

A feature publication of The Courier and Review Times



LIFE EDITOR

At the latest count, there were only about 300 drive-in movie theaters left in America.

Fortunately for us, about 20 of those are in Ohio.

Area drive-in theater owners say families seeking a wholesome bit of nostalgia and entertainment still regularly pack into their cars and line up to take in the latest blockbuster under the summer sky. From the comfort of their own vehicles, kids and pets are free to be as noisy as they please, and bathroom breaks and cellphone use won't ruin a fellow moviegoer's time.

Most popular are kids' and family movies and, on the other end of the spectrum, horror

films. (Because who doesn't want to be scared to death in a pitch-dark, rural Ohio parking lot?)

For many customers, though, the actual films on the screen are a mere afterthought.

"I have regulars who, every Friday or Saturday, they're there," says Rodney Miller, 21-year owner of Kenton's Hi

Road Drive-In.

Miller is a member of the United Drive-In Theater Owners' Association (UDITOA) and says in their heyday, there were more drive-ins than indoor theaters. The Hi Road opened on Ohio 68 in the 1950s, and Miller has spent the past two decades meticulously renovating the property and converting the operation to all digital projectors. (There is only one drive-in in the country — Mahoning Drive-In Theater in Lehighton, Pennsylvania that still uses 35 mm film reels.)

*Photo courtesy of Tiffin Drive-In

But despite his best efforts, there are some modern-day conveniences that simply are not compatible with the outdoor film experience. Chief among them: vehicles' automatic running lights, and LED interior and hatch lights that will not turn **Continued on pg. 3**



Discover 419

August 2019







Continued from pg. 1

off. (Turning the vehicle off isn't an option either, as sound is accessed through the car's radio, rather than the speakers of yore.)

Miller says the problem is so universal among drive-in theaters that the UDITOA has written a letter to car manufacturers asking that this feature be altered. In the absence of a grant to this request, Hi Road's employees have come up with ways to help theatergoers "trick" their vehicles' lights into turning off. Some patrons have started bringing large swatches of cardboard or even blankets to cover stubborn headlights, and the theater provides black garbage bags and painters' tape to others seeking a way to drown out the light.

Another problem that plagues drive-in theater owners — especially this year — is rain, as both Miller and Rod and Donna Saunders can attest.

The Saunderses, who own the Tiffin Drive-In Theater and Field of Dreams Drive-In Theater in Liberty Center, say the wet weather got so bad this spring that they offered free admission to farmers, as they sympathized with their plight on a personal level. Rain compelled Miller, for the first time in his tenure as owner of Hi Road, to close the theater Mondays through Wednesdays. The Saunderses opened Field of Dreams in their backyard in 2007. A few years later, they purchased the Tiffin drive-in, which is celebrating its 70th anniversary this summer. They still have some of the theater's old signage and a collection of vintage film reels on display in the concessions area.

As the owners of an indoor theater in Bryan, the couple says operating a drivein is significantly more challenging, as they are essentially hosting an "event" every night. Rather than the screenings being spread out throughout an entire business day, a drive-in showing brings a crush of customers all at once.

"For us, we have a party in our backyard three nights a week," Rod says of the Liberty Center location.

"Going to the drive-in is really a whole night of events," adds Donna. A family

might come early and claim their space in the lot, then play a game of football before buying dinner from the concessions or having a cookout. The Tiffin Drive-In Theater offers cornhole and a nine-hole mini golf course, all

encouraging family togetherness without the use of tech gadgets.

Miller and his wife also once owned a string of indoor theaters, and still own and operate the Elder Theatre in Jackson Center. He, too, says a drive-in screening is a high-energy event, but that the payoff is in the wonder of a first-time visitor. Miller recalls one boy in particular who stopped him in the concessions area to announce, "This is the bestest day of my life."

Says Miller, "Those are the moments that make your whole day, you know?"

Each theater maintains a Facebook page detailing the week's double feature, individual and carload pricing, directions, hours and more.







