostface return overseas?

Despite the sequel rebooting itself in a “seen-it-all-before” genre, the franchise manages to stay entertaining with fresh, innovative horror sequences while sticking to the predictable order of events of the previous movies.

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## Dayton's Not Dead: Blossom Juicy Bar

Tobi Brun  
May 4, 2023  
Dayton's Not Dead

Blossom Juicy Bar is a blooming Dayton business that first opened in 2018. From their first location in Kettering, Blossom has expanded quickly, opening their fourth location in Feb. 2022 located in the Fairfield mall just minutes away from Wright State University.

### Who are they?

Blossom Juicy Bar's original location is at 2801 S Dixie Dr. Dayton, OH 45409. The Fairfield Mall location is located in the food court near Bath & Body Works and Auntie Anne's.

A local couple who graduated from the University of Dayton, Victor and Chen Wang, founded the business.

### History

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“The traditional boba first originated out of Taiwan,” Victor Wang said. “Traditional boba is made out of Tapioca flour, but people have thought of many different ideas and came up with popping boba, black boba, flavored boba and more.”

Wang suggested Tiger Tea with popping boba for a first-time customer to try.

According to Wang, what sets Blossom Juicy Bar apart from other boba shops is its secret ingredient: flower essence.

“We don’t want to be known as just a boba tea shop,” he said. “We want to be a company that promotes balance in everything we do. The first part of that is the flower essence.”

Chen Wang practices Sahaja yoga, which emphasizes the importance of a balanced lifestyle and gave her the idea to include flower essence.

The flower essence is derived from different flowers to release the helpful properties they contain. An example is [Lavender](#), which has been shown to increase relaxation and promote healthy sleep.

## Their Mission

The Wangs stated that their business practices are based around the promotion of a healthy lifestyle and hope that their customers recognize the care and consideration that they put into their products.

Victor Wang believes the growing popularity of Boba and milk tea among the college-age generation is due to the mental association between the calming properties of tea and the need to slow down and enjoy their drinks, which is something he wants to translate through Blossom.

“The ancient ceremony of enjoying tea in Chinese culture is not instant, it takes time. The purpose of the tea ceremony is not to drink tea. The purpose of drinking tea is to conduct conversations,” he said.

## Community

The local manager for the Blossom Juicy Bar branch in the Fairfield Mall is a WSU student and PR chair for the Chinese club, Christina Hawes.

“We are going to leave a lasting community impact,” Hawes said. “Blossom is a growing business, but we can make a difference. We are even reaching out to the WSU Art Department to put up student art to decorate our shop.”



## Top 10 Guardian Stories from Spring 2023

Alexis Lewis  
May 5, 2023  
Wright Life

Here are the most viewed and popular stories from the Wright State Guardian from the spring 2023 semester.

### **10. Faculty Spotlight: New Nursing Chair by Emily Mancuso**

Taking over from interim nursing chair Dr. Ann Bowling, new nursing chair Dr. Melissa Wilson will apply extensive knowledge and goal-setting to Wright State University's most popular program.

### **9. 10 Most Endangered Animals of 2023 by Zachariah Smith**

Many animal species are facing endangerment and extinction due to human activity, deforestation and other causes. Here is a list of 10 of the most endangered animals this year.

### **8. Dining on Campus: Hours and Opinions by Elayna Storts**

Students and staff provide opinions about Wright State University's dining hall services, including coffee, food and other treat spots.

## **7. SGA Welcomes New Vice President, Has Continuing Plans for Spring Semester by Alexis Lewis**

Wright State's student governing body welcomes former senator to vice presidency and plans to improve student academic, professional and extracurricular experience across campus.

## **6. Wright State Homecoming Week of 2023 by Zachariah Smith**

Wright State University event planning and spirit organization hosts interactive, fun events throughout the week as part of the homecoming festivities of 2023.

## **5. Ohio TikTok Ban by Elayna Storts**

On Jan. 8, 2023, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed an executive order to ban certain foreign-owned apps, including TikTok, on state-owned devices in Ohio.

## **4. New Major Posed After Faculty Reductions by Kit Rheyne**

Religion, philosophy and classics department struggles through lower enrollment and declining faculty resources; the school continues to attempt to find solutions.

## **3. Senate Bill 83: Possible Impact on WSU by Eamon Baird**

State Senator Jerry C. Cirino's introduction of Senate Bill 83 presents a possibility of sweeping changes in university educational curriculum throughout the state of Ohio.

## **2. Ohio Senate Proposes Medicinal Marijuana Bill by Eamon Baird**

On Jan. 11, 2023, state senators Stephen Huffman and Kirk Schuring introduced Senate Bill 9, seeking a division of control within the Department of Commerce and a medical marijuana oversight commission.

