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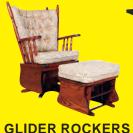


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# ASHTABULA COUNTY COVERED BRIDGE ACTIVITIES 2024

BENETKA RD. BRIDGE will be hosted by youthOPPORTUNI-TIES! They will have chili, pumpkin sourdough, hot apple cider and have youthOPPORTUNITIES! Art Club greeting cards for sale. There will be horse-drawn wagon rides through the bridge provided by the Sackett Family (weather permitting).

**CAINE RD. BRIDGE** will be hosted by Artistic Woodworks, with information about barn quilts and the Barn Quilt Trail.

CREEK RD. BRIDGE will be hosted by the Krieger family. Their mission is to raise awareness of cystic fibrosis. Attractions include Katie's cf boutique, Ariel's cf bakery, Danny K's lemonade, Kaitlyn's keychains, the Diaper Ministry, Angels of the Lake, Bounce house, kids' games, Tasha's cotton candy, raffle baskets and more.

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. is hosted by the Ashtabula County Animal Protective League. They will be talking about adopting pets.

GRAHAM RD. BRIDGE will be unmanned this year. The bridge will be accessible from Stanhope-Kellogsville Road, but is closed right past the bridge and not accessible from Route 7.

HARPERSFIELD BRIDGE will be hosted by the Friends of the Harpersfield Bridge. They are hoping to have lots of vendors again including crafts, photo art, maple products and farmers' market items. There will be a souvenir booth with official festival souvenirs there this year. They hope everyone comes to check out the newly renovated bridge!

LIBERTY ST. COVERED BRIDGE will be hosted by Helping Hands Farm Animal Rescue, an organization that helps farm animals find a second chance at life. They will have food and drinks for sale to raise donations. They will also have a 50/50 and a duck pond game by the bridge. On Sunday, the Geneva Grape JAMboree Miss Grapette Court will be at Geneva's Little Bridge. They will be serving coffee, cider (hot & cold) and donuts for donations to the Geneva Fireman's Club. Our newly crowned court is hoping that you'll stop by to visit us.

MECHANICSVILLE RD. BRIDGE is open this year

**MIDDLE ROAD** is open with no activities



5-MILE AND 5K: 23 JEFFERSON DEPOT: 25 **ANTIQUE ENGINES: 26** Map: 28-29 STARS OF THE SHOW: 30-40 GLASS BLOWING: 41 STATE ROAD: 42 HARPERSFIELD REOPENING: 46 MECHANICSVILLE ROAD: 52 HUFFMAN ACOUSTIC: 54 2 Kings Duo: 56 ABRAHAM LINCOLN: 57 Contests: 58 FORMER BRIDGES: 63 Helicopter Tours: 64

NETCHER ROAD 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. We're hoping to meet some of the pets who were in our care!

**OLIN BRIDGE** is hosted by the Ashtabula Dream Center. They will have a baked goods, coffee and water for sale. The Dream Center is a soup kitchen/food pantry with many other programs to offer. Their mission for the past 23 years has been to help the community restore broken lives, families and dreams.

RIVERDALE ROAD BRIDGE is hosted by Conversation Station. They are pleased to be a part of the Festival! As a "safe place to be for kids" in the Orwell area, they hope to have some youth join them for this county/community event. They will have drinks available for sale and the Covered Bridge Festival information and souvenirs.

ROOT ROAD 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 you with homemade potato chips and probably other food. They will have club information available.

**SOUTH DENMARK BRIDGE** will be hosted by the Pierpont Community Action League/Pierpont Beautification Committee during the festival. They will decorate the bridge for fall and have baked goods, pulled pork sandwiches, hot dogs, water, pop and coffee and fall crafts for sale.

**SMOLEN GULF BRIDGE** is hosted by East Plymouth Grange. They will have hot dogs, cabbage rolls, water pop and baked goods. There will be other vendors at the bridge also.

STATE ROAD BRIDGE is hosted by the Monroe Township Fire Department. They will have a fire to cook your own hot dogs. They will have pop to drink and will also be selling their hoagies and baked goods.

WISWELL ROAD (Windsor Mills) Bridge is hosted by the Windsor Historical Society. They will have activities set up by the Old Church on 322, across the street from Wiswell Road.

#### 2024 ASHTABULA COUNTY COVERED BRIDGE FESTIVAL

A GAZETTE NEWSPAPERS PUBLICATION

CEO ......Jeff Lampson President/Publisher ......William Creed Program Editor ...... Stefanie Wessell Advertising Director ...... Amber Ballard Graphic Design......S. Howe

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#### Welcome to the 40th annual Covered Bridge Festival

Hello and Happy Anniversary! The 2024 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival is quickly approaching, and this year is our 40th Anniversary!

Again this year, our Central Festival will be where it began 40 years ago - at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds! This means there will be PLENTY of parking and room for even more vendors and activities! We truly anticipate a HUGE crowd!

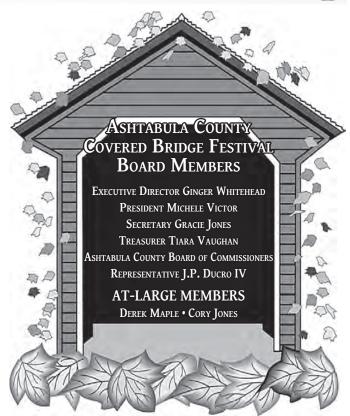
On Saturday we will feature our Parade, a Glass Blowing Exhibit and Helicopter Rides! As well, plan to visit our Antique Engine Show and our Annual Car and Truck Show. Please plan to cast your vote for the People's Choice of Best in Show! And along the way, visit the myriad of food vendors, crafters, and artisans selling their wares!

Holding our festival on the spacious fairgrounds also allows us to bring back some exciting fan favorites: Bigfoot, President and Mrs. Lincoln, our Coloring Wall, the Scarecrow and Mini Bridge Contests, a Petting Zoo!

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 2025 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!

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ASHTABULA COUNTY COVERED BRIDGE FESTIVAL





### SAVE THE DATE!! MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

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**Covered Bridge Festival Office:** 25 W. Jefferson St., Jefferson, OH • (440) 576-3769 For more information visit www.coveredbridgefestival.org or our Facebook page **f** 





## Schedule for the 2024 Covered Bridge Festival

#### **SATURDAY OCTOBER 12**

8:00-10:00.... Drop off Mini Bridges (including Lego), art projects and scarecrows for judging at the Expo Building 9:00-12:00 .. Pancake Breakfast in the Expo Building by Jefferson Grange 10:00-5:00 ..... Festival/Craft Building Open/Kids Activities and train rides/Helicopter Rides 10:00-5:00..... Car Show/Antique Engine Show/Whittlers in the Log Cabin 10:30–11:30 ..... Glassblowing Demonstrations by the antique engines 10:00-5:00 ... John and Marian King as Abe and Mary Todd Lincoln at the Log Cabin 11:30-1:00 ...... The Two Kings Duo at the Barnard Pavilion 11:00 ...... Mini bridge judging / Scarecrow judging 12:00–3:00 ...... Bigfoot strolling the grounds 12:00 ...... Parade Lineup at High School 12:30–1:30 ..... Glassblowing Demonstrations by the antique engines 1:20 ...... Parade arrives at Fairgrounds 2:30–3:30 .......... Glassblowing Demonstrations by the antique engines 4:00-5:00 ......TBD 5:00 ...... Festival Closes

#### **SUNDAY OCTOBER 13**

8:30 ...... Covered Bridge 5-Mile/ 5-K Run starting at the Expo Building 9:00-12:00 Pancake Breakfast in the Expo Building by Jefferson Grange 10:00-5:00 ......Festival / Craft Building opens / Kids activities & train rides / Helicopter Rides 10:00-5:00 ......Antique Engine Show/ Whittlers in the Log Cabin 10:00–11:00 .......Church service by Jefferson Nazarene at the Barnard Pavilion 10:00-5:00 ......John and Marian King as Abe and Mary Todd Lincoln at the Log Cabin 10:30–11:30 .......Glassblowing Demonstration by the antique engines 12:00–3:00 ......Bigfoot strolling the grounds 12:30-1:30 .......Glassblowing Demonstration by the antique engines 1:00-4:00 ...... 1890 Tours at the Jefferson Depot 2:30–3:30 ......Glassblowing Demonstration by the antique engines 3:00-5:00 ...... Huffman Acoustic at the Barnard Pavilion 5:00 ...... Festival closes

#### ON THE FAIRGROUNDS

Official Covered Bridge Festival Souvenirs in the log cabin Food Vendors The Mini Bridge **Antique Cars / Antique Engines Inside and Outside Crafters** Helicopter Rides in the track infield **Historical Displays** Kids' Activities **Jefferson Historical Society Covered Bridge Historical Displays** 

#### JEFFERSON DEPOT











# **FESTIVAL REACHES 40-YEAR WATERMARK**

BY ERIC HRIN

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON – The Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival has reached a milestone of 40 years.

"We're just thrilled to have made it to 40 years, and we're hoping the weather cooperates so we get lots of people to come out and enjoy," Ginger Whitehead, executive director of the festival, said.

This year's festival will take place the weekend of Oct. 12-13.

Whitehead, who has been involved with the festival since the mid-1990s, noted that the central covered bridge festival



Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival

2nd Weekend In October

PHOTOS BY CORINNE SCHOREN

The 2023 Covered Bridge Festival was a great time for families who bundled up to check out Ashtabula County's treasures, such as this family, Brianna Hare, her two sons, Jaylon and Jaxxon, and sister Tani.

Even Bigfoot, portrayed by Frank Sundquist, got in on the fun of the 2023 Covered Bridge Festival, riding around the fairgrounds in the Romick Railway train ride, operated by Dan Romick.

was first held at the county fairgrounds in Jefferson before moving to Giddings Park in Jefferson. In recent years, it was moved back to the fairgrounds, its current location, to allow for more parking.

In addition to the main festival, smaller celebrations can be found at the covered bridges themselves during the festival weekend.

Whitehead recalled how attendance has ebbed and flowed since the early years of the festival in the 1980s.

"Back in those years, more people came out because people weren't so involved in other things," she said. "It slowly got smaller for a while, but we've been getting larger again the last 10 years."

She noted that Betty Morrison, John Smolen and others started the festival as a way to celebrate the county's covered bridges, following the dedication of the county's first new covered bridge since the early 1900s, the State Road Bridge, in 1983.

**SEE FESTIVAL: 5** 

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The stars of the show were the covered bridges around the county, such as the Riverview Covered Pedestrian Bridge, located beneath the Smolen-Gulf Bridge.

# **FESTIVAL**

From Page 4



The shortest of all 19 covered bridges, and in the U.S., is located on Liberty Street in Geneva, and visitors to the 2023 Covered Bridge Festival, such as Mathew Loeffel, took time to check out the unique architecture of the bridge.

Held the second weekend in October each year, the festival sees people visiting the 19 bridges in the county. By doing so, they can see the shortest and the longest covered bridges in the United States – all in Ashtabula County.

They can also see a variety of construction while viewing the bridges.

According to the festival website, the covered bridges in the county are of five types: Howe truss, Pratt truss, Town lattice truss, Burr Arch and Inverted Haupt truss.

Ashtabula County Commissioner Casey Kozlowski wished the festival well on its 40th anniversary.

"The Covered Bridge Festival is a fantastic opportunity to highlight one of our county's tremendous assets, our beautiful covered bridges," he said. "For 40 years, the Covered Bridge Festival has been doing just that and it has truly made a significant impact on our community bringing in visitors from the area and afar."

Kozlowski said he has attended the festival many times over the years.

"I've always enjoyed the opportunity to visit many of the local covered bridges during the festival to take in their beauty and also visit with the many local organizations and vendors that are setup at the bridge," he said. "It's my hope that on this 40th anniversary that many take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival."

And people have been doing just that for four decades – enjoying all the festival has to offer.

#### **SEE FESTIVAL: 6**









# **FESTIVAL**

From Page 5

There's been plenty to keep people entertained, though that has changed over the years.

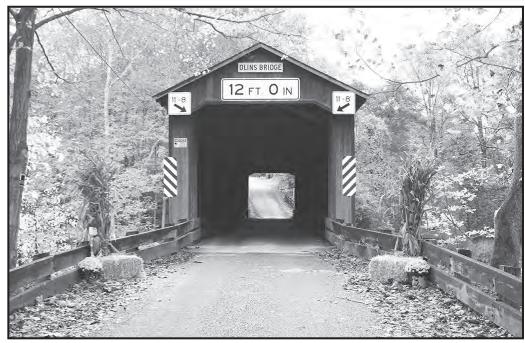
In the early days of the festival, Whitehead recalled, there was a lot of square dancing.

In subsequent years, everything from chain saw carvers to cloggers have been featured.

Whitehead also noted that a lot of motorcycle clubs and car clubs started doing runs to the different bridges during the festival.

"It's great," she commented.

The allure of the covered bridges keeps people coming back to the festival. And the time of the year the festival is held makes it even more special.

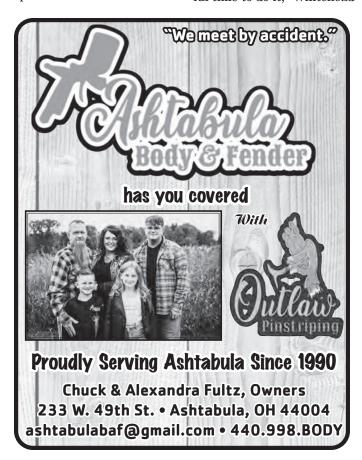


The Olin Bridge, located on Dewey Road, stood proudly as it celebrated its 150th birthday during the 2023 Covered Bridge Festival, after being built in 1873.

"People love to visit the bridges, and fall is a beautiful time to do it," Whitehead hiez

Look for different items from the festival's history,

such as pictures, in the log cabin at the fairgrounds this year, in addition to souvenirs.









# **Covered Bridge Festival Parade returns**

BY GABRIEL MCVEY

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON - The Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival will kick off this year once again with the popular parade through Jefferson Village on Saturday, Oct. 12, at 1 p.m.

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.

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 route will run from the high school down onto Poplar Street, turn east onto Satin Street, north onto Chestnut Street,

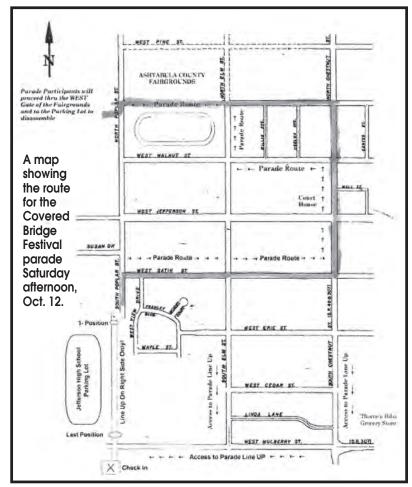


IMAGE COURTESY OF THE ASHTABULA COUNTY COVERED BRIDGE FESTIVAL

then west onto Ashtabula Street and then on to the Fairgrounds.

Anyone with small children who enjoys supporting

the community won't want to miss this year's Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival parade.

The Ashtabula County

Covered Bridge Festival parade will be held Saturday, Oct. 12. Lineup is at the Jefferson Area High School parking lot off Poplar Street at 12 p.m. and will leave the parking lot at promptly at 1 p.m. The judging stand will be located between the midway and the grandstands.

Parade rules prohibit throwing any materials during the parade, such as candy, balloons and the like. These items can be handed to the crowd.

No signs for political candidacy will be allowed.

Horse participants are required to clean up after their animals during the parade or before leaving afterward.

The parade will be held regardless of weather, as scheduled, A severe storm may cause a cancelation and will be announced by radio.

For more information on this year's Cov-

ered Bridge Festival parade, or to sign up a club, business or organization to participate, contact the festival office by calling 440-576-3769.



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# 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.



Rich McBride of Conneaut is the front-cover winner of the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Committee's 2025 calendar contest, with this photo of the Creek Road Covered Bridge. The photo also is used on the cover of this Covered Bridge Festival program. PHÓTO BY RICH McBRIDE



Haley Cregut of Washington, Pa., is the back-cover winner of the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Committee's 2025 calendar contest, with this photo of the Caine Road Bridge. PHOTO BY HALEY CREGUT

• 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 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.

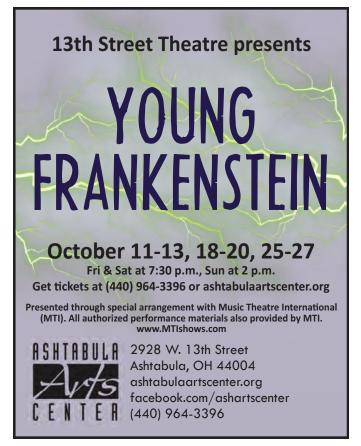






The 2024 calendar front-cover, grand-prize winner photo of Netcher Road Bridge in Jefferson Township is by Jim Reuschling of Jefferson, Ohio.

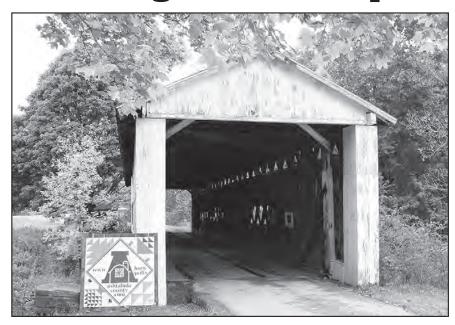








# Small, yet mighty: South Denmark Covered Bridge a must-stop during festival



BY CORINNE SCHOREN

Gazette Newspapers

DENMARK TOWNSHIP - While the road may go past the South Denmark Road Covered Bridge, this small, yet mighty bridge is a must-see stop during the Ashtabula Covered Bridge Festival.

The South Denmark Road Covered Bridge spans Mill Creek in Denmark Township, just over five miles from the Ashtabula Covered Bridge Festival at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds.

Originally built in 1890, this bridge is a single-span Town truss design and one of 16 drivable bridges in the county.

#### **SEE SOUTH DENMARK: 11**

PHOTO BY CORINNE SCHOREN

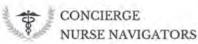
The South Denmark Covered Bridge is not only on the Ashtabula Covered Bridge tour, but also the Ashtabula County Barn Quilt Trail. Check out both during the Ashtabula Covered Bridge Festival.

# **Proud Supporter of The Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival**





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# **SOUTH DENMARK**

From Page 10

The 81-foot bridge spans 76 feet and was the county's shortest covered bridge before the construction of the Liberty Street Covered Bridge in 2011.

The South Denmark Road Covered Bridge was bypassed in 1975, as the small bridge was inadequate for modern traffic.

The bridge was renovated following the bypass and is still open to light traffic.

However, many people prefer to stop by the bridge, walk through it and take pictures.

According to Carl Feather's book "The Covered Bridges of Ashtabula County, Ohio," it was speculated that the South Denmark Road Covered Bridge originally stood elsewhere but was removed by flood and eventually rebuilt over Mill Creek. However,

there are no historical records of the original location.

The South Denmark Road Covered Bridge is also a part of the Ashtabula County Barn Quilt Trail.

The barn quilt, titled "Seasons in Flight," features a pattern of flying geese and leaves, painted by Karen Rose, a barn quilt trail steering committee member, and Kathy McCarty, trail co-founder.

Visitors to the Ashtabula Covered Bridge Festival can not only visit all the covered bridges, but also view some of the many barn quilts on the trail.

Ginger Whitehead, executive director of the Ashtabula Covered Bridge Festival, stated that the South Denmark Covered Bridge is a nice place to set up and have a picnic or just drive through.

"It's special because it's

bypassed but still drivable. It's a really nice place to set up at. You can go through the bridge or have a picnic. And it has a barn quilt on it which a lot of people enjoy," Whitehead said.

For this year's Ashtabula Covered Bridge Festival, the South Denmark Road Covered Bridge will be hosted by the Pierpont Community Action League/Pierpont Beautification Committee.

They will have fall crafts, homemade baked goods, pulled pork sandwiches, hot dogs and chips, bottle water and coffee for sale during the festival.

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## Doyle Road Covered Bridge a popular stop during festival



Get on your motorcycle and ride through the Doyle Road Covered Bridge during the Ashtabula Covered Bridge Festival.

BY CORINNE SCHOREN

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON – Being the closest bridge to the Ashtabula Covered Bridge Festival, the Doyle Road Covered Bridge in Jefferson is a popular stop during the festival.

The Doyle Road Covered Bridge spans Mill Creek in Jefferson, less than two miles away from the Ashtabula Covered Bridge Festival hosted at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds.

Built in 1868, this bridge is a single-span Town Truss design and is one of 16 drivable bridges in Ashtabula County.

The 94-foot-long bridge spans 84 feet with a height clearance of 13 feet 3 inches.

**SEE DOYLE ROAD: 64** 

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# Harpersfield Bridge making a great return to festival

BY ERIC HRIN

Gazette Newspapers

HARPERSFIELD TOWN-SHIP - It's like an old friend coming back.

This year, the Harpersfield Covered Bridge will be open once again for the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival after being renovated and closed the last couple years.

And Ginger Whitehead, executive director of the festival, for one, couldn't be more excited.

"We are so thrilled, and the Friends of the Harpersfield Covered Bridge are very excited to have use of that bridge again," she said.



PHOTOS BY CORINNE SCHOREN

After two years of work on the Harpersfield Covered Bridge, a grand reopening was held on Saturday, Aug. 3. To officially reopen the bridge, a ceremonial parade led by the Sons of the American Revolution processed through the bridge to celebrate the completion of the rehabilitation project.

She thought it turned out beautifully.

"And having another walkway on the east side facing the dam is nice," she added.

With the bridge opening back up, Whitehead expected it would be one of the more popular stops during the festival this year.

"Everybody is going to want to go and see how it looks now that's its reopened," she said.

Plans are still being made about what will be featured at the bridge during the festival, but one thing that will be there for sure is a souvenir booth, because of the expected crowd. More details will be announced in the future.

"The Friends of the Harpersfield Bridge is putting the word out to vendors who used to be there, and hopefully most of them will show up," Whitehead said.

Whitehead said most everyone will be happy with the way the bridge turned out following its renovation.

"Some are sad that it doesn't look as historical, but most are thrilled with how it looks," she said.

**SEE HARPERSFIELD: 15** 









# HARPERSFIELD

From Page 14

During the reopening ceremony of the bridge Aug. 3, County Engineer Tim Martin spoke of the federal funding, state funding and local funding that made the rehabilitation possible, according to a previous article in the Gazette.

"In all, the project cost about \$6.25 million and took about two years to complete," Martin said. "A lot of people had to come together to make this happen."

Information on the festival website notes that the bridge spans the Grand River and was built in 1868. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, it's located in a County Metropark.

According to the history, a flood in 1913 washed soil away from the north end of the bridge and changed the river channel. The information notes that the steel bridge was then attached, and a walkway was added in 1991-92 in a previous renovation project.



County and township representatives, including Ashtabula County Auditor David Thomas, Ashtabula County Commissioner J.P. Ducro IV and Harpersfield Township Trustee Jim Pristov, took part in the ceremonial log cutting to officially reopen the Harpersfield Covered Bridge.





A special reopening ceremony was held on Saturday, Aug. 3, for the newly rehabilitated Harpersfield Covered Bridge.



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\$12 adults and \$5 children under
10, children under 3 free. "Carry

outs are available." We hope to see everyone there. On the menu of course is swiss steak, mashed potatoes, veggies, applesauce and rolls. There will also be delicious pie. So *please* be ready and bring a friend. The funds will go to help with various mission projects like the Christmas Family Project, VBS, El Sembrador and so many more. Come join us in the fun, fellowship and great food. Bring this article and you will receive \$1 off your meal. Look forward to breaking bread with you. The Mission Committee and Saybrook Methodist Church, 7900 South Depot Rd., Ashtabula, OH. Call the church office at 440-969-1562 to order carry-outs. And just a side note, as of Saturday, October 12 we heard there are 74 days till Christmas HO HO HO."







#### BIGFOOT SIGHTINGS and MORE FOR KIDS at COVERED BRIDGE FESTIVAL

BY CORINNE SCHOREN

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON – Watch out! You might find Bigfoot at the Ashtabula Covered Bridge Festival.

Bigfoot sightings are just one of the few activities for kids during the Covered Bridge Festival, making the festival great for all ages.

SEE BIGFOOT: 17

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 kids and families who visit. SUBMITTED PHOTO

# COVERED BRIDGE PIZZA PARLOR

Sunday • 11am-9pm Monday • Closed Tuesday-Wednesday • 11am-9pm Thursday-Saturday • 11am-10pm

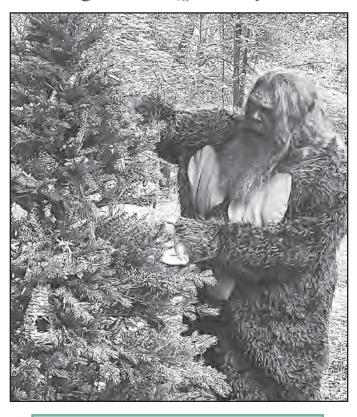
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# **BIGFOOT**

From Page 16

The Covered Bridge Festival will offer an assortment of entertainment for kids, including train rides, crafts and, of course, visits from Bigfoot.

Ginger Whitehead, executive director of the Ashtabula Covered Bridge Festival, explained that the festival has always been a family-friendly environment, and the festival wants to provide opportunities for families and kids to have fun.

"We've always been very family focused and have a lot of stuff for kids to do. There's plenty for the guys with the antique engine show and plenty for the ladies with the craft show, so we want to have plenty for the kids, too, Whitehead said.

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 said.
"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 sighted at the Ashtabula Covered Bridge Festival on both Saturday and Sunday from 12-3 p.m. near the Barnard Pavilion at the fairgrounds.

Along with Bigfoot sighting, kids that visit the Ashtabula Covered Bridge Festival throughout the weekend will have the opportunity to ride on a trackless train ride, make crafts with the Jefferson Nazarene Church and help create a mural with washable markers.

"We just hope that lots of kids come out and enjoy," Whitehead said.

# Kelloggsville Global Methodist Church to Hold Fall Festival

Kelloggsville Global Methodist Church will hold a Fall Festival from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12, during the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival.

The church's famous covered bridge chili will be for sale, as well as real campfire-roasted hotdogs. Bake sale.

Music by Simply Us.

Located at 4763 North Monroe Center Rd., Conneaut, near State Road Covered Bridge. Held outside in parking lot.



Jefferson Area Chamber of Commerce • P.O. Box 100, Jefferson, Ohio 44047 440-576-0133 • www.jeffersonchamber.com





# SPONSORSHIPS WELCOME

Thank you very much to all of you who supported us these past years! This year the Covered Bridge Festival is having our 40th annual festival.

We celebrated a big change in 2023. The festival had outgrown Giddings Park and moved back to the County Fairgrounds. This gave us plenty of parking, as well as lots more space for vendors and entertainment.

This letter is to remind you to keep the Covered Bridge Festival in mind for your 2024 giving.

Enclosed is a list of events and items that need sponsors. Any contribution that you can provide is greatly appreciated!

This coming year is going to be a huge leap forward and we will need more partners to make it as big as possible.

Thank you very much for your consideration and your best possible sponsorship,

## GINGER WHITEHEAD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival 25 W. Jefferson St. • Jefferson, OH 44047 (440) 576-3769 • cbf@coveredbridgefestival.org

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Below are levels of sponsorship and events for your consideration.

**PLATINUM** \$3,500 ~ Includes, GOLD, SILVER, BRONZE benefits

Plus: Canvas print of bridge of your choice Large sponsorship plaque Sponsorship announcements at every stage show

GOLD \$1,500 ~ Includes SILVER, BRONZE benefits Plus: Name & logo on Main Stage Banner 10x10 booth space for promotion of your organization Logo on print promotional materials A sponsorship plaque depicting the bridge of your choice Sponsorship announcement from the main stage

SILVER \$500 ~ Includes BRONZE benefits Plus: Name and logo displayed at Central Festival

#### **BRONZE** \$300 ~ Includes below benefits

Plus: Name in annual Covered Bridge Calendar (if received before calendar is printed)

Name and logo displayed at bridge of your choice or on the Fairgrounds

All sponsors have these listings

Name on website for Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival (ACCBF)

Name in ACCBF Annual Tabloid









#### INSIDE VENDORS

1412 Crafts / Devin Pinney Alexandria Arcoria clay jewelry Allison Kalister Alyssa Ennis Art As I See It Art & Gifts / Bill Pasco **Author Eric Armstrong** Bows Bows / Rita Woodworth Designs by Lori / Lori Smith Diane Sturgill Dipped with Grace / Grace Cogger Grandpa's Girl designed by Granny Jean Smith & Cathy Davis Iordan Essentials / Diane Brown M H Fashions / Paula A. Hildenbrand Mary Ann's Faux Container Creations / Mary Ann Marsh Michelle Way Peggie Reinhardt Percy Homestead Honey Products Pink Zebra / Melissa Rzeszutek Phyllis Good Rocking Wire Art / Marina Kiseliov Simply Mia & Co. / Jamie Smith Sisters by Chance Creation / Bonnie Ralston Tupperware / Manal Franklin Vera 4 All / Lori Rusu Wickline Customs / Curtis Wickline Wooden It Be Neat / Randy & Bev Lytle

#### VENDORS UNDER GRANDSTANDS

All American Gutter Protection Ashtabula Co. Board of DD Bittner Bees / Richard Bittner Guardians USA Vets Blue & White Iefferson Church of the Nazarene Joyce Windows Sunrooms Baths Lakers Ruritans Leaf Filter Gutter Protection Ohio Children's Alliance / Crystal Roberts Renewal by Andersen Villa at the Lake / Laura McCoy

#### **OUTSIDE VENDORS**

Butler Belts & More / Laura Butler Ieff & Lonnie Miller Richard's Maple Products / Jen Freeman Stinson Maple & Honey Window Depot / Home Team

# 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 Fair-

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

Colvin Concessions has burritos, tacos, nachos, pulled pork, pretzels and deep-fried

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

Perfectly Popped Kettle

Corn offers its sweet-flavored kettle corn.