Humans of Findlay is a documentary project based on the blog "Humans of New York." The project was created to introduce many of the unique people of Findlay, Ohio. The man behind the lens and the project is Dave Morrow. Morrow has interviewed over 700 people of Findlay, ranging from age 5 to 102 years old, with a wide range of diversity and backgrounds. Jenna Wilkins has joined Dave in continuing the Humans of Findlay project.

On April 4, 2018, a proclamation was signed by Mayor Lydia Mihalik designating the day as "Humans of Findlay Day." Each of the stories have been read up to 30,000 times, and can be located on humansoffindlay.com, Humans of Findlay Facebook page, as well as in this monthly magazine. Know someone that you feel should be featured? Send a nomination on the Facebook page.

MARTIE ANDREWS



Martie Andrews has been a special education teacher for 12 years at Findlay High School. She knew since she was in 5th grade that being a special education teacher was her calling. She was born and raised in Findlay and is married to Findlay Police Office Brian Andrews. From 2008 through 2011, Martie had Tiffiany Harrison as a student in her

in March of this year she officially became part of their family. Tiffiany settled into her new home at Fox Run Manor, even though she initially did not want to move from the facility near Toledo. Once she moved, she said "I love you, love my room, love this place!" She was getting settled in nicely to her princess decorated room.

class. After Tiffiany moved through her class. Martie somewhat lost track of her until later seeing a news story on her. Tiffiany was shown dressed up as a princess and Martie immediately felt a tug in her heart to do more for Tiffiany. Martie, Brian, and their three children began the process of becoming Tiffiany's legal guardians and

They provided care for the medical needs associated with her muscular dystrophy, her trach and feeding tube, while the Andrews family was able to visit, give her some new experiences and independence. Martie's family, including their 11 and 8 year old daughters, and 6 year old son, embraced Tiffiany as their older sister. They took Tiffiany out on many excursions, one Martie fondly remembers is going to the movies. They enjoyed popcorn and the show. until Tiffiany alerted them that she was choking. A quick response by the FFD meant Tiffiany was fine, but Martie recalls thinking "this isn't going to be as easy as I thought it would". They continued to have her first ever shopping trip, visits to the children's museum, and several other fun outings.

Tiffiany's favorite things to watch on her own 22" TV screen that she raved about, were Aladdin and Blue's Clues. She loved listening to Michael Jackson, was always cracking a joke, and made a big impact on the whole Andrews family and those she knew. Sadly and unexpectedly, Tiffiany passed away on May 22 at the age of 25. Undoubtedly, her memory will live on through those that knew and loved her.

Story by Jenna Wilkins







FINDLAY HIGH SCHOOL

	OPPONENT	TIME
Aug.	15 at St. Mary's (scrimmage)	5:00 PM
	30 ANTHONY WAYNE (Senior Night)	7:00 PM
Sept.	6 at Perrysburg	7:00 PM
	13 MARYSVILLE	7:00 PM
	20 at Toledo Whitmer	7:00 PM
	27 FREMONT ROSS (Homecoming)	7:00 PM
Oct.	4 TOLEDO ST. FRANCIS	7:00 PM
	11 at Oregon Clay	7:00 PM
	18 at Toledo St. Johns	7:00 PM
	25 LIMA SENIOR	7:00 PM
Nov.	1 at Toledo Central Catholic	7:00 PM

UNIVERSITY OF FINDLAY

		OPPONENT	TIME
Sept.	5	at Ferris St.	7:30 PM
	14	NORTHWOOD	7:00 PM
	21	at Ohio Dominican	12:00 PM
	28	ALDERSON BROADDUS	3:00 PM
Oct.	5	KENTUCKY WESLEYAN	7:00 PM
	12	at Walsh	1:00 PM
	19	HILLSDALE	12:00 PM
	26	at Notre Dame (OH)	12:00 PM
Nov.	2	at Lake Erie	1:30 PM
	9	ASHLAND	12:00 PM
	16	TIFFIN	12:00 PM





FY

August 2019

		BLUFFTON	
		OPPONENT	TIME
Sept.	7	at Wooster	1:00 PM
	14	TRINE	1:30 PM
	21	FRANKLIN	1:30 PM
	28	at Hanover	1:30 PM
Oct.	12	ROSE-HULMAN	1:30 PM
	19	at Mt. St. Joseph	1:30 PM
	26	ANDERSON Indiana	1:30 PM
Nov.	2	at Manchester	1:30 PM
	9	FRANKLIN	1:30 PM
	16	at Defiance	1:30 PM

