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**HOLIDAY HIGH SCHOOL
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**ROB REINER'S
SON APPEARS
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TOP STATE STORY

DeWine: Springfield faces workforce shortage

End of legal status will affect a large number of area's Haitian workers.

By Josh Sweigart
Staff Writer

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine is warning that Springfield-area employers will face severe workforce challenges following the expiration of legal status for untold

thousands of Haitians on Feb. 3. "As I talk to employers, I know what's going to happen on that Feb. 3 day," DeWine said. "That is employers tell me on that date many of these — maybe most — of the Haitians who are working there will no longer be legal. Once they go from legal, which they are now, to not being legal, they cannot employ them. "Then you're going to have a lot of unfilled jobs. You're going to

have, whatever the consequences are of 10,000 — or who knows how many, no one knows really — people who are no longer being able to be employed." DeWine was responding to questions from this news outlet at a holiday breakfast with reporters. The Trump administration terminated the Temporary Protected

DeWine continued on A8



Gov. Mike DeWine speaks during a news conference at the Dayton City Commission Office on Dec. 18. BY JOSH SWEIGART/STAFF

ONLY IN THE DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Longfellow housing project gets \$4.3M in tax credits

Developers aim to create 126 independent living units for older community members.

By Cornelius Frolk
Staff Writer

A year ago, the state of Ohio rescinded more than \$3 million in state historic preservation tax credits that were awarded to help convert a school complex in northwest Dayton into new housing. The credits were rescinded because the Longfellow school adaptive reuse project failed to make adequate progress.

But the state on Wednesday announced a new \$4.3 million award for the project, which developers hope will assist in creating 126 independent living apartment units for older community members.

"Preservation and progress go hand in hand," Ohio Lt. Gov. Jim Tressel said in a prepared statement about the tax credit award. "This program strengthens local economies and ensures that future generations can benefit from the places that have long been at the heart of their communities."

The Ohio Department of Development this week announced the winners of the Round 35 Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program, which included two projects in Dayton and one in Trotwood.

United Church Homes and Weyland Ventures won about \$4.3 million in tax credits for their proposal to rehab and restore the historic Longfellow school buildings at 245 Salem Ave. in northwest Dayton.

The developers plan to create 54 new apartments for people 55 and older in the historic buildings on the site, plus they propose



The Longfellow School on Salem Avenue in Dayton might be renovated into housing. CORNELIUS FROLK/STAFF

constructing a new building containing 72 additional apartments. The \$29 million project in the Grafton Hill neighborhood seeks to create new independent living for as many as 180 older community members, including people who are LGBTQ+. The project also will revitalize common areas in the complex, including a gym and an auditorium, to create tenant amenities and other uses.

The state awarded the Longfellow project \$1.8 million in Ohio historic tax credits four years ago, and the project also received a second allocation of \$1.4 million in tax incentives in late 2022.

But a spokesperson for the Ohio Department of Development recently told the Dayton Daily News that those credits were rescinded in November 2024 after

the project failed to reach key construction milestones by required deadlines. The developers' most recent application for state historic tax credits says no major rehabilitation work has started at the property.

This is not unheard of: Multiple other local adaptive reuse proposals saw their tax credits revoked by the state because the projects did not make enough progress. In a couple of cases, the developers were able to obtain new tax incentive awards later on.

Dayton Public Schools shut down Longfellow school about eight years ago, and the property most recently served as an alternative school for grades 7 to 12. The school was first built in the 1880s, though new structures were added in following decades.

United Church Homes said the three-acre campus will be a hub for the area, and the apartments will have one or two bedrooms and range in size from 800 to 1,800 square feet.

In 2021, United Church Homes and Weyland Ventures estimated the Longfellow housing project would cost about \$30 million. Since then, the total project investment has increased by \$9 million (29%).

The state this week also announced that the Air City Garage in downtown Dayton also will receive \$3 million in historic preservation tax credits for a rehab project, and the old Sears department store in Trotwood will get \$3.5 million for a mixed-use project. Both of those projects also won tax credits earlier this year.

TOP NATIONAL STORY

Trump announces \$1.776 military 'Warrior Dividend'

Move gives a holiday boost for 1.45 million amid inflation woes.

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy
Bloomberg News

President Donald Trump looked to reassure Americans concerned about the rising cost of living by announcing plans to award a special holiday payment to military service members and roll out new housing reforms in the new year.

Trump announced the plans Wednesday during a prime-time address from the White House, which he used to extol his accomplishments from his first year back in the White House and convince voters they should still blame his predecessor for persistent economic anxieties.

"Seven months ago, I inherited a mess, and I'm fixing it," Trump said.

Trump's biggest announcement was a move to award service members \$1,776 payments, a decision that would provide a holiday boost to 1.45 million Americans.

"Military service members will receive a special — we call Warrior Dividend — before Christmas — a Warrior Dividend," Trump said. "In honor of our nation's founding in 1776, we are sending every soldier \$1,776. Think of that. And the checks are already on the way."

Trump continued on A8

THE LATEST

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