Rollin' B Cowgirl Cafe offers all the typical festival favorites, including French

Fat Papi Sausage Sandwiches offers gyros and sausage sandwiches.

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

#### 2024 FOOD **VENDORS INCLUDE:**

- Tidy Whitey
- Colvin Concessions
- Twizted Eggrolls
- Perfectly Popped Kettle
- Rollin' B Cowgirl Cafe
- Fat Papi Sausage Sandwiches









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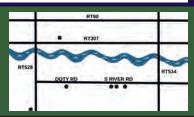
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Visit individual web sites for more to see & do!







# Memberships to Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival available

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

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

What you get for your membership:

- 1. A membership card good for one year from date of issue.
- 2. Ten percent off regular-priced merchandise
- 3. Occasional newsletter
- 4. Invitations to Annual Membership Dinners in the spring and fall.
- 5. The satisfaction of knowing that you are helping keep the tradition of festival alive, and helping support our programs.

Membership price is per person.

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

#### CHANGING TABLE AVAILABLE AT FAIRGROUNDS

The Ashtabula County Fairgrounds has an accessible and universal changing table space under the grandstand where it says "office."

# **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.

# Festival notes on handicapped parking

The Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival is celebrating its 40th year.

There is handicapped parking behind the Expo Building both days of the festival.







# New Covered Bridge Festival merchandise helps keep the festival going

BY GABRIEL MCVEY

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON – Some 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 a new festival t-shirt.

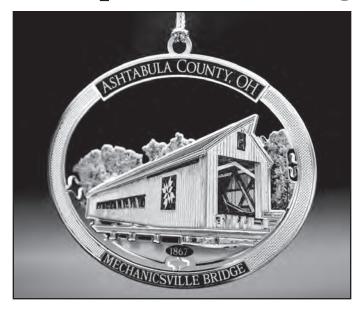
The Christmas ornament features the Mechanicsville Bridge, a covered bridge that carries Mechanicsville Road over the Grand River in Austinburg Township, according to Ginger Whitehead, executive director of the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival.

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.

A popular item from last year 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 com-



Covered Bridge
Festival merchandise
available this year is
a Christmas ornament
with this year's
featured bridge,
the Mechanicsville
Covered Bridge in
Austinburg Township,
according to Ginger
Whitehead, executive
director of the
Ashtabula County
Covered Bridge
Festival.

A new piece of

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ASHTABULA COVERED BRIDGE FESTIVAL

memorative t-shirt honoring the 2024 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, coveredbridge-festival.org. All proceeds from merchandise sales help to support the festival and keep it going for future visitors.

Another way to support

the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival is to become a member, which can be done at the festival site.

There are three levels of membership: single, family or lifetime. Single and family membership cards are good for one year from the date of issue. Members get 10 percent off regular price merchandise, a newsletter and an invitations to the annual membership dinners in

the spring and fall.

The Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival online 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.







# Covered Bridge Festival 5-mile and 5K new to festival weekend this year

BY CORINNE SCHOREN

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON - While many people are traveling to the different covered bridges in Ashtabula County by car, some people are going to be running at the Covered Bridge Festival 5-mile and 5K.

The Covered Bridge Festival 5-mile and 5K will be held on Sunday, Oct. 13, at 8:30 a.m. during the Covered Bridge Festival. Participants can run or walk

The event will begin at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds and the 5-mile route will take runners or walkers to the Netcher Road Covered Bridge in Jefferson. The 5K will run to the Jefferson Dog Park on East Jefferson Street.

Ginger Whitehead, executive director of the Covered Bridge Festival, explained that while this is the second year for the 5-mile and 5K, it's the first year that it has been included during the festival.

"We did it last year, but we did it for Mother's Day. So it's new for being during the festival," Whitehead said. "We changed the route so the 5-mile goes down to a covered bridge."

As Whitehead explained, the Covered Bridge Festival has considered doing a 5-mile and 5K event for some time after seeing the success of other festivals who introduced a similar event.

"We've been talking about doing it for several years. A lot of festivals have added a 5K and we decided to give it a try," Whitehead said.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the Covered Bridge Festival 5-mile and 5K. As Whitehead mentioned, there were numerous kids who took part in the event last year.

"Anyone is welcome. Last year we had

lots of kids participating," Whitehead said.

Cost to enter the Covered Bridge Festival 5-mile and 5K is \$20 for adults and \$5 for kids 14 and under. Adults receive a t-shirt when pre-registering and kids can add on a shirt for an additional \$5.

Sign-ups will be available on the day of the event, but participants will not receive a shirt.

"The shirt features a covered bridge and then a pair of shoes with wings," Whitehead said.

Proceeds from the event go to benefit the Covered Bridge Festival.

The Covered Bridge Festival 5-mile and 5K will be held on Sunday, Oct. 13, at 8:30 a.m., beginning at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds.

Pre-registration is available now. Sign up today at https://runsignup.com/race/ oh/jefferson/coveredbridgefestival.



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# EFFERSON 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 more.

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 an 1850 Queen Anne Victorian Home is ongoing.

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



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









# Antique cars, engines to be displayed



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

An antique car show will be held at the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds on Saturday, Oct. 12, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.



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Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON - From the very start, it's been important to the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival to showcase not only the cars that make the bridges necessary, but also the engines that power those vehicles.

Four decades after the first annual festival, those vehicles are still being honored.

"We've just always had one," Covered Bridge Festival Executive Director Ginger Whitehead said. "It's one of the regular things the guys like to see. A lot of people come for it. It's a draw for a lot of people."

The car show will begin with registration at 9 a.m. and last until approximately 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 12, at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds.

The antique engine show will run simultaneously with the car show on Saturday and from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 13.

Entrants can register for the car show when the festival opens at 10 a.m.

"It's open to anyone who wants to come and show their car," Whitehead said.

Each entrant into the car show will receive a gift.

"Everyone that comes in will be given a dash plaque with a bridge on it," Whitehead said.

Judging will take place between 2 and 3 p.m. with a trophy given to a judge's choice and a people's choice.

Whitehead hopes for good weather and a solid turnout for the show.

"We hope to get at least 50 cars," Whitehead said. "We tend to, if the weather is good, to get about 50."

Whitehead is excited for a certain set of entrants.

"What I'm excited about this year is we had a guy bring a bunch of Jaguars last year," Whitehead said. "He's bringing a bunch of Ford Thunderbirds this year. I've always liked the Ford T-Birds."

The antique engine show will have some unique displays.

"We'll bring some small engines there, a few tractors," Ted Seifert, president of the Ashtabula County Antique Engine Club, said. "There will be a few tractors. We'll bring things that are portable. A lot of the engines, like a power grain grinder or a pump for water, were used on farms to do a lot of chores."

Children tend to enjoy the presentations at the antique engine show.

#### **SEE ENGINES: 27**









Antique engines from the Ashtabula County Antique Engine Club will be on display during the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival during the weekend of Oct. 12 and 13 at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds.



Tractors will part of the antique car/engine shows during the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival on Oct. 12 and 13 at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds.

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# **ENGINES**

From Page 26

"They like to see machinery, especially if it's operating," Seifert said. "The movement and noise is always enjoyable for children."

The Antique Engine will make a point to educate visitors with questions.

"It's for both education and entertainment," Seifert said. "A lot of people won't understand unless we show or teach them what it was like in the 1920s and '30s. It's an education in history of what the early 20th century was like."

"Where I lived in Austinburg didn't get electricity until 1938," Seifert continued. "We teach how people could live without electricity and things like that."

Teaching that history has a purpose.

"It's important to show what yesterday was like," Seifert said. "We enjoy talking with people and explaining how things worked and a lot of people are interested because it's new to them."

The Antique Engine Club members enjoy talking to visitors at the show.

"We get enjoyment out of teaching people what things used to be like," Seifert said. "It's fun to talk to people and inform them that things were not always like they are today. We enjoy it. We also like the chance to show off our hobbies. The tractors are really applicable to today's uses, but we enjoy talking about having them and showing them off."

"The Covered Bridge Festival has been good to us," Seifert continued. "We enjoy the festival and we also get to go and see the other displays."