BGSU

OPPONENT TIME MORGAN STATE 7:00 PM Aug. 29 12:00 PM Sept. 7 at Kansas State LOUISANA TECH 5:00 PM 14 21 at Kent State 3:30 PM Oct. 5 at Notre Dame Indiana 3:30 PM 12 TOLEDO TBA 19 CENTRAL MICHIGAN TBA 26 at Western Michigan 12:00 PM Nov. 2 AKRON TBA 8:00 PM 13 at Miami Ohio 7:30 PM 19 OHIO UNIVERSITY 29 at Buffalo NY TBA

	ŀ	IEIDELBERG	
		OPPONENT	TIME
Sept.	7	at Adrian	6:00 PM
	14	WILMINGTON Ohio	1:30 PM
	21	CAPITAL	7:00 PM
	28	at Baldwin Wallace	1:30 PM
Oct.	12	at Marietta	2:00 PM
	19	OTTERBEIN	7:00 PM
	26	MOUNT UNION	1:30 PM
Nov.	2	at Muskingum	1:30 PM
	9	JOHN CARROLL	1:30 PM
	16	at Ohio Northern	1:30 PM

TIFFIN

		OPPONENT	TIME
Sept.	7	at Northwood	1:00 PM
	14	at Saginaw Valley	1:00 PM
	21	at Walsh	1:00 PM
	28	OHIO DOMINICAN	4:00 PM
Oct.	5	SAINT ANSELM	1:00 PM
	12	at Kentucky Wesleyan	2:00 PM
	19	ALDERSON BROADDUS	1:00 PM
	26	at Lake Erie	1:00 PM
Nov.	9	HILLSDALE	1:00 PM
	16	at Findlay	12:00 PM

		TOLEDO	
		OPPONENT	TIME
Aug.	31	at Kentucky	12:00 PM
Sept.	14	MURRAY STATE	7:00 PM
	21	at Colorado State	TBA
	28	BYU	TBA
Oct.	5	WESTERN MICHIGAN	3:30 PM
	12	at Bowling Green	TBA
	19	at Ball State	2:00 PM
	26	EASTERN MICHIGAN	TBA
Nov.	5	KENT STATE	TBA
	13	NORTHERN ILLINOIS	8:00 PM
	20	at Buffalo NY	7:30 PM
	29	at Central Michigan	TBA

OH	0	STATE UNIV	/ERSITY
		OPPONENT	TIME
Aug.	31	FLORIDA ATLANTIC	12:00 PM
Sept.	7	CINCINNATI	12:00 PM
	14	at Indiana	12:00 PM
	21	MIAMI Ohio	TBA
	28	at Nebraska	TBA
Oct.	5	MICHIGAN STATE	7:30 PM
	18	at Northwestern	8:30 PM
	26	WISCONSIN	TBA
Nov.	9	MARYLAND	TBA
	16	at Rutgers	TBA
	23	PENN STATE	TBA
	30	at Michigan	12:00 PM

*At press time, the information was pulled from community websites and was considered current. We apologize for any information that may have been changed/updated after the Discover 419 edition was printed. 3

20

FINDLAY THE TEAM BEHIND THE TEAMS

(\$2500+) ROYAL TROJAN BOOSTER

- 2 Football season tickets & parking pass
- 2 Basketball season tickets & parking pass
 2 FREE Concession Combos*

(\$1000-2499) Golden trojan booster

- (Choose One) 2 Football Season Ticket & Parking Pass 2 Basketball Season
- Ticket Parking Pass (2)10-punch sports passes 2 FREE Concession

Combos*

(\$500-999) BLUE & GOLD BOOSTER

(Choose One) 2 Basketball Season ticket & Parking Pass 1 10-punch sports passes 2 FREE Concession Combos*

(\$250-499) SUPER TROJAN BOOSTER

 Basketball Parking passes
 PREE Concession Combos*

JOIN THE FINDLAY TROJAN CLUB!

