

Southeast OHIO

SUMMER | FALL 2018

Michael Owen's ultra-motivation

brings together
runners for
100-mile races

Stay on track (or off)
with trails old and new

Tour a Marietta studio
that (literally)
marks the spot

Spin it to win it at
Eagles Nest Disc Golf Course

Step inside Tranquility's
historic hideaway in
Adams County



Ohio's penal system
tries some new
corrective measures

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A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

When I was a child, I often dreamt about the places I'd go as an adult. I'm a native Marylander and self-proclaimed city girl, so for me, attending college in an Appalachian region was truly uncharted territory.

Now, four years later, I've found myself in awe of the vast and influential history of Southeast Ohio, and I've come to appreciate the region's incredible beauty and culture. My time as editor-in-chief of Southeast Ohio magazine has only increased this appreciation.

Part of this feeling comes from having the opportunity to work with some amazing fellow students. We've all worked tirelessly to bring the magic of the area to the pages of this magazine.

MISSION STATEMENT

Southeast Ohio strives to spotlight the culture and community within our 21-county region. The student-run magazine aims to inform, entertain and inspire readers with stories that hit close to home.

ON THE COVER

Pomeroy native Michael Owen goes the distance to promote and participate in ultramarathons.

Page 26

PHOTO BY MADDIE SCHROEDER

This issue offers a glimpse of the remarkable region and its communities, residents and natural wonders. Our feature content includes three multi-story packages, "Get Out!," "Ohio Originals," and "Corrective Measures."

Our Get Out! stories feature individuals such as Michael Owen, an ultramarathoner who takes dedication to the next level (26), and seasonal events like the Marietta Trails and Ales Fest (32). The experiences continue in "Ohio Originals," which includes extraordinary gems like the Marietta-based Doll and Toy Museum (pg), a place where everyone's inner child comes out. In our "Corrective Measures" package, we share stories of triumph and redemption. From a powerful and life-changing parole program (40) to a unique drug court certification program (34), these stories show some of the life-altering opportunities the legal system is offering those in need. But the issue wouldn't be complete without our picture-filled feature about Sewah Studios (20), a place where America's history is documented every day.

So, please enjoy these stories and portraits of the people and places that keep Southeast Ohio culturally rich, socially relevant and as real as it gets.

Happy reading!
Kenyetta Whitfield




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Adam Ankrom, the Lancaster Disc Golf president, spins it to win it. *Page 18*
PHOTO BY BLAKE NISSEN



OHIO'S MOST PERFECT TREE

is a maple
masterpiece

STORY BY **MONTANA RAMSEY**
PHOTO BY **NORA JAARA**

Near the intersection of state Route 335 and state Route 32 in Pike County stands a 60-foot-tall maple tree that locals like John Samson call “Ohio’s most perfect tree.” It has no official designation, but residents are unequivocal about the 200-year-old tree’s superiority.

What makes it so perfect? “The shape,” says Samson, the former owner of the land graced by the tree. The giant tree’s knotty trunk and uniform branches stand out prominently, so when leaves cover the branches in spring and fall, it appears perfectly full, according to Samson.

Although it is not known who first anointed the tree with this honor, Samson says his parents recalled learning about it in their school textbooks.

The tree grows on land previously owned by John and Emily Samson, who in 2005 donated the 76-acre parcel to Arc of Appalachia, a nonprofit land conservation organization.

So for today and tomorrows to come, this picture-perfect perennial stands tall to enthrall all on land named Samson Woods. 🍁

For information about Arc of Appalachia:
www.arcofappalachia.org







Owner Crystal Reed and Thomas Montell stand ready to welcome customers in pursuit of a healthier life

Nutritional Complex

A New Lexington business offers a different take on dieting

STORY BY NICK BATTAGLIA | PHOTOS BY NORA JAARA

The culinary options of New Lexington include an array of diners, pubs and pizzarias, all offering palate-pleasing fare. But for those in search of a nutritious snack, choices may seem limited.

But behold the black-curtained storefront at 108 S. Main St., as it holds valuable sustenance within its vibrant orange and green walls. The business, Healthy's On Main, is alive with the whirl of blenders and the energy of people motivated to feel restored.

A walk inside reveals chatty and smiling team members and the faint smell of berries. A chalkboard advertises an array of smoothies, teas and nutrition shots for sale, all written in bright chalk.

The drinks contain probiotics that benefit the digestive and immune system, as well as the key ingredient, a thermogenic supplement. The supplement goes in all of the drinks and is the cornerstone of Healthy's shakes.

The active thermogenic ingredient in the shakes increases heat in the body through metabolic stimulation, which increases energy expenditure. The science behind the supplement stems from metabolic researcher J.C. Clapham, who determined that thermogenic use produces a more rapid form of weight loss that targets fat as opposed to other tissue.

Results can be seen on the "Wall of Weight," a board pinned with "before" and "after" pictures of real people, visuals of their progress, as testimonies to the products. "It's a good opportunity to motivate and inspire others," says Thomas Montell, a team member of Healthy's. "Look what these people have done. That's what's going to motivate you to keep going. You can do this."

But the weight-loss program only begins with the shakes. The shop operates more like a health club, whereby members pay dues for access to teas, shakes and various activities. Healthy's team members act as

“It’s a good opportunity to motivate and inspire others. Look what these people have done. That’s what’s going to motivate you to keep going. You can do this.”

THOMAS MONTELL,
Healthy’s team member

health coaches and take their clients through various fitness classes such as Zumba, cardio drumming and pound-fit yoga.

The road toward health and weight loss is tailored to the individual. Store Owner Crystal Reed explains the process for new clients as a conversation, where a team member and client discuss short-term and long-term goals. At that time, the team member explains the products, meal plans, calories and general fitness before coming up with a personalized plan. Coaches will also meet clients outside the store to go on walks with them so they don’t have to go through the process alone.

“When you start impacting individuals and making a difference in them, that’s when it becomes worth it,” Montell says.

The consumer response since the location opened in 2013 has been robust. Montell says the shop makes anywhere from 60 to 100 smoothies each day, a number consistent since its opening.

Stacie Shirkey, an active member of the club, says one of the most attractive things about the business is its communal aspect; it’s a place to socialize with friends, meet new people and maybe take a momentary break from the kids.

“But I think we all originally came here for one reason,” Shirkey says. “To get healthier.”

Now, it has been half a decade since the little smoothie shop opened its doors in a town where even the Dairy Queen couldn’t keep business. Unique to its area, Healthy’s offered an alternative solution to someone looking for a quick fill-up. Pairing the sense of community and acceptance radiating from the numerous customers with bright walls and people behind the counter, Healthy’s has found a successful combo.

Friends, trainers and great smoothies are all offered at Healthy’s as one package. The only thing necessary is the motivation to try what’s behind the black curtains. 🍷

HEALTHY’S

Monday - Thursday: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday: 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

108 S. Main St., New Lexington, OH
43764

(740) 819-9293



LEFT | Healthy’s, located at 108 South Main Street has been serving a variety of nutritional shakes alongside fitness classes to create a healthier community.

FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

West Union pharmacy offers 1960s soda fountain prices and enduring community spirit

STORY BY **ALYSSA KING** | PHOTOS BY **ELLEN BARDASH**

A typical day at a soda fountain in the 1950s looked something like this: An attendant (called a “soda jerk”) handed a customer a glass filled with Coca-Cola in exchange for a nickel. Community members sat atop the bar stools that line the fountain’s counter, sipping their milkshakes and chatting about the weather.

But this scene continues to play out almost daily at Blake’s Pharmacy in Adams County, one of the few remaining working soda fountains that dot today’s landscape of fast food restaurants. Today, such rare establishments offer carbonation, ice cream and nostalgia for a seemingly more innocent cultural moment in American history.

Although pharmacies had soda fountains as early as the 1880s, according to Reid Paul’s article, “The rise and fall of the pharmacy soda fountain,” published by *Drug Topics*, 75 percent of U.S. pharmacies had soda fountains by 1929.

Soda fountains made pharmacies community staples, especially during the time of Prohibition. The businesses were places of social gatherings, not just a stop on the way home from work.

This particular fountain has been operated by the same West Union family for more than half a century. On Jan. 1, 1961, Charles Blake bought the West Union storefront to establish his own independent pharmacy, and with it came the existing soda fountain.

That same year, Blake Pharmacy opened its doors, and in the 1970s, Charles Blake even held weddings at the soda fountain. Today, Blake Pharmacy is owned by Robert (Bob) Blake, who purchased it from his father in 2000. It is one of the few remaining pharmacy soda fountains in Ohio.

“I’ve been in here since I was old enough to walk. I’ve been on the payroll since 1969,” Bob Blake says. He has worked in the pharmacy for nearly 50 years, 32 of which he has served as pharmacist. All three of Bob Blake’s daughters currently work for the business, two as pharmaceutical technicians and one as pharmacist.



ABOVE | A customer and Teresa Freeman, who works the soda fountain, share a Coke and a smile.

Though most of Blake Pharmacy’s customer are loyal locals, the fountain does attract international visitors. Teresa Freeman has worked the soda fountain for more than a decade. In 2009, she started a guest book for visitors to sign. Its addresses include guests from England, Japan, France and Germany.

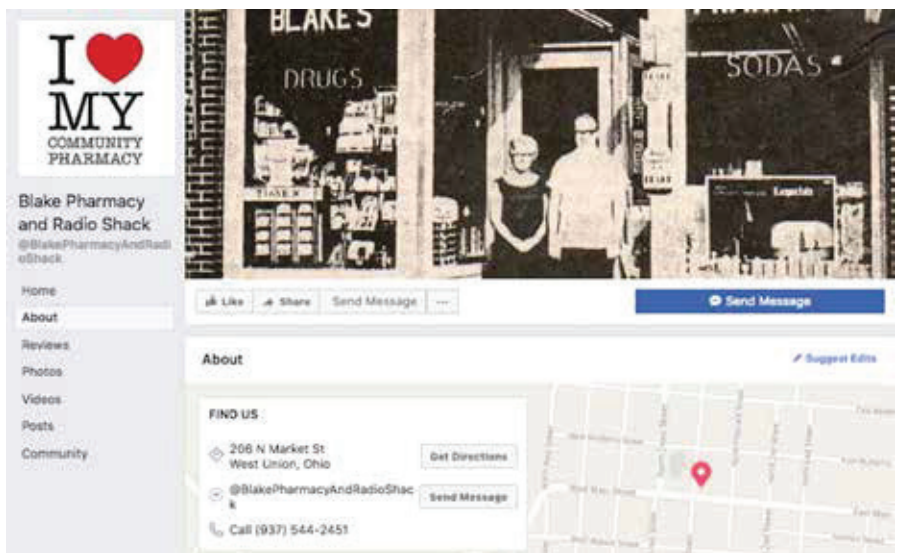
“Almost everybody is friendly and happy that we still have the old soda fountain,” Freeman says. “People who used to come in with their grandparents are now bringing their kids and grandchildren. It brings back the memories to people.”



But for others, the value of the fountain is its 1960s prices. The fountain still sells glasses of Coca-Cola for a nickel and 16-ounce milkshakes for \$1. Bob Blake says that the most popular lunch is a ham salad sandwich and bag of chips for \$1.25.

However, Blake Pharmacy serves a deeper, enduring purpose: community. In addition to its longstanding support of the town's Boy and Girl Scouts and athletic teams, its Facebook page (right) counts nearly 3,000 "likes" and it boasts a 4.6 (out of 5 stars) rating.

In a time when convenience is valued over tradition, Blake Pharmacy is holding on to simpler days and has no plans of changing - Facebook page, not included. 🇺🇸





ABOVE LEFT | Owners Adam and Aaron Leu prioritize nourishing food made from scratch.

ROOTED IN WELLNESS

The Well prioritizes people over profit and whole food over complicated cuisine

STORY BY **ALYSSA KING** | PHOTOS BY **NORA JAARA**

Neatly tucked within the brick buildings of Lancaster’s South Broad Street hangs a large blue sign that simply reads “WELL.” An old piano outside of the front door displays lettering above its keys that states, “change the atmosphere.”

Inside, The Well is filled with movement. Behind the counter, several pairs of hands prepare fresh ingredients. Children climb on a large, wooden indoor playset. Locals come to order lunch. Others sit patiently as they engage with those around them. It’s busy, but refreshing. The Well is filled with life.

