

Sluggers bring summer baseball fun to Findlay Season starts soon

By Riley Dickinson



If you're looking for a fun family outing this summer, look no further than a Flag City Sluggers game.

The Sluggers are a summer collegiate baseball team heading into their inaugural season. They play home games from the Marathon Diamonds in Findlay. With tickets starting at just five dollars, the Sluggers are a perfect community-oriented event for the whole family.

The Sluggers open their season on June 6, hosting the Michigan Monarchs at 7:05 p.m.

A passion project for board president Joe Fenimore, the Sluggers are a member of the Great Lakes Summer Collegiate League, and will host college baseball players from across the country.

"Joe Fenimore, he and his buddy out on their back porch had always kind of said, 'Wouldn't it be nice to have baseball come to Findlay?" Assistant General Manager Reegan Hayward said. "It's something they had talked about for a while, so Joe said, 'let's make this happen.'

"It's been about a two to three-year process. They've been doing a lot of behind-the-scenes stuff, especially last year with establishing the team and getting it entered into the Great Lakes Summer Collegiate League. This year, we get to do the fun stuff of getting to make the season happen, like organizing the team and organizing a team of interns."

"We got to build a team of about 20 interns from all across the state of Ohio," General Manager Sydney Craig said. "It's been really cool to see it all come together."

Hayward and Craig are both college students themselves: Hayward attends

Continued on page 3





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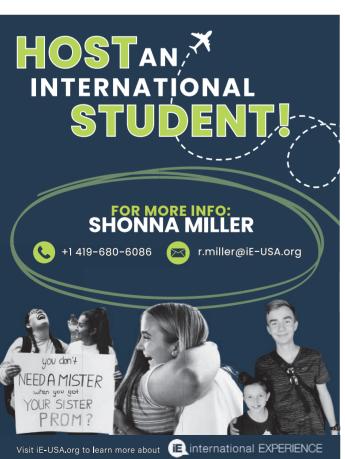
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Sluggers staff members pose for a photo.

Sluggers president Joe Fenimore poses with fans.

Tiffin University and Craig studies at BGSU. Creating an organization like the Sluggers is a daunting task that hasn't been without its struggles.

And there's a lot more to it than organizing interns.

"The biggest challenge has just been getting the buy-in," Craig said. "It's new; Findlay hasn't had a summer collegiate team. It's just a matter of figuring things out, working with the city, and working with the community to make it possible through sponsors and host families, and even just getting the word out. I think that's been the biggest challenge. Having to explain to people who and what we are without having anything to show them from any past experience, because this is our first season."

So, what can you expect from a Sluggers home game?

The Sluggers play traditional collegiate baseball, with one major change. The GLSCL plays with wooden bats, a major change for college players used to playing with metal during the regular season.

"There shouldn't be any changes, we're not trying to be the Savannah Bananas or anything like that," Craig said. "It's still baseball as everybody knows it."

"The Sluggers aren't just about baseball, it's an opportunity for the community," Craig added. "I think that's what's cool and what sets us apart, not the way the game is played."

The Sluggers have several event nights planned for their inaugural season, including food trucks and a kids' night paired with mascot Slider's birthday celebration.

"We have five theme nights set up," Craig said. "We have our opening weekend, we have a kids' night, which will be tied into our mascot Slider's birthday. We have a first responders' night, our host family night, and baseball history night.

"Opening weekend is gonna be big, with us really showing Findlay what we're about. For Slider's birthday and kid's night, we have a Findlay local that runs a baking company out of their home, they're gonna be doing cake pops, we're gonna have a lot fun activities for the kids," she said.

Also for the kids is the Sluggers' Kids Club. Joining the club gives children several pieces of Sluggers merch, including a t-shirt, lanyard and kids' club nametag. They'll get priority notice for any upcoming baseball camps, along with access to special experiences on the field and with the players. Those unique experiences include running the bases after the games, standing with the players for the playing of the national anthem, and player meet-and-greets.

Standalone kids club memberships are \$50.

"Our ultimate goal is getting as many butts in the seats as possible," Hayward said. "Just making it an enjoyable experience for everybody that comes."