Name:
Address:
City: St:
Zip: Phone:
Email:
Membership Type
Please return this form to:
TROJAN CLUB P.O. BOX 1112 FINDLAY, OHIO 45839
 MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN ALL YEAR FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY MID AUGUST FOR INCLUSION IN THE FALL SPORTS PROGRAM.
P.O. BOX 1112 419.425.8216

FINDLAY, OHIO 45839

SUPER BOOSTER (\$100-249) Program Recognition 2 FREE Concession Combo*

TROJAN BOOSTER (\$50-99) Program recognition 2 FREE Concession Combo*

____ BOOSTER (\$25-49) Program recognition 2 FREE Concession Combo* *Concession combos will be honored at game Concessions.

TROJAN CLUB MEETINGS ARE Held Monthly

• FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH • 7PM @ FHS

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!

EMAIL: TROJANS@FINDLAYTROJANCLUB.COM WWW.FINDLAYTROJANCLUB.COM



STEPHANIE PARSONS

Stephanie Parsons is the "baby" of the Ken and Christine Renner family. She was preceded by older siblings Toby, Trent and Aimee. Raised in the countryside near Bluffton, the family was very close. Ken spent his working career at Ford, while Christine was a secretary at Bluffton hospital. Stephanie notes "We were not rich but we had so much fun as a family."

Stephanie excelled in sports at Columbus Grove High School where she would graduate in 1997. She played volleyball and was a point guard on her basketball team. Until very recently she held the record for the most 3-point baskets in a game. (7) She also kept in shape running in the 400and 800-meter races on the school track team. Though she considered herself as only an "average" student she was the first in her family to attend and graduate with a four-year degree. She completed courses to earn an Exercise Physiology bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University in 2001. Stephanie took a position at NWO working as a physical therapy aide. She stayed there for five years and considered returning to college to get her physical therapy degree. The additional five years of college was not enticing to her. Stephanie left NWO and was accepted at the Findlay YMCA working as a wellness coach. "I knew I was home the minute I walked into the Y!" Within a year she was promoted to the Wellness director, a position she held for the next seven years. She loved

it! High points during this time were her organizing the Red/White/Blue a Boston qualifying Marathon, creating a child obesity programming, and working with amazing staff. Stephanie's dedication, passion and work ethic led her to be promoted first to Senior Program director, then to her current position as "second in command" **Operations Director.** She has held this position for the last five years. She credits her success to a wonderful staff and the mentoring of the current CEO, Paul Worstell.

Stephanie met Ryan Parsons, then a Findlay police officer, at the YMCA while they were both working out. As they talked, they immediately bonded. They would marry in 2005 in the Methodist church located in Columbus Grove, a fourgeneration tradition for Stephanie's family. The couple would discover they were unable to conceive and began looking for options to bring children into their family. Stephanie and Ryan learned that straight adoption would be cost prohibitive. They learned of an option of fostering to adopt and trained to become foster parents. Stephanie overheard of two small children available for placement and was inquiring about them, when her mother and grandmother were killed in a car accident in Columbus Grove. Her world stopped and any thoughts of children were set aside. Her only clear recollection of that day were the words, "The Beam of light" that kept going through her mind. Beam was the last name of her grandmother and mother.

Stephanie calls it "God's plan" that when things settled down these two children were still available for a foster to adopt family. In November of 2014 two "perfect" children under the age of eighteen months were placed with the Parsons. Alex and Lena would legally join the family when the adoption was finalized on December 4th 2015, her mother's birthday. That same year a fragile infant boy struggling with "failure to thrive" due to serious neglect was placed with the Parsons. Stephanie believed he would not survive but with love and patience by his one year birthday the little boy was finally making eye contact, starting to walk and it was believed he was going to be "okay." In a startling turn of events the young boy was returned to his mother by social services. 48 hours later the Parsons received an urgent call to quickly come get the boy. This time parental rights were immediately terminated, and the Parsons adopted Dax in 2016.

Here Stephanie pauses in her story to explain "The system is broken. Among many other issues, a key problem in the foster care system is that state protocol is still to place foster children with any kin (or even friend of the family) found, ignoring any bonding to foster family or emotional effects of resettling these fragile children."