## **1. Late Meetings, Forced Activity, Violent Hazing: What Led to a Fraternity's Suspension by Jamie Naylor**

In the brisk October of 2021, young Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc recruits were looking for brotherhood but soon found a chapter culture of violence and hazing. Fearing the consequences of speaking, the incidents that would lead to the chapter being suspended in August 2022, were not reported until January 2022, sparking a months-long investigation into the organization.

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## Poems to Read During the Summer

Alexis Lewis  
May 8, 2023  
Pop Culture

Cool down and refresh your mind, body and spirit with these poems about summer.

### **“From the Sustaining Air” by Larry Eigner**

For a poem that feels like a fresh breath of air, read this poem about clarity, the “billows of August” and the brilliance of summer. This poem feels like listening to your favorite summer songs with a cold lemonade in the sun. The end provides a twist that you might not expect.

Allow this poem to take you on a summer adventure.

### **“First Blues” by Sandra Rose Maley**

This poem will remind you of youth and what it feels like to come alive in the midst of a simple summer. The perfect setting of a summer night mingled with blues music provides a subtle and serene poem to enjoy on a perfectly warm evening.

### **“Fireflies” by Frank Ormsby**

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In this poem, author Frank Ormsby investigates the life and nature of a firefly through both despondent and hopeful diction. Loneliness and deprivation are met with memory and light in this poem of animals and the natural world.

### **“Late Summer” by Jennifer Grotz**

Moths covering a street lamp while taking in the hazy, long days of the summer on a small town street. Sunglasses, bees, daylight, twigs, pigeons. For a poem that can remind you of childhood and growing up in a small town, read this nostalgic poem.

### **“Long Island Sound” by Emma Lazarus**

In Emma Lazarus’s “Long Island Sound,” readers journey through an imaginative, warm August day with a breeze billowing in and the lush rolling of the sea and the grass. To enter into a dreamlike narrative, check out this poem.

### **“Back Yard” by Carl Sandburg**

The summer moon shines brightly through this poem full of togetherness, love, song and nature. Author Carl Sandburg paints a picture of a serene night full of “back porch drinking” in the everlasting, ever-present summer.

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## **Three Places to go Summer Hiking in Ohio**

Jamie Naylor  
May 10, 2023  
Wright Life

Ohio is home to beautiful parks, hiking trails and nature scenes that are accessible in all seasons. Here are some great places to enjoy this beauty during the summer months.

## Local Dayton area

### Twin Valley Trail

This trail system is located in southwest Ohio, not far from the downtown Dayton area. It is accessible from a few different parks including Germantown Main Park.

The trail loops to connect with other systems and spans 49 miles according to [Five Rivers MetroParks](#). Hikers of all levels can participate in short two-mile hikes or longer, more advanced hikes.

The park is open all year and is suitable for backpackers. It also features small campsites hikers can reserve to stay the night on the trail.

## Statewide

### Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Those looking for a moderate winter hiking adventure can check out the trails in Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

This park, located in Peninsula Ohio, offers trails for all levels of hikers. Those looking for an easier path can go on trails like Ledges Trail and Pine Grove Trail. Those looking for a slightly more difficult adventure can check out the Wetmore Bridle trail, all located in the Park.

The park is open 24/7 all year round, excluding national holidays, and holds no entrance fee.

Those interested in learning more about the park can do so [here](#).

### Mohican State Park

Those looking for a more challenging course can try the Hemlock Gorge Loop in [Mohican State Park](#).

Hikers have highly reviewed this 11.9-mile hike through the northern Ohio Forrest. The trail is geared towards moderately to highly experienced hikers, especially during the winter months.

Mohican State Park is open year-round and has accommodations for campers and those wishing to stay overnight in the park.

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## Dayton's Not Dead: Now and Zen DIY Studio

Kaylee Raines  
May 12, 2023  
Dayton's Not Dead

Mother-daughter duo Paula Willis and Alleah Cooks turned their passion for nature and creativity into Now and Zen Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Studio. Their products and services promote creativity within the Dayton community.

### How they started

Willis and Cooks always shared a bond for plants and nature. Eventually, they began to make their own terrariums as a creative outlet. However, this quickly turned into a business idea as people began to inquire about buying their creations.

Their business journey began at Dayton's 2nd Street Market. Business thrived and customers began to express an interest in learning how to construct their own terrariums.

Willis and Cooks used this opportunity to expand their business and began hosting workshops at various rental facilities. Over time, they decided to open a brick-and-mortar location. This enabled them to host regular groups of people looking to create terrariums and other craft projects.

"My favorite part is watching people create their own designs and encouraging them to experiment and work with nature. At the end, it's nice to see how proud they are of their designs," Cooks said.

This transition was so successful that they are currently in the process of moving to a larger studio in order to accommodate more customers.

### Moving to a bigger location

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Until approximately the first week of December, in-person events and shopping are temporarily closed. They are currently moving from their location on St.Clair Street to a larger location at 121 East Third Street. However, customers can still shop online for DIY kits on their [Etsy](#) and on their [website](#).

These DIY terrarium kits are available for immediate delivery or customers can schedule their delivery closer to Christmas. This is to assist customers who may not want to deal with the plant's maintenance until the holiday.



Now and Zen DIY Studio | Photo by Christian Peters | The Wright State Guardian

Willis and Cooks are eager to settle into their new location so that they can assist more people in finding their artistic side. Hosting these events allows them to connect with the community and directly impact the lives of their customers.

“People come here to have fun and be creative. They thank us and say that we have enhanced their day and enhanced their world. It’s gratifying! For my daughter and I, it really doesn’t feel like work,” Willis said.

*Wright State University (WSU) students are encouraged to check out Now and Zen DIY Studio's [website](#) and [Etsy](#) until their new location opens in December. Once confirmed, they will announce the official grand re-opening date on their website and social media platforms.*

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# Most Anticipated Book Releases for Summer 2023

Alexis Lewis  
May 15, 2023  
Pop Culture

Looking for a captivating book to enjoy during the dog days of summer? Sit back, relax, get a refreshing drink and enjoy these anticipated book releases in July and August.

## **“Hello Stranger” by Katherine Center | July 11**

As a struggling artist, Sadie Montgomery seizes the opportunity to showcase her work as a finalist in a portrait competition, which is set to take place the same day as an important surgery she needs. After the surgery, she is no longer able to see faces.

After her companion and dog, Peanut, gets sick, she takes him to a veterinarian, Dr. Addison. In juggling her affection for Dr. Addison and having to deal with her obnoxious neighbor, Joe, Sadie navigates her haunting past and new future to hopefully find happiness.

## **“Light Bringer” by Pierce Brown | July 25**

As part of the Red Rising Saga, “Light Bringer” continues the thrilling series with The Reaper, a legend, myth, savior and leader; but, there is a twist.

“But the Reaper is also Darrow, born of the red soil of Mars: a husband, a father, a friend. The worlds once needed the Reaper. But now they need Darrow. Because after the dark age will come a new age: of light, of victory, of hope,” the official synopsis reads.

## **“One of Us is Back” by Karen M. McManus | July 25**

McManus is the New York Times bestselling author of “One of Us Is Lying” and “One of Us Is Next.”



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For a book all about secrets, hidden meaning and vengeance, read this story about the Bayview Crew, who has to navigate the death of Simon and negotiate with the game that makes crew members mysteriously disappear.

“Simon was right about secrets—they all come out in the end,” the official synopsis reads.

## **“Family Lore” by Elizabeth Acevedo | August 1**

Flor can predict the exact day that people will die, so she decides to host a living wake.

“Has Flor foreseen her own death, or someone else’s? Does she have other motives?” the official synopsis reads.

For those looking for a book of sisterly secrets, tumultuous cousins, weaving of past and present and family history, “Family Lore” is the perfect book. Read to find out what happens to Matilde, Pastora, Camila, Ona and Yadi: will their bonds become stronger or will the family break down?

## **“Tom Lake” by Ann Patchett | August 1**

Best-selling author of “Commonwealth” and “The Dutch House,” author Ann Patchett returns with this heartfelt story about love, family and growth. Set in 2020, three women return to their home orchard in Michigan for COVID-19 isolation. During this isolation, the daughters ask their mother to tell stories about her youth.

Through these stories, the daughters begin to question their own choices and analyze their own place in the world.

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## Lizzo Brings the Special Tour to Cleveland with a Showstopping Experience

Monica Brutto  
May 17, 2023

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Pop Culture

Lizzo took the stage in Cleveland at the Rocket Mortgage fieldhouse on Friday, May 12. The 'Special' tour certainly has been an extraordinary event spanning North America, Europe, Oceania and Asia.

## The openers

Lizzo had two openers, DJ Sophia Eris and Latto, for her show in Cleveland. DJ Sophia shared with the crowd that she has been a long-time supporter of Lizzo and has played with Lizzo for over 10 years.

Unlike other concerts, Lizzo did not put the openers on the tickets, and she has included other artists on the Special tour in different cities, so the openers were a surprise to some. DJ Sophia played everything from 1980s music to Beyonce to even a personal rap song.

Lizzo's other opener, Latto, had a DJ with her on stage as well. The two played some of Latto's hits, including the song "My Body," in which the native Ohioan displayed signs saying "My body, my choice."

Overall, the openers were good performers and effectively got the crowd excited.

## Energy

The most important thing for a successful concert is the energy of the stadium.

Lizzo's engagement and stage presence left no room for anything but energy. The Atlantic Records singer did everything promised in a Lizzo concert: amazing singing, flute playing, talking to the crowd and exceptional dancing.

While Lizzo did not play many mash-ups of her songs like some artists do, she did play snippets or parts of songs. Some fans seemed disappointed in this, as Lizzo did not perform some fan favorites, including "Jerome" and "Tempo," all the way through; however, she did play the majority of her popular songs, including "Truth Hurts," "Juice," "Cuz I Love You" and "About Damn Time."

During some set changes and outfit changes, there were a few lulls in music, but Lizzo did videos for some of the transition periods. In true Lizzo fashion, these videos were inspiring and amusing.

## Message

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Lizzo is no stranger to having meaningful messages in her music and being very outspoken about body positivity and spreading kindness. Her concert was simply an extension of that.

Throughout the night, Lizzo took the time to remind her fans to be kind to themselves and others. As Lizzo is also a big supporter of the LGBTQIA+ community, she featured a pride flag during her song “Everybody is Gay” to emphasize that everyone is loved and accepted at her shows.

She also featured videos during transitions that were mental health checks, including a meditation exercise. While this may seem out of place, it makes perfect sense because Lizzo is open and honest about her mental health.

## Overall experience

Many people attending the concert were worried about parking and crowds because there was also a Cleveland Guardians game occurring at the same time as the concert. However, the crowds were not too bad, considering the stadium was filled. Parking was attainable in specific areas.

Many fans were respectful of each other. One could often overhear fans giving compliments about outfits and makeup. Fans were dressed to the nines, making the experience way more fun.

Lizzo played exceptionally well despite having to cancel a show the previous week due to illness, which she announced in a heartfelt video on Instagram. Her engagement with the crowd made the show feel special, which she did on purpose. Despite having some sound issues with the openers, attendees could easily hear Lizzo. Everything from her flute playing to her angelic vocals were crystal clear.

Overall, Lizzo puts on a fantastic show for anyone looking for a night full of positivity and dancing.

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## Dayton's Not Dead: Smales Pretzel Bakery

Kaylee Raines  
May 19, 2023  
Dayton's Not Dead

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Smales Pretzel Bakery is a local business serving freshly baked pretzels to the Dayton community. Visiting Smales invokes a sense of nostalgia through its rich history, classic pretzels and friendly atmosphere.

### A family tradition

Founded in 1906 as Gem City Pretzel by German immigrant Rudie Schaaf, Smales is a family-owned business. According to the Smales Pretzel Bakery's website, the business was renamed to its current namesake in 1926.

Having also relocated to their current location at 210 Xenia Avenue in 1926, Smales continues to build on the foundation of previous owners. From brick and mortar locations to stalls at the local Dayton Arcade, Smales has evolved over time. Currently, a pretzel truck is in the works as well to bring fresh pretzels to local weddings, businesses and events.

"There is a lot of tradition here. Many of the customers that come here have fond memories of this place. They came here as children and still enjoy coming in," General Manager Mary Ditner said.



Smales Pretzel Bakery | Photo by Diana Jaber | The Wright State Guardian

### Employees weigh in

Pretzel maker Joe Swann is approaching his one-year mark of employment at Smales. His friend knows the owner, Emma, and he applied after hearing about the rich tradition and history of this business.

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“My favorite part of working here is the atmosphere. It is relaxed. We come in and twist the pretzels, bake, do our job and connect with other coworkers,” Swann said.

Cleveland native Micki Hayes is also a pretzel maker at Smales and enjoys getting to connect with other local businesses in the Dayton area.

“I love learning how interconnected all of Dayton businesses are. I am not originally from Dayton, so it has been truly a special experience to be a part of,” Hayes said.

Similar to Swann, Hayes also credits her connections with coworkers as one of the most valuable aspects of her job.

“The people, the sense of community, it has truly been so amazing. We had a customer come in the other day and said that he was in the service in the '70s and had been in Russia and that all they could do was drink and eat pretzels so his family would send him pretzels every two weeks. Stories like that are super neat to hear,” Hayes said.

Smales is open Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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## Dayton's Not Dead: Pizza Bandit

Alexis Lewis  
May 22, 2023  
[Dayton's Not Dead](#)

From New-York style pizza to crazy combos, students can steal a slice of the “Big Apple” while exploring downtown Dayton with the pizza stand Pizza Bandit.

### “I am the Pizza Bandit” – how it started

The name “Pizza Bandit” came from the indicative notion that pizza is, well, easily stolen.

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“Have you ever taken a slice of pizza out of your roommate’s fridge? You know, have you ever had more slices at a party than you were supposed to? You know, kind of like, like our slogan is kind of like ‘I am the Pizza Bandit,’” co-owner Brian Johnson said.

Opened in Sept. 2019, Pizza Bandit was supposed to be an additional food option for people attending the live shows and activities at the Yellow Cab Tavern located at 700 East Fourth St.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Pizza Bandit could no longer serve at in-person shows.

“But one thing that was needed and kind of necessary was food, and pizza was one of the items, kind of this easy family service, family style, original family style, kind of offering that people were really, really taken to at the beginning of the pandemic,” Johnson said.

According to Johnson, collaboration with chef partner James Burton allowed Pizza Bandit to entertain creative pursuits, including mac n’ cheese and spicy pizzas, among the other specialty options. Johnson estimated that Pizza Bandit has served 200 specialty offerings in its history.

“But, most of the menu items are derived from all sorts of creative inspirations, sitting around talking about pizza, inspiration from the internet,” Johnson said.

## **Enduring challenges**

Pizza Bandit currently operates in a food truck connected with the Yellow Cab Tavern. Johnson highlighted the struggles of functioning in these conditions.

“Mobile food operation can be very challenging,” Johnson said. “You don’t know if it’s going to rain, you don’t know if people are gonna come out. A food truck only has so much capacity.”

The owners hope to build a kitchen in the tavern by the end of 2022. In the meantime, Pizza Bandit focuses on collaboration with other small businesses as the core of its practice.

Johnson emphasized the meaning of community involvement and engagement.

“Community is key. You know, supporting local businesses and supporting each other individually. That’s how it gets going, small communities is how you actually affect change in this world,” Johnson said. “To actually be kind of witnessing and living here as this project develops is incredible.”

## **Location and store hours**

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Pizza Bandit is located at 700 East Fourth St. and is open Tuesday through Thursday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Customers can also order on kiosks located at The Black Box Improv Theater, The Barrel House, Connect ESports and Two Social. There are no minimums and no delivery fees at these kiosks.

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## Letter From the Editors: Student Journalists Are Real Journalists Too

From the Editors  
May 24, 2023  
Op-Eds

The Guardian Newsroom on Wright State's campus has felt different since the March 12 announcement that all university-related events would move online. Unfortunately, that included us.

We packed our things from our office, not knowing it would be six months before we would be allowed back on campus again. Despite all the uncertainty, we refused to back down from our responsibilities to keep the community informed, more important now than ever.





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Student Press Freedom Day | Photo by Soham Parikh | The Wright State Guardian

Working as a student journalist is a challenging yet rewarding position held by those with a burning desire to investigate and report on many topics happening simultaneously in the evolving world around us.

As members of the media and as students in our vocation, we overcome obstacles in our professional and collegiate lives that shape us into the writers, editors and reporters that our passion for truth beckons us to be.

At times, it seems as though our titles as “student” journalists render us unable to gain the respect of others, leaving countless hours of preparation, investigation and reporting elementary in the eyes of many.

Student Press Freedom Day, hosted by the Student Press Law Center (SPLC), is a day to acknowledge student journalists and the critical work they do.

**Student** journalists everywhere often experience unfair censorship of their work and are not treated with the same respect as professional journalists.

**Student** journalists are expected to work and act like professional news publications but are often not treated like “real” journalists.

**Student** journalists are written off as just participants in a club, but it is much more than that.

**Student** journalists work hard to report news events on campus, both big and small. Like any other news publication, student newspapers are responsible for providing their audience with unbiased and factual information.





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Student Press Freedom Day | Photo by Soham Parikh | The Wright State Guardian

Universities often treat the student newspaper as their personal public relations department. The truth? Student journalists do not work for their universities—they work for their audience.

By recognizing the importance of Student Press Freedom Day, student journalists can earn the respect they deserve and continue reporting on what matters.

The word “student” in front of any word should not make it less worthy of respect, but all the more deserving.

When student journalists cover emotionally taxing or research-heavy stories, they are still expected to stay on top of their college workload. Balancing stories each week along with a college education, personal relationships and other jobs, part-time or not, is difficult.

Each week, student journalists are assigned articles they pitched the week earlier. They must contact their sources, set up interviews, sift through the interviews and then compose articles. Editors have reporters and contributing writers that depend on them to answer questions and assist them when they need help. Students must also carry a minimum of 12 credit hours each semester to be considered full-time students.

A story we published in 2020 covered the recovery of a man’s body in a local lake near Wright State’s Lake Campus in Celina, Ohio. While the article did exceptionally well in outreach, it took a tremendous toll on the reporter who interviewed the grieving family members. If that is not considered “real” reporting, then what is?

Student journalists balance their lives and emotions against what they report. They have to remain unbiased and focused, even if the topics are emotionally charged. Student journalists show more restraint than many politicians these days, yet they are still not taken seriously. This needs to change.

Despite all these struggles, we persevere. We have not only survived but grown from the ashes created by the fires that tried to put us out.

Even without a journalism program, we won three awards from SPJ’s Best of College Journalism: first for Best College Newspaper Daily and second place for both News and Features Writing.

We provided intensive election night coverage for the presidential election from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. We produced more than 20 podcast episodes recorded remotely. We conducted high-profile interviews with the president of WSU and the mayor of Dayton.

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All of this during a global pandemic, civil unrest and a heated political environment, but those things don't scare journalists. In fact, our newspaper has covered these issues and faced them head-on —because that is what journalists do.

We step into the fire and give all that we have to report on what is essential. If we, as student journalists, gave up on a story every time we faced backlash, struggled to uncover information and had to step outside of our comfort zones, then there would be no articles published.

A student journalist's work is not easy, but it is some of the most rewarding work that we will do.



Student Press Freedom Day | Photo by Soham Parikh | The Wright State Guardian

As we strive to grow as journalists by seeking the truth and working feverishly to inform and educate the communities in which we serve, we ask those who have laid the foundation in which we follow to view our work in a professional light. They can do this by assisting us in our fight against those who diligently seek to demean the fruits of our labor, rather than fuel the fire of those who work to suppress us.

We ask that our hard work and dedication to the craft we so passionately study be recognized rather than downplayed. In doing so, we ensure that future generations of journalists, writers and editors will have a stronger foundation to stand upon, and the communities that they inhabit will be informed by individuals driven by passion in their search for the truth.

# The Takeover of Sports Betting in Ohio

Noah Kindig  
May 26, 2023  
Sports

Sports betting has only been legal in Ohio for just over two months, but it has already taken over the state's professional and college-level scene.

Ohio became the thirty sixth state to legalize sports betting on Jan. 1 of this year, opening up a market that has already stirred massive controversy.

From legalization to implementation of sports betting in Ohio, sports betting has been plagued by illegal advertising, harassment and gambling problems.

## How did it explode?

Despite just starting, Ohio's quick start to sports gambling has made the state one of the most profitable in the United States. PlayOhio projected that people could place up to \$8 billion in bets in 2023, making Ohio the fourth largest in the nation in monetary bets.

Before Jan. 1, companies were already sending advertisements to Ohioans to sign up early. This is because, while sports betting started on Jan. 1, the state governor signed the bill legalizing sports betting over a year earlier.

Ohio Governor Mike Dewine signed sports betting into law in December 2021, but the eventual start date of the industry was set to Jan. 1, 2023. This gave betting companies and the Ohio government one year to set up.

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The Ohio Casino Control Commission is the regulatory group charged with controlling gambling companies. After the state governor passed the bill, the State Controlling Board raised the OCCC's funding by \$2.6 million to keep betting companies in line.

"We had just over a year to build the regulatory framework and license everyone that wanted to be involved. It was a really big lift for our agency," Jessica Franks, communications director for the OCCC, said. "This was probably the largest expansion we've had to deal with."

Because of a universal start date and a year to prepare, instead of a trickle effect of betting companies starting in Ohio, 16 mobile operators and 13 in-person operators all launched simultaneously, causing a flood of companies to enter the space.

"Everybody had to be able to start on the first day," Franks said. "[The bill] gave the commission's executive director the ability to set the start date. It just had to be universal, and it could be no later than January 1."

## **Off-the-court factors**

Sports betting has stirred controversy at the local level, especially in Dayton. Fans can bet on Wright State basketball and University of Dayton basketball games, but betting has become another element that affects athletics off-court.

At UD, many Flyer fans had bet on the men's basketball team to win over Virginia Commonwealth University on Jan. 13; but, after the Flyers lost by one point, some UD fans took to social media to harass and threaten Dayton's players. After the next game, UD head coach Anthony Grant spoke out to those fans.

"They have families ... They don't deserve that. Mental health is real, so if you're a Flyer fan, I ask you to understand [that] you're dealing with young people," Grant said. "Take a step back and reevaluate your priorities, and if you can't, we don't need you."

Wright State has also had its share of betting on games, with fans able to bet on both men's and women's basketball action. Head women's basketball coach Kari Hoffman spoke on sports betting after a recent game.

"When money's involved, and adults are getting involved, it's really difficult to let college students be college students," Hoffman said. "I don't think they should have the world on their shoulders. I think they should just be able to play."

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At this time, Wright State Athletics has yet to respond to *The Wright State Guardian's* request for comment.

## Illegal advertising

While big betting companies, such as DraftKings, MGM and Caesars, have run successfully in other states, those companies have violated the OCCC's rules with recent advertisements.

DraftKings has been the most problematic of the three. The OCCC has cited DraftKings not only for the content of its advertisements being misleading but also for sending advertisements to college students.

According to Franks, DraftKings allegedly sent up to 2,500 mailed advertisements to users under 21 and could face a \$350,000 fine for that violation, not counting its other offenses for the content of those advertisements.

"In Ohio, you cannot advertise sports gaming on a college campus," Franks said. "We did have a couple of instances, and we did issue a notice to DraftKings for mailing advertisements to those under 21."

Caesars and MGM have also had [hearings](#) related to the content of its advertisements, as the material did not include a responsible gaming message and misleading advertisements, including "free bets" or "risk-free bets."

As sports betting continues to develop in Ohio, the OCCC will continue to change its rules and regulations to keep companies honest. For harassment of players and coaches, the OCCC is also working on regulating threats.

"We cannot control people's behavior, but the commission does have some tools at our disposal to control their access to sports gaming," Franks said. "There's a difference between criticizing a player's play and making direct threats against them."

The commission can place individuals on a "voluntary exclusion list," which would bar these individuals from participating in sports gambling in Ohio.

If you or someone you know has questions or problems with gambling, call the Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-522-4700 or visit the [gambling responsibility website](#).

## Fact Sheet: Memorial Day 2023

Alexis Lewis  
May 29, 2023  
Wright Life

Memorial Day is an American holiday that honors people who died while serving in the United States armed forces. This year, Memorial Day is on Monday, May 29.

### Facts

#### **Almost 200,000 Black soldiers served in the Civil War.**

The United States Army reports that 186,000 Black soldiers served in the Union army during the Civil War. Of these soldiers, 94,000 were former slaves. 38,000 Black soldiers died in the war.

#### **Around 85 million people died or sustained wounds in World War II.**

The National World War II Memorial records 15 million battle deaths, 25 million battle wounds and 45 million civilian deaths in WWII. Most of these deaths or injuries were in China or the Soviet Union.

#### **Approximately 30,000 people protested the Vietnam War at the Pentagon in 1967.**

The International Center on Nonviolent Conflict reports that 30,000 to 50,000 people protested the Vietnam War at the Pentagon, with over 100,000 anti-war demonstrators taking to the streets of New York City.

#### **Nearly 17% of living veterans of the U.S. armed forces served during a period of war.**

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According to the United States Census Bureau 2022 Memorial Day press release, 13.6 million of the 17.5 million living veterans served during wartime. Only 22% of male veterans and 23% of female veterans served in peacetime only.

## **President Joe Biden reversed the ban on transgender military service in 2021.**

United States President Joe Biden signed Executive Order 14004 in January of 2021. This order allows transgender people, if otherwise accurately qualified, to serve in the military.

## **The Wright-Patterson Air Force Base is the largest and oldest military aviation museum in the world.**

According to the base's official website, the WPAFB has four hangars with 300 aircraft and other memorabilia on display. The base currently supports 47,000 aircraft operations annually.

## **Wright State University Resources**

WSU has a Veteran and Military Center, serving active duty, veteran, spouse and other related military personnel. For more information about the organization or eligibility, visit the center's [website](#).

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## **RaiderGang Claims Third Consecutive HL Title, To Play Indiana State in Regional Tournament**

Adam Campbell  
May 29, 2023  
Baseball  
Sports

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After having its back against the wall in the Horizon League tournament and facing elimination, the Wright State University baseball team prevailed to win its third consecutive Horizon League title after winning three straight.

After beating the Golden Grizzlies five times in six meetings during the regular season, Oakland University defeated WSU in the first semi-final game 6-5. Following the loss, the Raiders would go on to eliminate Milwaukee in a do-or-die game by a final score of 2-1.

Entering the championship round Saturday, WSU would need to take down Oakland twice to secure the title.

### **Game 1**

The action started early, as the Golden Grizzlies claimed three runs in the second inning. The Raiders would quickly respond by scoring two in the third inning and one in the fourth inning to tie the game. Junior Jay Luikart launched a pair of home runs to help the Raiders tie the game.

After tying 3-3, Oakland struck in the fifth inning for three more runs, leading 6-3. Luikart would propel the Raiders once more, this time with a two-RBI triple. Later, senior Gehrig Anglin's sacrifice fly helped the Raiders score.

WSU claimed four runs in the sixth inning to secure its first lead of the day, 7-6.

Luikart would finish the game going 3-6 with four RBIs and three runs.

"I think being disciplined and making it happen when I get a good pitch to drive," Luikart stated on the clutch performance. "We trust each other and the work we put in."

The Raiders would add insurance, as sophomore Andrew Patrick scored from second base on a wild pitch in the seventh inning.

Oakland would score two runs in the bottom of the seventh, drawing even with WSU at 8-8.

In the top of the ninth inning, Patrick would blast a solo home run to give the Raiders a 9-8 lead.

WSU would hang on for the 9-8 victory and force a winner-take-all championship game an hour after game one.

Senior Tristan Haught secured the win after throwing two and one-third innings to close out the win. Haught also started game two for the Raiders.



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“The reason we decided to use [Haught] in game two was because he was still loose,” head coach Alex Sogard mentioned on staying with Haught between games one and two.

### **Winner-take-all**

An hour after claiming game one, WSU was tasked with taking down Oakland once more to secure the Horizon League championship.

The Raiders would unleash early by scoring six runs in the second inning. Sophomore Boston Smith claimed the first RBI on a single to right field. Patrick would follow it up by demolishing a grand slam to left field to go up 5-0.

Junior Sammy Sass would close out the scoring in the second by recording an RBI double to claim a 6-0 lead.

WSU would follow up the second inning by adding seven more runs. Patrick started with a bases-loaded walk, and Anglin followed that up with a two-RBI single, followed by another double by Sass that scored one run.

Junior Julian Greenwell would close out the scoring in the third inning with a two-run homerun. After three innings, WSU held a 13-0 lead.

Patrick would go on to add one more RBI to the tally in the sixth inning on a double. Patrick finished both games one triple shy of the cycle and tallied seven RBIs on six hits between both games, earning Patrick the tournament Most Valuable Player award.