# **Covered Bridge Clearances** Ashtabula County

	)
BRIDGECLEARANCE	ARANCE
1. 1544 Netcher Rd., Jefferson	14'6"
2. 2670 S. Denmark Rd., Jefferson By-Pass	. By-Pass
3. 4699 Caine Rd., Pierpont	15'0"
4. 4646 Graham Rd., Pierpont	. By-Pass
5. 4680 Root Rd., Conneaut10'6"	10'6"
	11'0"
	16'2"
8. 371 Creek Rd., Conneaut9'3"	9'3"
9. 4500 Benetka Rd., Sheffield Twp11'0"	11,0"
1880 Dewey Rd., Plymouth Twp	10,0,,
7001 State Rd., Ashtabula	14'6"
12. 7001 State Rd., AshtabulaPedestrian	edestrian
1400 Giddings Rd., Jefferson	15'6"
	11'4"
	15'0"
1122 Harpersfield Rd., Geneva	12'0"
	. By-Pass
18. 3349 Riverdale Rd., Rock Creek8'0"	80
19. 7696 Warner Hollow Rd., Windsor By-Pass	. By-Pass
O Covered Bridge Office - Basement of Old	Р
Ashtabula Courthouse at 25 W. Jefferson St. Jefferson	Jefferson

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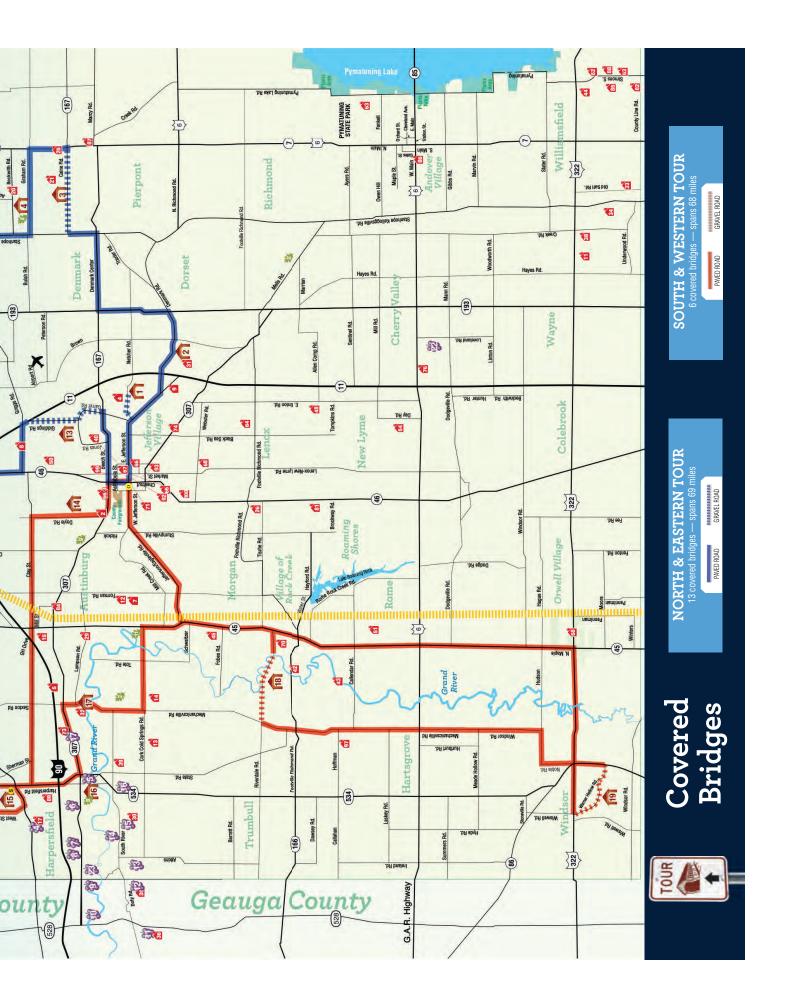
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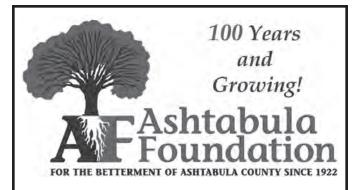


# STARS OF THE SHOW Ashtabula County's Covered Bridges

#### 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.



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#### 2. SOUTH DENMARK ROAD COVERED BRIDGE



PHOTO BY JOY DETRICK

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.



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Thank you to the Festival Committee for all of your hard work!

# 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. Only accessible from Stanhope-Kellogsville Road this year.

PHOTO BY DIANE ROCK





# STARS OF THE SHOW ASHTABULA COUNTY'S COVERED BRIDGES

#### 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.









# 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.





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### Stars of the Show Ashtabula County's Covered Bridges

#### 9. BENETKA ROAD COVERED BRIDGE

10. OLIN 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 ŠR 193 north of Gageville-Monroe Rd.



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.

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### Stars of the Show

### Ashtabula County's Covered Bridges

11. Smolen-Gulf Covered Bridge

12. GIDDINGS ROAD 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.



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.









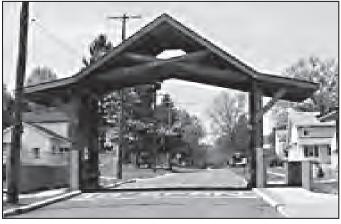
# STARS OF THE SHOW ASHTABULA COUNTY'S COVERED BRIDGES

#### 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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### Stars of the Show Ashtabula County's Covered Bridges

#### 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. Renovated in 2022-2024.

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#### 16. MECHANICSVILLE COVERED BRIDGE



PHOTO BY MICHELE VICTOR

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.

#### 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.





# STARS OF THE SHOW ASHTABULA COUNTY'S COVERED BRIDGES

18. 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.

19. 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.

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## CLASSBLOWING DEMONSTRATION TO BE FEATURED AT COVERED BRIDGE FESTIVAL

BY ERIC HRIN

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON – Ginger Whitehead, executive director of the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival, knows how appealing live demonstrations can be to festivalgoers.

"People like to watch somebody make something by hand," she said.

In past years, the covered bridge festival has featured demonstrations like chain-saw carving by the Chainsaw Chix.

This year, a new demonstration has been added: glassblowing.

Whitehead thinks it will be a hit.

"I think it's fascinating to watch, and I've talked to a lot of people who are excited to get to watch a glassblower work," she said.

Ryan Gothrup, the owner of Mobile Arts Live, will be demonstrating glass-



blowing in several shows on each day of the festival Oct. 12-13.

People will able to find him by the Antique Engine Club in front of the concession office.

"We met him at a conference, and thought it would be a very cool thing for our big 40th year, something new and different," Whitehead said.

She said a grant from the Ohio 250 Grant will partially pay for his appearance.

With the grant meant to pay for something historical-related, Whitehead

said a glassblowing demonstration was a good fit since Ohio has a big history of glass production.

"It's beautiful," she said.
"It's really interesting what
they can do with molten glass
and a blowing rod."

According to a biography on his website, Gothrup built his first mobile glassblowing studio and holds a BFA and MFA in

glassblowing.

Whitehead said Gothrup will do glassblowing of items of his choice, and will have pieces for sale.

She thought the glassblowing demonstration would be a hit, noting that some people from the area take part in glassblowing workshops in the Cleveland area.

"I'm sure the people will enjoy coming out and watching it."

Mobile Arts Live is based in Mount Juliet. Tenn.

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### State Road Covered Bridge blazed a trail





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Enjoy the Covered Bridge Tour and Festival! STAY SAFE AND HAVE FUN! PHOTO BY MICHAEL A. ORLANDO The State Road bridge was the first covered bridge to be built in Ohio since 1920. BY BOB ETTINGER

Gazette Newspapers

MONROE TOWNSHIP – In a couple of ways, the State Road Covered Bridge was a trailblazer.

Built in 1983 over Conneaut Creek in Monroe Township, the covered bridge was the first of its kind built in Ohio in more than six decades. It was also the first of six new covered bridges built establishing Ashtabula County as a serious contender for the title of Ohio's capital for covered bridges.

"Ashtabula County was in the midst of recession and high unemployment in the early 1980s when County Engineer John Smolen looked to the past for a way to light the county's future," Carl Feather wrote in his book, "The Covered Bridges of Ashtabula County."

In 1983, Smolen led the effort that built State Road bridge, the first covered bridge built in the state since 1920, over Conneaut Creek. It was

a time when wooden bridges were being replaced by steel and concrete structures.

"This thing (the State Road bridge) has changed my life," Smolen said to Western Reserve magazine in 1983. "I like my job and have wonderful, fond memories. I love going out there (to the bridge site) every day. There is no substitute for accomplishment, you know, the work ethic. I like working with heavy timber."

The bridge was a part of a plan that included the rehabilitation the county's 12 historical bridges.

"It was a gigantic undertaking," Smolen told Feather. "It was one big project after another."

Smolen was all too happy to take the opportunity to build a new timber bridge while funding and manpower were available to a county lacking in cash, jobs and bridges.

"It was just something that needed to be done," Smolen told Feather. "Timber is good bridge-building material. It is lightweight and easy to work. I just had that desire to build a new covered bridge and the commissioners were eager to do it."

State Road in Monroe Township was chosen as the site the new bridge, which carried a \$200,000 price tag.

"(It) was made affordable by the county commissioners' clever use of Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) money," Feather wrote. "Commissioners Pete Iarocci, Harold Christian and Alfred Mackey submitted the project, which would bring a handful of temporary jobs to the distressed county while replacing an old steel bridge across the creek."

**SEE STATE ROAD: 43** 





### **STATE ROAD**

From Page 42

Smolen designed the bridge using the Town lattice design and used treated southern pine, whitewood and native oak for its construction. It required 97,000 board feet of lumber and CETA paid \$60,000 of the cost of materials.

"Had CETA money not been available for construction, the bridge would have cost the county about \$500,000," Feather wrote.

The bridge needed two spans 70 feet each to create a crossing with a total length of just under 157 feet. It has a clear width of 17.5 feet and a height of 14.5 feet.

The abutments used for the project were constructed when the original covered bridge was built 1831 and torn down in 1898. Its replacement also used the abutments.

An early problem plagued

the project as its manager received a better job offer and left forcing Smolen to pull double duty working at the site and serving as county engineer.

"I would go out to the site at 6 a.m. and stay with the crew until noon," Smolen told Feather. "I did that for the rest of the project."

A crew of seven learned construction skills while earning paychecks as they built the bridge over a five-month period. A hundred people had applied for the positions.

One of those seven crew members was Mark Mollick, 20 at the time, who was unemployed and had an interest in carpentry.

"My father was a carpenter," Mollick said in a 2009 newspaper interview. "He taught me how to be a carpenter, but this was totally out of the realm of normal carpentry."