Players rostered on the Sluggers for the summer will be placed with a host family, where they will stay for the duration of the summer season.

"I think it's easier on the baseball players, I think they're kind of used to that, especially if they've played summer ball before," Hayward said. "Just from talking to families

over the phone, it definitely is a new concept to them. Some of them are previous summer ball players, so they totally get it, and they want to give back. It's a very new concept, especially since it's our first season."

"They (the players) show up June 5, and they'll be departing somewhere early August," Hayward continued. "Our season ends late July, but there's possible playoff games. The (host) family gets season tickets, they get to go to every game. Our last home game is going to be host family night. Similar to senior night, we get to honor the people they stayed with and give them some recognition."

A single-game ticket to a Sluggers game is \$5, with kids under five getting in for free. Punch cards, good for five games, cost \$20. Season tickets are available for \$75 for most and \$65 for seniors, good for all 21 Sluggers home games. A family season pass is also available for a family of four for \$225, netting families of four passes to all games and memberships to the kids' club for the children.

The Sluggers' inaugural season presents a special opportunity for both the organization and the community. A first-ofits kind league for the area, the Sluggers will bridge the gap between wanting to attend an amateur sporting event and not wanting a lengthy drive.

"We want to interact with everyone," Hayward said. "Have them leave the game saying, 'Wow, I want to come back, that was really fun!"





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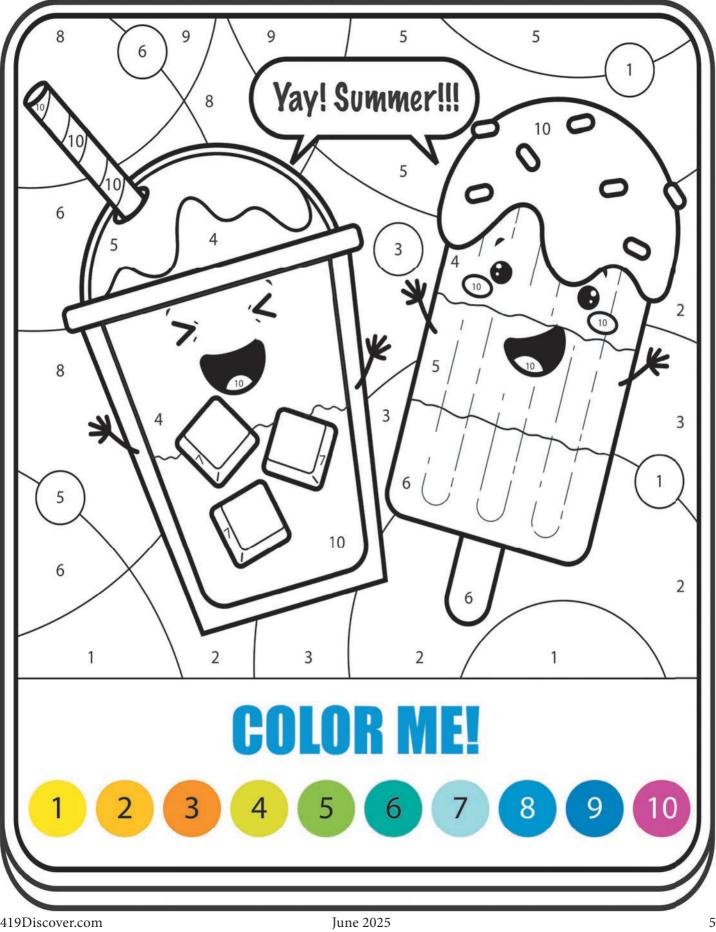
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#### **JUNE/JULY CLASSES**

Register at www.FindlayArtLeague.org

Watercolor Flowers-Sundays, 6:00-8:00 pm, June 1 and 8; Tuition: \$100, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome (18+). Instructor: Jennifer Doyle

FREE "Fun for All Stencil Tile Event-Saturday, 1:00-4:00 pm, June 14; arrive anytime between 1:00 and 4:00 for a free 30 minute class sponsored by the Findlay Community Foundation. All materials provided, all skill levels welcome. Instructor: Cindy Meadows