The Well, owned by brothers Adam and Aaron Leu, is a self-described modern gathering place for the whole family to eat, drink, play and live. In 2014, the brothers opened the business in hopes of creating a place that facilitates personal restoration.

The goal was for everything made within The Well, from the food to the relationships, to be reviving.

To create this environment they included a children’s play area indoors to make the space family-friendly. The same consideration went into making a carefully curated gluten-free menu that focuses on using whole foods and local ingredients.

The café is one of the few restaurants in the region that focuses on offering healthy options.

“We kind of had the view that we were bringing a type of food that there really wasn’t a high demand for, but we found that there was a large portion of the community that was waiting for us to come,” Adam Leu says.

The seasonal menu includes smoothies, salads, bowls, pita sandwiches, desserts and more. Most of the items are vegetarian or vegan. The kitchen uses



ABOVE | The Well's menu offers a variety of salads and bowls, pitas, juices and smoothies.

ABOVE RIGHT | Patricia Leu helps out in the kitchen, making the business a family affair.

organic ingredients whenever possible, and all the ingredients are non-genetically modified.

In its mission to bring quality food to the table, The Well is redefining what it means to have a “scratch” kitchen. The owners soak beans to make their own hummus, salad dressings are homemade and each batch of kale is hand massaged to determine its flavor. The brothers salt and roast their own almonds.

Every day Aaron Leu bakes the bread before 7 a.m., and Adam Leu grinds and roasts the coffee in-house twice a week. Each latte is handcrafted using homemade syrups.

“When we cook we love using whole foods, and the flavors just naturally come out. Everything has to just taste wonderful and look wonderful,” Tricia Leu, Aaron Leu’s wife, says.

“But most importantly it has to be nourishing. It’s so important to us to honestly know every ingredient,” Aaron Leu continues.

Aaron Leu and his family of six live above The Well. Prior to expanding the café’s kitchen last year, he spent his mornings baking in his own kitchen. Everything on the menu was prepared with a blender, a juicer and one burner on an induction stove.

But the Well flourished and revamped its space to better serve the needs of its customers.

“When we cook we love using whole foods, and the flavors just naturally come out. Everything has to just taste wonderful and look wonderful.”

TRICIA LEU, *The Well*

While many physical elements of The Well have changed, the heart behind it endures. The Well, created by owners to support people in pursuit of a healthy lifestyle and wellness, continues to prioritize people over profit. And patrons, wanting to be part of this community, are fulfilling the brothers’ goal: wanting people to be well. 🍷

Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
203 S. Broad St, Lancaster, OH 43130
740.573.7011
www.amoderngatheringplace.com



ABOVE | Ruth Johnson knits a blanket for her grandson due in May.

Logan's tight-knit group

The women of Yarn Lovers Unite share a passion for needlework, but they return for the friendships formed

STORY BY **EBEN GEORGE** | PHOTOS BY **NORA JAARA**

At first glance, the brick Logan-Hocking County District Library in Logan seems similar to many small-town libraries. Inside, the atmosphere is calm and quiet.

As one mills about the stacks, the ambient sounds of turning pages and clacking keyboards fill the air. Conversation is limited. The library feels contemporary and cozy lounging chairs are scattered across the bookroom.

But on this Thursday afternoon, just through the tree-shaped gateway into the children's section, something is afoot. The sounds of muffled laughter and conversation billow out from behind a large white

door. The culprits, a lively group of 10 women called Yarn Lovers Unite, who sit at a table with knitting needles and colorful yarn in hand.

Yarn Lovers Unite is a weekly knitting club that meets at the Logan-Hocking County District Library on Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. to share and compare projects and techniques. Nancy Wright, the program and events coordinator of the library, helped facilitate the organization in 2015.

"In the beginning, I think we started with five to eight, and it kind of just ballooned from there," Wright says via phone. "We almost never have less than nine members show up. Generally, there are 15 or 16 people there."

Back at the library, Carol West, a retired nurse and grandmother, sits across the table wearing a yellow springtime turtleneck with a pink and lavender floral print embroidered on the chest. In her hands, two knitting needles joined together by a thin and flexible plastic wire, stitch together a bundle of gray wool. The end product will be a new sweater for her grandson.

Despite the members' visible dexterity and skill, they emphasize inclusiveness. "We're open to the public," West says. "If anybody wants to learn to knit, crochet, whatever, there is someone here who can show them."

West discovered Yarn Lovers Unite two years ago on a flier at the library, but initially she was reluctant to join since she already knew how to knit and crochet. In fact, she had been yarning-over when was a teen. However, when her friend and former colleague Ruth Johnson decided to try the hobby, West elected to join.

"I wanted Ruth to know as a beginner, [she] is going through the same things that every new person does," West says. "She thought she was stupid, she thought she couldn't do it. I wanted her to see that she's no different than anybody else. It just takes practice."

Being frustrated is normal when first learning. The craft takes a tremendous amount of dexterity and concentration. After two years, West and the rest of the Yarn Lovers have coached Johnson up to a full-blown knitter, needles and all.

“ We almost never have less than nine members show up. Generally, there are 15 or 16 people there.”

NANCY WRIGHT
founder, Yarn Lovers Unite

But beyond these lessons, Yarn Lovers Unite provides its members with a dose of weekly socialization with needlework as the common ground. Johnson turned to the hobby as a way to adjust to retirement and the amount of free time that comes with it.

"Work takes up a huge part of your life," Johnson says. "I worked 12-hour days . . . It's hard to fill up the hours. I don't want to wash and clean all the time. It [Yarn Lovers Unite] not only gives us an outlet to learn something fun, but also people to talk to."

Some people choose to join a bowling league, others may volunteer at an animal shelter, and still, others become part of Yarn Lovers Unite. At its core, these groups provide community. And for this room full of Logan women, the weekly knitting club provides a safe place to speak candidly about the world they live in free of judgment.

"There's no fighting or fussing in here," Johnson says. Instead, the women of Yarn Lovers Unite work through life's complications one stitch at a time. 🇺🇸



LEFT | Julie Bolock presents her unfinished afghan at a Yarn Lovers Unite meeting in Logan.

BELOW | Suzie Beougher spreads out her hand-knitted dishcloth.



YARN LOVERS UNITE information

Thursday: 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Logan-Hocking County District Library
230 E. Main St. Logan, Ohio, 43138

Call 740-385-2348 for more details

To watch, listen and learn more about the group, visit Southeast Ohio magazine's YouTube channel and watch: "A Tight Knit Group."

A room for new chapters

A small bookstore in Perry County offers personal development to those turning a new page

STORY & PHOTO BY **NICK BATTAGLIA**

The little bookstore on New Lexington's Main Street may not seem like much at first.

The store itself is a modest 30-square-foot room containing just a few shelves, a wooden counter and its manager. Most of the store's books are piled on shelves beneath a paper pricing label that reads "\$.10 to \$1."

Just about every piece of literature that finds its way to the shelves of Twice Turned is the product of a donation. The store does not purchase its books, but, rather, receives them from people who no longer use them – hence, the name. So the books, once useful to the original owner, now find purpose in helping somebody new.

However, among the stash of titles that line the 5-foot-tall shelves in Twice Turned Bookstore lies real gold and a positive mission. Twice Turned is operated by Perry Behavioral Health Choices, a behavioral health care provider that offers addiction recovery and support, and its interactive programs prioritize personal reclamation over consumer profits.

Kamala Tahyi, program supervisor of adjunct therapy, oversees the shop to make sure its community center-type events run smoothly. "So many people don't buy books anymore," Tahyi says. "It's nice to just have people in the shop doing anything."

The organization attempts to engage with people who are going through recovery, have disabilities or are struggling with mental illness by running the bookstore, hosting recovery sessions, leading yoga and organizing other activities.

The store is part of PBHC's peer support program, which helps those in recovery acquire the skills and résumé builders needed to further their professional development.

"They see potential in me that I didn't see before," says store coordinator Cassie Stapleton (pictured in photo, below), who manages the store on a daily basis and has been in the PBHC recovery program for a year. As a member of the organization's peer recovery corps, Stapleton also spends time listening to and helping those dealing with problems familiar to her.


One program includes an informal art gallery that is open to everyone for submissions. Each piece of art is for sale, with 90 percent of the profits going to the artist and the other 10 percent used by the shop to fund costs of coffee, craft supplies and an upcoming renovation. According to Tahyi, renovations will allow Twice Turned to hold more books, have more seats and offer more in-store activities for those who wish to take part in PBHC's vision.

The topic of awareness is central to those work with PBHC and Twice Turned, such as Dale Hague. "Opiate use is a big problem here and in all of Ohio," Hague says. "Every day we discover it's bigger than we thought."

For now, Hague, Stapleton, Tahyi and all those involved with the shop want to create a new, positive place for people to come.

For them and others, it's more than a little shop, it's an invitation to turn a new personal page. Within its walls are books, crafts and anything that people can use to gain some sort of life experience.

"Twice Turned is Now Open," reads the small chalkboard sign placed on the sidewalk in front of the shop's door. Stop by most weekdays 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. to see what there is to find.

Whether it's the familiar smell of old books and fresh coffee or a warm smile from Stapleton. 



LEFT | Cassie Stapleton manages the store as part of her duties as a member of the Perry Behavioral Health Choices peer recovery corps.



Stories worth telling *and* selling

Chelsea Bruning brings independent bookstore Wheatberry Books to Chillicothe

STORY BY **ALYSSA KING** | PHOTO BY **JULIA FAIR**

White bookshelves envelop the narrow store, made colorful by a variety of books ranging from classics like Zora Neale Hurston's "Their Eyes Were Watching God" to new releases like Michael Wolff's "Fire and Fury." An antique typewriter sits in the window; a handwritten poem hangs on the wall behind the counter. Every aspect of the shop feels personal, creating a wonderful, whimsical atmosphere.

In the heart of Chillicothe, this former tattoo parlor is now independent bookstore Wheatberry Books, which sells new and used books. "We have a small store, but we cover all the bases. It's very carefully curated," owner Chelsea Bruning says. "We focus a lot on the local authors, and then we fill in the gaps."

Bruning grew up in Ross County. She went to Paint Valley High School and later graduated from Ohio Northern University and began working as a pharmacist. After some moving around, she and her husband, Matt Bruning, decided to move back to Chillicothe, where Bruning continues to work as a pharmacist in addition to running her bookstore.

While some local businesses, including two bookstores, have recently closed, Bruning is determined to change the way businesses function within the city, and she's starting with her own.

"I really want it [Wheatberry Books] to be a community hub where we get involved with other businesses, the schools and the churches," Bruning says. "I want it to be a safe place and a place that can encourage ideas and imagination. I don't want it to be about selling books but bringing people together and starting conversations."

Wheatberry Books has a children's room and is collaborating with Chillicothe's Mighty Children's Museum and its local library to create events for area children. Bruning also hosts monthly author events at the bookstore to promote local art and create a community gathering space.

Shauna Shanks, a local author, says she's been delighted by the choices. "I was thrilled to see how selective she is with the books she chooses," Shanks says. In February, Wheatberry Books held a local author event to promote Shanks' first book, *A Fierce Love*. "It was just really nice. We had a lot of people in and out, and I got to talk to a lot of people in the community," Shanks says.

Bruning says that owning her own bookstore has been a dream of hers since she was a teenager. While nearly anything can be ordered online, she believes that bookstores serve their own unique purposes and do what e-commerce sites cannot.

"Bookstores have that element of surprise, the unknown. We usually have people walk in and say, 'This is what I like. Can you help me find something?' We know everything on the shelves, so we can make recommendations, but sometimes they'll be surprised by something they find while browsing. It's the unexpected that's there. They don't really come in looking for one particular book, but they find something that they can really treasure," Bruning says.

Wheatberry Books, located on 41 S. Paint St., is open 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Saturday. 

Gallipolis' festival for freedom

STORY BY **MATT FOUT** | PHOTO **PROVIDED**

On Sept. 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued one of the most important executive orders in U.S. history – the Emancipation Proclamation. The proclamation ordered the freedom of all slaves in 10 states. That included more than 3 million slaves and changed the course of American history.

Fast-forward more than 150 years to Gallia County, where the Emancipation Proclamation is celebrated with the annual Emancipation Day Celebration. Starting in 1863, it is the longest running celebration of the historical document in the U.S.

Gallia County has a rich history with the proclamation because of its ties to the Underground Railroad and the Lambert Lands Memorial. The Lambert brothers, who were slaveholders in Virginia, purchased the 265 acres of land that is now the memorial, freed their slaves 20 years before the proclamation and led them to Ohio. The land served as a stopping point for many escaping slaves who would pass through and were helped by its residents.

In its early years, the event was seen as a celebration of freedom rather than a celebration of the proclamation's history. While it is still a celebration today, it was more meaningful to the community in the past, says Glenn Miller, a lifelong attendee and vice president of the Emancipation Proclamation Celebration Committee.

“When my dad was coming along, he was born in 1903, and his parents before him, it [the celebration] was so special to them that if they were working on a job for somebody, as hard as jobs were to find and the favor [time off work] was to get, they had actually quit to go,” Miller says. “It was just that important to them.”

Miller has served on the celebration committee for more than 20 years. The celebration committee oversees the event, coordinates sponsors, emcees events within the celebration and gives the opening and closing remarks. Without the dedication of the committee, the celebration could've ended long ago.

“There's been some dedicated people here in Gallia County that sacrifice a lot to keep it going,” Emancipation Proclamation Celebration Committee President Andy Gilmore says.

As many as 2,500 people have attended the celebration in past years, including people from California, New York, Texas, Florida and Canada, according to the event's website, www.emancipation-day.com.

The history surrounding the proclamation comes to life during the outdoor portion of the celebration, when Civil War re-enactors perform each year. Portrayed characters have included President Lincoln, Fredrick Douglass and Harriet Tubman, among others.

The remaining two days of the celebration are typically filled with musical performances, outdoor activities like baseball, sack racing and hog calling. Each year, the celebration hosts a keynote speaker on the last day of the event. Previous speakers included college presidents, politicians, mayors and senators. Athlete Jackie Joyner-Kersey, a three-time gold medalist in track and field and 2004 USA Track and Field Hall of Fame inductee, spoke at the 152nd anniversary celebration.

“Our purpose is to educate the public about the Emancipation Proclamation and the importance of the evolution of America,” Gilmore says. “The Emancipation committee feels that our program kind of brings people together to celebrate the accomplishments of America... We want to keep the history alive of the celebration, and I think it's very important to the public at large to know the history of the signing of the Emancipation, the freeing of the slaves.” 🇺🇸

EVENT INFORMATION

Gallia County Fairgrounds
189 Jackson Pike
Gallipolis, OH 45631

LEFT | Abraham Lincoln presenter and Wooster resident Gerald Payn takes the stage at the 2017 event.



Family creates roasts worthy of boasts

The Walkers parlay their passion for coffee into a growing local business

STORY BY **NICK BATTAGLIA** | PHOTO **PROVIDED**

One could say Lorraine and Phil Walker's love for fresh coffee is the kernal of their business, Silver Bridge Coffee. After all, the couple began roasting coffee beans in a popcorn maker and selling them to their friends in Gallipolis in 2008.

With no starting capital, the Walkers managed to turn one of the rooms in their house into a USDA-approved roasting site, distributing to one Kroger in Athens and developing a small online following.

These days the Walkers spend most of their week inside their 400-square-foot coffee warehouse where the subtle smell of imported beans, caramel, vanilla and the familiar sound of cracking beans behind a drum of industrial coffee roasters fills the air.

Silver Bridge Coffee now produces about 1,200 pounds of coffee a week for 68 Kroger grocery stores in Ohio and one in Minnesota. Lorraine says there was 20 percent growth over the previous year, which is a benchmark the Walkers have maintained for the past few years. It's a long way away from the three bags they started off roasting every month.

"Back then the delivery truck used to drop the bags on my driveway," Phil says. "I'd hike them up on my shoulder and carry them in. You wouldn't think it but those bags are incredibly heavy. It's much easier now."

Although they now have a little over a dozen employees, Silver Bridge still considers itself one big family that values the importance of making fresh coffee.

Indeed, freshness is the foundation of Silver Bridge. When Phil began using a popcorn maker to roast his own coffee as a hobby, Lorraine was skeptical at first. To her, coffee was one of life's simple pleasures, something she didn't want to mess around with.

"With five kids, you get to be pretty serious about coffee," Lorraine says as she brews a cup of their Snow Angel blend. "But immediately, I was sold because of the freshness. We started showing our friends who couldn't believe it."

That freshness is something that Lorraine decided to take to the coffee market. They decided to begin brewing coffee seriously and managed to break into wholesaling by earning a spot on the shelves of the coffee aisle at Kroger in Athens.



ABOVE | Phil Walker takes a hands-on approach to roasting coffee.

Silver Bridge doesn't allow its product to sit on the shelf for longer than 90 days. The coffee is selling well, which Lorraine partly attributes to the "really vibrant local food movement" in the county that was willing to take a chance on her product due to its southeastern roots.

Locality wasn't the only factor, though. Lorraine first managed to amass a cult following by taking her product to Athens farmers markets to connect with coffee lovers, letting the taste speak for itself.

"It's really important that we treat the coffee with respect," Lorraine says. She's made it a point to visit some of the countries that her beans originate from. She does this to see the process by which the coffee travels from the branches of small trees to somebody's cup in Ohio.

Today, Silver Bridge brews are sold in small black bags that include a freshness date, handwritten by the Walkers, in place of an expiration date so that each customer knows when it was roasted.

Silver Bridge is also identifiable by the nostalgic gray logo of a man and woman enjoying coffee by a river with the Gallipolis Silver Bridge in the distance. Created by Athens designer Kevin Morgan, the logo is unique and timeless, much like the coffee itself, a testimony to the careful thought and love the Walkers have put into their craft. 🍵



SPIN IT TO WIN IT

Disc golf takes off in Lancaster

STORY BY **ANDREW GILLIS** | PHOTOS BY **BLAKE NISSEN**

Tucked on the side of a mountain in Fairfield County lies a rugged patch of land surrounded by green trees masking the mountainside.

The land used to be a landfill, but now, the Eagles Nest Disc Golf Course that inhabits it is one of the premier disc golf locations in Southeastern Ohio.

It's where Lancaster Disc Golf Alliance President Adam Ankrom added a completely new dimension to his life, a place where he could compete in tournaments he'd never thought possible.

"It's a passion," Ankrom says. "You really just have to want to do it. When I'm out here doing this stuff, to me it doesn't feel like work. To me, it's just something that I strive to do. It's not even a hobby anymore."

Disc golf, sometimes known as Frisbee golf, is a game with rules similar to traditional golf most are familiar with. The object of the sport is to send a plastic disc down a course toward the target area – a stand-up flag with a chain wrapped around it. Played in nine- or 18-hole increments at one of over 6,000 courses worldwide, according to the Professional Disc Golf Association, the goal of the game is to score as few points as possible. At the end of the game, the player with the fewest throws wins.

The sport is currently played in 40 countries and there are an estimated 44,000 members in the Professional Disc Golf Association. The Lancaster Disc Golf Alliance has about 100 members.

"We went from having 25 people show up to 125 people showing up every year," Ankrom says. "There are national tournaments that get thousands of competitors. I traveled to Kentucky and Kansas. It's incredible how fast it's grown."

Established in 2016, Eagles Nest is a course with 23 holes instead of the typical 18. It's considered to be one of the more difficult courses in the area because of the terrain on which the course is played.

Players use different types of discs, like drivers, putters and mid-range. The discs have different dimensions to them, as they're constructed to have their own benefits. Some are heavier and more accurate; others can cut through the air with more success than other discs.

"I would say it's similar [players throwing form], it's like a baseball swing," Ankrom says. "Everybody's going to swing the bat the way you swing a baseball bat, but everybody has their own specific stance, their own specific quirks that they have in their swings."

Vice chairman of the board, Nick Hood, didn't begin playing disc golf until a few years ago. Even when he went out, he thought the game was dumb. Just a few hours later, he was at Dick's Sporting Goods buying discs for his next game.

"There's 100 courses, or more, just in central Ohio that you can play for free," Hood says. "That particular aspect is really enticing to people."

Tournaments are commonplace in disc golf, with different events happening all throughout the United States. The largest takes place in Austin, Texas, each year. The Lancaster players have traveled before, to Kentucky and Kansas for example, and will continue to travel to tournaments in the future.

But at home, at Eagles Nest specifically, there only continues to be growth in the Lancaster area for disc golf. He and the organization continue to promote disc golf to different members of the community, recruiting people of all ages to come out and play the sport.



TOP | To get (literally) and eagle-eye view of the course, visit Southeast Ohio magazine's YouTube channel and watch: "Spin it to Win it."

LEFT | The colorful discs have different dimensions to them, as they're constructed to have their own benefits.

OPPOSITE PAGE AND ABOVE | Adam Ankrom, the Lancaster Disc Golf president, enjoys a morning on the course.


BELOW | The Eagles Nest listing on the Professional Disc Golf Association website: www.pdga.com.

For Ankrom, the hope remains that soon, there will be four to five disc golf courses between Lancaster and Athens. For now, though, Ankrom will remain in his role as president. Just over 10 years ago, he had no idea what disc golf was. In fact, he thought the holes were feeders for horses.

Now, he's the leader of an organization of one of the fastest growing sports in the United States.

"Having other people playing around you is the best thing you can do," he says. "Get out and play at your local courses and you know get with people who've been doing that for a while and that's the easiest way to learn."

But both Hood and Ankrom have said that there's nothing they've seen like Eagles Nest. The terrain, the views and the course itself are all special, and it's what they all appreciate about it.

"Really what Eagles Nest means to me, is that I'm proud," Hood says. "I'm really proud of what we've done as a club." 

Course Details

Course Type: Permanent

Holes: 18

Target Type: DISCatcher Pro

Tee Type: Natural


Elevation: 50/50 Flat/Hills

Foliage: Mixed - Trees/Open

Course Length: 7,310ft

Hole Length: Under 300ft: 6 | 300 - 400ft: 7 | Over 400ft: 5

Course Designer: Lancaster Disc Golf Alliance



Directions

From Columbus, Ohio; SE on Rte 33 bypass to a left on Tarklin Rd. Then a quick left on Old Logan Rd. for a mile to the course on the left. From South of Lancaster; NW on Rte.33 (take Bus Rte) to a left on Tarklin Rd. Then a quick right on Old Logan Rd. for a mile to the course on the left.

First Tee: (-82.5687,39.6755)

Parking Lot: (-82.5682,39.676)

Links

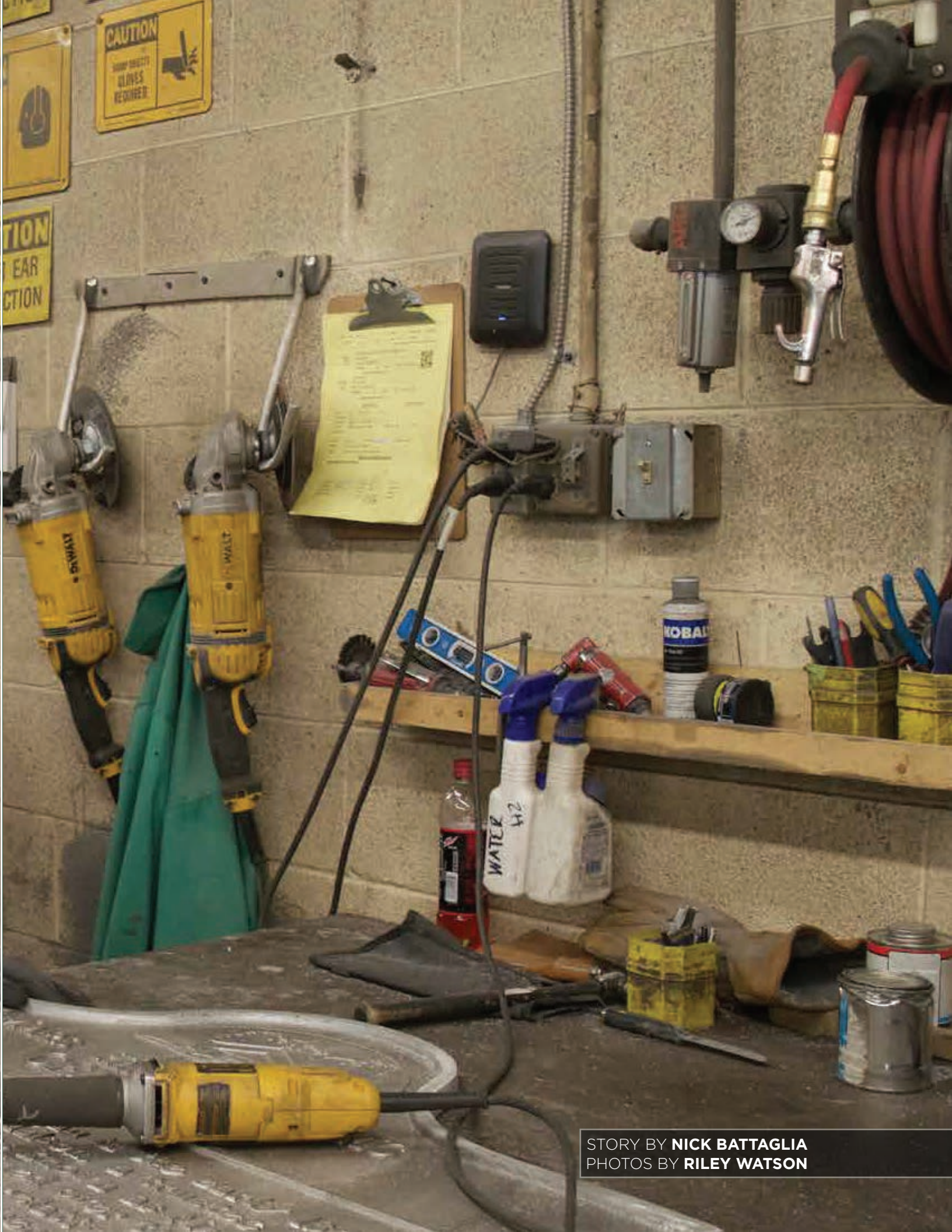
[Lancaster Disc Golf Alliance Facebook](#)

History in the Making

This Marietta studio creates nearly all our nation's historical markings.

And few even know it exists.





STORY BY **NICK BATTAGLIA**
PHOTOS BY **RILEY WATSON**



Marietta is a treasure trove of history, large and small. The town was established in 1788 as the first settlement of not just the state but the entire Northwest Territory. Exploring the area today reveals covered bridges, museums and the last intact steam-powered sternwheel boat. It seems fitting that Marietta also harbors another gem, often overlooked: Sewah Studios, a small, nondescript factory on Millcreek Road, which is history in the making, literally.

Sewah Studios is the birthplace for 75 percent of the country's signs marking notable historical locations. The markers, made of cast aluminum, often painted, are roadside staples in hundreds of thousands of notable spots.

E.M. Hawes repurposed an old organ factory into an aluminum foundry in 1927, called Sewah, Hawes' name spelled backwards. With the expansion of automobile tourism, he wanted to create historical markers for the country so that those who traveled were able to learn a little local history. During the development of President



ABOVE | In the foundry, Owners Brad Smith (left), Jeff Martin (middle) and Tyler Kiggans (right) inspect a sand casting before molten cast-aluminum is poured on to the casting at a temperature of 1,375 F.

RIGHT | Smith points to signs that have recently left the foundry, ready to be touched up should there be any imperfections.

PREVIOUS | Curtis Wheeler, a member of the finishing department, takes a moment to pause for the camera.



“The process hasn’t changed. Just a lot of elbow grease and hard work. We consider sticking to our roots an advantage.”

BRAD SMITH
owner and operator, Sewah Studios

Eisenhower’s Interstate Highway System 20 years later; people were traveling like never before. Business was on the rise and in 1953, Hawes retired and sold the factory to his associate, Gerald Smith. The studio has remained in the Smith family for three generations.

Today, Gerald’s grandson, Brad Smith, owns and operates the studio. Though Smith grew up running around the factory, these days he oversees 20 employees and all the processes of sign making, from the typeset to casting and foundry, to setting the finish and applying paint. It’s a business Smith has deemed “history on a stick.”

“The process hasn’t changed,” Smith says. “Just a lot of elbow grease and hard work. We consider sticking to our roots an advantage.”

Smith makes his signs the same way Hawes did 90 years ago. First, a sand cast is made with sand sourced from the Ohio River. Next, molten aluminum is poured into the cast at a temperature of 1,375 degrees Fahrenheit. Once it’s cooled, the impurities are touched up before the sign is baked and then painted.

Overall, the process for one sign takes about a week. However, many signs aren’t finished until the six-week mark due to the amount of orders the studio receives.



TOP | The unassuming exterior of Sewah Studios hides the history within.

BOTTOM | The typesetting department takes care to cock the “e” in a manner specific and unique to its sign, a Sewah product trademark.

The art of making these signs is a tradition that Smith holds dearly to its roots. According to him, the business should have been wiped out decades ago through the invention of plastic and the internet, but it hasn’t. And although the original sign concepts are laid out today via a design program on the computer, the labor and crafting is all human.

“Our products are all the same, since 1927,” Smith says. “It spans across decades. I don’t know another product that can hang its hat on that. Anything that can last that long I think is a testament to true craftsmanship.”

Most of Sewah’s original signs are still standing to this day, unless they’ve been destroyed by a



To watch, listen and learn more about Sewah Studios, visit Southeast Ohio magazine's YouTube channel and watch: "History in the Making."

car accident or hurricane. The originals stand alongside the 12,000 new signs that Smith and his team create every year. They can be seen in every state, sometimes in pretty unconventional places. Smith spoke of one sign that was placed at the bottom of Lake Michigan and can be dived to with proper equipment.

Sewah Studios and the Ohio History Connection (OHC) began its working relationship in 1957, and since then OHC and Sewah have worked together to tell old stories worth marking and sharing. Through them, the iconic brown signs plated with gold letters began dotting Ohio's map, sparking discovery.

The coordinator of the Ohio Connection's Fund, Andy Verhoff, has been working with Smith at Sewah since 2009 to make sure Ohio's signs are as concise and accurate as possible. To him, the signs are an important tool in preserving history.

"Markers are special in a sense that they actually mark the spot where something historical happened," Verhoff says. "You can't see the streets of the 1801 Chillicothe riots when they happened, but you can stand in the exact same spot and learn the story."

Over time change happens, leaving places with a layered history. Verhoff believes Sewah Studios is helping to bring these layers to light.

With a product that has crossed the paths of just about everybody who shares this country, Smith thinks it's interesting that many are unaware of its true origin.

Sewah Studios has spent 90 years telling everyone else's story, so this time it's theirs that is being told. The story of the American story tellers, who put history on a stick. It all starts as metal, but it's what the metal is turned into that matters. And that's what people see. 🇺🇸



THIS PAGE

TOP | Brad holds out a "g" used on his signs. The font used by Sewah is an original by the studio and has been used for decades. Some States such as New York even have special original fonts reserved only for them.

CENTER | A sign that has been cleaned up by the finishing department and now awaits baking and painting.

BOTTOM | Jeff Martin touching up a sand-casting of a soon-to-be sign.

OPPOSITE PAGE

TOP | Amber Glidden, a member of the paint department, applies a coat to a batch of signs soon to go out.

BOTTOM | An almost-finished product, Ohio's iconic brown sign is accompanied by gold letters.



ULTRA MOTIVATED

Distance runner Michael Owen keeps pace with life, love and planning races in the region

STORY BY MEGAN HENRY | PHOTOS BY MADDIE SCHROEDER

Arms pumping, Michael Owen runs with a determined look on his face as he whizzes past trees on a trail in Athens.

“The main thing with ultras is that people like to get out of their comfort zones,” Owen says. “They like to get into a place that’s remote or scenic or some kind of forest or wilderness that they don’t otherwise get to on a normal day.”

When he is not helping plan races of various distances around Ohio, the Pomeroy native himself is running 100-mile races more commonly known as ultramarathons or ultras. Ultramarathons are any distance greater than a marathon, or 26.2 miles.

Owen started running regularly his junior year of high school, and then he ran cross-country for Shawnee State University. After he graduated, he turned to ultramarathons.

“I love collegiate running, but I knew when I graduated I wanted to do the longer stuff,” Owen says.

For Owen, the “longer stuff” began in 2010 during graduate school at Ohio University when he ran a life-changing 50-mile race.

Since his 2014 graduation with a masters degree in outdoor education, he has made a home in Athens.

“It hurt really bad because I wasn’t used to it,” Owen says. After an ultramarathon, runners are physically and mentally exhausted. They usually need help sitting and will want to eat and sleep, Owen said.

Training for an ultramarathon is a combination of putting in a lot of miles and being in uncomfortable situations. While the length of an ultramarathon varies from race to race, it is not uncommon for an ultramarathon race to last more than 24 hours.

“When you’re doing a 100-mile race and it’s 3 a.m. and you’re at mile 70, you just don’t feel good,” Owen says. “If you put yourself in uncomfortable situations during training, then you might mentally be able to cope with those situations better.”

For example, Owen may run at midnight during training to get used to running late into the night or run in the rain to mentally prepare for weather.

“The mileage and the training isn’t that much different than a typical runner. It’s just how you’re doing it and going about it that’s different,” Owen says.

When it comes to running an actual ultramarathon, Owen says there are highs and lows throughout the race. “Nothing ever goes smoothly in a 100-mile, but people who are best at it are the ones who can deal with the lows,” Owen says. “It’s how well you cope with those lows.”

His mood will often fluctuate during a long race. “There are definitely the painful moments of dark places that you go into for races,” Owen says. “You just got to trudge through those and know that’s there going to be a high at the end of the low.”

A typical 100-mile race usually has between 15 and 25 aid stations spaced throughout the course offering water and a variety of food, including chips, nuts, sweet fruits and candy. Runners may pause for a few seconds to refill a water bottle or they may choose to rest for 30 minutes.

Owen has run seven 100-mile races in the past seven years. His fastest time for 100 miles was a 15-hour race in Cleveland, and his slowest time for 100 miles was a 26-hour race in mountainous Wyoming.

Jonathan Bernard, owner of Ohio Valley Running Company, occasionally runs with Owen. “He loves being on the most challenging, steepest course. Nothing scares him. He’s got that switch in his body that just goes off and he likes to really push himself,” Bernard says.

Wesley Harton, an ultramarathon runner who is an OHIO undergraduate student and member of OHIO’s Trail Running Club, first met Michael his freshman year of college. “Michael is just a great person, a great influence, a great mentor, a great friend, one of the best people in southeast Ohio that I’ve met down here,” Harton says.

During Harton’s first 50-mile race, he says he remembers sitting on a chair at an aid station “fully slumped over” at mile 44, when he saw Michael passing through the same aid station. Michael was on mile 76 of a 100-mile race.



PHOTO | Michael Owen pauses for a portrait on March 6th, 2018.



ABOVE | Michael Owen goes for a cool-down after a morning run in Athens.

“He loves being on the most challenging, steepest course—nothing scares him. He’s got that switch in his body that just goes off and he likes to really push himself,”

JONATHAN BERNARD

Ohio Valley Running Company

“It was just a really unique experience to see him powering through and crushing this super unfathomable distance,” Harton says.

Bobbi Owen, Michael’s wife, also runs ultramarathons. In fact, she started running just before meeting Michael. “It’s been a pretty common thread in our marriage,” Owen says.

Their daughter, Fern, was able to be there when Michael won a 100-mile race in Ohio, just two months after she was born. “It was really challenging getting the running in during her first two months,” Owen says.

Owen’s involvement goes beyond participation. He also helps plan four races around Ohio: the Iron Furnace Trail Run at Lake Hope State Park in April, the Thunderbunny 50-K in May, the Pawpaw 4-miler in conjunction with the Pawpaw Festival in September and the Shawnee 50 in November.

“[The Iron Furnace Trail Run] is one of the most challenging half-marathons in Ohio – maybe the most challenging. I think people like that part of it,” Owen says.

Year	Races	Finishes	Male %	Female %
2018 (YTD)	799	44,330	65.33%	34.67%
2017	1788	99,614	65.43%	34.57%
2016	1669	93,337	65.99%	34.01%
2015	1495	86,557	67.09%	32.91%
2014	1325	78,813	68.45%	31.55%
2013	1191	75,352	69.52%	30.48%
2012	1043	65,731	70.42%	29.58%
2011	869	51,160	71.63%	28.37%
2010	799	47,959	71.94%	28.06%
2009	624	38,404	72.99%	27.01%
2008	541	31,811	73.78%	26.22%

ABOVE | This chart from Ultrarunning Magazine’s website (www.ultrarunning.com) offers essential statistics about ultramarathons in North America during the last decade.

