

2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival

**OFFICIAL SOUVENIR PROGRAM
PUBLISHED BY GAZETTE NEWSPAPERS**

Covered Bridge Festival returns this year to the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds

• Festival runs Oct. 14-15 •

BY STEFANIE WESSELL

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON - The Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival will return this year to the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds, 127 N. Elm Street, Jefferson.

In most recent times, the festival had been taking place at Giddings Park in Jefferson.

In its 39th year, the festival will be held Oct. 14-15, with free admission and parking.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The festival includes official souvenirs, parade, crafts, entertainment, demonstrations, contests, kids' rides/games and great food.

Returning contests include a Lego covered bridge contest, troll costume contest, scarecrow contest, baked goods contest and more.

Found on the fairgrounds will be official Covered Bridge Festival souvenirs, food vendors, the Mini Bridge, antique cars, antique engines, apple-butter making demonstrations, inside and outside crafters, historical displays, kids' activities, trackless train rides and more.

New this year is a petting zoo. The Happy Hoppers 4-H Club and the 4-H Equine Committee will have animals in the small animal barn for kids to visit with.

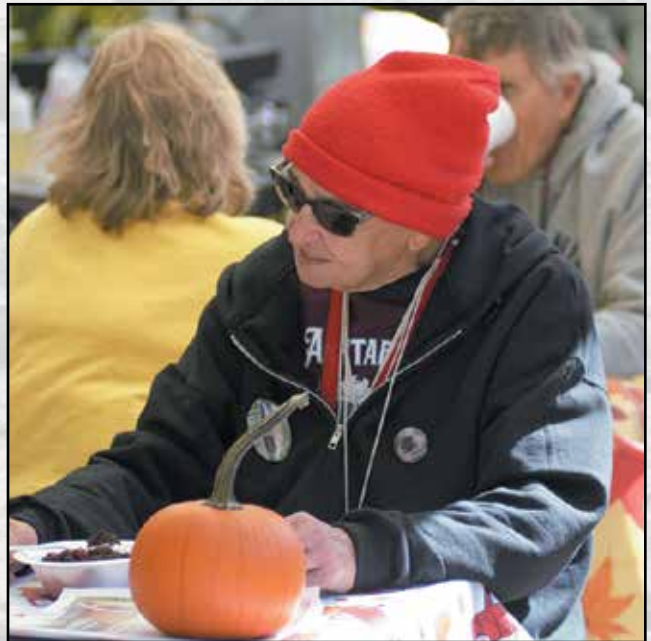
There will also be Jr. Bridger activities and laser tag in an inflatable house.

Guests can try and spot Bigfoot strolling the grounds.

The Jefferson Depot, also located in Jefferson, will be open for people to tour the 1890 village from 1-4 p.m. both days.

Visitors coming for the two-day festival should be sure to stop at downtown Jefferson for some of these events in between touring the bridges in the county.

Learn more about the festival at <http://www.covered-bridgefestival.org/index.html>.



FILE PHOTO

A visitor enjoys cobbler made by Boy Scout Troop 41 during the 2022 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival at Doyle Road Bridge in Jefferson on Sunday, Oct. 9.

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Back to Our Roots

Hello! The 2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival is quickly approaching, and the Festival Committee cannot wait to go "Back to Our Roots" this year!

After nearly a 10-year hiatus, the festival is returning to the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds, its original home!

This means there will be PLENTY of parking and room for even more vendors and activities! We truly anticipate a HUGE crowd!!

On Saturday we are honoring our Ashtabula County First Responders and hope to have many of their units in our parade which steps off from the Jefferson Area High School at 1 p.m.

The parade will wind through the streets of Jefferson and end at the Fairgrounds! Please come out and help us thank our 2023 Grand Marshalls and longtime sponsors - Bill and Becke Creed from Gazette Newspapers!

Also on Saturday, we will host our Antique Engine Show and our 39th Annual Car and Truck Show featuring a DeLo-rean and a Knight Rider Tribute Car. Please plan to cast your vote for the People's Choice of Best in Show!

And along the way, visit the myriad of food vendors, crafters and artisans selling their wares!

Holding our festival on the spacious fairgrounds also allows us to bring back some exciting fan favorites: our Quilt Show in the Octagon Barn, our Coloring Wall, a Pancake Breakfast and the Scarecrow and Mini Bridge Contests in the Expo Center, a Petting Zoo in the small animal Barn, and the always popular Chainsaw Chix - Ms. Aya Blaine!

And we also have NEW activities this year: fun baking contests, an Art Show, Indoor Laser Tag, the Walnut Hill Cloggers, lots of fun kid activities by our own Junior Bridgers and entertainment by fantastic bands in the Barnard Pavilion!

And, strolling the grounds you may also encounter President and Mrs. Lincoln, Johnny Appleseed and Bigfoot!

As always, there will also be activities at most of our 19 beautiful covered bridges, manned by local nonprofit groups!

The fall colors should be in full bloom, so be sure to take lots of pictures to submit for next year's 2024 Covered Bridge Calendar Contest!

We are so blessed to live in the "Covered Bridge Capital of Ohio," and we can't wait to see you all at this year's Covered Bridge Festival!

Please join us as we go "Back to Our Roots"!

Michele Victor
President

Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival

2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival

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Cover Photo of South Denmark Bridge by Joy Detrick



Plenty of food choices at festival

BY STEFANIE WESSELL

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON - Guests to the Covered Bridge Festival won't leave hungry, as there will be plenty of food to choose from during the two-day event at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds.

A pancake breakfast will be served from 9 a.m. to noon both days at the Expo Building.

Other food vendors will be on the grounds as well.

If someone is in the mood for hot dogs, burgers or fried bologna, Tidy Whitey has them covered.

If someone is craving BBQ, they can give Cove Creek BBQ a try.

Colvin Concessions has burritos, tacos, nachos, pulled pork, pretzels and deep fried Oreos. In a second trailer, they will be offering candied nuts and popcorn.

Twizted Eggrolls offers a "twizt" on normal egg rolls, with flavors ranging from Philly Steak to Cheesecake.

CSL Concessions will offer pizza, burgers fried veggies and bloomin' onions.

Compassionate Catering Kandy will entice those with a sweet tooth with candy apples and cotton candy.

That doesn't include all of the food offered at the covered bridge locations as well.

2023 food vendors include:

Colvin Concessions (burritos, tacos, nachos, pulled pork, pretzels, deep fried Oreos in one trailer; second trailer will have candied nuts and popcorn)

Compassionate Catering Kandy (candy apples, cotton candy)

Cove Creek BBQ

Cowboy Up Soda Co.

CSL Concessions (pizza, burgers fried veggies, bloomin' onions)

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Tidy Whitey (hot dogs, burgers, fried bologna, lemonade)

Twizted Egg Rolls

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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



39th Annual Covered Bridge Festival

Saturday, Oct. 14

8-10 a.m. - Drop off Mini Bridges (including Legos), art projects, scarecrows and baked goods for judging at the Expo Building

9 a.m. - Noon - Pancake Breakfast at the Expo Building

9-10:45 a.m. - Drop off entries for baked goods contest at Expo Building

10 a.m. - Festival/Craft Building opens

10 a.m. - Kids' activities begin

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Car Show/Antique Engine Show

10-10:45 a.m. - Walnut Hill Cloggers at Barnard Pavilion

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - John and Marian King as Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd Lincoln at the Log Cabin

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Romick Railway rides at the milking stand by MAC Building

10:30-11:30 a.m. - Chainsaw Chix performance by the antique engines area

11 a.m. - Baked goods contest judging/mini bridge judging

11 a.m. - Art contest judging/scarecrow judging

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Kings of Revelry at the Barnard Pavilion

12-12:25 p.m. - Walnut Hill Cloggers at Expo Building

12-3 p.m. - Bigfoot by the Barnard Pavilion

12 p.m. - Parade lineup at Jefferson Area High School

12:30-1:30 p.m. - Chainsaw Chix performance by the antique engines area

1 p.m. - Parade steps off

1-4 p.m. - 1890 tours at the Jefferson Depot

1:20 p.m. - Parade arrives at Fairgrounds

1:45 p.m. - Troll judging at the Barnard Pavilion

2:30-3:30 p.m. - Chainsaw Chix performance by the antique engines area

3:30-5 p.m. - Kings of Revelry at the Barnard Pavilion

5 p.m. - Festival closes

Sunday, Oct. 15

9 a.m. to noon - Pancake Breakfast at the Expo Building

10 a.m. - Festival Opens/Craft Buildings open

10 a.m. - Kids' activities begin.

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Antique Engine Show.

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Romick Railway rides at the milking stand by MAC Building

10-11 a.m. - Church service by Eagleville Bible Church at the Barnard Pavilion

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - John and Marian King as Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd Lincoln at the Log Cabin

10:30-11:30 a.m. - Chainsaw Chix by the antique engines

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Northeasterly Winds Woodwind Quartet in the Expo Building

12-3 p.m. - Bigfoot by the Barnard Pavilion

12-2 p.m. - Ernest T Band at the Barnard Pavilion

12:30-1:30 p.m. - Chainsaw Chix by the antique engines

1-4 p.m. - 1890 tours at the Jefferson Depot

2:30-3:30 p.m. - Chainsaw Chix by the antique engines

3-5 p.m. - Mitch and Melissa Acoustic Duo at the Barnard Pavilion

5 p.m. - Festival closes

On The Fairgrounds

Official Covered Bridge Festival Souvenirs

Food Vendors

The Mini Bridge

Antique Cars / Antique Engines

Apple Butter Making Demonstrations

Inside and Outside Crafters

Historical Displays in Log Cabin

Kids' Activities

Petting Zoo - The Happy Hoppers 4-H Club and the 4-H Equine Committee will have animals in the small animal barn for kids to see.

Trackless Train Rides

Jr. Bridger Activities

Laser Tag in an inflatable house

Jefferson Depot

• 1890 tours from 1-4 p.m. both days

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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Committee organizes photo contest

BY STEFANIE WESSELL

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON - There are 19 covered bridges throughout Ashtabula County, with the 19th bridge being the pedestrian Riverview Bridge, and each bridge has its own unique historical background.

Fall is a perfect season to start taking photos to enter the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival Committee's photo contest.

The Committee holds a contest every year, and the winners will appear in the annual Covered Bridge Calendar. They will receive recognition in the calendar and will receive a prize.

As people are out taking photos, keep in mind the typical rules of the contest:

- Photos must be of complete bridges. No partial bridge photos will be accepted.

- The photographer's name, address, phone number and the name of the bridge must be on the back of each photo on a piece of paper that can be removed. The committee cannot



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jim Reuschling is the winner of the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Committee's calendar contest, with a photo of Netcher Road Bridge.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Trista Reed's photo of Root Road Bridge won placement on the back cover.

submit winning photos to the printer if you write on the back. Do not write on the back of the photo.