Young Adult Pottery, Ages 9-17-Saturdays, 9-10:30 Wheel & 10:30-noon Glazing, June 14, 21, 28; Tuition: \$150, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome. Instructor: Cindy Meadows

Beginning Pottery Wheel Throwing-Wednesdays, 7:00-9:00 pm, June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 23; Tuition: \$180, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome (18+). Instructor: Marcie Allen

Beginning Pottery Wheel Throwing-Thursdays, 7:00-9:00 pm, June 19, 26, July 3, 10, 24; Tuition: \$180, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome (18+). Instructor: Marcie Allen

Turning Dry Pigments to Fluid Paintings-Saturday, 12:30-2:30 pm, June 21; Tuition: \$40, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome (18+). Instructor: Patty Brown

Parent & Child (or 2 adults) "Play-in-Clay" Wheel Throwing-Saturday, 1-3 pm, June 21; Tuition: \$100 (for two), all materials provided, all skill levels welcome. Instructor: Cindy Meadows

Paint a Brick-Saturday, 10:00 am-noon, June 28; Tuition: 10, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome (18+). Instructor: Amber Kear

FREE "Fun for All" Bear Clay Ornament Event-Saturday, 1:00-4:00 pm, June 28; arrive anytime between 1:00 and 4:00 for a free 30 minute class sponsored by the Findlay Community Foundation. All materials provided, all skill levels welcome. Instructor: Cindy Meadows

Beach Inspired Acrylic Pour Painting-Sunday, 12:00-1:30 pm, June 29; Tuition: \$65, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome. Instructor: Thomas Craley

Watercolor Summer Flowers-Sundays, 6:00-8:00 pm, July 6 and 13; Tuition: \$100, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome (18+). Instructor: Jennifer Doyle

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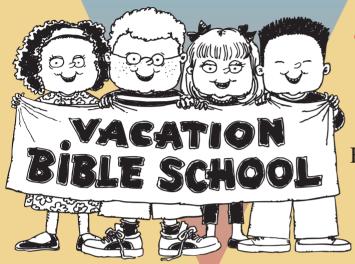
Visit findlayartleague.org to register.

117 W. Crawford St., Findlay | 419-422-7847 | FindlayArtLeague.org | contact@FindlayArtLeague.org

6 June 2025 419Discover.com

# Hip-hip-hooray!

## Vacation Bible School is on the way.



The sun is shining, the kids are out of school and churches throughout the area are preparing for their annual Vacation Bible Schools.

Following is a list of Vacation Bible Schools. Mark your calendars and make sure your child doesn't miss out on the fun!







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JUNE 5,12,19,26

## LIVE MU/IC FOOD TRUCK/ FUN 5-8:30PM

#### THURSDAYS AT THE REX

101 E Main St, Ottawa 5 - 8:30 pm

Experience the perfect summer evening at Thursdays at the Rex, happening every Thursday from June 5 through August 28. Enjoy live music, a variety of local food trucks, and family-friendly fun in the heart of downtown Ottawa.

**JUNE 6** 

#### FLAG CITY SLUGGERS OPENING DAY

**Marathon Diamonds at The Cube** 

3420 N. Main St, Findlay 7:05pm



Be part of history as Findlay's new collegiate summer league baseball team kicks off its first season with an action-packed day of sport, entertainment and community spirit. Cheer on the Sluggers as they take the field for the first time, and enjoy fun activities, food and more for the whole family. Game begins at 7:05 pm.



#### **BOOGIE ON THE BLOCK**

Marathon Center for the Performing Arts Parking Lot

200 W Main Cross St, Findlay 5 - 10 pm

Enjoy a range of food vendors and non-alcoholic beverages plus beer booths featuring Beerco products and craft brews. Partygoers are in for a night of great food, music, and fun. This year's festival will feature the music of Amelia Airharts and Doc Robinson.

JUNE 13&14



## NORTHWEST OHIO VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

Downtown Ottawa 6/13: 4 pm 6/14: 12:30 pm

Ottawa Fire Department will be hosting the 151st Annual Northwest Ohio Volunteer Firefighters Association Convention. Enjoy a fire truck cruise night, live music, parade, raffle, food, fun and more. All are welcome!