Mollick recalled that the project was like a big Tinker Toy box. "They built the deck first and built one wall on top of that and stood it up, then built the other wall and stood it up," Mollick told the newspaper. "We put the roof on and the ends on."

Smolen operated as a teacher as the project manager, explaining every step of the construction and the engineering behind it.

The bridge was built on one side of the gap and raised over the stream. It was set on machine rollers, moved toward the first abutment and lined up with temporary I-beams set between the abutment and center pier.

To get the bridge to the abutment, a winch truck provided by a house mover was used before a crane in the river positioned it onto the center pier and abutments.

"The midstream cement pier was built by county highway employees, who also resurfaced the abutments and ran the heavy equipment required for the construction," Feather wrote.

The completed bridge was dedicated on Nov. 6, 1983, and became the catalyst for the construction of five more new covered bridges in Ashtabula County.



The State Road covered bridge spans Conneaut Creek in Monroe Township and was a built by a crew of seven led by Ashtabula County Engineer John Smolen in 1983. It was the first of six new covered bridges built in the county starting in the 1980s.

PHOTO BY WALTER GUNTER

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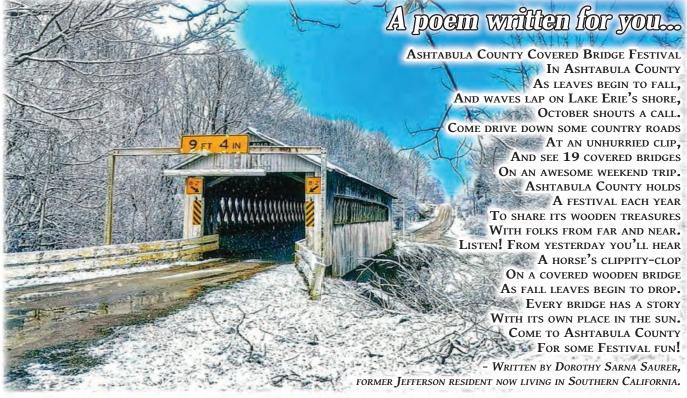
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The 2024 calendar back-cover winner photo of Root Road Bridge in Monroe Township is by Trista Reed of Conneautville, Pa. SUBMITTED PHOTO





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### COUNTY CELEBRATES GRAND REOPENING OF Harpersfield Covered Bridge

BY CORINNE SCHOREN

Gazette Newspapers

HARPERSFIELD TOWN-SHIP – The covered bridges in Ashtabula County are treasured by residents and visitors alike.

After two years of rehabilitation work on the Harpersfield Covered Bridge, a grand reopening of the bridge was held on Saturday, Aug. 3, to celebrate the successful renovation on one of the beloved covered bridges in the county.

County representatives, organizations and local residents gathered on the Harpersfield Covered Bridge to officially reopen the bridge. While the bridge has been open to traffic for a few weeks. the special celebration was held to recognize the completion of the rehabilitation project.

County Engineer Tim Martin thanked everyone for coming and spoke about the work that went into the rehabilitation project on the Harpersfield Covered Bridge.

"It's my honor as county engineer to continue the tradition that John Smolen started, rehabilitating covered bridges. I'm lucky enough that this is my fourth grand reopening since I've been county engineer," Martin said.

#### **SEE HARPERSFIELD: 47**





PHOTOS BY CORINNE SCHOREN

Ashtabula County Engineer Tim Martin thanked the various groups who helped make the rehabilitation project a possibility.









Local residents, county representatives and various organizations came out to recognize and celebrate the long-awaited reopening of the Harpersfield Covered Bridge. Ashtabula County Commissioner J.P. Ducro IV emphasized the tourism impact of the bridges in the county.

### **HARPERSFIELD**

From Page 46

Martin spoke about the different funding sources that made this rehabilitation project possible, including federal funding, state funding and local funding.

"In all, the project cost about \$6.25 million and took about two years to complete," Martin said. "A lot people had to come together to make this happen."

#### **SEE HARPERSFIELD: 48**









### **HARPERSFIELD**

From Page 47

Martin thanked Union Industrial Contractors, County Engineer office and staff, the Ashtabula County Metroparks, the Ashtabula County commissioners and the Covered Bridge Festival Committee for contributions to the success of the project.

Martin joked that with the bridge project, as well as the dam project previously, it felt like the area had been under construction for a decade. He is happy that it's all done.

"Hopefully, we're done for a while," Martin said.

Ashtabula County Commissioner J.P. Ducro IV spoke about the impact on tourism that the covered bridges have in Ashtabula County, specifically thanking John Smolen for his foresight as former county engineer.

"Former county engineer John Smolen, we really need to take a minute to acknowledge and thank him for his vision of preserving and expanding the covered bridges in Ashtabula County," Ducro said. "It's something we're really proud to hang our hat here in Ashtabula County and it's very impactful to our tourism industry."

#### **SEE HARPERSFIELD: 49**

RIGHT: Harpersfield Township Trustee Jim Pristov expressed his gratitude for the completion of the project, allowing local residents and visitors to appreciate the beautiful area.











### **HARPERSFIELD**

From Page 48

Ducro said the tourism industry is a vital asset to Ashtabula County and the covered bridges help to bring people from all over to visit the bridges, as well as other areas in the county, such as the wineries, beaches, parks and more.

"The tourism impact in Ashtabula is so huge," Ducro said. "The covered bridges of Ashtabula County, because they're such a unique asset, are a significant draw. And when people come to Ashtabula County to see covered bridges, it's not usually the only thing they do."

Harperfield Township Trustee Jim Pristov was thankful for the reopening of the covered bridge, expressing his gratitude that the project is finally finished after two years.

"On behalf of trustees and the residents of Harpersfield, thank God the bridge is done," Pristov said. "We've been having a rough time traveling and we've been missing the park."

Ohio Historic Bridge Society member David Simmons spoke about the history of the Harpersfield Covered Bridge and how these historic bridges connect the present with the past.

"Historic bridges help connect us with important elements of our past, and because they are most often associated with waterways, it can help us appreciate the ways we have been impacted by major floods throughout our history," he said.

**SEE HARPERSFIELD: 50** 



Ashtabula County Metroparks Executive Director Brett Bellas was grateful to see the Harpersfield Covered Bridge project completed, emphasizing how important the bridge is to the parks there.



\*Hours may vary









The newly rehabilitated Harpersfield Covered Bridge is officially open. While the bridge has been open to traffic for a few weeks, a special reopening ceremony was held on Saturday, Aug. 3.

### HARPERSFIELD <sup>1</sup>

From Page 49

Simmons spoke about the 1913 flood in Ohio that wiped out several bridges in the county. Harpersfield Covered Bridge withstood the onslaught, but the flood created a new channel in the Grand River, forcing the addition of the steel truss.

"As far as I know, Harpersfield is Ohio's only survivor of a covered and steel bridge combination. That makes Harpersfield a unique record of a major event in Ohio history," Simmons said.

President of the Ohio Historic Bridge Society Doug Miller also spoke about the importance of preserving historic bridges such as the Harpersfield Covered Bridge.

"As David said, historic bridges help connect us with important elements of our past. That makes it very important for us to invest



The special celebration ended in a parade across the Harpersfield Covered Bridge, including a horse-drawn carriage that might have ridden across the bridge in the past.

**SEE HARPERSFIELD: 51** 

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### **HARPERSFIELD**

From Page 50

in the preservation in these structures. Ashtabula County has led the state with the goal of preserving all of its historic bridges," Miller said.

Miller mentioned the tourism that comes along with preserving these historic bridges and how much of an asset they can be, especially in Ashtabula County. "As Ashtabula County has long recognized, when you restore a historic bridge, it attracts visitors. When they come, they bring revenue to a community. In the end, we all have a resource with which we can take pride and pleasure in being a part of," Miller said.

Ashtabula County Metroparks Executive Director Brett Bellas was grateful to see the completion of the rehabilitation project on the Harpersfield Covered Bridge, allowing visitors to easily access the parks there.

"We have been under construction at the Metroparks for the past six years," Bellas said. "It looks great. With the dam that was refurbished and the bridge, we're very fortunate this hits both sides of the park."

"It's a great project and we're happy to have it in our parks," he said.

Following the ceremony, a parade, led by the Sons, Daughters and Children of the American Revolution, processed through the Harpersfield Covered Bridge, officially reopening the bridge to traffic and visitors to the park.







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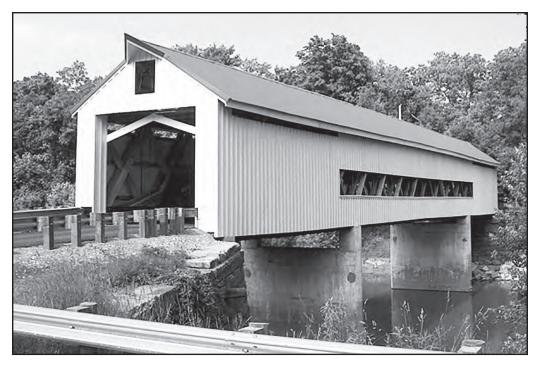
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### THE MECHANICSVILLE ROAD COVERED BRIDGE IS THE FEATURED BRIDGE AT THE 2024 ASHTABULA COUNTY COVERED BRIDGE FESTIVAL



BY GABRIEL MCVEY

Gazette Newspapers

AUSTINBURG TOWN-SHIP – Located south of State Route 307 on Windsor-Mechanicsville Road in Austinburg Township, the Mechanicsville Road Covered Bridge is one of the oldest remaining bridges of its kind left and the only covered bridge remaining in Austinburg Township.

It is also the featured bridge at the 2024 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival.

#### **SEE FEATURED: 53**

SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Mechanicsville Road Covered Bridge is located south of State Route 307 on Windsor-Mechanicsville Road in Austinburg Township.



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### **FEATURED**

From Page 52

The bridge was built in 1867 and spans the Grand River. It is 156 feet long and built on a Howe truss construction with arch. This construction method was patented in 1804 by Theodore Burr and is designed to strengthen the basic truss, allowing for a longer bridge span over wider rivers.

The Mechanicsville Road Covered Bridge has several distinctions to its credit, first of all being the longest single span in the county.

The bridge was renovated in 2003-2004 and reopened to traffic on May 16, 2004. The renovated bridge was designed by County Engineer Tim Martin. The bridge also has an antique hayfork mounted at each gable end.

The bridge was closed to traffic during renovations, which were conducted in 2003-2004. There was a rededication held when the bridge was reopened to traffic in 2004.

The bridge was built within sight of the first mill built in Ashtabula County, by Ambrose Humphrey, shortly after 1800. It is also within a few hundred yards of Indian Portage, used long before New England settlers arrived in the area.

During the 1830s Mechanicsville was a thriving mill town that took advantage of the water power offered by the Grand River. According to the Williams Brothers "History of Ashtabula County," the town had a gristmill, sawmill, oil mill and other works. These were owned by Dr. Orestes K. Hawley and Joab Austin.

These two men went on to found a school, the Ashtabula County Institute of Science and Industry, that would later move to the center of town and be renamed Grand River Academy.

The mills later burned in a fire that lit the night sky for many miles. It was said that the light was so bright as far away as Madison that one could read a watch dial from the distant glow.

The Mechanicsville Road Covered Bridge is the last remaining covered bridge in Austin burg Township, and is numbered 35-04-18 by the Ohio Historical Society.











### HUFFMAN ACOUSTIC TO PLAY COVERED BRIDGE FESTIVAL



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Joel and Kayla Huffman, who have been performing as an acoustic duo for a year, will perform from 3-5 p.m. during the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds on Sunday, Oct. 13.



Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON - Huffman Acoustic began on a whim, but the music duo has quickly become known for performing throughout northeast Ohio.

That notoriety led to Joel Huffman and his wife, Kayla, to be invited to perform at the 2024 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival.

"A good friend, Tim Beebe and I worked together at INEOS," Joel Huffman said. "He said he was building a restaurant (Beebe's Bistro). I told him if he built it, I'd sing at the opening. He said he didn't know I sang. I told him I didn't, but I would for him. My wife grew up singing. (Beebe) asked me back and I said I'd have to do it with my wife. That's how we got started."

Huffman Acoustic will take the stage at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 13, at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds.

"We've only been doing it for a year," Huffman said. "The Covered Bridge Festival reached out to us several months ago. They were the first festival to reach out to us. Since then, we played the Ohio Vintage Wine Festival in Kirtland. We enjoy festivals and we look forward to playing the Covered Bridge Festival. We're still wondering how people hear about us."

The Huffmans, from Moody, Ala., have lived in Saybrook Township for nearly five years and serve as worship leaders at The Ridge Nazarene Church in Ashtabula and approach their performances as date nights.

"We really had a blast," Huffman said. "We call it a sponsored dating session. We get to hang out together, it pays for babysitting and it's fun.'

Learning how to perform together while navigating married life has been a learning process for the duo.

"It's definitely not been without its challenges, especially when we first started," Huffman said. "We have four kids, our oldest is 13 and our youngest just turned 4. For the last 13 years, our lives have been nothing but raising our kids. (Kayla) stays at home with the kids and does homeschooling with them and I go to work. This is the first real couple's team building thing we've done together since the children. It took us a little while to work things out."

Huffman Acoustic plays a set list comprised of uplifting county music and modern Christian music.

"We play old-school country to newer Christian music like Need to Breathe," Huffman said. "We play music from John Denver and Dolly Parton to Need to Breath."

"Our set list has an uplifting spirit, an uplifting nature," Huffman continued. "We play recognizable songs, songs people can sing along with. As worship leaders, we don't try to shove it down people's throats, but once they hear uplifting music, it does spark a conversation. They enjoy it so much, He does come up. We're real people who celebrate our faith with other real people."

The Huffmans might have a general outline for what they might want to play for a show, but Kayla will choose songs specifically for the crowd listening.

**SEE HUFFMAN: 55** 





### **HUFFMAN**

From Page 54

"(Kayla) does the set list," Huffman said. "We have about 120 songs or so we can choose from. She feels the crowd out and selects the songs she feels are right. It's just really cool. She figures out the playing field. The goal is for us to always get to that emotional moment. At some places we perform, we sing that emotional song and somebody will be in tears. We might take a break and go to whoever it was we saw and have a conversation with them."

The Huffmans aim connect emotionally with their followers. "The joy is in the music, but it comes from Jesus Christ," Huffman said. "We're worship leaders, so leading people in worship is our goal without shoving it down people's throats. The goal each night is to get to those emotional, heartfelt moments."

Those emotional moments are special when they're reached. "It's not us anymore," Huffman said. "As worship leaders, we can feel when that moment is there. It's not us anymore. We're just listening to our hearts and listening to the Lord. We definitely feel it click. Sometimes, it's hard to sing because we're emotional. It's awesome. It's just a powerful moment everybody in the room feels."

Performing at the Covered Bridge Festival is something the Huffmans look forward to doing.

"We definitely look forward to it," Huffman said. "We've heard about it, but we've never been there because it's difficult with young kids. We're excited and honored to be there. We've fallen in love with this part of the world. Anytime we're offered the chance to be part of the community, we're really excited about it."

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•	_		, ,
Day	Time	Class Descriptions	Ages/Levels
Monday	5:00-5:45	Little Dancer Ballet	ages 3-6
Monday	5:45-6:30	Ballet I	ages 7-11
Monday	6:30-7:15	Hip Hop	ages 8-12
Monday	7:15-8:00	Jazz	ages 8-12
Wednesday	4:45-5:30	Little Dancer Jazz/Pom I	ages 3-5
Wednesday	5:30-6:15	Little Dancer Jazz/Pom II	ages 3-5
Wednesday	6:15-7:00	Hip Hop	ages 5-7
Wednesday	7:00-8:00	Teen Jazz/Contemporary	ages 12+
Thursday	5:00-5:45	Pom/Jazz Combo	ages 5-8
Thursday	5:45-6:30	Acrobatic Arts Beginner	ages 4-12



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Rec Classes are offered at both the Ashtabula and Lake County Studios for ages 3-18. Students may select from a variety of classes including ballet, hip hop, jazz, pom, and acrobatic arts.
Classes are \$60/month (4 weekly classes) and run from September through May.



### Wildfire Dance Studio Lake County

1657 Mentor Avenue Painesville, OH 44077

### Wildfire Dance Studio Ashtabula

3315 N. Ridge Rd. East Suite 200 Ashtabula, OH 44004





# COVERED BRIDGE FESTIVAL ENTERTAINMENT WILL FEATURE THE POPULAR

BY GABRIEL MCVEY

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON - This year's musical entertainment at the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival will include a popular two-man group from the local winery circuit, the 2 Kings Duo.

Arnel Addlin, singer and guitarist for 2 Kings, said he and keyboardist Alfonso Gibson make up 2 Kings Duo. Both are also members of another big local act, Four Kings and a Queen.

2 Kings Duo plays a wide range of cover tunes, from easy listening to soft rock, yacht rock, top 40, funk and a little bit of country.

Addlin said it's not unusual for the two to make somewhat abrupt transitions between genres, mostly for effect on the audience.

"When you're playing these wineries, you have to get everyone's attention," he said.

2 Kings Duo has been playing for about 14 years, according to Addlin, but he's been



Arnel Addlin, singer and guitarist (left), and Alfonso Gibson, keyboards (right), are the 2 Kings Duo, who will be playing the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival Saturday afternoon, Oct. 12. SUBMITTED PHOTO

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playing guitar since he was 12 years old. He said he put it down for a few years when he was raising his children, but picked it up again with a purpose when he moved to Geneva in 2003.

This... omnivorous approach to choosing songs to play can lead to the group starting with "Easy" by The Commodores, "Waiting for a Girl Like You" by Foreigner, to "Love Will Keep Us Alive" by the Eagles – a little something for just about anyone.

The pair usually play three-hour sets, moving between eras and genres to appeal to as wide an audience as possible. Their set during the 2024 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival will be two-and-a-half hours long.

Addlin said he's especially fond of Santana, but that he and Gibson can play just about anything.

The 2 Kings Duo will be playing Saturday, Oct. 12, from 10:30 a.m.- 1 p.m. at the Barnyard Pavilion.





# 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.

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



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. **FILE PHOTO** 

and is always on the lookout for more books about Lincoln that he 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.





### CONTESTS PROVIDE FUN, COMPETITION AT FESTIVAL

BY ERIC HRIN

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON - It seems as if there is a Lego version of everything.

So, why not a Lego covered bridge?

Each year, the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival has a Lego Mini Covered Bridge contest.

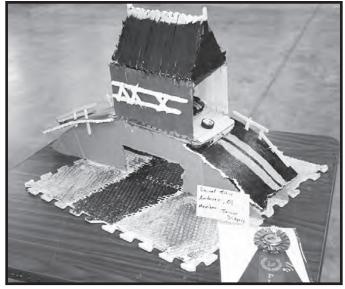
Ginger Whitehead, executive director of the festival, said eight to 10 entries are usually received.

The entries must resemble a covered bridge.

"We've had quite a few different ones, but they all look like covered bridges," she said.

She noted that children, however, can get pretty creative with their entries.

"Some of the kids have put a troll under their bridge or made Lego flowers around their bridges," she said. "The



Daniel Titus, a member of the Junior Bridgers, won first place in last year's mini bridge contest, after building this artistic version of a Covered Bridge using popsicle sticks.

adults tend to make a more elaborate bridge, but the kids make theirs more imaginative.

Entries will be accepted on the morning on Saturday, Oct. 12, at the floral building at the county fairgrounds.

The judging starts at 10:30

Contestants may pre-register online or when submitting their bridge for judging. Any age may enter a bridge.

People can compete, by their age, in either an adult class (16 and older) or a youth class (under 16).

The judging criteria and scoring is based on the following: appearance, material used, miscellaneous and workmanship.

The top three entries will receive ribbons.

The contest also features a Wood Stick Covered Bridge contest.

However, entries don't have to be wood.

"In the past, we've had them made out of macaroni," Whitehead recalled, noting an 85-year-old woman made the macaroni covered bridge. "They've been made out of all kinds of stuff."

She likes seeing the response.

"It's great to see people participate," she said.

Like the Lego contest, all entries in this contest must resemble a covered bridge and be completed when entered.

Entries will be accepted on the morning of Saturday, Oct. 12, at the floral building at the county fairgrounds.

The judging starts at 10:30 a.m. Contestants may preregister online or when submitting bridge for judging. Any age may enter a bridge.

As in the Lego contest, there will be an adult class (16 and older) and a youth class (under 16). Judging criteria and scoring will be based on appearance, material used, miscellaneous and workmanship. The top three entries will be awarded ribbons.

The Annual Scarecrow Contest will also be held on Oct. 12-13 at the floral building.

"They can be anything they want to make," Whitehead said.

In the past, she said, most of the entries have been cute, but some have been spooky.

"We would love to see more," she said, noting there haven't too many the last couple years.

Entries must be received by the festival by 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 12 at the floral building.

An entry fee of \$5 must accompany each entry. There are first-, second- and third-place ribbons.



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#### **CONTEST FORMS AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE**

Looking to enter the scarecrow, Lego mini-covered bridge or mini-bridge contest? Forms can be found online at https:// coveredbridgefestival.org/contests





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## 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 11, or with handing out maps and information or working in the souvenir booth on Saturday or Sunday, please call the office or sign up online.

The shifts are 9:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 1-5 p.m. for souvenir and info booth workers.

There also slots available for gate workers, clean-up crew and 5k run help.

See the options and sign up at https://tinyurl.com/CBvol-unteers2024

The office number is 440-576-3769.











Entries must be in by Oct. 12 between 8 and 10 a.m.

All entries must be removed between 3 and 5 p.m. on Oct. 13. NO EARLIER

#### One entry per contestant

Participants are responsible for setting up (with a prop or T-frame) and removal of entry.

### The committee has the right to refuse any entry not in good taste.

Entry Fee of \$5 must accompany each entry.

1st, 2nd & 3rd Place: Ribbons

Fill out the form below, with \$5 fee and bring it to the Floral Building with your entry

Name		 	
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Addres	ss	 	

Any questions, contact our office at 440-576-3769

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Entries will be accepted 8-10 a.m. Oct. 12 at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds in the Expo Building. Judging starts at 10:30 a.m.

Contestants may pre-register online or when submitting a 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.

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

Scoring: whole numbers 0-10 will be used. The top 3 entries will receive ribbons; the decision of the judges will be final.

#### MINI COVERED BRIDGE CONTEST REGISTRATION FORM

(Print this form, complete it, and bring it to the Expo Building with your bridge, on Saturday morning, Oct. 12, 2024, between 8-10 a.m.)

NAME		
ADDRESS		
PHONE ( )	AGE	

DISPLAY ONLY? YES	NO 🗖 (no judging)
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Complete this form and bring it with you to the Covered Bridge Festival to set up your display between 8-10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 12. A \$5 entry fee is required. You must pick up your display between 3-5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13.

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Ann Wiley, Zac Freeman, Toni Tulajew-Spahr, Jill Freeman





### $oldsymbol{F}$ ormer bridges of $oldsymbol{A}$ shtabula $oldsymbol{C}$ ounty

Ashtabula County is home to 19 covered bridges, but not all covered bridges have survived the years. Ashtabula County reportedly has had 62 covered bridges historically.

Listed below are some of these former bridges.

- Graham Road Bridge You can still visit this bridge, but it's no longer in service. Graham Road Bridge is a covered bridge which formerly spanned the west branch of the Ashtabula River in Pierpont Township, Ashtabula County, Ohio, United States. Built from remnants of a former covered bridge that was damaged in a flood in 1913, the bridge now sits in an Ashtabula County MetroPark along the south side of Graham Road, near its original site, and is a single span Town truss design. Relocated in 1972, it is no longer open to vehicle traffic.
- The South Ridge Road Covered Bridge spanned the Conneaut Creek in Kingsville.
- In Kellogsville, there were four covered bridges over the Ashtabula River within four miles of each other.
- The Pierpont Covered Bridge was north of Pierpont on State Route 7.
- The Callender Road Covered Bridge, lost in the flood of 1913, spanned the Grand River near Rock Creek.
- The Muller Covered Bridge in Jefferson.
- A two-lane covered bridge was located on State Route 45 in Rock Creek; after a century it was replaced in 1948.
- The Old Route 7 Covered Bridge, over the Conneaut Creek in what is now Conneaut, was built in 1867 and replaced in 1925.
- The Twin Covered Bridges of Farnham spanned the Conneaut Creek in what is now Conneaut.

- The Kelloggsville Covered Bridge spanned the Ashtabula River south of Kelloggsville.
- The Prim's Sawmill Covered Bridge.
- The Forman Road Covered Bridge in Eagleville (near Austinburg) is now part of Covered Bridge Pizza in North Kingsville and Andover. In 1974, the 123-foot Town lattice structure, which had been built in 1862 was sold for \$5, cut in half, dismantled, and reassembled in the two locations.
- The Fobes Road Covered Bridge or Shaunghum Covered Bridge was a 118-foot Town lattice structure that carried Fobes Road over the Grand River in Ashtabula County, Ohio. Built in 1911, the bridge was unique in that it was built without abutments, but rather sat on wooden pilings. In the 1960s a runaway truck struck the south portal of the bridge, causing severe damage that forced the bridge's permanent closure. In May 1971, the bridge was deliberately burned by Ashtabula County officials. WGCB No. 35-04-21.
- The Furnace Road Covered Bridge spanned Conneaut Creek in Conneaut.
- The Crooked Gulf Covered Bridge was the first one one to span the Ashtabula River.
- The Wayne Township Covered Bridge was on U.S. Route 322.
- The South Windsor or Old Plank Road Covered Bridge carried South Windsor Road across the Grand River in Windsor Township, Ashtabula County Ohio. Built in 1870, the 90-foot Town lattice structure was destroyed by fire on the night of October 2, 1970. The fire was determined to be an act of arson, during which the perpetrator(s) piled tires within the bridge and set them afire.











### Helicopter tours to provide new perspective

BY BOB ETTINGER

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON – Most people in northeast Ohio have seen a covered bridge from ground level or from below the rivers and streams below

The Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival is going to offer opportunities to see a bridge from the air through helicopter rides during the event on Oct 12 and 13.

"We did it five years ago and it was a huge hit," Ginger Whitehead, executive director of the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival, said. "We've wanted to do it ever since. We finally found another company to do it. We're looking forward

to having it again."

The flights will take off from the infield of the track at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds.

"They'll fly over at least one bridge," Whitehead said. "They'll just be short rides. I did it the last time we had them. It's fun to fly over a bridge. They'll have their choice between Netcher Road, South Denmark, Doyle Road and Giddings Road. Those are the four closest bridges. They may also switch it up a little."

Mile High Aviation in Delaware, Ohio, will offering the rides

"It's something different," Whitehead said. "There are not a lot of places around here that offer helicopter tours. Usually, you have to go to the Grand Canyon, Niagara Falls or something big to get tours to fly over."

"We were thrilled to find someone again who was able to do it in this area," Whitehead continued. "We found him at the fair manager's conference we go to every year."

The rides won't break the bank.

"It's relatively inexpensive," Whitehead said. "It will probably be \$35 or \$40 per flight and each flight will probably be five or 10 minutes. They'll go up, fly over a bridge and come back down."

With technology, aerial views of the bridges are available, but seeing it in person hits different.

"So many people fly drones that a lot of people have seen an aerial view of the bridges, but it's definitely different seeing it in person," Whitehead said.

Longer rides that tour all of the county's bridges probably won't see be on the schedule.

"I can't imagine there are enough people wanting to do it," Whitehead said. "They'd probably rather do short rides so more people can go up."

### **DOYLE ROAD**

From Page 12

According to Carl Feather's book "The Covered Bridges of Ashtabula County, Ohio," legend states that the Doyle Road Covered Bridge was built to imitate the look of a covered bridge in Vermont that was in the hometown of the carpenter who built the bridge.

The building of the Doyle Road Covered Bridge is attributed to "Potter," making it one of several bridges in the county attributed to the unknown builder.

The Doyle Road Covered Bridge was renovated in 1987 by the Ashtabula County Highway Department under the direction of John Smolen.

The renovation featured the addition of 90-foot laminated arches to reinforce the existing trusses and allow the bridge to handle modern traffic loads.

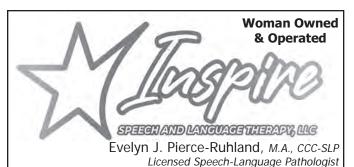
The renovation also included widening of the bridge to allow for two lanes of traffic, as well as a new floor and roof.

The most distinctive feature of the Doyle Road Covered Bridge is the long, narrow windows on each side of the bridge that allow passerby's to view the diamond-shaped lattice work inside.

For this year's Ashtabula Covered Bridge Festival, the Doyle Road Covered Bridge will once again be hosted by Boy Scout Troop 41, who will be serving fresh cobbler, hot dogs, sausages, chips, coffee, tea and hot chocolate all by donation. There will also be a photo set up for visitors.

Ginger Whitehead, executive director of the Ashtabula Covered Bridge Festival, mentioned that the Boy Scouts have hosted the Doyle Road Covered Bridge since the beginning of the festival and it's always a draw for visitors.

"They always have a lot of stuff going on at their bridge," Whitehead said about the Boy Scouts. "The Boy Scouts have had that bridge for forever, since the beginning of the festival, so people come expecting their cobblers and stuff."



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