- The photos must be clear and up to date. No old photos will be judged.

- The entry fee is \$5.

People may submit as many photos as they would like for one fee. Entries without the fee will not be judged.

- All photos become the property of the Covered Bridge Festival.

Photos may be sent to the Covered Bridge Office, 25 W. Jefferson St., Jefferson, OH 44047.



Covered Bridge Festival

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For more information visit www.coveredbridgefestival.org or our Facebook page 



2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



Bridge Activities 2023

Benetka Rd. Bridge is hosted by the Sheffield Fire Department. There will be horse-drawn wagon rides through the bridge provided by the Sackett Family (weather permitting). There will be a variety of food and pop to benefit the Fire Department. Donuts and cider are provided by the Fire Department, and there will be tea and coffee.

Caine Rd. Bridge is hosted by the Krieger family. The Lenape Tribe will be doing Native American dances and drumming. The Peterson's family will be doing kids' activities. There will be a bounce house. The Baptist church is sending their diaper ministry. The Kreiger family will be doing hot dogs and chips by donation to raise money for cystic fibrosis.

Creek Rd. Bridge will be hosted by Conneaut Rotary Club. They will have information about Rotary and will be selling our souvenirs.

Doyle Rd. Bridge will be hosted by Boy Scout Troop 41. The Jefferson troop will be serving fresh cobbler, hot dogs, sausages, chips, coffee, tea, hot chocolate all by donation. There will be a photo setup.

Giddings Rd. Bridge will have no activities.

Graham Rd. Bridge will be hosted by the Pierpont Beautification Committee and the Pierpont Community Action

League during the festival. They will decorate the bridge for fall and have baked goods, pulled pork sandwiches, hot dogs, water, pop, apple cider and coffee and possibly donuts for sale.

Harpersfield Bridge will not have its usual activities during the Festival because of the construction going on. Visitors can access the park from the north or south, but there will be a lot of machinery and pieces of the bridge around, so visitors should please be respectful of the worksite if they visit.

Liberty St. Covered Bridge: Helping Hands Farm Animal Rescue will be raising money to help care for farm animals at the shortest covered bridge in America. Donations of food and drinks by Gray's Auto Sales and Ashtabula Giant Eagle will be sold to help support Helping Hands Farm Rescue. There will be a coloring contest for kids under 12, and a Lucky Ducks game for all ages. At the bridge entrance there will be displays and props for photo opportunities.

Mechanicsville Rd. Bridge is hosted by the Zaebst family for their 4-H group. They will have donuts and coffee in the morning and hotdogs, burgers, walking tacos, chips, water and pop.

Middle Rd. Bridge is open with no activities.

See ACTIVITIES page 10



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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



Covered Bridge Festival will have fun activities for all ages

BY CORINNE SCHOREN

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON – The Ashtabula Covered Bridge Festival is always a great time for families who want to enjoy the beginnings of fall, and this year, the festival is offering a wide variety of activities for people of all ages.

The Ashtabula Covered Bridge Festival will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 14, and Sunday, Oct. 15, at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds, located at 127 N. Elm St. in Jefferson.

The festival will offer an assortment of entertainment, including inflatable laser tag, train rides and even a visit from Bigfoot himself.

Michelle Gibbs runs Laser Bounce Inflatables out of Oberlin, Ohio, and is glad to be bringing her inflatable laser tag to the Covered Bridge Festival for the first time this year.

This fun and exciting activity allows kids, adults, even whole families to head inside a giant 1000 square foot bounce house and play a game of laser tag.

"It's like stepping inside a great big balloon," Gibbs stated. "We're really excited about this; we travel all over Ohio with our inflatable laser tag."

Participants in the game each get a vest and a phaser gun, and the goal of the game is to get the most points by hitting targets on the vest. It will cost \$8 per person.

Another entertaining activity for people of all ages to enjoy is the Romick Railway train rides. Entire families can hitch a ride on this miniature model train that takes guests on a ride

around the fairgrounds.

Dan Romick owns and operates Romick Railway rides based out of Findley, Ohio, and has been a staple at the Covered Bridge Festival for nine years. He explained how he got his start, by building a train ride by hand.

"It all started by accident 11 years ago," Romick said. "I built a train for my grand-kid's birthday party in my backyard. I thought it would never leave my backyard, but we've grown."

"It's a nice little train ride, and I try to incorporate some train history for the kids," he emphasized.

The Romick Railway train rides cost \$4 per person, and will be picking up riders in front of the milking stands by the MAC building at the fairgrounds.

A big draw for kids that come to the Covered Bridge Festival is, of course, Bigfoot. This big furry creature is played by actor Frank Sundquist, who has loved Bigfoot ever since he was a kid.

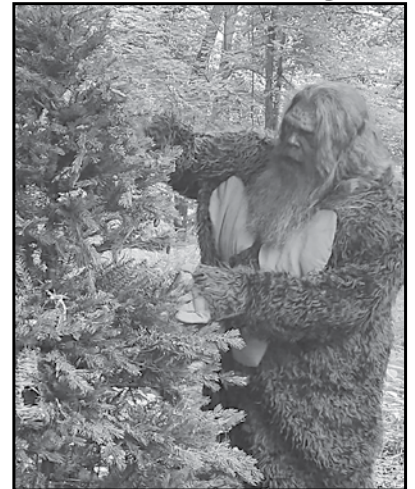
A frequent visitor to the Covered Bridge Festival, Bigfoot is around to play games and give out candy to the young kids who are excited to see this mythic creature come to life before their very eyes.

"It's a kind of magic," Sundquist explained. "It gives them a fantasy character to believe in."

"When you're sitting around a campfire, and someone is telling a Bigfoot story, you can't help but look over your shoulder. It brings out their imagination," he said.

Bigfoot can be found at the Barnyard Pavilion at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds from 12 – 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 14, and Sunday, Oct. 15.

There are plenty of reasons to check out the Ashtabula Covered Bridge Festival this year, including fun activities for all ages. Check out the festival this year from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 14, and Sunday, Oct. 15.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The elusive Bigfoot, played by Frank Sundquist, will be at the Ashtabula Covered Bridge Festival this year, and is ready to spark the imagination of people of all ages.

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From
Page 5



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THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Netcher Rd. Bridge is hosted by the Ashtabula County Humane Society. They will have walking tacos, crafts, baked goods, Humane Society jackets and shirts for sale. There will be volunteers to answer questions about the Humane Society. They are hoping to meet some of the pets who were in their care!

Olin Bridge is hosted by the Ashtabula Dream Center. They will have a baked goods, coffee and water, fall crunch, cookies, fudge, jam, breads and more for sale. The Dream Center is a soup kitchen/ food pantry with many other programs to offer. Their mission for the past 22 years has been to help the community restore broken lives, families, and dreams. The Olin's Museum of Covered Bridges will be open over the weekend also.

Riverdale Rd. Bridge is not manned this year.

Root Rd. Bridge is hosted by the Ashtabula Aktion Club and the Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities. The Aktion Club (a service organization for adults with disabilities) will be tempting visitors with homemade potato chips and probably other food. They will have club information available.

South Denmark Bridge will be hosted by Artistic Woodworks, with information about barn quilts and the Barn Quilt Trail.

Smolen Gulf Bridge is hosted by East Plymouth Grange. They will have hot dogs and chicken sandwiches. Troop 11 Kingsville Boy Scout troop will be selling elephant ears and will be accepting donations for the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

State Road Bridge is hosted by the Monroe Township Fire Department. They will have a fire for visitors to cook their own hot dogs. They will have pop to drink and will also be selling their hoagies and baked goods.

Wiswell Rd. (Windsor Mills) Bridge is hosted by the Country Neighbor Program.

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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



Lego Miniature Covered Bridge Contest returns for Covered Bridge Festival

BY STEFANIE WESSELL

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON - Ashtabula County residents can use their artistic sense to participate in the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival's Lego Miniature Covered Bridge Contest.

The contest is in its second year.

For this contest, all entries must be made of Legos.

Entries will be accepted 8-10 a.m. Oct. 14 at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds in the Expo Building.

Judging starts at 10:30 a.m.

Contestants may pre-register online or when submitting bridge for judging.

Any age may enter a bridge. There will be an adult class (16 and older) and a youth class (under 16).

All entries must resemble a covered bridge and be completed when entered.

The judging criteria and scoring will be based on the following: Appearance, Material used, Miscellaneous and Workmanship.

The top 3 entries will receive ribbons. The decision of the judges will be final.

There is a \$5 entry fee.

A registration form can be picked up at the Covered Bridge Office in Jefferson or found online at <https://coveredbridgefestival.org/contests>.

Quilts to be on display in the Octagon Building

JEFFERSON - The Quilt Show is returning to the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival.

"We are very excited to again showcase local quilts in the Floral building," ACCB Committee President Michele Victor said.

The show theme is "Back To Our Roots."
Preregistration required.

Registration forms are located at coveredbridgefestival.org.
Quilts are to be dropped off Friday, Oct. 13, between 2-6 p.m. at the Octagon Building on the fairgrounds.

Judging at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

Ribbons will be awarded in numerous categories. A People's Choice winner will be announced at 4 p.m. Sunday.

For more info, call (440) 576-3769.

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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



Want to volunteer at the Covered Bridge Festival?

The Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival Committee is scheduling volunteers for the festival. If you would like to help with set up on Friday, Oct. 13, or with handing out maps and information or working in the souvenir booth on Saturday or Sunday, please call the office. The shifts are 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 1-5 p.m. for souvenir and info booth workers. The office number is 440-576-3769.

How to enter contests

If interested in entering the baked goods contest, Lego covered bridge contest, min-bridge contest and more, download the forms at <https://coveredbridgefestival.org/contests>. Drop-off instructions are included on the registration forms.

Troll costume contest is Saturday

The troll costume contest will begin after the parade on Oct. 14 at the Barnard Pavilion.

Judging starts at 11 a.m.

Show off your costume - walk in the parade.

Contestants may pre-register online at <https://coveredbridgefestival.org/contests>

or after the parade before 11 a.m. for judging.

Any age may enter in costume.

Judging criteria and scoring will be based on the following: Appearance, Fright/Humor, Material and Workmanship.

The top 3 entries will receive ribbons; the decision of the judges will be final.

Individual memberships to Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival available

Now is the time to purchase your Individual Membership to the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival.

The cost is \$15 per person. Family membership is \$25. Lifetime membership is \$200.

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Membership price is per person.

To buy a membership, visit www.coveredbridgefestival.org.

Enjoy the festival - but please, no trespassing!

The Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival Committee invites the community to tour the covered bridges of Ashtabula County, but the committee also asks that community members please respect people's private property and not trespass. Many of the bridges are located near homes or other private properties, and the festival committee wishes to continue having good relations with the bridges' neighbors.



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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



Sea Glass contest new this year at Covered Bridge Festival

BY ERIC HRIN

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON - A new competition will be featured at this year's Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival.

Marie Kuhar, contest organizer and the Ashtabula County Engineer's Office representative to the festival, said a Sea Glass category was added to the festival's art contest this year.

It's one of three categories in the festival's art contest, and entries must have an Ashtabula County covered bridge incorporated or themed, according to a copy of the rules.

Kuhar was inspired by the Ashtabula Beach Glass Festival in adding the sea glass category.

"That's a big thing downtown, so I wanted to incorporate that (sea glass) into it," she said. "I'm trying to incorporate the different things that are big in Ashtabula County with the festival, and sea glass, or beach glass, is one big thing that can be incorporated for covered bridge art as well."

She noted that entrants can use sea glass on anything in creating their work, such as canvas or a piece of weathered wood. They can even make a sculpture.

Kuhar also is highlighting the Wood Stick Covered Bridge contest this year.

"It's a really cool contest that when I was a kid going to

the Covered Bridge Festival, I enjoyed seeing those," she said.

The contest involves using such items as popsicle sticks to make a covered bridge. Entries can be modeled after an existing bridge or simply made up.

"A lot of people, when they see this, they'll remember what this contest is," she said.

Also, the baked goods contest was updated this year by dividing it into three categories: cakes, cupcakes and general baked goods.

The cakes and cupcakes categories must have an Ashtabula County covered bridge incorporated or themed while the general baked goods category can be fall themed or themed after an Ashtabula County covered bridge.

"I'm really hoping to get some new submissions, like apple pies or pumpkin pies," she said. "I hope to get a good outcome for it."

She said contests are very important to the festival.

"It brings people into the festival and lets them present their work and lets them show how much the covered bridge festival means to them and show their visions of a covered bridge," she said.

Other contests this year are: Lego Mini Covered Bridge (which Kuhar said was a big hit last year), Scarecrow, Troll Costume, Classic Car & Truck, and Quilt contests.



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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



Touring 19 covered bridges in seven hours and 150 miles

BY MARTI MILLIKEN DIXON

Gazette Newspapers

ASHTABULA COUNTY - On a cloudy and cool day in September, my bestie and I set off to visit all of Ashtabula County's covered bridges in one day.

We went to visit Ashtabulacounty.com and downloaded the Covered Bridge Trail app.

On the app, the bridges are listed in alphabetical order. She put them all in her GPS, ordered them in a way that made sense, and off we went.

First stop was West Liberty in Geneva. Crossing Cowles Creek, it is the shortest covered bridge in the country. It is adorable in its setting in one of Geneva's great neighborhoods.



Harpersfield Bridge under construction.

Next was Harpersfield. It crosses the Grand River and has been torn down to be rebuilt. Visitors can still drive to its banks. I often go to check on the progress.

Then we were on to Mechanicsville Road. Still in Geneva, it crosses the Grand River, sits next to the historic Grand River Manor and is the county's oldest, built in 1867.

est, built in 1867.

Moving on to Jefferson, we hit Doyle Road, crossing the Mill Creek tributary of the Grand River, Giddings Road, refurbished in 1995 using an Ohio Department



PHOTOS BY MARTI MILLIKEN DIXON
Erin Fenner and Marti Milliken Dixon on their covered bridge journey.

of Transportation grant, Netcher Road, also redone by ODOT in 1999, South Denmark, bypassed in 1975, and Caine Road built in 1986 in honor of Ashtabula County's 175th birthday.

Also in this area is the Graham Road bridge. It was washed downstream by a flood in 1913. It was rebuilt from the wreckage and gently placed in Benson Family Park. It is out of use.

Our county seat of Jefferson is a wealth of bridge history.

We then headed north to Ashtabula, where we saw Smolen-Gulf and Riverview. The Smolen bridge is the longest in the U.S., and Riverview is the walking bridge right under it.

Smolen is also our only bridge to have walking paths on

See TOURING page 17



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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



TOURING

From
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the bridge itself. It's a great view!

In previous years, and perhaps again in the future, the Covered Bridge Festival Committee has held a fundraiser dinner one of these bridges. I have been to them and they are wonderful.

From Ashtabula, we headed to Conneaut. After a lunch break for about an hour, we got back on the trail.

Creek Road and Middle Road, both crossing Conneaut Creek, Root Road crossing the Ashtabula River in Conneaut, and then State Road in Kingsville, crossing Conneaut Creek again, were next on our trek.



Doyle Road Bridge with reinforced wood.

The construction date of the Creek Road bridge is unknown, but it was renovated in 1994.

Traveling southeast, we hit Benetka Road, renovated in 1985, the Olin family bridge on Dewey Road in Plymouth Township, as well as Riverdale in Rock Creek, this time crossing the Grand River again, before heading to Windsor

Mills.

Windsor was the single longest trip, clocking in at 23 miles from 'Bula. It crosses Phelps Creek.

Then we were done!

We had seen all 19 Covered Bridges in one day! It was a great time.

When visitors of our county and locals alike make this pilgrimage, they should be sure to bring along someone they can be in a car with for seven hours. I know I did!

Erin Fenner of Ashtabula and I had a wonderful time. Her daughter Bethany joined us for lunch and the end of the trip.

Do be aware of the "no trespassing" signs seen at many sites. Please be respectful of people's private property, but also please feel free to take a path down to any of the rivers.

Both visitors centers, 5540 Lake Rd. E. GOTL, and 1850 Austinburg Rd. at Routes 45 and 90, were closed by the time we finished our journey, so collecting our Covered Bridge Trail prizes would have to wait for another day.

The only downside of the trip is driving down the dirt roads that lead to many of our bridges. Visitors need to be cognizant of these areas in our rural county and make sure to give their car a bath afterward. The drive through our beautiful county is well worth a little dust.



Giddings Road Bridge.

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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



Chainsaw carver coming back to Covered Bridge Festival

BY ERIC HRIN

GAZETTE NEWSPAPERS

JEFFERSON - Chainsaw carver Aya Blaine is making her return this year to the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival.

One of the Chainsaw Chix, she appeared at the festival last year for the first time.

"It went very well, so she's excited to come back," Jen Watson, her agent and owner of the Chainsaw Chix, said. "She loves it there."

At this year's festival, Blaine will put on three free shows throughout the day.

Since last year's festival, Blaine appeared on "A Cut Above" on the Discovery Channel.

Watson said the competitive television program featured Blaine alongside 11 other international carvers. The show aired in the United States, Canada and England.

Watson said the show was "quite well received," and although Blaine didn't win, she fared well.

"She loved being part of it," Watson said.

The prize was taken home by a young carver, Sam Bowsher, she noted.

Blaine hails from Japan.

"She moved from Osaka (Japan) to a more of a mountain environment in Japan and had small trees on that property so she bought a chain saw," Watson said of the 48-year-old, who currently lives in New York. Blaine came to America from Japan 14 years ago.



Chainsaw carver Aya Blaine is making her return this year to the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival.

Watson said Blaine, who was born and grew up in Osaka, has been carving for about 17 years.

A niche she "carved out for herself" is gallery-quality human faces and dog portraits, according to Watson.

Watson said Blaine, who is an animal lover and does portraits of every breed, is also a skilled artist who can sketch someone in about five minutes.

"She's very talented," Watson said.

At the covered bridge fes-

tival, Blaine will be doing a variety of quick-carve pieces, such as owls and bears.

However, "you never know what she's going to come up with," Watson added.

"She's well-versed. You're not just going to get your run-of-the-mill stuff. She's definitely an against the grain carver. You're not going to see 'repeat, repeat.'"

Blaine's artwork will be for sale, and custom carves may be available, time-permitting.

When she's not carving, Blaine's hobby is organic gardening.

"She's quite the grower," Watson said, noting Blaine's garden features Japanese varieties of vegetables.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

At this year's Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival, Chainsaw carver Aya Blaine will put on three free shows throughout the day.



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Caine Road bridge first of its kind in Ohio

BY BOB ETTINGER

Gazette Newspapers

PIERPONT TOWNSHIP – The construction of the Caine Road covered bridge began on dry land with just two carpenters and was completed with six.

Unlike most bridges, the Caine Road span in Pierpont Township was constructed on dry land and a channel was cut under the 124-foot bridge pulling the west branch of the Ashtabula River to the bridge.

Located at 4699 Caine Rd., the bridge was built in 1986 to honor Ashtabula County's 175th anniversary.

John Smolen, the former Ashtabula County engineer, was tasked with building the bridge, his second in the county. He chose the Pratt Truss design, the first time the design was used for a bridge in the state of Ohio.

The Pratt Truss design was introduced in 1844 and was used in hundreds of bridges until the World War II. It was designed by the Thomas Willis Pratt and his father, Caleb Pratt, a pair of American engineers, several years after William Howe patented his famous Howe truss design. Its most interesting feature was its ability to span great distances using simple construction methods. It was regularly used to span anchor points up to 250 feet apart and most commonly used in railroad bridge construction.



PHOTO BY CAROLE KLAUE/GOOGLE LOCAL

The Caine Road covered bridge is a 124-foot span designed by former Ashtabula County Engineer John Smolen that was constructed by six carpenters on dry land.

See CAINE page 21

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CAINE

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The design is a structural system with horizontal, vertical and diagonal members that can carry loads with relatively long spans compared to beams. It's mainly used as bridge structure carrying traffic and dead load and distributing it to its supports. It's characterized by its diagonal members, which are inclined with the same angles. This pattern of diagonal and vertical truss members allows loads to be evenly distributed across the truss.



PHOTO BY NICK GROH/GOOGLE LOCAL
The Caine Road covered bridge is the first Pratt truss bridge to be constructed in the state of Ohio.

Smolen later used the design for the Giddings Road and Smolen-Gulf bridges. The latter is the nation's longest covered bridge.

Smolen had said he chose the design because it provided a

See CAINE 2 page 22

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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



CAINE 2

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good balance of efficiency, cost and strength. Though future bridges were to be constructed with prefabricated laminated timber, the Caine Road bridge was constructed on site, with the exception of the roof trusses.

Construction on the span began with a crib on which the bridge was to be built. A floor was then constructed before the north, then the south walls. Cranes later raised the walls, beginning with the south wall.

The heavy trusses were built off site and were moved into



PHOTO BY TODD FOSS/GOOGLE LOCAL

A new channel was cut and the west branch of the Ashtabula River was redirected under the Caine Road covered bridge. The south wall of the pond on the southern side of the road marks the river's original path.



PHOTO BY NICK GROH/GOOGLE LOCAL

The Caine Road covered bridge was constructed in 1986 to honor Ashtabula County's 175th anniversary.

place with cranes.

Oak shingles cut by members of the Ashtabula County Antique Engine Club and treated with antifreeze were used as the original roof. Those shingles failed and were replaced with modern materials in the mid-1990s.

The Covered Bridge Festival Committee donated \$5,000 to the county engineer for the replacement project.

The bridge, which cost the county \$150,000, was dedicated Oct. 12, 1986, at the Covered Bridge Festival.

The southern wall of a pond on the south side of Caine Road is the bank of the Ashtabula River's old channel, which was routed under the bridge once construction was completed.

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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



Abraham, Mary Todd Lincoln to visit with guests at the Log Cabin

JEFFERSON - If you come to the Covered Bridge Festival, you may find yourself shaking hands with Abraham Lincoln. Or at least a gentleman that looks a whole lot like him.

John King of Ashtabula has been portraying President Abraham Lincoln since the 1980s when he first donned a borrowed hat and coat and entertained his third-grade students with a short lesson on the sixteenth president.

"I grew a beard for the first time in 1983 or '84, and a gentleman who would do parades as Lincoln said I looked like Lincoln and ought to do it also," King said previously.

The gentleman told King he could borrow his hat and coat, and so for Lincoln's birthday that year, that is what he did.

In 2009, King was doing a program at the Country Club retirement center and met a couple there portraying President Garfield and his wife, Lucretia R. Garfield. They invited King to join their group of historical re-enactors called We Made History. His first program with the group was at a "Dinner With the Presidents" in Mentor, OH. The group now has five presidents and three first ladies.

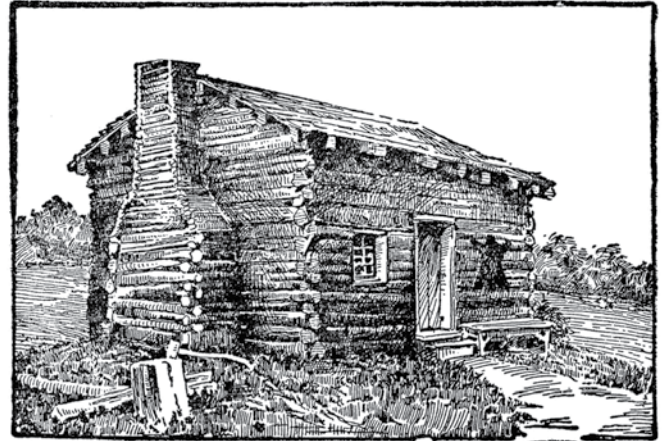
King's wife Marian often joins him as Lincoln's wife, Mary Todd Lincoln.

They both will take part in the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival, appearing at the Log Cabin from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

King has spent hours researching Abraham Lincoln's life

over the years and continues to do so. To develop the program that he shares, he uses information from a presentation he attended by Jim

Getty, a renowned Lincoln actor and historian from Gettysburg. He has also read numerous books on the subject and is always on the lookout for more books about Lincoln that he



See LINCOLN page 25

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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



LINCOLN

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hasn't read yet.

"I am constantly learning more about Lincoln, his life, education, political skills, family in Springfield, Il., and the White House, his generals and the Civil War," King said. "I want to share what a brilliant man he was, his love for his family, his country, how he was able to save the Union." He also likes to share little known facts about Lincoln. For example, he is the only president to have a patent for an invention. It is also interesting to know that it was during Lincoln's administration that "In God We Trust" was first put on a two-cent coin.

Over the years, King has attended many events as the sixteenth president. He has appeared at Civil War reenactments, parades, school programs, quilt shows, historical groups, churches, club meetings, lodges and special dinners with the President at restaurants. At each event, King reaches out to teach people about one of our greatest presidents.

"I just share what I have read as though I am talking with a friend," he said.

Though he is now older than Lincoln was when the president was assassinated, King still manages to "make his hair look younger" and pass for Lincoln, even when he is not in costume.

"When I am in everyday clothing someone will come up to me and say 'did anyone ever tell you you look like Lincoln?' I tell them, 'I have been accused and found guilty!'" King said.

If you want more information about John King and other presidential re-enactors, visit wemadehistory.com.



FILE PHOTO

Abe and Mary Todd Lincoln, played by John and Marian King, talk and mingle with the crowd at the Patriot Day tribute concert at Lake Shore Park.



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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



Harpersfield Covered Bridge not open for Covered Bridge Festival as rehabilitation continues

BY ERIC HRIN

Gazette Newspapers

HARPERSFIELD TOWNSHIP - Work is getting closer to being completed on the Harpersfield Coverage Bridge, but it won't be done in time for the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival.

Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners President Casey Kozlowski broke the bad news.

"The bridge will not be available for this year's Covered Bridge Festival, unfortunately, as work continues," he said. "The schedule's completion date of the original contract with Union Industrial was a completion day of Dec. 31, 2023, so effectively the end of this year."

While he was going to miss having the covered bridge available for the festival, he noted the importance of the rehabilitation project currently underway on the historic structure.

"Obviously, not having the Harpersfield Covered Bridge open during the festival will certainly be unwelcome to some, but I'm so very excited to see this work underway so that we can continue to preserve this tremendous asset that we have in our county," he said.

He noted that people can enjoy the many other covered bridges during the festival, which takes place Oct. 14-15.

"Our covered bridges bring in many visitors locally and from afar and the opportunity to continue to showcase them during the upcoming covered bridge festival will be exciting,"



PHOTO BY ERIC HRIN

Work is getting closer to being completed on the Harpersfield Coverage Bridge, but it won't be done in time for the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival.

he said. "While the Harpersfield Bridge will not be complete quite yet for all to enjoy they can take in many of our other fantastic bridges and also take a peek from afar of the work that continues on this bridge."

As part of the work, the bridge will get all new piers and steel I beams, and the original trusses for the sidewalls will be used again.

The 2-span wooden truss covered bridge spanning the Grand River, County Road 154, at Harpersfield was put on the National Register of Historic Places on Nov. 3, 1975.

According to Ashtabula County Metroparks, the bridge was constructed in 1868, a steel span was added in 1913 and the

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See HARPERSFIELD page 31



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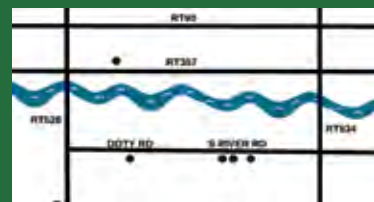
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Ashtabula County

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1. 1544 Netcher Rd., Jefferson.....	14'6"
2. 2670 S. Denmark Rd., Jefferson.....	By-Pass
3. 4699 Caine Rd., Pierpont.....	15'0"
4. 4646 Graham Rd., Pierpont.....	By-Pass
5. 4680 Root Rd., Conneaut.....	10'6"
6. 910 Middle Rd., Conneaut.....	11'0"
7. 5899 State Rd., Conneaut.....	16'2"
8. 371 Creek Rd., Conneaut.....	9'3"
9. 4500 Beneika Rd., Sheffield Twp.....	11'0"
10. 1880 Dewey Rd., Plymouth Twp.....	10'0"
11. 7001 State Rd., Ashtabula.....	14'6"
12. 7001 State Rd., Ashtabula.....	Pedestrian
13. 1400 Giddings Rd., Jefferson.....	15'6"
14. 1300 Doyle Rd., Jefferson.....	11'4"
15. 94 W. Liberty St., Geneva.....	15'0"
16. 1122 Harpersfield Rd., Geneva.....	12'0"
17. 1153 Mechanicsville Rd., Geneva.....	By-Pass
18. 3349 Riverdale Rd., Rock Creek.....	8'0"
19. 7696 Warner Hollow Rd., Windsor.....	By-Pass
○ Covered Bridge Office - Basement of Old Ashtabula Courthouse at 25 W. Jefferson St., Jefferson	

L Longest Covered Bridge in the U.S.

S Shortest Covered Bridge in the U.S.



Ashtabula

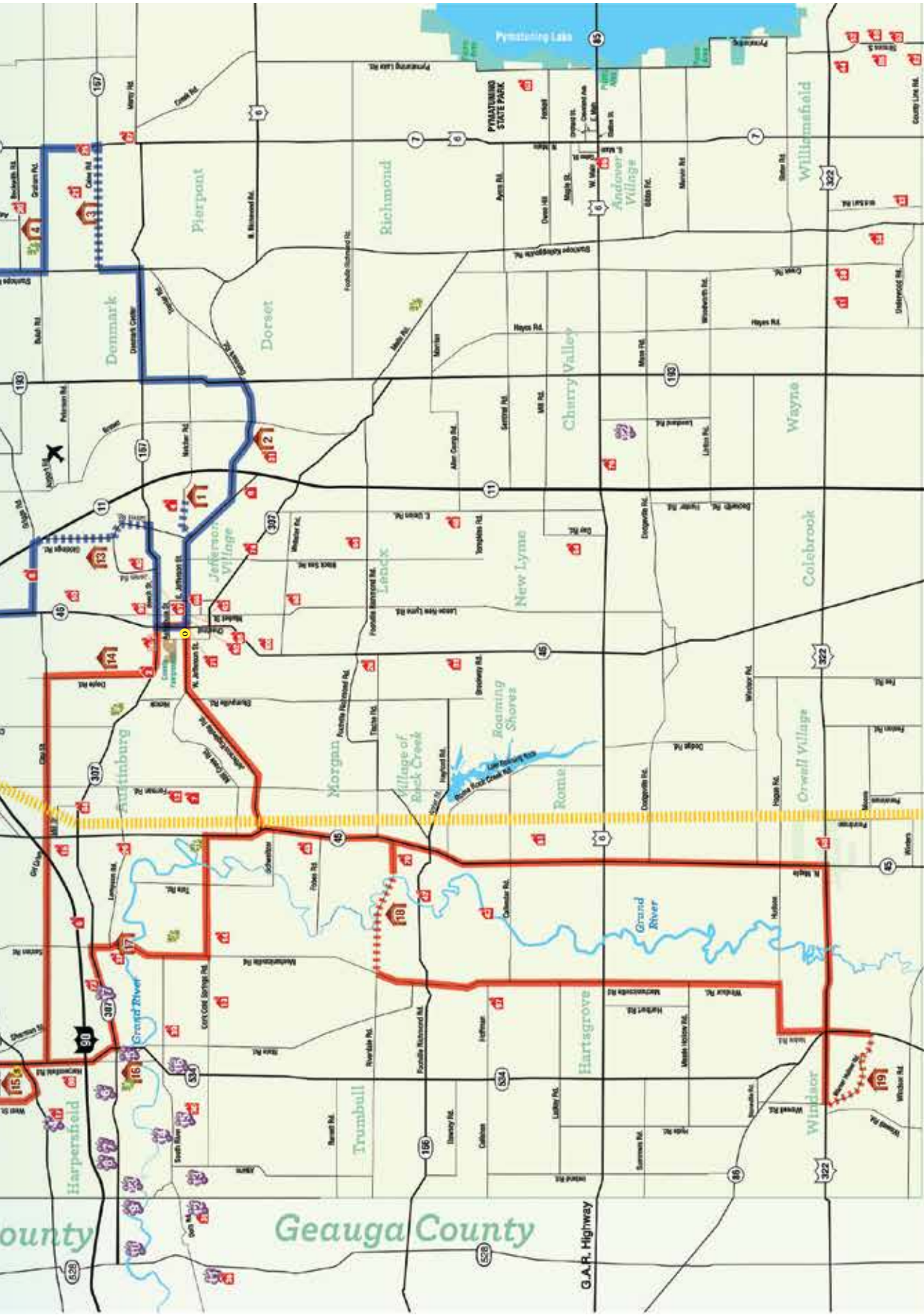
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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



Jefferson Depot is open for tours

The Jefferson Depot, Inc., 147 E. Jefferson St., Jefferson, is open for tours.

Built in 1872, the Jefferson Depot contains railroad memorabilia and features the original ladies waiting room and restrooms complete with wall-hung flush tanks.

Outside, there is an 1888 House, Colonial Herb Garden, early General Store, 1872 Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad Station and 1918 Caboose, the 1848 Church in the Wildwood and Church Barn, the 1838 One-room Schoolhouse, Hohn's General Store and early century pharmacy, and the 1885 Sheffield Post Office.

The Depot acquired one of its newest original buildings (a one-room schoolhouse from Austinburg Township) in 2009. Rehabilitation of the building is ongoing.

The museum is open 1-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday during the festival.



FILE PHOTO

The Jefferson Depot, Inc. will be open for tours during the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival.

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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



HARPERSFIELD

From
Page 26

bridge was renovated in 1991-92.

"A flood in 1913 washed away the land at the north end of the bridge, and the steel span was subsequently attached," Metroparks notes. "The bridge features a walkway, added during its renovation in 1991-92. The bridge also features an Ashtabula County MetroPark at its north end, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The bridge's WGC number is 35-04-19, and it is located approximately 3.4 mi (5.4 km) south of Geneva."

The information from Metroparks also notes the double-span Howe truss bridge is one of currently 16 drivable covered bridges in the county. At 228 feet, it's the third longest covered bridge in Ohio.

The bridge's nomination form for the National Register lists different information than that listed by Metroparks regarding its date of origin. "It is said that this bridge was built in 1873 by a carpenter by the name of Potter," the nomination form states.

It also lists some of the other developments that took place around the bridge.

"This area was the site of a grist and saw mill and the mill stream enters the Grand River at the dam which is just to the east of the bridge," the nomination form states. "A waterworks which generated electricity was built here in 1901. The road became part of the state highway system in the early 1930's and was known as SR 534. The state relocated the highway to the east and the bridge reverted to the county highway system in 1962."

Ernest T. Band takes the stage

JEFFERSON - A number of bands will take the stage at the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival.

Taking the stage at the Barnard Pavilion on 12-2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 15, is the Ernest T. Band.

The Ernest T. Band features talented musicians with tight vocal harmonies and solid instrumentation.

The band covers a wide variety of classic rock, rock, Motown, rockabilly and country.

Band members have over 150 years of combined playing experience.

Band members are Steve Tobias, vocals; Randy Coutts, electric and acoustic guitars and vocals; Steve Barbato, electric and acoustic guitars; Mike Penna, bass guitar and vocals; and Brady Burnnet, drums.



Ernest T. Band

SUBMITTED PHOTO

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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



Windsor Mills Bridge is a favorite among the community

BY CORINNE SCHOREN

Gazette Newspapers

WINDSOR – Take a trip down to the southwest corner of Ashtabula County to check out one of the most loved covered bridges: the Windsor Mills Bridge.

The Windsor Mills Bridge is known by a few names: the Warner Hollow Bridge and the Wiswell Road Bridge.

This particular covered bridge is located in Windsor, at 7696 Warner Hollow Rd., and is one of the oldest remaining bridges in Ashtabula County.

According to Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival Director Ginger Whitehead, this bridge is one of the favorites in the community.

“The Wiswell Road (aka Windsor Mills or Warner Hollow) Bridge is considered to be one of our most beautiful bridges by many people,” she explained. “It’s listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is in a very historic area with Camp Whitewood being just south of the bridge, which was built on the site of old Indian fortifications... The historic Windsor quarries, Skinner’s Mill and the Christ Church Episcopal Church and Historical Society Museum [are] just to the north of it.”

The historic location and the gorgeous country setting make the Windsor Mills Covered Bridge a must see for all festival



FILE PHOTO

Windsor Bridge

goers.

The bridge itself was originally built in 1867 and spans 120 feet across the Phelps Creek from more than 30 feet above the gorge. The Windsor Mills Bridge is a single-span Town truss design, made of white pine with handmade iron pins, and sits atop cut stone abutments with some distinctive center supports, using three different kinds of masonry.


“It has unique piers with one being made of creek stones and another being made of sandstone from the nearby quarry,” Whitehead explained. “The original abutments [are] of carefully laid field stones, which have been strengthened with concrete in later years.”

The Windsor Mills Covered Bridge was completely closed to the public in the 1980s, but after renovations between 2002 and 2004, the bridge was refurbished and reopened to traffic finally in 2004.

This beautiful covered bridge is a scenic spot for people to visit and admire the historic area and drive across the beloved bridge.

“[It’s] definitely worth the trip to view,” Whitehead stated.


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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



New Covered Bridge Festival merchandise helps keep the festival going

BY GABRIEL MCVEY

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON – Two new items will be available for visitors to this year's Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival – a Christmas ornament with this year's featured bridge and an item that's been the subject of many requests – a walking stick pin.

The Christmas ornament features the Olin Bridge, a covered bridge that carries Dewey Road over the Ashtabula River in Plymouth Township, according to Ginger Whitehead, executive director of the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival.

The ornament makes a terrific keepsake or a fine gift for a friend or family member who couldn't make it to this year's festival.

The other new item is a walking stick pin – something that hikers from and visiting the area have been requesting for some time.

The pin is a curved oval of metal with a pair of nails to fasten it to a hiker's favorite walking stick.

There's also a new commemorative t-shirt honoring the 2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival, though the artwork wasn't available at this publication's deadline.

These new items join plenty more available at the festival website, coveredbridgefestival.org. All proceeds from

merchandise sales help to support the festival and keep it going for future visitors.

The Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival on-line shop is available at ashtabula-county-covered-bridge-festival-square.site. Fans of the festival can also call 440-576-3769 to place an order and stop by the festival office at 25 W. Jefferson St., in the basement of the Old Court House in Jefferson Village and avoid paying shipping fees.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ASHTABULA COVERED BRIDGE FESTIVAL

A new piece of Covered Bridge Festival merchandise newly-available this year is a walking stick pin or medallion similar to this one. Hikers had been requesting this piece of memorabilia for some time, according to Ginger Whitehead, executive director of the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival.

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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



Covered Bridge Festival Parade moving back to the afternoon

BY GABRIEL MCVEY

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON – The Covered Bridge Festival will be moving back to its traditional afternoon time, after last year, when it kicked off the festival during the late morning.

The popular parade gives the community a fun and family-friendly event to mark the occasion.

Ginger Whitehead, executive director of the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival, said the lineup of this year's parade is still in the works, but in years past the parade has typically drawn a number of 4-H clubs, Scout troops, local businesses, baton-twirling groups, veterans' organizations and more.

Whitehead said the groups and individuals who want to take part in the parade should contact the festival office at 440-576-3769 or go online to coveredbridgefestival.org as soon as possible.

The parade usually draws quite a crowd of onlookers along the route, though Whitehead joked she's never seen it.

"I'm down at the park, so I don't get to see the route, but they line up to see it," she said.

The parade will be returning to its traditional early af-

ternoon timeslot, according to Whitehead, with the parade lineup meeting at Jefferson Area High School at 12 p.m., kicking off at 1 p.m. and ending at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds at 1:20 p.m. or 1:30 p.m.

The parade route will run from the high school down onto Poplar Street, turn east onto Satin Street, north onto Chestnut Street, then west onto Ashtabula Street and then on to the Fairgrounds.

Bill and Becke Creed, of Gazette Newspapers, are the Grand Marshalls of the 2023 Covered Bridge Festival Parade.

Troll judging will be at the Barnard Pavilion after the parade.

Anyone with small children who enjoys supporting your community, won't want to miss this year's Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival parade.

For more information on this year's Covered Bridge Festival parade, or to sign up a club, business or organization to participate, contact the festival office by calling 440-576-3769.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Bill and Becke Creed, of Gazette Newspapers, are the Grand Marshalls of the 2023 Covered Bridge Festival Parade.

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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



Kelloggsville United Methodist Church to hold Fall Festival on Oct. 14

Kelloggsville United Methodist Church, 4763 Monroe Center Rd., Conneaut, will hold a Fall Festival on 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday Oct. 14, the same weekend as the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival.

The church's famous covered bridge chili will be for sale, as well as hotdogs roasted over a campfire. There will be a bake sale, as well as live music by Simply Us, activities for kids and craft vendors selling handcrafted gift items for family and home.

There will be a "Blessed Auction" with gift items from the vendors. Prize winners need not be present.

Open to the public. All are welcome.

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Covered Bridge Festival to welcome iconic cars

BY BOB ETTINGER

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON – The Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival Board is returning to its roots in its 39th year with a return to the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds.

One part of the festival that was part of the very first festival was an antique car show. The show remains a part of the festival nearly four decades later.

“When you do a car show, you’re looking at antique vehicles, which were used in the covered bridge era,” Michele Victor, Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival Board president, said. “That was probably the 1930s, ’40s and ’50s. Back then, there were many covered bridges. We’re down to 19 now, but back then there were



PHOTO BY AUTO-BROCHURES

A DeLorean will make an appearance at the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival in the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds on Saturday, Oct. 14.

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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



probably 50.”

“And, this particular year, we’re going back to the fairgrounds for the first time in eight years,” Victor continued. “We’re trying to get back to our roots and they did have a car show back in the beginning.”

The show will begin with registration beginning at 9 a.m. and lasting until approximately 5 p.m.

“They can come in and register that morning at 9 a.m.,” Victor said. “We’ll have a judge that goes through until about 2 p.m. for the Best in Show. At the same time, all of the attendees will be given a ballot when they come in and they can pick their favorite participant for a People’s Choice award.”

The Ashtabula County Antique Engine Club brings some of its machines, and will be there in full force.

Each entrant into the show will receive a gift.

“Everyone that comes in will be given a dash plaque with a bridge on it,” Victor said. “Each year, we feature a different bridge. This year will be the Olin Bridge, which is celebrating 150 years this year.”

Visitors to the car show will feel as if they’ve gone back in time.

“We have two special cars coming this year,” Victor said. “We have a DeLorean and a tribute car to K.I.T.T. of the show ‘Knight Rider.’ It lights up, talks and all that cool stuff. I think that’s drawing a lot of people’s interest.”

The cars will be a callback to the childhood of Generation X.

“I’m very excited,” Victor said. “We’ve seen DeLoreans, but how many people are able to sit inside one or watch the doors go up?”

“A whole generation knows the significance of K.I.T.T.,” Victor continued. “How many people in the younger genera-



PHOTO BY NICOLE WAKELIN

A tribute car to K.I.T.T. from the “Knight Rider” television show will make an appearance at the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival in the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds on Saturday, Oct. 14.

tions have been able to see a car that talks? I’m excited to be able to showcase these two cars, as well as all of the other cars that will be coming.”

Victor hopes to have more than a hundred entrants into the show.

“I’m pretty passionate about this,” Victor said. “I’ve attended, probably, about 16 car shows this year. I’ve handed out our flyers and reminded people that we have a car show and told them we’re going back to the fairgrounds.”

Victor has been met with a warm reception.

“Everyone is saying they hope we have great weather,” Victor said. “They say last year we had had fantastic weather for it. Everyone is hoping for a bright, sunny and warm day with lots of color.”



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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



Kings of Revelry coming home for gig

BY BOB ETTINGER

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON – Caleb Gaul and many of his bandmates with the Kings of Revelry will have an opportunity to relive the past when they perform at the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival.

“Our first gig was probably Jefferson Days or something at the fairgrounds,” Gaul said. “It’s really cool to play our hometown. We’ll get to see some of our friends from high school. Even our parents will probably come out. We’ll also have our own kids running around. It’s really nice to do stuff in our community.”

The Kings of Revelry, consisting of Gaul (keyboards/vocals), Thomas Clark (drummer), Sammi Butler (guitar/vocals), Adam Davis (bass) and Aaron Davis (guitar), will take the stage at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 14.

“The four of us were friends as far back as elementary school in Jefferson,” Gaul said. “We had a band when we were 13. We were the Griggs Road Band. We played Jefferson Days and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Kings of Revelry will play at the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

things like that. I just met Sammi last year. She and I both do solo gigs on the side and I had been asking her to join the band for a year.”

The band has played some locally, but is happy to be playing at an event on the level of the Covered Bridge Festival.

See KINGS page 39



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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



KINGS

From
Page 38

"We've done a couple of other shows for the fair board," Gaul said. "Somebody contacted us having seen one of our shows."

"We're super excited to just be part of something like this," Gaul continued. "It brings the community together. It's also good for us to get exposure and build a following. We're super stoked."

Playing a venue like the Covered Bridge Festival offers a few advantages for the band.

"The two main differentiators for us are most of us have families and kids," Gaul said. "Our families can come and see us. It's a lot more family friendly than a lot of the places we

play. Also, playing outside is great. There's no echo. The main thing is I get to bring my kids and that's cool."

The Kings of Revelry play a wide range of music, though modern pop is their bread and butter.

"I'd say most of our stuff is modern pop," Gaul said. "We do some rock. We do some country. We try to hit all of the popular genres we can. What we really wanted to do was modern pop."

"We're all in our mid-40s," Gaul continued. "We still listen to modern music. We wanted to hit the modern generation. We do everything from Dua Lipa to Otis Redding. We try and get people up and dancing."

Gaul hopes the band touches some of the listeners.

"I hope we play a couple of songs that resonate with them, that they really love" Gaul said. "I hope they get a sense of our passion for music. I just hope they get some joy out of it."

Riverdale Covered Bridge is a peaceful setting

BY CORINNE SCHOREN

Gazette Newspapers

ROCK CREEK – Ashtabula County is blessed with a wide variety of covered bridges to explore, and some of the most beautiful are set in the country.

The Riverdale Covered Bridge is located in Rock Creek, at 3349 Riverdale Rd., down a quiet country road in an idyllic setting.

Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival Director Ginger Whitehead explained the appeal of the bridge to the community.

"Riverdale Road Bridge is another of our historic treasures [in Ashtabula County]," Whitehead stated, "It also sits in a very quiet, beautiful country setting."

That gorgeous rural setting is what draws festival goers to this bridge each year during the Covered Bridge Festival.

The Riverdale Covered Bridge is a single-span, town truss lattice bridge that sits high above that Grand River.

Originally built in 1874, it has seen some much-needed

renovations of the years.

A steel center support was added underneath the bridge in 1945, and the floor was completely rebuilt in 1981 and glue-laminated wood girders were added at the same time.

In 1987, the road at the east end was washed out by flooding, and required a new concrete abutment for added support.

The bridge itself is 140 feet in length, with a height clearance of 10 feet and 6 inches, and provides visitors with an excellent view of the Grand River and the nature surrounding.

Take a drive down to Rock Creek and check out this tranquil environment at the Riverdale Covered Bridge during the Covered Bridge Festival.



FILE PHOTO

The Riverdale Covered Bridge is located in Rock Creek, at 3349 Riverdale Rd., down a quiet country road in an idyllic setting.

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Walnut Hill Cloggers to open the entertainment at this year's Covered Bridge Festival

BY GABRIEL MCVEY

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON – The entertainment at the 2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival will kick off at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 14, when the Walnut Hill Cloggers will put on a 45-minute show at the Barnard Pavilion at the Fairgrounds.

The Walnut Hill Cloggers are a performance group out of

8th Count Dance Center in Garrettsville, Ohio.

"The 8th Count Dance Center is proud to be a clogging-based studio and home of the clogging performance group, the Walnut Hill Cloggers," the studio's website reads.

The group was originally started by Barbara Coury in the 1980s and was turned over to one of its first young members, Shanelle Waggoner in 2006.

Since the start of the group approximately 35-plus years ago, Walnut Hill has competed and performed all over the eastern U.S.

The instructor of the group is Katie Koehnle, a longtime team member and clogging instructor at national clogging workshops in New York and Ohio.

Clogging is a type of folk dance practiced in the U.S., in which the dancer's foot is used percussively by striking the heel, the toe or both against a floor or each other to create a rhythm, usually to the downbeat with the heel keeping time.

While Clogging is usually performed with country or bluegrass music, modern dance groups use a variety of popular music to keep up with modern tastes.

The Walnut Hill Cloggers will perform at the Barnard Pavilion at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. and again at the Fairgrounds Expo Building from 12 to 12:45 p.m.

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STARS OF THE SHOW Ashtabula County's Covered Bridges

1. Netcher Road Covered Bridge



The Netcher Road Covered Bridge features neo-Victorian design with a timber arch and inverted Haupt walls. It was built in 1999. It is 110 feet long, 22 feet wide and features a clearance of 14 feet, 6 inches. It is east of Jefferson off Route 307 off S. Denmark Rd.

2. South Denmark Road Covered Bridge

Built in 1890, the South Denmark Road Covered Bridge spans Mill Creek and was bypassed in 1975. It is on the south side of S. Denmark Road, east of Route 11.



PHOTO BY JOY DETRICK

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STARS OF THE SHOW Ashtabula County's Covered Bridges

3. Caine Road Covered Bridge

This bridge was built in 1986 in honor of Ashtabula County's 175th anniversary. It was the first Pratt Truss bridge built in Ohio and is one of only five in the state. It has a clearance of 15 feet.



4. Graham Road Covered Bridge

The Graham Road bridge was built in 1913 from remnants of a bridge washed downstream in a flood. It is currently by-passed, so travel by vehicle across it is not possible. It sits on property belonging to Ashtabula County Metroparks.



PHOTO BY DIANE ROCK

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5. Root Road Covered Bridge

The Root Road bridge was built in 1868 and renovated in 1982-83. It is 114 feet long with a 10-foot, 6-inch clearance. It features Town Lattice design. Root Road is east of Stanhope-Kellogsville Road.



6. Middle Road Covered Bridge

Middle Road Bridge was constructed in 1868 and reconstructed in 1984. It is 136 feet long and has a clearance of 11 feet. The bridge is east of State Route 7 and south of South Ridge Road.



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STARS OF THE SHOW Ashtabula County's Covered Bridges

7. State Road Covered Bridge

The State Road bridge was built in 1983 as the first "new" covered bridge constructed in the county. It has a Town Lattice design and clearance of 16 feet, 2 inches.



8. Creek Road Covered Bridge

The Creek Road Covered Bridge was renovated in 1994. Its construction date is unknown. It sits 25 feet above Conneaut Creek and features Town Lattice design. It has a clearance of 9-feet, 3-inches. Creek Road runs east of Keefus Road, south off Route 20, in Conneaut.



PHOTO BY RICH MCBRIDE

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STARS OF THE SHOW Ashtabula County's Covered Bridges

9. Benetka Road Covered Bridge

The Benetka Road bridge was built in the early 1900s. It is 138 feet long and has a clearance of 11-feet, 6-inches. The laminated arch was added during the renovation of 1985. It is on Benetka Road, which is off SR 193 north of Gageville-Monroe Rd.



10. Olin Covered Bridge

The Olin Covered Bridge is the only bridge named after a family. It was built in 1873 and features Town Lattice design. It is 115 feet long and has a clearance of 10 feet. It is on Dewey Road, east of Dibble Road, which is north of Plymouth Ridge Road.



PHOTO BY JIM REUSCHLING

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*- Written by Dorothy Sarna Saurer,
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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



STARS OF THE SHOW Ashtabula County's Covered Bridges

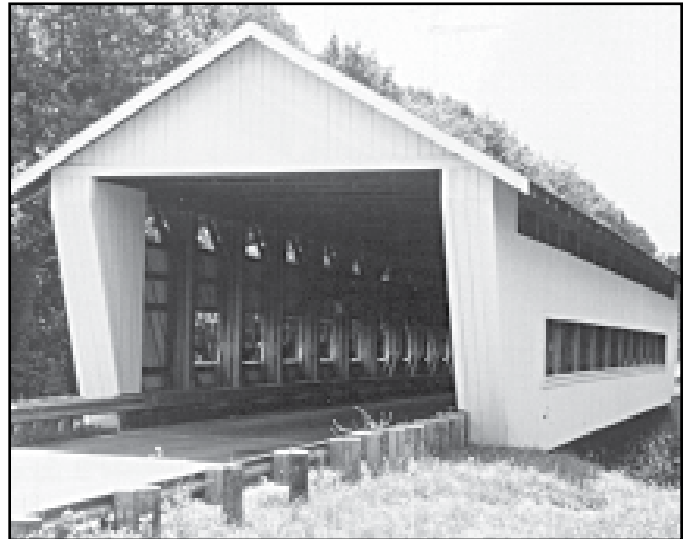
11. Smolen-Gulf Covered Bridge

The Smolen Gulf Covered Bridge was built during 2007-2008 and carries State Road across the Ashtabula River at the Plymouth and Ashtabula Township line. At 613 feet in length, it is the longest covered bridge in the United States. The bridge is named after former Ashtabula County Engineer John Smolen



12. Giddings Road Covered Bridge

The Giddings Road bridge was built in 1995, east of SR 46 south of Griggs Rd. It is 107 feet long and has a clearance of 15 feet, 6 inches. It was built with Pratt Truss construction.



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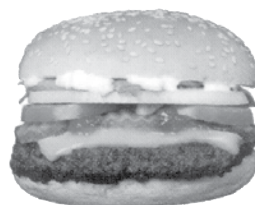
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STARS OF THE SHOW Ashtabula County's Covered Bridges

13. Doyle Road Covered Bridge

Doyle Road Bridge was built in 1868 on Doyle Road, east of Jefferson off SR 307. It has a clearance of 11 feet, 4 inches. It was rededicated in 1987 following the addition of a laminated arch. It is 94 feet long and features Town Lattice design.



14. The Liberty Covered Bridge

Dedicated in 2011, the Liberty Covered Bridge carries West Liberty Street across Cowles Creek in Geneva. At 18 feet, it has been called the shortest covered bridge in the United States. It was built with the help of students at the Ashtabula County Joint Vocational School.



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15. Harpersfield Covered Bridge

The Harpersfield Bridge built in 1868 is 228 feet long. It has a clearance of 12 feet and is built with Howe Truss construction. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Note: The bridge is under construction.





2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



STARS OF THE SHOW Ashtabula County's Covered Bridges

16. Mechanicsville Covered Bridge

The Mechanicsville bridge was built in 1867 and is believed to be the oldest covered bridge in the county. It is 156-feet long and has a clearance of 8 feet, although it was by-passed it is open for car traffic.



PHOTO BY MICHELE VICTOR

18. Windsor Covered Bridge

The Windsor Covered Bridge was built in 1867. The Town Lattice-designed bridge sits atop sandstone from a nearby quarry. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It is south of SR 322 on Warner Hollow.



17. Riverdale Covered Bridge

The Riverdale Bridge was built in 1874, with the floor rebuilt in 1983. The abutment was replaced in 1987. It has an 8-foot clearance. Riverdale Road is west of State Route 45, just past Camp Beaumont, in Morgan Township.



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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



STARS OF THE SHOW Ashtabula County's Covered Bridges

19. The Riverview Covered Pedestrian Bridge

A wooden Pratt truss covered bridge built beneath the Smolen-Gulf Bridge, completed in 2016. The pedestrian covered bridge is 150 feet long and 14 feet wide. It is a Pratt

truss design, like the Smolen-Gulf Bridge, and was designed by Smolen Engineering. It sits below Smolen Bridge in Indian Trails Park. It was dedicated on Oct. 4, 2016.



PHOTO BY CANDY FELEGE

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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



Mitch and Melissa to play Covered Bridge Festival

BY BOB ETTINGER

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON – Mitch Larson and Melissa Harvey simply love music. They love how a crowd reacts to music. They love the challenge of playing a wide variety of songs.

"It's all about the music," Larson said. "It's the challenge of doing different songs for folks and getting involved with the crowd. We love playing for people. When the crowd is having a good time, we feed off of each other. It's always cool to see other musicians in the crowd, too. We might ask them on stage to play with us."

The pair, known as the Melissa and Mitch Acoustic Duo, will share that love of music at the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival on Sunday, Oct. 15, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Though slated to play as a duo, only Larson will attend the festival as Harvey is unable to attend.

"I can't do some of the songs that she does, though I try," Larson said. "I play some different songs. It's difficult because she's got a great voice and we do the harmonies and stuff. I do OK, too. We have a good time playing together, but we also have a good time playing alone, too."

The duo, which is from Andover, is quite familiar with playing for crowds in Ashtabula County.

"We've done a few events, like the Walk for Life, at the fairgrounds," Larson said. "We've been doing the Wine and Walleye Festival and we've done Relay for Life, Lake Fest at Pymatuning Lake, Music in the Park in Andover, lots of wineries, some weddings and private parties."

Instead of performing from a pre-selected list of songs, the duo likes to take feedback from the crowd and perform the songs that are in demand.

"We'll play anything from Conway Twitty to Pearl Jam," Larson said. "We'll do John Denver, Jim Croce, Neil Young, Hank Williams Jr., Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard and much more. We ask people what they want to hear. Sometimes we do well and sometimes we learn new songs."

Larson likes to gauge the crowd and tries to play selections it might like.

"I like to see who is there," Larson said. "I get a look at the crowd and see the age group and see what's going on there. We never have an established set list, but there's a good number of songs that we know. Our job is to entertain folks so they stick around for the festival. We like to interact with the crowd. It can get people going."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Mitch Larson, of the Melissa and Mitch Acoustic Duo, will perform at the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival from 3 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 15.

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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



Jr. Bridgers an important part of covered bridge festival

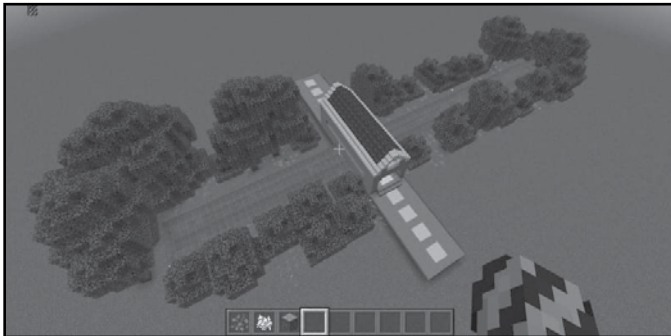
BY ERIC HRIN

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON - Look for the Jr. Bridgers at this year's Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival.

The children in the program will have a booth at the event, next to the milking barn at the county fairgrounds.

Leah Crecraft, leader/organizer of the Jr. Bridgers, said they're looking forward to it.



Jr. Bridgers make model bridges - including electronically.

"They're excited," she said. "They love it. They love the festival, so you'll see them all over the place."

According to a description on the festival website, the Jr. Bridgers, which also go by the acronym of ACJrB, are an extension program of the festival.

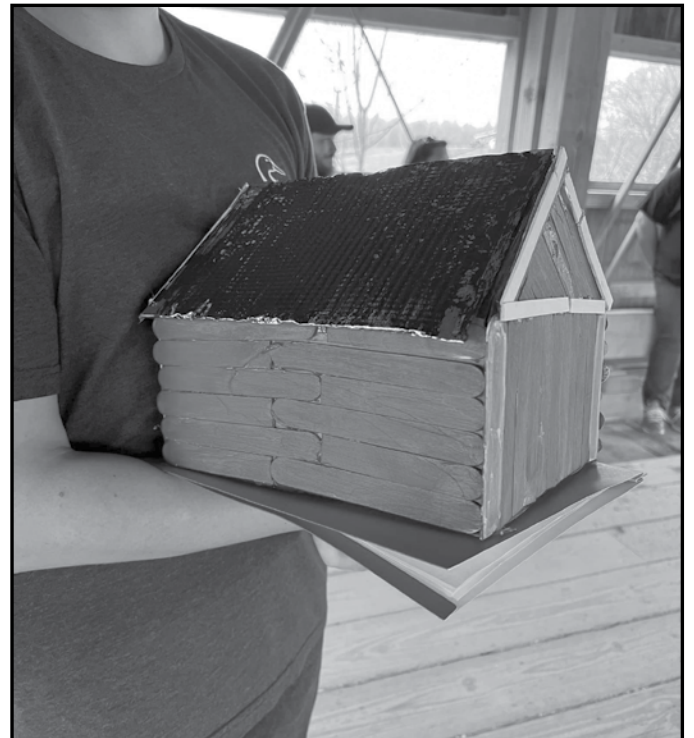
It's open to all children between 8-16 years of age who want to learn about covered bridges.

Starting in March and taking place over the months leading up to the festival, their meetings focus on a lesson on covered bridges, a project or fun activity and



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Scan the QR code to learn more about the Jr. Bridgers.



Starting in March and taking place over the months leading up to the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival, the Jr. Bridgers' meetings focus on a lesson on covered bridges, a project or fun activity and snacks and socializing.

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See JR. BRIDGERS page 53



2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



JR. BRIDGERS

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snacks and socializing.

Crecraft said the program is “a way to come together over something beautiful in Ashtabula - the bridges.”

“It’s about building community, learning about the bridges and the history of Ashtabula County,” she said.

Crecraft said the Jr. Bridgers will be at the festival all day on both days of the Covered Bridge Festival.

At their booth, the children will have free carnival-type games in which kids will be able to win prizes. There will also be information on the covered bridges and the Jr. Bridger program, as well as some of their projects on display. Kids can



Jr. Bridgers review photos of the covered bridges.



Jr. Bridgers at Olin's Bridge.

sign up for the program.

At the festival, the Jr. Bridgers will be awarded medals they earned for completing their homework assignments about covered bridges. They’ll also receive a free t-shirt featuring the winning design in their logo contest.

Lukas Kalister won this year’s contest with his logo, which has a picture of a covered bridge and the names of all the bridges inside.

“It was kind of cool,” Crecraft said.

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Netcher Road has one of the newest of Ashtabula County's covered bridges

BY GABRIEL MCVEY

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP – When most people think about covered bridges in Ashtabula County, they think of 19th Century constructions, but the Netcher Road Covered Bridge is as pretty as any in the county and it was built in the far-gone year of 1999.

The covered bridge crosses Mill Creek a short distance from South Denmark Road in Jefferson Township. The bridge was dedicated Aug. 29, 1999.

Designed by John Smolen with architectural design by Jefferson architect Beverly Cowles, the neo-Victorian bridge cost \$819,050. It was funded with a Federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act grant.

Smolen chose the Haupt truss with arches for the bridge design. Richter Construction of Columbus won the bid to construct the bridge, the trusses of which were fabricated in Ripley, W.Va.

The bridge, one of the newest and one of currently 16 drivable covered bridges in the county, is a single span constructed of timber arches with inverted Haupt walls. It is located about two miles east of Jefferson. The bridge is 110 feet long, 22 feet wide and 14 feet, 6 inches tall.

Southern pine was used for the arches, walls, floor and roof;

yellow poplar for the siding. The bridge was stained red and trimmed in cream. The architectural highlights of the bridge include domes with copper roofs at each end.

At the time of its construction, the Netcher Road Covered Bridge was the newest in the county and the first to be built since the State Road Covered Bridge was built in 1983.

The current bridge replaced an older iron bridge over Mill Creek. That bridge had, in turn, replaced a covered bridge, however no records for that older covered bridge exist. The old iron bridge was closed in 1997.

The road had to be realigned and the intersection with South Denmark Road had to be moved north to accommodate the bridge. Crews also took out a sharp curve by the old bridge as well as straightening and raising the roadway, as residents had found it difficult to navigate the old road and bridge, especially during the winter.

As was customary when the area was first settled, the roadways tended to run alongside the rivers and streams in the area until they came to a place where the water was shallow and the current was slow to allow for fording the river.

Covered bridges were then built at the sites of these old fords and ferries. It wasn't until the advent of the automobile

See **NETCHER** page 55



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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



NETCHER

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Netcher Road Covered Bridge is one of the newest covered bridges in the county. It is a single span constructed of timber arches with inverted Haupt walls. It is located about two miles east of Jefferson. The bridge is 110 feet long, 22 feet wide and 14 feet, 6 inches tall.

that these sharp turns in the road became a problem.

When work on the Netcher Road Covered Bridge Began in 1998, the Jefferson Township trustees expressed some concern over the road's closure.

However, work proceeded quickly, with bridge sections that were constructed in West Virginia being brought in to Jefferson Township, where they were assembled. The trusses were hoisted into place in June, with finishing work wrapping up a few weeks later.

Over 100 spectators showed up to witness the bridge's dedication on Aug. 29, 1999.

The Netcher Road Covered Bridge is located at 1544 Netcher Rd. in Jefferson Township.



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Spellacy Bridge has ties to Ashtabula County

BY STEFANIE WESSELL

Gazette Newspapers

LOUDONVILLE - Lovers of covered bridges may want to take a drive down to Spellacy Bridge in Holmes County.

Ashtabula County's own John Smolen and the Smolen Engineering firm are the designers of the bridge.

Smolen, a principal engineer at Smolen Engineering and a former Ashtabula County engineer, is responsible for designing the longest (Smolen-Gulf Bridge) and shortest (Liberty Bridge) covered bridges in the United States, as well as more than 200 bridges located in 20 Ohio counties.

The Spellacy Bridge carries traffic across the Mohican River in Loudonville on Wally Road.

Besides the residents of the area, the bridge "is equally important for the many tourism-based campgrounds and canoeing facilities in and around the Loudonville and Mohican area that rely on that road to bring people to the area," according to reporting from The

Bargain Hunter.

The Spellacy Bridge is 300 feet long, with a width of 24 feet, according to reporting from the Bargain Hunter. Smolen said the bridge has side-walks on either side of it.

"That was a pretty big project for us," Smolen said.

Kevin Grippi help work on the lighting for the bridge.

"They wanted the interior to be illuminated," Grippi said.

He said the inside of the bridge will light up with color-changing LED lights.

Spellacy Bridge opened for traffic in early September.

Grippi called the bridge "another masterpiece" by Smolen.

"He truly is the Johnny Appleseed of covered bridges," Grippi said. The bridge is located at 16325 County Highway 23, Loudonville.

People can watch a livestream of the bridge at <https://m.twitch.tv/holmescountyengineer>.



PHOTOS BY SCOTT WAGNER

The Spellacy Bridge was designed by Ashtabula County's own John Smolen.



Spellacy Bridge carries traffic across the Mohican River in Loudonville on Wally Road.



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Olin Bridge to celebrate 150th Birthday

BY MARTI MILLIKEN DIXON

Gazette Newspapers

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP - Olin's Bridge, also sometimes known as the Olin-Dewey Road Bridge, has been in the Olin family for its entire 150 years.

It was built in 1873, and five generations of Olins have lived here.

It was originally named Dewey Road Bridge, then renamed after Naomi (Olin) Bottorf and her husband Frank. When it was refurbished in 1981, the redo was courtesy of friends and family, along with Mr. John Smolen, of Smolen Engineering and the Smolen-Gulf Bridge and past Ashtabula County engineer.

Olin's is one of Ashtabula County's 10 antique bridges and one of the 10 that are of lattice construction. The bridge was redone again in 1993, adding louver windows. Visitors and locals found the slats to be distracting, so they were removed shortly thereafter.

Julie (nee Bottorf) Grandbouche is the bridge's current primary caregiver, with the assistance of her 89-year-old Uncle Barry (Bottorf). They have been the bridge's guardians since 2003. The bridge is named after Grandma Olin, who was born in the house to its North in 1900.

Upon her death in 2003, Grandbouche and Bottorf opened a museum at the site. It is filled with a great many treasures, most of which came from Grandma Naomi.

The Olin Bridge crosses the Ashtabula River, named

so by the Erie and Iroquois communities that made their lives on its banks. It translates to "River of Many Fish."

One summer day, there were three cars lined up to take advantage of the bridge's beautiful piece of nature.

A local fisherman, Ron Burlingame, agrees with that sentiment, fishing for small mouth bass here, several times a

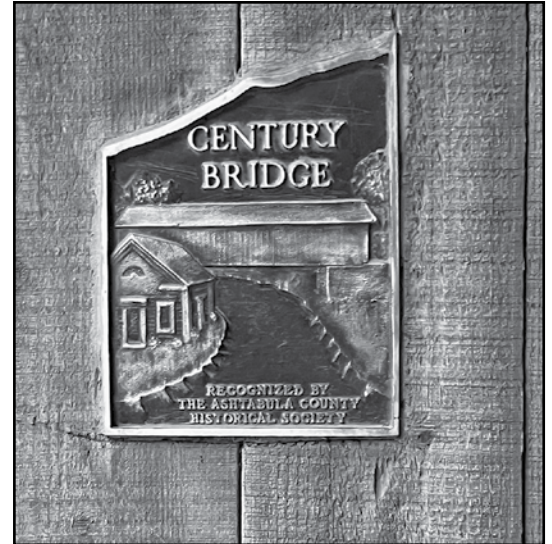


PHOTO BY MARTI MILLIKEN DIXON

Olin's Bridge is recognized as a Century Bridge

See OLIN page 59

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Northeasterly Wind Woodwind Quintet makes Covered Bridge Festival debut

BY CORINNE SCHOREN

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON – The Covered Bridge Festival hosts a variety of entertainment during the two-day event, and this year the Northeasterly Wind Quintet is bringing classical music.

The Covered Bridge Festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 14-15, at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds this year.

During the festival, visitors will have the chance to watch a variety of entertainment, including the Northeasterly Wind Quintet.

The woodwind quintet will be performing at the Covered Bridge Festival at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 15, in the Expo Building at the fairgrounds.

Northeasterly Wind was formed in 1990s in Ashtabula County, after a group of performers met through other local groups.

One of the original founding members, Kathy Zetts, explained how the quintet got started.

"We started in 1999, a year after I moved to Ashtabula County," Zetts stated. "We all met either through the Ashtabula Orchestra or the Ashtabula Symphonic Band, which no longer exists."

After playing as a group for a benefit concert for the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Northeasterly Wind Quintet is made up of Matthew Incorvati on the clarinet, Kathy Zetts on the oboe, Melanie Nichols on the bassoon, Ruth Simon on the flute and Jim Fuller on the French Horn.

Ashtabula Orchestra, the quintet decided to stay together and play to a wide variety of audiences all around the county.

Currently, the group features five skilled players, each with their own specialty. Zetts plays the oboe for the group, Ruth Simon impresses on her flute, Matthew Incorvati amazes on the clarinet, Melanie Nichols excites on the bassoon and Jim Fuller rocks on the French horn.

"Of all the groups I've played in, this is my favorite kind of ensemble," Zetts stated. "I love the assortment of tonic sounds; it's a nice mix of instruments that still work well together."

The Northeasterly Wind Woodwind Quintet plays more than just classical music, too. They play a wide variety of crowd pleasing pop and folk hits, as well as some jazzy cover of classical pieces.

See WIND page 59

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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



OLIN

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week. He says he caught 22 fish, taking pictures, then releasing them back into the world.

Other visitors that day included Mitchell Strong and Kali Limrie, both from Ashtabula.

Strong knows the area well, having good memories of when his grandmother owned the house on the river's West Bank. This day, the two friends were tubing, walking and looking for rocks to place in their turtle's tank.

There are some preparations visitors should make, in order to make the most of their visit. Be sure to wear mosquito repellent. These stingers are in these woods by the zillions. Also bring your swimsuit to enjoy one of the three swimmin' holes.

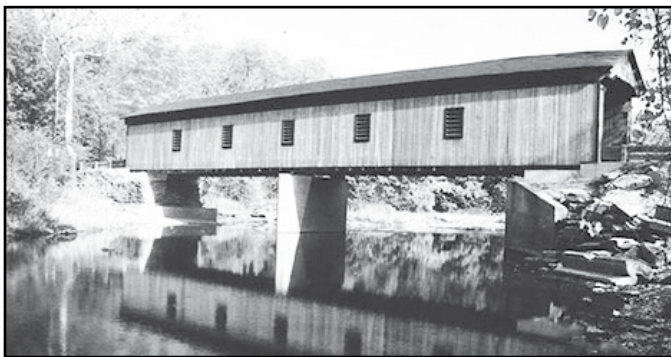
Be aware of the "no trespassing signs." The family welcomes visitors, but prefers they stay on public lands.

During the Covered Bridge Festival, held the second full weekend of October each year, visitors include Ashtabula's Dream Center, whose volunteers sell amazing homemade baked goods. The proceeds go to the care and maintenance of all the county's covered bridges.

The Olin's Museum of Covered Bridges is located at 1918 Dewey Rd., Ashtabula.

This wonderful old bridge is a highlight of the Covered Bridge Trail. Go to visitAshtabulacounty.com to download the app. Check into 5 bridges for a pin or sticker, 10 for a hat or mug, and all 19 for a small or large tote bag. Prizes can be claimed at the Ashtabula County Convention and Visitors Bureau, 1850 Austinburg Road (year-round) at Routes 45 and 90.

Happy bridging!



Olin Bridge

FILE PHOTO

WIND

From
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Two of the members even occasionally sing during the performances.

"We tend to choose music that everyone can enjoy," Zetts explained.

This year will mark the first time they've played at the Covered Bridge Festival, after Zetts's husband performed in his own group last year.

"We're really happy to be able to play the festival," Zetts emphasized.

"I've gone to the festival several times since I lived here," Zetts stated about the Covered Bridge Festival. "I like going around to all the different bridges and being outside in the hopefully nice fall weather."

The Northeasterly Wind Woodwind Quintet will be performing at the Covered Bridge Festival at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 15, in the Expo Building at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds.

People that like what they hear from the group are encouraged to reach out to the performing group, as they are for hire for all sorts of events, such as dinner parties and anniversary events.

"It's really good music for cocktail parties, because you can still talk to people," Zetts stated. "We can tailor the music to the event if someone wants all classical or all pop songs. We want to give a special performance for a special occasion."

For more information about the Northeasterly Wind Woodwind Quintet or to hire them for a performance at any special event, call Kathy Zetts at (440) 812-4036.

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2023 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival



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