#### JUNE 14

#### FLAG CITY 5K



#### **Marathon Petroleum**

539 S. Main St, Findlay 9 - 10:30 am

Take a 3.1-mile run through Findlay and celebrate the spirit of Flag City, USA! Enjoy a post-race beer from Findlay Brewing Co. (21+), PT support from PT Link, and kids' activities by the Findlay YMCA. All pre-registered runners receive a custom shirt. Finishers earn a medal at the line. The Kids Run (ages 2–10) starts at 10 a.m. Registration is \$30.

#### **JUNE 14**

#### HISTORY WITH A TWIST



#### **Hancock Historical Museum**

422 W Sandusky St, Findlay 4 - 7 pm

Join for an unforgettable evening at the Hancock Historical Museum's History with a Twist event, where the past meets the present in a lively competition. Local bartenders will showcase their mixology skills as they vie for the coveted title of Findlay's Top Bartender, with an additional award for People's Choice, voted by you! Each participant will craft a unique cocktail inspired by the 1990s and compete head-to-head for the winning drink.

#### **JUNE 21**

#### STEVE SMITH MEMORIAL CAR SHOW



410 Fair Lane Road, Tiffin 11 am - 3 pm



Join the car show, a community celebration honoring the life and legacy of Steve Smith — an avid car collector who passed away from Lewy Body Dementia. There's something for everyone. Vehicle registration begins at 10:00 AM (no online registration available). All makes and models are welcome — from cars, trucks, and motorcycles to tractors. \$10 registration fee, all proceeds benefit the Alzheimer's Association.

# JUNE 21&22

#### **FAMILY FUN WEEKEND**

Northwest Ohio Railroad Preservation Inc.

12505 County Rd 99, Findlay 1 - 4 pm

Enjoy train rides, games, a bounce house & more—all for one price. Join the fun from 1–4 PM. A great day for the whole family!

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This information was pulled from community websites and was considered current at press time. We apologize for any information that may have been changed/updated after this edition was printed.

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pauldingcountyfair.com putnamcountyfair.com

#### JULY

7th-13th 14th-19th 14th-20th

20th-27th 27th-Aug 2 27th-Aug 3 Lucas County Fair (Maumee) **Crawford County Fair** (Bucvrus) Ottawa County Fair (Oak Harbor) **Seneca County Fair** (Tiffin)

Auglaize County Fair (Wapakoneta) **Wood County Fair (Bowling Green)** 

lucascountyfair.com crawfordcocountvfair.com ottawacountyfair.com senecacountyfair.org auglaizecountyfair.org woodcounty-fair.com

richlandcountyfair.com

eriefair.com

#### AUGUST

**Richland County Fair (Mansfield)** 3rd-9th 4th-10th 7th-13th 7th-14th 11th-16th 15th-23rd 16th-23rd 18th-24th 25th-Sep 1 **26th-Sep 1 26th-Sep 1** 29th-Sep 4 Fulton County Fair (Wauseon)

Erie County Fair (Sandusky) **Mercer County Fair** (Celina) **Henry County Fair (Napoleon) Huron County Fair (Norwalk)** Allen County Fair (Lima) **Defiance County Fair (Hicksville) Sandusky County Fair (Fremont) Morrow County Fair (Mt Gilead)** Van Wert County Fair (Van Wert) **Hancock County Fair** (Findlay)

mercercountyfair.com henrycountyfair.org huroncountyfair.com allencofair.com defiancecofair.com sanduskycountyfair.com morrowcountyfair.org vanwertcountyfair.com hancockcountyfairgrounds.org fultoncountyfair.com

#### SEPTEMBER

2nd-7th 6th-13th 8th-13th 14th-20th

**Hardin County Fair (Kenton) Williams County Fair** (Montpelier) Wyandot County Fair (Upper Sandusky) **Ashland County Fair (Ashland)** 

hardincountyfair.org wcofair.com thewyandotcountyfair.com ashlandcountyfair.org

All Fair dates and web addresses were pulled from community websites and considered current at press time.