Always an advocate for change, Stephanie works to help foster children and foster families any way possible. Another key



issue, readily fixable, is that children are often handed over to foster parents with absolutely no clothes, diapers etc. Money for such essentials isn't available for at least a month leaving the foster parents scrambling to clothe and care for their new family members.

Drawing on her impression, "The Beam of Light" from the earlier tragedy, Stephanie has partnered with other foster parents to create a lifeline, a support system for all foster families. Still in its infancy the first project of "Beam of Light", "Project Alex" is to gather and package clothes and toiletries, even new car seats, age specific, to be delivered to the home of a new placement within hours. The details of this project can be found on the Facebook page, "The Beam of Light".

Stephanie and Ryan's home would seem to be full as they raise their three adopted children, yet they still welcome new foster children.

Story by Dave Morrow



INTERSTATE PLAZA Shop with us!

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED OFF TRENTON AVE. ON INTERSTATE COURT, I-75 EXIT 159



Cold Stone Creamery/Tim Horton's • Verizon • Allstate Now Open! Penn Station • Shirley's Gourmet Popcorn• TanPro USX Federal Credit Union

August 2019





214 W. FRONT ST., FINDLAY 567-301-2486 WWW.DESIRELTD.COM



Check us out online: 419discover.com







Assisted Living For Women.... As It Should Be!



becomes a member of the Judson Palmer family, she will not only be cared for now but for the rest of her life, regardless of her financial means." CARRES

> For more information 419-422-9656 2911 N. MAIN ST. FINDLAY, OH www.judsonpalmer.com

August 2019



WORLD'S EASIES TO PI77

730 S. MAIN ST. (419) 423-1114

WE ACCEPT:



PLEASE CALL AHEAD FOR GROUP ORDERS!

001

JOIN OUR PIZZA PARTY! LittleCaesars.com



*Highest Roted Chain - Value For The Money' based on a nationwide survey of quick-service restaurant consumers conducted by Sandelman & Associates, 2007-2013. Plus tax where applicable. Available of participating locations. 2001 AI (CL, Inc. 4713) PEPSI, PEPSI-COLA, and the Repsi Globe are registered trademarks of RepsiCo, Inc.

1.1

S

The Courier **BEST BEST BEST**

BEST FOOD & DRINK

Best Asian Food Ming's Great Wall Best Bakery Bread Kneads Best BBQ City Barbeque & Catering Best Breakfast Scramblers Best Coffee George House Coffee & Tea Co. Best Dinner Rossilli's Restaurant Best Food Truck Amy May's Rockin' Taco Truck Best Hamburger Wilson's Sandwich Shop

Best Ice Cream Dietsch Brothers Best Italian Food Rossilli's Restaurant Best Mexican Food Olers Bar & Grill Best Patio Greek Garden Best Pizza Jac & Do's Pizza Best Place for A Beer Findlay Brewing Co. Best Seafood Fins Seafood & Grille Best Steak Texas Roadhouse Best Subs Bellacino's Pizza & Grinders Best Subs Bellacino's Pizza & Grinders Best Subs I Tokyo Japanese Steakhouse Best Wine The Wine Merchant Best Wings/Boneless Fricker's BEST PROFESSIONAL Best Customer Service Chick-fil-A Best Jeweler Michael Eller Diamonds

BEST HOME & AUTO

Best Appliance Store Bindel's Appliance Best Florist Sink's Flower Shop & Greenhouse Best Furniture Store Art Van Findlay Best Garden Center Garden Central Best Home Improvement Center Menards Best Oil Change Quick Lane Tire & Auto Center

BEST SELF

Best Fitness Facility Planet Fitness Best Hair Salon Journey Salon & Day Spa

BEST ENTERTAINMENT Best Place for Live Performances Marathon Center for The Performing Arts

NEWEST BEST Best New Business Chick-fil-A

Thanks to everyone who voted and congratulations to our three voter winners: Taylor Knopf and Cariann Sampson of Findlay and Margaret Miracle of Fostoria. Each will receive a sponsored prize pack.

Go BestOfFindlay.com for an interactive Map!

Special Thanks To Our Sponsors:

