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CLOSER LOOK

Springfield Museum of Art begins major renovation

Campaign raises \$7M for revamp of north wing, entrance area.

By Brett Turner
Contributing Writer

The Springfield Museum of Art is launching a major renovation of the building's original north wing, a project with the unique goal of reducing square footage yet making the new space more usable for its purposes.

Museum staff, current and former board members, community leaders and other guests gathered for a symbolic groundbreaking event under cloudy skies at the building's portico Thursday evening to celebrate.

The renovation project will begin today with the projected reopening of that section by the end of 2023, according to Jessimi Jones, the museum's executive director.

The museum raised \$7 million for the project from the Art Invites capital campaign that began in 2016.

"This has been a long and tedious process that started before my time," Jones said. "This project started with a vision to maintain what has been created, to update this facility to meet today's needs and to sustain this cultural resource for generations to come."

The building's north wing, originally called the Springfield Art Center, was built in 1967 with additional portions added in 1973, housing spaces for educational classes, a small gallery and event space.

Less is more

It is 13,000 square feet currently and will be reduced by about 30 percent. The goal is



Jessimi Jones, executive director of the Springfield Museum of Art, cuts the ribbon outside the museum Thursday during a ceremony marking the start of a multimillion dollar renovation of the museum's North Wing. BILL LACKEY PHOTOS / STAFF

twofold, Jones said: first, it will reduce operating costs and make the space more sustainable by less energy use and, secondly, much of the current square footage isn't usable.

The renovation will include three new multi-functional flex studios for classes, workshops, meetings and community functions, all with outdoor access.

Serving students, teacher professional development and art therapy programs for those recovering from substance addiction are some of the potential uses for the reimagined space.

Museum continued on A6



Alicia and Greg Hupp look over the artist's renderings showing what the renovated North Wing of the Springfield Museum of Art will look like at an event Thursday.

UD, FBI warn people against 'sextortion'

Crimes often occur on social media or gaming apps.

By Eileen McClory
Staff Writer

"Sextortion" cases reported to federal authorities involving young adults or children have skyrocketed in recent years.

The University of Dayton sent out a warning to students Thursday about cases where an extortionist threatens to send nude photos the victim sent, believing the extortionist is flirting with them, to employers or family members unless the victim agrees to send the other person money.

University of Dayton said in a tweet they had recently received reports by students of such incidents.

"Students typically receive a request on a social media app or game platform to add someone they do not personally know," UD said in a tweet. "Those who engage in sextortion adopt a fake persona that would be attractive to the potential victim to increase the likelihood of being added as a friend."

Once the victim is added, UD said, the extortionist will begin chatting with the potential victim and eventually ask to exchange explicit photos. If the victim does so, the extortionist will then threaten to send the photos to other people unless the victim sends them money.

The Department of Justice said more than 3,000 minors

Sextortion continued on A6

DIGGING DEEPER

GOP states press voter photo ID rules, with unclear effects

By Julie Carr Smyth
Associated Press

COLUMBUS — As Ohio's primary approaches, a strict new photo ID requirement is stirring concerns for military veterans and out-of-state college students, in Amish communities and among older voters.

Other Republican-led states are moving in the same direction as they respond to conservative voters unsettled by unfounded claims of widespread fraud and persistent conspiracy theories over the accuracy of U.S. elections. Critics characterize such requirements as an overreaction that could end up disenfranchising eligible voters.

Ruth Kohake is among those caught up in the confusion over Ohio's law, which is going into effect this year. The retired nurse from Cincinnati gave up her driver's license and her car in 2019. Now 82, she thought she might never have to step foot in another state license agency.

But Ohio now requires an unexpired photo ID in order for someone to vote, and she'll have to get that at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. The law adds passports as valid ID, but eliminates non-photo documentation such as a bank statement, government check or utility bill for registration and in-person voting. Military IDs also are no longer acceptable when registering to vote.

"I'm very, very, very concerned that people are not going to know. They're going to come to vote and they're not going to be able to, or they're going to have to vote provisional," she said. "It's just a

Voter ID continued on A4

COMPLETE COVERAGE

Historic Wright Brothers airplane factory damaged by fire

Site is oldest aircraft manufacturing building in world.

By Eric Schwartzberg, Cornelius Frolik and Holly Souther
Staff Writers

The future of a historic building where the Wright Brothers once built airplanes in Dayton remains in doubt after a fire that burned most of the day Sunday.

Dayton Fire Department crews were dispatched to Inland Ave-

nue and West Third Street at 2:28 a.m. on reports of a structure fire, according to Capt. Brad French.

When firefighters arrived, they found heavy fire conditions throughout a large commercial building complex, according to French.

"The structure involved in this fire incident is of national historic significance," French said in a release. "It is listed on the National Historic Register as the first aircraft manufacturing facility

Fire continued on A4



Dayton firefighters at the scene of a fire at the historic Wright brothers factory site in West Dayton on Sunday. CORNELIUS FROLIK / STAFF

THE LATEST

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