A unique aspect about ultramarathons is the community, and seeing people come back year after year is Owen’s favorite part of the Iron Furnace.

“I don’t see them but once a year,” Owen says. “I feel like a part of their life. It’s kind of a cool, eclectic group of people running; they mainly just want to do it for their personal reasons and everyone has that same idea of what they want to do,” Owen says. “In ultramarathons, the best of the best are in the same race with the back of the packers. Everyone feels a part of the same group.”



The festival promotes active lifestyles and Marietta's natural beauty with paddling, biking, hiking and yoga.

EAT, DRINK AND BE ACTIVE AT MARIETTA FESTIVAL

STORY BY **TIFFANY GOLDSTEIN**
PHOTO **PROVIDED**

Festival goers slip on running shoes, zip up running jackets and fill up water bottles to explore the Appalachian foothills of Southeast

Ohio during the Rivers, Trails & Ales Festival. Marietta hosts the annual festival to celebrate the natural assets of the town.

According to the National Geographic Adventure, Marietta was ranked No. 1 in outdoor recreation in the state of Ohio. The city welcomes 2,000 individuals every year to enjoy six trail systems and 200 miles of mountain space where participants have the opportunity to bike, hike and practice water sports.

In 1788, pioneers established Marietta and settled northwest of the Ohio River. Today, Marietta is a historical river town that lies at the convergence of the Ohio and Muskingum Rivers. The location of the town allows the festival to offer lake adventures.

Visitors and natives can participate in water activities including a 5- to 10-mile Vito Lake paddle quest, a chance to kayak at their own pace down the Muskingum River and the opportunity to test their balance by standing up on a paddle board during beginner lessons.

While many like getting their feet wet or taking a hike, some prefer to share an ale. Since Marietta Brewing Co. opened, it has been a major asset to the local community. The company has been the primary sponsor of the Rivers, Trails, & Ales Festival. It hosts several beer-centric events throughout the weekend.

Tony Styer, owner and adviser of the ales committee of Marietta Brewing Co., says that the brewing aspect of the weekend helps the town's economy and benefits a local nonprofit with its Community Pints. The Community Pints allow ale enthusiasts to come together and share pitchers of the best beer at the brewery. The brewery encourages visitors to give back by purchasing a

community pint. \$1 of every pint sold is donated to the River Valley Mountain Bike Association, which is this year's highlighted nonprofit.

"We get a lot of visitors, but we also do see familiar faces from Marietta," Styer says. "We love sharing a craft beer with the members of the community."

The historical downtown brewpub kicks off the festivities each year by tapping kegs of its signature IPA called "Rock-Drop Single Hop." On Saturday, the company host a small beer festival where it features six in-house ales and Ohio beer.

"We try and focus on only selling Ohio craft beer since we try to promote the perks of Ohio," Styer says. While the festival is for all ages, the Marietta Brewing Co. hopes to attract 25-54 year-old athletic individuals who like to get out and explore.

According to Marietta Visitor Experience Director Shannon Folts, the festival gets larger and better each year.

"I personally love seeing families and millennials following us on social media and using our hashtag," Folts says. "I know they are going to come back each year because what's not to love about Marietta?"

The vibrant outdoor community is home to the most beautiful trails in Ohio. The festival goers can ride up a single-track mountain bike trail that weaves throughout Washington County. The Marietta Adventure Co. provides the hiking and mountain biking equipment necessary for visitors to enjoy their time.

"We are a family-friendly festival; we love to promote healthy and outdoor lifestyles," says Eric Dowler the manager of the Rivers, Trails and Ales Festival. "The vibrant downtown community is waiting to welcome tourist and natives with open arms."

FESTIVAL information

www.rtafest.com | Aug. 9-12, 2018

GET OUT!



Ohio's Land Legacy

The Ancient Ohio Trail allows travelers to discover Ohio's rich Native American history

STORY BY **EBEN GEORGE** | PHOTOS BY **NORA JAARA**

Imprints of Native American life in Ohio certainly predate any caricatures adopted by a sports team, and probably the sport itself. Indeed, the history of the Buckeye State is filled with tribes like the Shawnee, Miami and Delaware.

In the aftermath of the colonization of America, the presence of Ohio's native people is less visible. However, the legacy of Native Americans in the central and southern portions of the state endures with an impressive collection of earthworks built into the landscape, providing a glimpse into the culture and life of people predating European arrivals.

Today, the creation of the Ancient Ohio Trail makes visiting these archaeological marvels easier than ever.

The Ancient Ohio Trail (AOT) is a comprehensive collection of travel routes and resources designed to help tourists discover “the distinguished Native American Culture in the Midwest,” according to the AOT website. AOT also offers digital access to earthworks as imagined before they were damaged or destroyed.

John E. Hancock, a professor emeritus of architecture at the University of Cincinnati, started the AOT project around 2007, and through funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and partnerships with the University of Cincinnati and The Ohio State University Newark, it has established 12 scenic routes.

Hancock conceived AOT while doing a project at the University of Cincinnati, where he created digital renderings of various ancient earthen mounds, effigies and enclosures around the state. During the next decade, he and his colleagues traveled around Ohio studying the various sites.

“It was at that point that I was particularly inspired to create something which would highlight the cultural heritage tourism potential of this whole region,” Hancock says.

Southeast Ohio is home to these notable sites along the Ancient Ohio Trail, with routes near Lancaster, Marietta, Chillicothe and Athens:

ZALESKI MOUND

The Village of Zaleski is home to Zaleski State Forest. The forest is located approximately 30 minutes outside of Athens, primarily in Vinton County. On the grounds of the state forest headquarters is the Zaleski Mound.

“I love the Zaleski Mound,” Hancock says. “I think it’s probably the most beautiful mound in Ohio.” The grassy mound stands elegantly, ringed with a gravel path and surrounded by saplings.

MOUND CITY

Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, located in Chillicothe, features the beautiful Mound City. As described by the National Park Service website, Mound City is a “13-acre rectangular earth enclosure with at least 23 mounds. The height of the earth walls of the enclosure is about 3 to 4 feet, with entrance or gateways on both the east and west sides. All the mounds are dome shaped except for one that is elliptical.”

THE BUILDERS

The architects of these earthworks were members of the Adena (800 B.C.-1 A.D.) and Hopewell (200 B.C.-circa 400 A.D.) cultures. It’s important to note that Adena and Hopewell are both not the name of a specific tribe. Instead they are terms used to categorize earthworks based on similarities in artifact style, architecture and other cultural practices.

“We do not know what these people might have called themselves or how they defined their societal or cultural groups,” Ohio History Connection writes on its website. Adena was the name of the estate of Gov. Thomas Worthington in Ross County. Located on the estate was a 26-foot-tall burial mound, hence, the name Adena Mound and Adena culture.

The term Hopewell culture originated from a similar scenario. According to Encyclopedia Britannica, “The name (Hopewell) is derived from the Hopewell farm in Ross County, Ohio, where the first site—centering on a group of burial mounds with extensive enclosures of banked earth—was explored.”

STRIDES TOWARD UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

The unique and historic earthworks may soon get global recognition. The organization World Heritage Ohio submitted two nominations – Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks and the Serpent Mound – for placement onto the U.S. Tentative List for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

“The two prospective nominations were added at the same time,” Hancock says. “That happened in about 2007 or 2008. They are still on the tentative list. The list was renewed two years ago.”

To gain World Heritage status, a site must possess “outstanding universal value to humanity.” If these sites are added to the permanent list, they will enjoy the benefits of increased tourism, awareness, control and sovereignty.

“The UNESCO World Heritage nomination of the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks is actively in preparation by our collaborative, multi-institutional steering committee,” World Heritage Ohio says. The nomination includes the Newark Earthworks, Fort Ancient and five geometric earthworks in Hopewell Culture National Historical Park.

“The understanding is that we are the next one which will be stepped forward,” Hancock says. “There’s no one in line ahead of us. So, if the line starts moving again . . . we’ll be next.”

The Ancient Ohio Trail provides residents and tourists with a high-quality travel experiences perfect for a day trip or weekend excursion. This year, rather than spending a fortune on cultural tourism abroad, fill up your car, mark up your state map and channel your inner historian to get in touch with Ohio’s roots on the Ancient Ohio Trail. 🍃

HAPPY TRAILS

An 88-mile trail expansion in the Wayne National Forest hopes to showcase southern Ohio's natural beauty to recreational tourists and visitors.

STORY BY **KATIE PITTMAN** | ILLUSTRATION BY **MADDIE SCHROEDER**

Call it a union of mud, sweat and gears. After nearly 25 years of planning, Wayne National Forest, which spans 12 southeastern Ohio counties, can to begin construction of 88 additional miles of biking and hiking paths.

The Baileys Mountain Bike Trail System, located between Athens and Nelsonville, will serve as the conduit to trails along the 21 miles of the Hockhocking Adena Bikeway, creating a trail network over 136 miles.

Initial discussions for the Baileys Trail expansion began in 1994, and in December 2017, Wayne National Forest received the green-light to begin fundraising and building. Trail construction has not started yet, but Wayne National Forest Public Affairs Officer Gary Chancey says the surrounding community is already heavily involved in the planning process.

Most of the project's survey work was completed by Ohio University students interning for Wayne National Forest.

"We brought on six interns last year that helped us complete our environmental studies survey," Athens District Ranger Jason Reed says.

The Athens Bicycle Club is also helping with planning, construction, and long-term management of the expansion. Over 10 days, the bike club volunteers walked through the forest to map over 35 miles of new trail with GPS units.

"I walked with a couple of trail developers," Athens City Council member Peter Kotses says, "and these guys are in the woods all over the world. One guy I was with said he had never seen anything like this before."

Due to coal mining in the area, hillsides eroded and left "shelves," causing some issues with drainage. By walking the proposed trail,

volunteers and developers improved and changed the trail's location to better fit the unique landscape.

The Athens County government is also supporting the project, with involvement from the Athens County Planner and Commissioner, the health department and the Village of Chauncey.

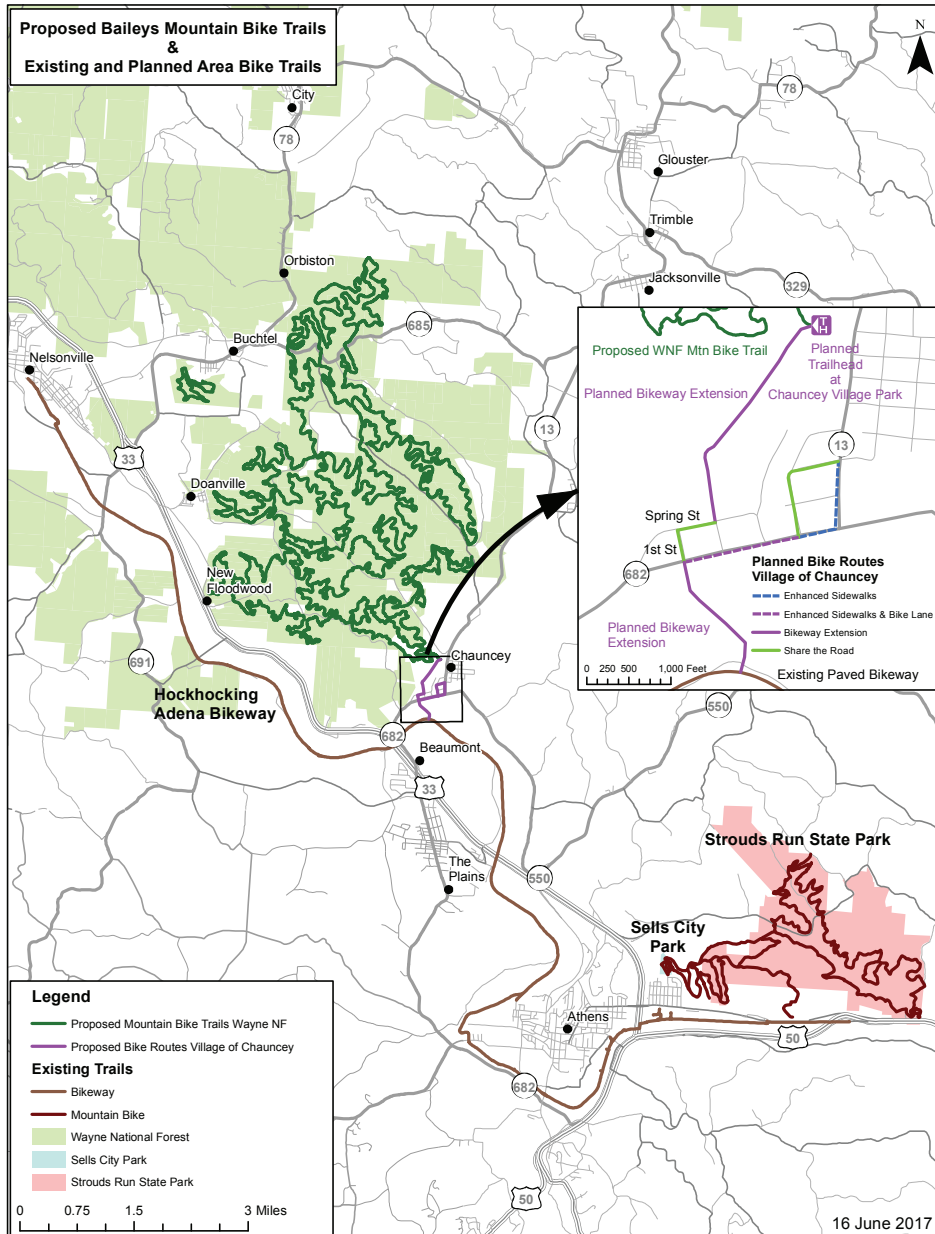
"We're trying to make sure we're not just focusing on the Athens population, but looking at those small communities, because we really see that's where the most benefit would be," Athens District Recreation Team Leader Dawn McCarthy says.

The start date of construction, including some tree clearing and creation of a path, will be finalized once funding, estimated to cost \$3 to \$6 million, is secured.

In the meantime, Wayne National Forest is participating in the Quantified Ventures Pay for Success (PFS) pilot program, which helps secure private investors to fund the initial construction costs of the trail expansion, and if outcomes are achieved, provide a return on their initial investments plus interest.

The ultimate goal of the project is not just to create more recreational trails in southeastern Ohio but to bring economy-boosting tourists to the area. "We're already seeing some interest in land in the Chauncey area and the areas surrounding the mountain bike trail system," McCarthy says. "We do know that it could help with real estate prices there, but we also are trying to do something where the communities can create small-business enterprises."

In addition to increased tourism, some hopes for this specific project are that property values around the trail will rise and local businesses will gain more customers.



“When you are in a place and someone else goes 300 miles out of their way to go to your place, that changes your relationship with you and your world and how you value where you come from. That’s intangible.”

SETH BROWN
Senior associate for
Qualified Ventures

“When you are in a place and someone else goes 300 miles out of their way to go to your place, that changes your relationship with you and your world and how you value where you come from. That’s intangible,” says Seth Brown, senior associate for Quantified Ventures.

Brown says the project’s research potential is vast. “Ohio University has some amazing

professors who do research in this field,” he says about the evaluation process. He says that faculty could help design evaluation criteria for the project to better track success outcomes.

Though the PFS pamphlet states the trail expansion was to be funded in “5+ years or more,” the hope is to fund the expansion in one year and begin construction shortly after.



Image source: Spartan7W

Ohio's Department
of Rehabilitation and Correction's
2017 Annual Report cites
"REDUCE CRIME IN OHIO"
as its vision statement and
"REDUCE RECIDIVISM AMONG THOSE WE TOUCH"
as its mission statement.

These three regional stories illustrate how our area's
corrective measure reflect such goals.

PUSHING PAST PROBATION

Lawrence County puts extra emphasis on helping probationers long term

STORY BY **JESSICA JOHNSTON**

Lynn Stewart has been a probation officer in Lawrence County for almost 19 years, and she says her work takes her beyond the conventional 9 a.m.-5 p.m. day.

"It's a hard job to put down. You worry about them [people on probation] still when you go home. It's a hard job to emotionally detach from," Stewart says.

Despite the job's intensity, Stewart believes everyone working in the probation department shares a mission to help its people. From the judges who review cases to the officers who supervise probationers to the supportive staff, each person seeks to provide solutions for what are often complex social problems.

"I believe that everybody that is in this job is here because they care about the people, and that's rewarding," Stewart says.

The department's approach is rewarding in other ways, too. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (DRC) recently recognized it for its outstanding intensive-supervision probation programs. On average, 40 percent of probationers will eventually end up in jail in Ohio, but in Lawrence County, only 28 percent of probationers end up in jail, the Huntington, West Virginia, Herald-Dispatch reports.

The essence of the department is to help those who have stumbled by the wayside. The Probation Department page of the Lawrence County Municipal court states, "The Probation Department further aims to provide offenders an opportunity to prove to the Court and to themselves that they are capable of living a socially acceptable life as productive and responsible members of society."

A majority of the probation cases seen in Lawrence County are drug-related. Each case goes through an assessment performed by one of two judges, who look at the probation file and determine which program is the best fit for the person, Stewart says.

While probation isn't a system that anyone wants to stumble into, the Lawrence County Probation Department is dedicated to bettering the lives of the people who come into its courtrooms. That effort begins with the list of 13 rules that people are required to follow during their stint on probation. Rules range from rule No. 4, which states, "The probationer shall make every effort to be gainfully employed at a lawful occupation," to Rule No. 5, which states, "The probationer shall not drink any beverages with an alcohol content, or use marijuana or any drug not prescribed to him/her by a physician."

Some of the programs are residential and require the probationer to live in a rehabilitation house with a structured daily schedule that includes house chores and pro-social activities to help them integrate back into normal life. In less extreme cases, the individual goes through a series of weekly meetings and homework assignments, Stewart says.

"In recent years, we've had a lot more programs here to be able to place them in residential instead of outpatient so they can go and stay there," Stewart says.

Higher-risk people on probation are placed on intensive, supervised probation, which is monitored by Stewart and Officer John Sexton, for the first six to 12 months and then remain on regular supervised probation for the rest of their terms. The standard amount of time a person is on probation is four years, but the longest term is up to five years in Ohio, Stewart says.

The amount of time a person is on probation is determined according to his or her offense. A probation sentence can get reduced based on evaluations. The sentence can be reduced by up to half the time if the person is a model probationer.

"I believe that everybody that is in this job is here because they care about the people, and that's rewarding."

Lynn Stewart
Lawrence County probation officer

The Lawrence County Probation Department received a good site-visit score from the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections auditors who assess the department's progress twice a year. This is in compliance with a grant that Lawrence County was awarded by the DRC. The grant, which Stewart directs, comes with a number of strict standards that are graded upon assessment and site visits.

The probation department in Lawrence County has started practicing "graduated sanctions" as a way to help those on probation and add a beneficial component to supervised cases.

"Let's say that somebody is under the influence of alcohol at their house during a home visit. Instead of sending somebody to prison, there's consequences, but we're not going to just rush right into prison," Chief Probation Officer Carl Bowen says. "They may have to do extra hours of community service; maybe they have to report to us more often."

Bowen handles the majority of the follow-up consequences to graduated sanctions before the case even goes to court. He says this helps the courts, but it helps probationers as well.

"It shows that we're willing to work with offenders because relapse is usually inevitable when it comes to addiction and we understand that," Bowen says.

Stewart says that although former probationers who are no longer in the system rarely return to thank department staffers, it does happen.

"It's not as often as you might think, but when you do and you see them it is really refreshing. It's very nice. It's a very rewarding feeling," Stewart says.

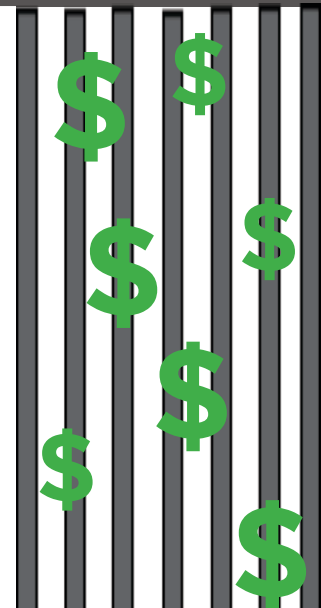
BEHIND-BAR BUDGETS

The costs, closure and future of Hocking Correctional prison in Nelsonville

STORY BY **JULIA FAIR** | INFOGRAPHICS BY **SARAH WHITMORE**

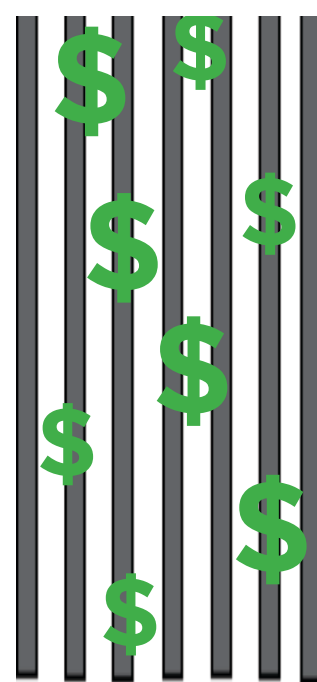
An empty building with an unknown future is the only remnant of the Hocking Correctional prison in Nelsonville. Until January, the facility in the foothills of southeast Ohio was supporting 115 employees, 480 prisoners and provided financial stability to the city through utilities it paid.

What was a once a mutually beneficial relationship between the city and prison leaves both parties reconciling with its loss. Although a press release from the Ohio Department of Corrections stated facility employees were offered jobs within the department, the city of Nelsonville was not so fortunate. Frustration was a



STAFF POSITIONS UNIQUE TO HOCKING CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Position Title	Annual Salary
Mail Clerk/Screeners	\$63,645
Library Assistant	\$64,323
Storekeeper	\$69,049
Correctional Laundry Coordinator	\$72,790
Activity Therapy Administrator	\$90,351
Training Officer	\$91,155
Safety and Health Coordinator	\$96,831
Teacher	\$98,303
Program Administrator	\$103,256
Labor Relations Officer	\$105,493
Captain	\$109,669
Chaplain	\$110,110
Assistant Principal	\$113,412
Correction Institute Department Superintendent	\$126,989
2 Maintenance Repair Workers	\$145,320
3 Correction Lieutenants	\$277,263
Physician Administrator	\$352,937
Annual Total	\$2,090,896



LEFT | As per information obtained via a public records request, Hocking Correctional had 15 positions not offered at comparable prisons.

factor at first, says Chuck Bargas, city manager of Nelsonville, as state officials did not contact the city about the closing before their official announcement. “We weren’t given a heads up to what was going to happen,” Bargas says.

Loss of revenue is on Bargas’ mind. When the prison was operating, it gave the city of Nelsonville \$350,000 in water and sewage revenue. Preparing for the loss means the city must weigh budgetary options.

Bargas has been transparent about the changes with employees, he says, counter to how the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction announced the closure. “As we’re prepping our budget, we have to account for that loss,” Bargas says.

One option involves layoffs within the city of Nelsonville office. Employees close to retirement will be the first to be let go. The city has already started collecting information for buyout packages for some employees, Bargas says.

In addition to layoffs, the city may have to gradually increase the cost of water and sewage. But Bargas worries raising the rates too high would be unfair to the residents of Nelsonville.

Citing high costs and higher efficiency, the state made the announcement in January that it was time to close the facility, which became Ohio’s most expensive. Each inmate cost \$65.64 a day at Hocking Correctional while comparable facilities of the same size and prison population had their inmate costs at about \$20 a day.

The prison also costs approximately \$11 million a year to run while comparable prisons operate on just \$3 million.

The only difference between the facilities was number of employees. Hocking employed about three times the number of employees comparable facilities in Richland, Belmont and Trumbull have even though the prisons had about the same number of prisoners.

The state continues to cite high costs compared to other prisons in Ohio for the reason Hocking Correctional closed. But a public records request shows Hocking Correctional had 15 positions not offered at comparable prisons.

Within those 15 position unique to Hocking is a chaplain, someone who performs a variety of religious services. That employee made \$110,000 a year according to public records.

Hocking Correctional also had a correctional laundry coordinator who was paid \$72,790 a year. More services provided – from a mail clerk with a salary of \$63,645 a year and a library assistant with a salary of \$64,323 a year – were available at Hocking Correctional, but not available at the other prisons that had a substantial lower operational cost. If the 17 positions that only existed at Hocking Correctional were cut, the prison could have saved \$2 million a year.

