

DISCOVER 419

A feature publication of The Courier and Review Times



An a-MAZE-ing fall day

By **BRENNA GRITEMAN**

LIFE EDITOR

PANDORA — It's hard to imagine a more perfect autumn day than picking pumpkins from the vine, getting lost in a field of sunflowers, drinking freshly pressed apple cider and winding your way through a corn maze.

All of this and a whole lot more is available at Suter's Produce in Pandora. Third-generation farmer Jerry Suter says this year's corn maze is themed "One Small Step," in commemoration of the

50th anniversary of the moon landing. His son Tom designed the maze — featuring a rocket on a launch pad, an astronaut saluting the American flag on the surface of the moon, two giant footsteps, a lunar rover and more — and employed a team of helpers to hoe out the design by hand.

It takes the team about six days to cut the design into the 8-acre cornfield, clearing an estimated 40,000 corn stalks along



the way.

In turn, visitors emerge from the maze in about 45 minutes to an hour, though an early-exit version is available and only takes about 20 minutes to complete.

Suter says the farm debuted its first corn maze, a traditional labyrinth, in 1999. Other themes throughout the years have included a circus, medieval times, pirates, the wild West and dinosaurs. In 2003, as a nod to Ohio's bicentennial, the maze featured a log cabin, covered wagon, the state flag and a cardinal.

"I just think he's an excellent corn maze designer," Suter says of his son. "He keeps getting a little more involved each year." The family questioned the viability of this year's maze this spring, as heavy rains delayed the planting of corn. Eventually,

Continued on pg. 3



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This engagement is supported by the Arts Midwest Touring Fund, a program of Arts Midwest that is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from the Ohio Arts Council and the Crane Group.

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Continued from pg. 1

the rain stopped just long enough to get the field planted and, to Suter's surprise, the crop has turned out nicely.

While the maze is a clear attraction, Suter says the hayrides out to the pumpkin patch are the farm's biggest draw. He notes the 6-acre patch is a real, pick-your-own experience, complete with vines.

"We don't just put pumpkins on a grass field and call it a pumpkin patch. They grew there. God put them there," he says. On the way to the patch, the hayride detours at a puppet show in the woods. On the way back, the tractor will stop

at a brand-new, 4-acre sunflower field. Participants are invited to hop out, take pictures and pick bouquets.

"We are so excited about the sunflowers," Suter says, noting the field was sewn in four different plantings to assure blooms throughout the season. "There will be thousands and thousands of sunflower plants in different sizes and colors."

Culinary delights at the farm include cider made twice a week from an 1889 press; cider slushies; and fresh-made doughnuts and kettle corn.

Visitors of all ages also enjoy the giant tube slides; air-compressed corn cannons; barrel train rides; human hamster wheels; a super-sized corn box;

and a giant ear of corn fashioned out of 2½-gallon plastic jugs.

Suter says it "tickles him" to see families meeting up for a day of fun at the farm, and he especially likes seeing three generations — grandparents, parents and their children — getting back to nature and celebrating the fruits of his labors.

"It's kind of simple and yet, it's all so real," he says of the farm's offerings. "This is really my favorite time of the year."

The farm and corn maze are open from 1-8 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, through Nov. 2.

Pricing, directions and more can be found at www.suterproduce.com.

Suter's 2019 corn maze path shown below.





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LITTLE CAESARS®

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.

ROBERT TONG



Findlay is blessed to have self-made historian/archeologist Robert Tong search for and share amazing facts about the diverse and unique history of our area. We thought it was time to turn the tables and “dig” up some history on

he worked for four years as a mechanic and ran the parts department. Loving automobiles from the antique to modern power machines, Robert has stayed in the automotive business. He worked locally at Ford as writing up service

Robert. Robert was born four minutes before his twin brother Steve, at Blanchard Valley Hospital in 1964, to parents Patricia (Pat) and Rex Tong. Robert attended Liberty Benton where he excelled in football playing both sides of the ball, as an offensive right guard and linebacker on defense. He was voted as one of the captains, was MVP in 1982 and earned All-state Honors three years running. He graduated in 1983.

Robert did well enough to be offered small college scholarships but did not want to burden his parents with education debt. Instead he went right into the work force.