“It was a speechless moment. I’m really glad it happened,” Patrick mentioned after claiming a personal second league title. “Our main goal is to get a ring.”

Haught returned to the mound for game two, throwing seven scoreless innings and recording eight strikeouts. Haught would claim the win on the mound in both games of the championship round on Saturday.

“I did it a lot in little league. It has been six or seven years since I have done that,” Haught added after pitching in both games of the double header. “When you feel good, you feel good and you keep throwing.”

WSU secured a 14-0 victory, claiming its third consecutive conference title and sixth since 2015.

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“Our guys knew if we had another shot on our field against them, we would take care of business,” coach Sogard added after the doubleheader victory. “If we won the first one, we knew we would be tough to stop in game two.”

### All-tournament team

Five Raiders were named to the All-Horizon League tournament team. Those players include Luikart, Haught, Greenwell and junior Luke Stofel. Patrick was MVP for the tournament.

### NCAA regional tournament

WSU will play in the NCAA Regional tournament this Friday at 1 p.m., where the Raiders will take on Indiana State, who will be hosting in Terre Haute, Indiana.

The tournament will be a double-loss elimination, with the other two schools in the group being the Hawkeyes from Iowa University and the Tar Heels from the University of North Carolina.

WSU played Indiana State last season, winning two of the three matchups.

Readers can view the action on ESPN+ and listen on WWSU 106.9 FM.

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## Movie Review: Air

Alexis Lewis  
May 31, 2023  
Movie Reviews  
Pop Culture

“A shoe is just a shoe until someone steps into it.” – Sonny Vaccaro

With a star-studded cast and a story unlike any other in sports and fashion, “Air” tells the story of the Air Jordan sneakers through the lens of Nike—a company in its infancy at the time—and its employees who believed in one athlete, one legend and one shoe.

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### Storyline

Director Ben Affleck plays Phil Knight, the CEO of Nike in 1984, when the brand hopes to expand its weak basketball division. The perfect person for this job turns out to be Matt Damon's character, Sonny Vaccaro, a basketball talent scout. Jason Bateman tackles the role of marketing vice president Rob Strasser, who does not always see eye-to-eye with Vaccaro.

In their performance, Affleck, Damon and Bateman are able to balance the amiability of camaraderie with the tension of pressure these Nike workers faced during the mid-1980s.

According to the film, the basketball world much preferred Converse and Adidas at the time, with NBA legends Magic Johnson and Larry Bird rocking the Converse Weapon sneakers throughout the 1980s. What Nike workers must do is find the perfect people to step into the Nike brand and bring life to the classic swoosh.

With a budget of \$250,000 to be spread among multiple players, Vaccaro and Strasser, among other Nike executives, must choose from a sweltering list of 1984 draft picks that included future NBA legends, including Hakeem Olajuwon, Charles Barkley and John Stockton.

And Michael Jordan.

The centering character that scouts the greatness of Michael Jordan before he stepped foot on an NBA court is Vaccaro, who personally drives to Jordan's house to speak with Michael's mother, who Viola Davis plays.

After negotiating, rule-breaking, staying up late, rising early, driving across the country and going over budget, the tale of the Air Jordan sneaker unfolds to highlight the greatness of one athlete who changed the game forever.

### Performance

Ben Affleck is able to play the notorious big boss who has to wrangle with employees who have bigger dreams than what the company wallet allows. In his stern and rigorous yet adventurous and willful portrayal of Knight, Affleck is able to show what the 1984 Nike looked like.

As viewers, it is easy to view Nike in a post-Air Jordan world (in 2022, the company's fiscal income statement [review](#) shows a \$46.7 billion revenue). It is also easy for viewers to view Michael Jordan through his current legend status, yet the movie brings into question whether or not the North Carolina guard would make an impact on the game.

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Affleck transports viewers to the past and allows the nerves and questions to sink in: Who should represent Nike? How can they make this shoe unforgettable?

Viewers find a dreamer in Vaccaro, who Matt Damon is able to mold into a likable and hardworking guy who simply loves basketball and believes in Michael Jordan. With subtlety and fluidity of a veteran actor, Damon translates passion through the screen. His fury, excitement, despondency and elation all make the storyline more cohesive, believable and immersive.

What people might not expect from this movie is that viewers never see the face of Michael Jordan's actor. This directing choice shifts the focus from the athlete to the company and strengthens the role of Michael's mother in the negotiation processes.

Viola Davis brings grace and power in her role as Michael's mother, Deloris. Davis's care for the role perfectly encapsulates a mother's fierce love and desire for her child's success.

## **Takeaways**

This story is truly one that takes viewers back in time to trace the production of one of the most well-known sneakers ever made.

Through powerful acting, nostalgic set designs, a legendary soundtrack and thoughtful cinematography, "Air" is the perfect summer movie for sports fans to sneakerheads, making it truly a story of greatness.