The Ohio Department of Corrections did not reply to inquiries about why the positions were only at the Hocking Correctional Unit.

In a press release from the department, though, it said the department will continue to responsibly use taxpayers’ dollars to fulfill its mission, in partnership with its talented, committed workforce.

The structure of what was once the Hocking Correctional Unit remains vacant until the state determines renovation plans.

In January, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction held a forum with 70 area representatives to discuss what should go in the building.

Some in attendance urged the need for a women's prison facility and others wanted the building to be

renovated into an opioid addiction treatment center, says Bargas, who represented Nelsonville at the forum.

There's a possibility of the building becoming a multi-functioning facility, but there's no guarantee, Bargas says.

COURTING NEW TREATMENTS

A Muskingum County Court Offers Addicts An Alternative to Incarceration

STORY BY **NORA JAARA**

Jeff Stevens was arrested for shoplifting, which he says he did to get drug money. His addiction began when he dropped out of school and began experimenting with drugs and getting into trouble.

Stevens started out with marijuana, but then he started taking opiate pain pills. But when taking the pills orally no longer satisfied him, he progressed to crushing and snorting them. As his addiction grew, so did his need for stronger highs.

Today, he leans against a table in an empty courtroom in the Muskingum County Courthouse, sporting a black jacket. "It's been a long, long flight," Stevens says.

Two years ago, a probation officer offered Stevens an opportunity that would lead him to sobriety – Miracles In Recovery And Clean Living Everyday, also referred to as the M.I.R.A.C.L.E. drug court. Stevens started his court-supervised treatment in June 2016, and his recovery serves as a testimony to the court's effectiveness.

"We developed the court because we understand that substance use plays a large role in many crimes, which also impacts many lives," says Matthew Gibson, a Muskingum County Court probation officer.

The Muskingum County Court Probation Department, Genesis Outpatient Services, Allwell Behavioral Health, Muskingum Behavioral Health and Transitions collaborate as a specialized docket to approach cases through therapeutic and treatment-based lenses. The Supreme Court of Ohio awarded the court its final specialized docket certification in January, which means the court can apply for grant money from the state.

By offering court-supervised treatment, the M.I.R.A.C.L.E. court aims to address and treat the underlying causes of the crimes to keep offenders from committing the same crime again. To get certification, the court has to apply and undergo a review process, and the Supreme Court of Ohio evaluates whether the court meets the necessary standards of practice.

The court recently received a \$100,000 grant, which will help fund job training, housing deposits and other needs. Participants who show progress can be rewarded with additional help, which makes a meaningful difference in their lives, according to Judge Scott Rankin, who serves as the specialized dockets judge for the M.I.R.A.C.L.E. court.

“ This program taught me that I had to want it for myself – to get clean.”

JEFF STEPHENS

M.I.R.A.C.L.E. Participant

"In the past, there would never be any money to help with a housing cost or to keep a utility on," Rankin says.

Although 60 people have entered the program, Stevens is one of the first to graduate since its creation. "This program taught me that I had to want it for myself –to get clean," Stevens says.

Gibson says he expects three more will graduate by May. But Rankin says people shouldn't necessarily measure the program's efficacy based on the graduation rate.

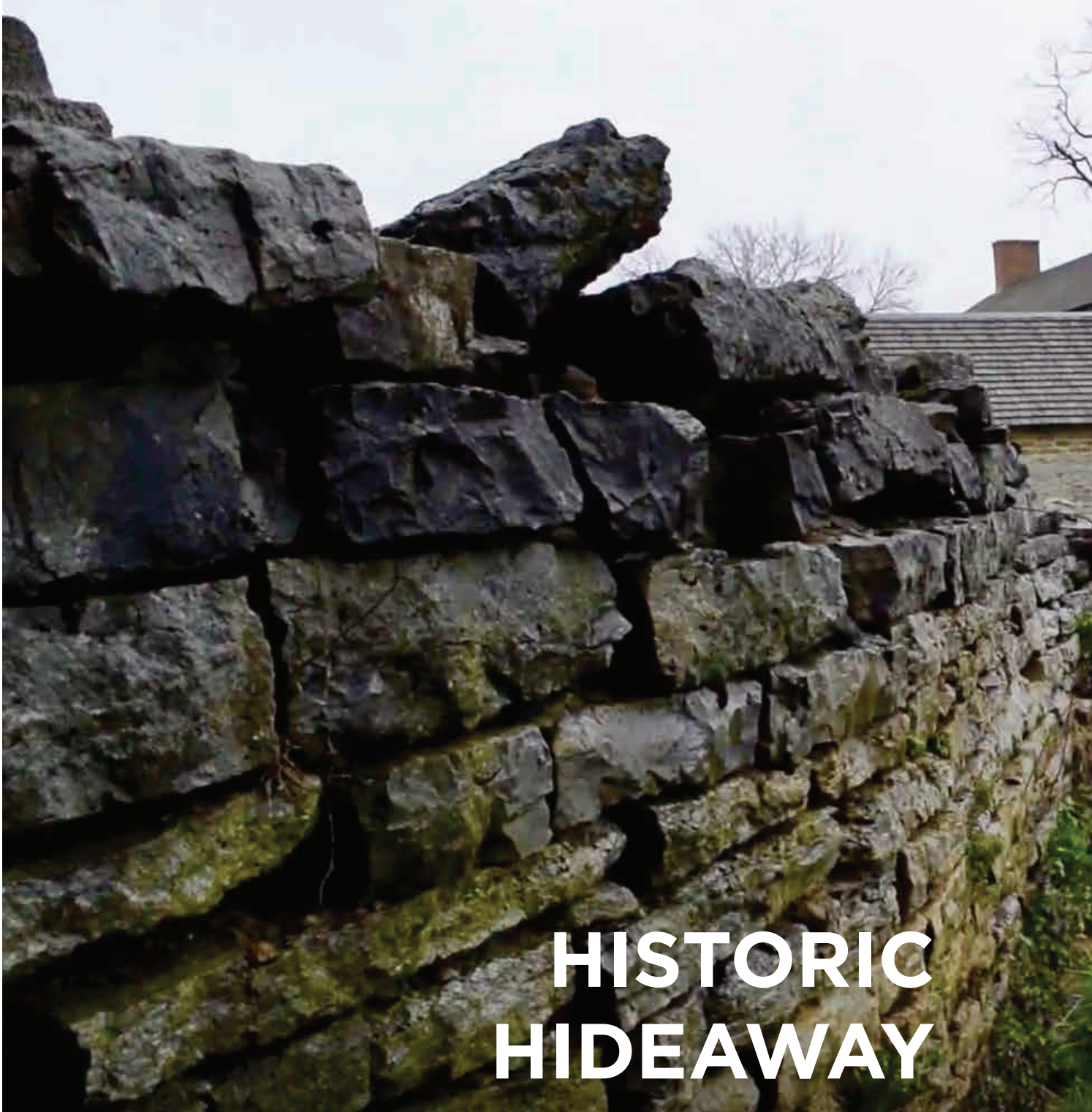
"Even the people who have not made it through the program have made positive changes in their lives," Rankin says. He calls the program the most rewarding part of his job. However, enlisting in the program does not grant offenders a get out of jail free card. Participants receive treatment tailored to their needs. Counselors evaluate them to determine those needs and how to meet them. When Stevens entered the program, he received counseling four days a week and had weekly check-ins with the court. Rankin says participants in the program learn the coping skills they need to keep them from re-entering the criminal justice system.

"They're not choosing the easy way out," Rankin says. Those in the program are subject to a curfew, random drug testing and house checks and individual or group counseling. Any failure to comply results in up to 30 days in jail, at Rankin's discretion.

Probation programs such as the M.I.R.A.C.L.E. court are proving cost-effective. Despite the treatment costs, the lower rate of recidivism among participants has helped drug courts save and \$5,000 to \$6,000 per offender on average, the National Institute of Justice's Multisite Adult Drug Court Evaluation found. Participants also had fewer rearrests than comparable offenders, according to the five-year evaluation.

But at the end of the day, Stevens advises people in the same place he was that success depends on wanting sobriety. Even then, he says it took him at least a year to open up to and trust the people in the program who were trying to help him.

"This program is a real good program – I owe my life to it, honestly," Stevens says.



HISTORIC HIDEAWAY

The **John T. Wilson Homestead** in Adams County is both Civil War historic landmark and bed-and-breakfast. And today's guests need not look far to explore the building's past as a stop on the **Underground Railroad**.

STORY BY **KEVIN BIGGS** | PHOTOS BY **GRACE WARNER**



From the attic window, one can see the remnants of a small community that formed in Adams County in the mid-1800s. What remains of that community is the John T. Wilson Homestead – a bed-and-breakfast that offers guests a quiet escape and a glimpse into untold history.

The 186-year-old B&B is made up of two buildings built by John T. Wilson himself. The main building is a two-story brick building with original oak floors and chestnut furnishings. Adjacent to the main building is a log cabin that was built in 1832 and served as a small convenience store that sold dry goods and whiskey.

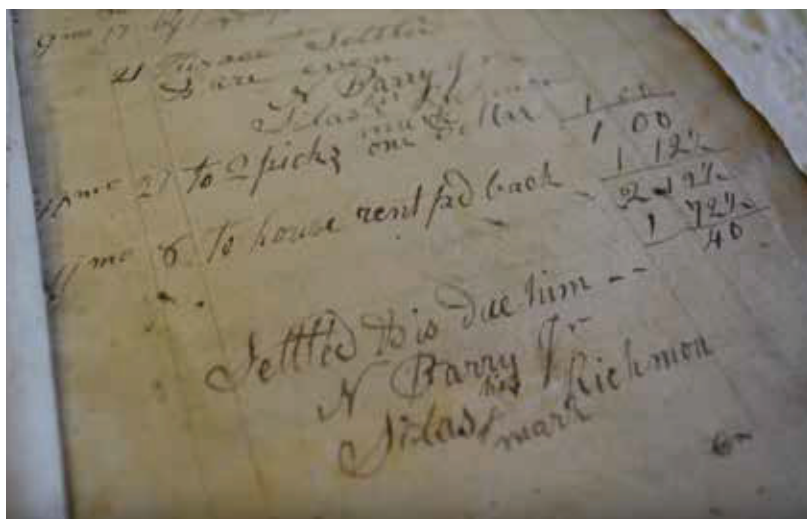
Nobody had occupied the residence for 40 years until 2006 when Ralph Alexander decided to purchase

the houses and the 42 acres of land on which they rest.

“When we came here, you couldn’t even see it because of the vines and trees,” Alexander says. “It took probably two weeks just to get everything cleaned off around the building to see what we had to work with.” Altogether, reconstruction took over 7,000 hours.

In the mid-1800s, a small community of about 40 homes and businesses formed around Wilson’s property: Tranquility. He ran his business from the log cabin and used his home and land to organize and train a volunteer infantry for the Union army known as Company E.

“He was considered a hero at the Civil War in the Battle of Shiloh,” Alexander says. Alexander has



CLOCKWISE, FROM LEFT | Alexander's collection of memorabilia from Wilson's life includes ledgers from the historical figure's store.

A fireplace in the reconstructed main room of the Wilson house displays artifacts from the original era, such as this washtub and washboards.

Historical items discovered in Southeast Ohio thrift shops bring the house to life and contribute to the house's historical atmosphere.

RIGHT | An image of John T. Wilson hangs over the mantle, pictured behind owners Ralph and Patricia Alexander.

collected memorabilia from Wilson's legacy, one that he feels is undervalued.

Many guests are drawn to the Wilson Homestead today because of its connection to the Underground Railroad. Wilson was one of many conductors operating in Southeast Ohio, and there is evidence in the construction of his home.

Behind a secret door in the corner of the dining room, a narrow stairway leads up to the attic above Wilson's bedroom, where runaway slaves used to huddle near the fireplace for warmth on cold nights. Guests can walk through the wood attic themselves, one of the tangible experiences preserved by Alexander's dedication to Wilson's home and history.

There is little documentation of the Underground Railroad, but Alexander believes the divot on the bottom step of the secret stairway is a mark of the heavy traffic of slaves, stepping and turning into the attic.

The only other artifact providing evidence of Wilson's dedication to the abolitionist cause is a hollow bamboo stick believed to be used as a snorkel.