#### 100 Years Ago This Month: Historical events from June 1925

The month of June has been home to many historical events over the years. Here's a look at some that helped to shape the world in June 1925.

- · Twenty-one-year-old New York Yankee Lou Gehrig is inserted as a pinch hitter for Pee-Wee Wanninger in a game versus the Washington Senators on June 1. Gehrig's appearance begins what would become a streak of 2,130 consecutive games played.
- · An Independence Tribunal orders the closure of Turkey's Progressive Republican Party on June 3. The order is issued on the grounds that the party had supported the protection of Islamic religious customs that had spurred the Sheikh Said rebellion.
- · The Rentenmark becomes obsolete in Germany on June 5. The currency had initially been issued in 1923 to combat hyperinflation in the Weimar Republic. The Reichsmark replaced the Rentenmark.
- · Walter P. Chrysler incorporates the Chrysler Corporation on June 6 after acquiring the assets of the defunct Maxwell Motor Company.
- · Norway sends out two planes to search for Roald Amundsen and his crew on June 6. The explorers had been on the North Pole seaplane expedition but were missing for two weeks before the planes were sent. Amundsen and his crew would land safely in Norway on June 16.
- · On June 7, the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial is unveiled on the grounds where the Battle of the Somme had taken place in France in July 1916.
- · Seventeen people are killed as a result of a coal mine explosion in Sturgis, Kentucky, on June 8.

- · Eddie Gaedel is born in Chicago on June 8. Despite his career lasting just a single plate appearance, the 3-foot-7 Gaedel is remembered as the shortest player in Major League Baseball History.
- · Various churches merge to form the United Church of Canada on June 10. The merger takes place during a meeting of church leaders and representatives at the Mutual Street Arena in Toronto, and the Church of Canada immediately becomes the largest Protestant denomination in the country.
- · On June 11, the Republic of China agrees to assist the Empire of Japan and Japanese soldiers with the removal of Korean immigrants from China's northeastern provinces, where Korean independence agitators had established a foothold.
- · The Southern Branch of the University of California, now known as the University of California, Los Angeles, awards its first Bachelor of Arts degrees on June 12. Ninety-eight of the 128 degrees are awarded to women.
- · Charles Francis Jenkins publicly demonstrates the synchronized transmission of pictures and sound in Washington, D.C. on June 13.
- · Hawaiian surfer Duke Kahanamoku, a gold medal-winning swimmer at the 1912 Olympic Games, saves eight people off the coast of Newport Beach, California, on June 14. Kahanamoku's heroics were prompted by the capsizing of the fishing yacht Thelma.
- · The Philadelphia Athletics score 13 runs in the eighth inning of a game versus the Cleveland Indians on June 15. The thirteen-run outburst

erases a 14-2 deficit, and the comeback from 12 runs down remains a record today. The 1925 Athletics share the record with the 1911 Detroit Tigers and the 2001 Indians.

- · Thirty-eight nations sign the Geneva Protocol on June 17. The protocol establishes a general prohibition on the usage of chemical and biological weapons in international armed conflicts.
- · Italian Prime Minister Benito Mussolini launches "La battaglia del grano" ("The Battle for Grain") on June 20. The campaign aspires to decrease Italy's reliance on imported grain and advocates for the consumption of rice and rice-based substitutes for traditional Italian foods.
- · The Vietnamese Revolutionary Youth League is formally established on June 21. The organization is considered the beginning of communism in Vietnam.
- The Irish Free State holds elections on June 23. The elections are the first local elections since Ireland gained its independence.
- · General Theodoros Pangalos leads a bloodless coup d'etat to overthrow the government of the Second Hellenic Republic on June 25. Pangalos installs himself as the leader of Greece a day later.
- · "The Gold Rush" starring Charlie Chaplin premieres at Grauman's Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood on June 26. The film remains one of the most celebrated works of Chaplin's career.
- · After a speech by Helen Keller at its international convention in Ohio, the Lions Club formally launches its signature mission of assistance to the blind and the visually impaired on June 30.

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