"If you look you can see the teeth marks where somebody had been biting on it. For slaves, the only way they kept from the dogs smelling them out is they'd lay under the water," Alexander says.

Wilson kept his activities working on the Underground Railroad a secret, but today these little bits of history give guests at the Wilson Homestead a connection to history.

The Friends of Freedom Society, a statewide organization that researches the Underground Railroad, recognized John Wilson's home as a historical landmark. The organization's founder, Cathy Nelson, was there to help dedicate the historical landmark sign.

"When I drive up the rise to that house, there's something very spiritual, something very special about that site," Nelson says. It is impossible to know how many slaves Wilson sheltered on their route to freedom, but Nelson still praises Wilson for the sacrifice he made.

"He risked his life and property to do that and that's what's important," Nelson says. "Even if he only helped one slave, that was one slave that got closer to freedom."



According to John Wickerham, a volunteer historian at the Adams County Heritage Center, runaway slaves would have had to cross the river into Ripley, Ohio, before making a 30-mile trek to Wilson's. Although Ohio was a free state, abolitionists were still at risk when assisting runaways.

"If you harbored runaway slaves you were in violation of the law and subject to imprisonment, but it [Adams County] was still a very active part of the Underground Railroad," says Wickerham.

Guests at the Wilson Homestead can physically feel history in its purest form, walking on floors and touching walls that provided refuge and warmth for people on their way to freedom.

All the work that went into the Wilson home was done to preserve a piece of history almost forgotten, but Alexander feels an obligation to keeping Wilson's legacy alive, a "labor of love," as he puts it.

"This is not a money-making project for us. We're doing this more for the history aspect of it," Alexander says.



ABOVE | For more information about the B&B, area history and events: www.johntwilsonhomestead.org.

To take a video tour of Tranquility and hear firsthand from Ralph Alexander, visit Southeast Ohio magazine's YouTube channel and watch:
"Tranquility's Historic Hideaway".



A TRIBUTE TO THE SHENANDOAH TRAGEDY

STORY & PHOTOS BY **MEGAN HENRY**

More than 20 years ago, when Theresa Rayner was waiting in line with her daughter at a Sherwin-Williams store in Marietta, another customer asked her daughter about the Zeppelin mascot on her Shenandoah High School shirt.

“I go in to this great big long explanation of the airship and how it crossed here in the county, and that’s our school’s mascot,” Rayner says. “When we got in the car my daughter looked at me and said, ‘Mom, you’re getting as bad as Dad,’ so that was when I really knew I was hooked.”

The high school is named after the USS Shenandoah, which carried 43 men, 14 of whom died after the airship flew into a storm and crashed in Ava on Sept. 3, 1925.

Rayner and her late husband, Bryan, opened the USS Shenandoah Air Disaster Museum in Noble County in 1995 on the 70th anniversary of the crash. The museum is in a camper and is packed with artifacts detailing life aboard the airship.

“When you think about the impact this had on Noble County back in 1925, it’s probably the equivalent of when the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded,” Pastor and Noble County historian John Powell says. “Noble County was thrust into the spotlight.”

The Navy built the USS Shenandoah for scouting purposes to help protect its surface ships from enemy submarines. The USS Shenandoah, however, never went on any official scouting missions, Rayner said.

The museum includes pictures and models of the airship, newspaper clippings about the crash, as well as artifacts from the USS Shenandoah, such as flattened soup cans and spoons. A collection of DVDs and VHS tapes that reference the airship is also on display.

Growing up, Bryan listened to his grandfather’s stories about the airship crash. Theresa, on the other hand, didn’t always share her husband’s fascination.



OPPOSITE PAGE | Owner Theresa Rayner stands among many artifacts that pack the museum.

LEFT and BELOW | The museum includes pictures and models of the airship as well as artifacts, such as a lampshade.

It wasn't until the couple got married in 1977 that his interest finally rubbed off on her.

"Once we actually met some of the people whose lives were actually totally changed because of this piece of history, then that's when I have to say I really got hooked," Rayner says.

Before the museum opened, the Rayners acquired totes full of items relating to the crash, which they would drag out every time someone visited. They decided they needed a place to put the items on display, and the idea for the museum was born.

Visitors from all over the world have visited the museum including people from New Zealand, Canada and Germany.

Family members of those who were killed in the airship disaster have visited the museum, including the family of airship Lt. Cmdr. Zachary Lansdowne, who died in the crash.

"It's exposed a very small rural country area to a lot of different cultures and a lot of different people from all walks of life," Rayner says.

The mascot for Shenandoah High School is a Zeppelin because the USS Shenandoah was a Zeppelin ship, Shenandoah High School Principal Justin Denius says. A Zeppelin is a type of rigid airship named after the German Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin.

A few years ago, the Shenandoah Zeps were named the most unique mascot in Ohio, Denius says. "Having a Zeppelin as a mascot, it's not like you can dress up as a blimp and run around like a tiger, but we just recently tied our mascot onto our football scoreboard in terms of the Navy star that was on the side of the USS Shenandoah," Denius says.

People sometimes ask Theresa why the airship crash remains relevant after so many years.

"We can see all these pioneers in lots and lots of different fields," Rayner says. "The first men who flew into space were pioneers. Well these were the first men that dealt with a lighter than air craft."





ABOVE | Diana Pfile shows off the museum's circus-themed room.

YESTERDAY'S PLAY

STORY BY **ALYSSA LYONS** | PHOTOS BY **NORA JAARA**

Diana Pfile, vice president of the Children's Toy and Doll Museum, recounts a memory she shares with her colleague and friend, Teresa Spencer, an avid collector of toys for over 44 years.

Years ago, a retired serviceman and his family were visiting the Marietta museum to see the anticipated military toy display on loan by Spencer. Lagging behind while his wife and daughter continued on, the veteran was approached by Spencer, who spoke with him about her collection of military tanks, planes and cars. In return, the gentleman told tales of war.

Spencer unlocked the display and brought out an old windup military tank. Time stood still as the veteran sat on the floor, rewinding the key to the history he and Spencer so fondly shared.

Such responses reside at the heart of the Children's Toy and Doll Museum, which opened in 1976 by Sally Hille to showcase her love for collecting toys and dolls.

Before sharing her admiration for antiques, Hille shared her voice as a disc jockey with the citizens of Marietta, where she became a pioneer for women in radio.

Appearing on "Sally's Social Corner," she became the first woman in radio in the Mid-Ohio Valley. Her elite and growing status propelled her to WBRJ-AM 910 (Marietta), where she interviewed popular celebrities of the time like actors Gene Kelly ("Singin' in the Rain") and Rock Hudson ("Pillow Talk"). As Hille got older, she returned to "Sally's Social Corner" and operated the radio show from her home, transporting listeners to the days of Frank Sinatra and earning a Guinness World Record as the "World's Oldest DJ" before her death in 2016.

Behind the scripts, tapes and radio equipment was a passion for collecting, an interest she explored with the formation of the Bicentennial Women's Club in 1976. Under the direction of Hille, a group of Marietta women gathered to celebrate the nation's birthday by collecting vintage dolls, games, toys and doll houses from the late 19th and early 20th centuries for the public to view at the Campus Martius Museum (Marietta).

At the grand opening, Hille revealed the world's first-ever talking doll house. The 10-room doll house tells the story of wedding day preparations on Christmas Day in 1900.



LEFT | A collection of early American First Lady dolls resides in a display converted from a closet.

After the club received positive responses from Campus Martius Museum visitors, members decided to expand the collection. Two railcars in the historical district of Marietta became the first official location of the Children's Toy and Doll Museum in 1989. Seven years later, and an abundance of toys and dolls, the museum moved next door to an old boilermaker's home, owned by George Strecker, who manufactured oil stills, tanks and smokestacks. The toys and dolls finally had a place to call home.

"People are drawn to the opportunity of going back in time and having an opportunity to see what life may have been like growing up in our community," Pfile says.

Each toy, doll and house is either received by donation or loaned from a private collector. Pfile sits with her fellow board members Donna Kern (president), Kathy Eckert (treasurer) and Spencer to decide which collections will be featured in rotation every two years. Before the antiques can be set in one of the nine display rooms, they are separated by style and year, tagged and redressed to fit the appropriate time period they reflect.

"When we look at dolls, we don't think there's a story behind it, but there's always a story if you start digging a little deeper. That's what's fun about it," Pfile says.

Most of the dolls are examples of German bisque dating back to the late 1800s.

Bisque is a very popular style in which dolls are made to be lifelike, from the hair to the skin to the glass-painted eyes. Pfile began to collect bisque Shirley Temple Black dolls in hopes of passing the collection on to her granddaughter one day. It is one of the two-year rotating collections on display this summer.

The collection consists of over 80 miniatures, dolls, models and pieces of memorabilia from Shirley Temple Black's career. The dolls sport outfits connected to her movies, photos, books and more, something Pfile holds close to her heart.

"She represents my childhood and dolls I loved but never owned," says Pfile.

The Shirley Temple Black exhibit is not the only collection in rotation this summer. Spencer and Michelle Smith of Westerville share a personal collection of the Marx Toy Co.'s Johnny West miniseries play set, which will also be on display. The Johnny West set includes members of the West family, sheriffs and outlaws. Each figure and its according accessory is authentic down to the smallest detail.

Hille's legacy lives on in every room, every toy and every doll. The museum is proud of bridging a connection through generations past and future in hopes of opening discussions among family and friends. The Children's Toy and Doll Museum is open the first week of May through October.

To watch, listen and learn more about the Children's Toy and Doll Museum, visit Southeast Ohio magazine's YouTube channel and watch: "Yesterday's Play."

High school football coach Ryan Adams weathers real-life field work

STORY BY **ANDREW GILLIS**



When Ryan Adams was named the Athens High School football coach in 2007, he had little-to-no funding available, the equipment was outdated and the players weren't as physically gifted as others in the district. Three years later, a massive storm destroyed the facilities. It was Adams' job as the football coach to begin the rebuild of the program financially.

Today, AHS's football program is one of the most consistent in Southeast Ohio, and each year the Bulldogs are a threat to win the district championship. We talked with Adams about his decade of strategizing for success.

How did you initially get financial support from the community?

The first thing that I did is I shot pictures of all field equipment. And a lot of that stuff is the same stuff I was using back in 1988, in all honesty. I held a meeting in the gymnasium with parents and a few people that I knew well in the community. I had pictures of what we have, and the pictures of what we should have. And we immediately raised \$14,000 on the spot.

Describe the aftermath of the 2010 storm.

It was bad, man. It pretty well destroyed most things. Our press box blew off of the grandstand, and there were people in there five minutes before that. We were incredibly fortunate not to lose anybody that night.

And you know I had players and kids whose homes were badly damaged by the storm. You get those kids wondering where they're going to sleep that night and things like that.

What did your state title run in 2014 do for you and your community?

It really doesn't get any better than that. When you get such a small group of kids in a rural area like Athens that can come together and do that and go compete against the Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary's and be a play or two away from winning the whole doggone thing ... We had kids come at 6:30 in the morning going through P90X with coaches, then come into the weight room at the end of the day. That's that's a rare level of commitment in terms of my experiences as a football coach, but that's also what made it extraordinarily special.

What is your goal for AHS football in the next few seasons?

We need to re-claim another title. You know we've had a three-year drought. We feel that we've got all of the in-tangibles in place to be as successful as we can possibly be. I feel very confident that at Athens, you're going to be given that opportunity to achieve that. It just depends on how much buy-in we get.

Southeast Ohio high school football QUICK FACTS

TRI-VALLEY CONFERENCE (16 SCHOOLS)

HOCKING DIVISION: Belpre (Washington), Eastern (Meigs), Federal Hocking (Athens), Miller (Perry), South Gallia (Gallia), Southern (Meigs), Trimble (Athens), Wahama (West Virginia), Waterford (Washington)

OHIO DIVISION: Alexander (Athens), Athens (Athens), Meigs (Meigs), Nelsonville-York (Athens), River Valley (Gallia), Vinton County (Vinton), Wellston (Jackson)

Source: Ohio High School Athletic Association, <http://www.ohsaa.org>

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Orthopedic Surgery,
Sports Medicine

Gallipolis

PHOTO | *Teresa Spencer greets visitors to Marietta's Children's Toy and Doll Museum. PAGE 44*