His father Rex was owner of the Millstream Motor Speedway where drivers came from all over the country came to challenge others on the dirt track in sprint cars. Robert loved the adrenaline rush of sprint car racing and became member of a pit crew working for Todd Cramer racing.

He also joined Peterbilt of Northwest Ohio where

reports, moved to Warner Buick and then eventually to his current company, LaRiche Toyota Subaru, where he accepted the position as Service Manager in 1990. After ten years of long days and supervising numerous employees, Robert wanted a change and moved out of service onto the sales floor where he continues to work today. He loves his work, the people he works with and the people he meets and serves.

In his free-time, inspired by a book written by Don Smith, a local historian and expert on Findlay’s numerous “turn of the century” glass factories, Robert began his own search of local history. As a kid he would dream of searching for dinosaur bones and Indian artifacts. Being a 25 year member of the Hancock County Historical Museum gave Robert access to troves of local history and spurred his continued interest in finding out more. Over the years he has researched the gas boom era glass factories, the history of the Findlay Grant Motors manufacturing plant, dug into the Wyandot tribe’s long residence locally, and discovered the many connections Findlay has to the Civil War.

Robert loves to share his findings to local schools, speaking before groups, writing books and even starting the Civil War reenactments at Riverbend Park. (Robert has possession of a 1914 Grant automobile, still in street condition.)

“I believe history must never be forgotten. I hope I have made Don Smith proud of my carrying on his legacy.”

Robert has two grown children, Josh and Sarah who live in the New England area. He is a newlywed, having married Michelle this year. Michelle brought her three children into his life. “Life is very full for me.”



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OCTOBER 12 – LAKESIDE-MARBLEHEAD LIGHTHOUSE FESTIVAL

Fun for the whole family, with live entertainment, children's games, a pumpkin-decorating contest, arts & crafts vendors, farmers' market, hayrides and much more in Lakeside and Marblehead. Also added is a clambake dinner following the day's festivities. Admission and parking are free. For more information and directions visit www.lakesideohio.com

9AM-4PM.

OCTOBER 5 - FINDLAY HALLOWEEN EXPRESS

A non-scary Halloween event at NWORRP featuring a Halloween themed light displays and other displays along the train tracks. The rides will be pulled with Riverside Train, a 1950's streamliner to offer evening fun for all ages! Visit nworrrp.org for more details. 6:30PM – 9:00PM

OCTOBER 5th & 6th - FINDLAY CHRISTMAS IN OCTOBER CRAFT SHOW

Northwest Ohio's largest and most distinctive craft show with over 300 exhibits from 8 states featuring repurposed goods and furniture, vintage, farmhouse, shabby chic, Americana, primitive, contemporary, jewelry, children boutique, home décor, bath and body, handmade yummy goodies, delicious food, live music, kids entertainment and more.

\$6.00 per person admission with unlimited re-entry for both days. Children under 12 are free. Rain or shine event. 10AM – 5PM each day at the Hancock County Fairgrounds.



OCTOBER 12 - FINDLAY FALL FEST

Don't miss the sixth annual Fall Fest! A sensory friendly event with lots of fun activities for the whole family - a fabulous day that everyone is sure to enjoy. Arts and crafts, carnival games, face painting, sensory station, train rides, food and more. Free event (donations accepted) and open to the public. 1-4PM at Riverside Park, Findlay.



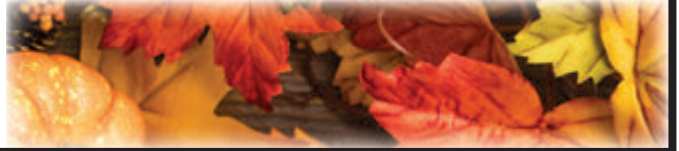
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OCTOBER 12 - TIFFIN

DOWNTOWN TIFFIN PUMPKIN STROLL

Spend the day strolling from business to business gathering fall themed treats! Start your stroll at JT's Bagel Bar, 14 Sycamore St., or Jolly's, 66 E. Market St., or VIP tickets, which includes your walk ticket and a VIP brunch from 9:30-11 a.m. at The Empire at 138 ,138 S. Washington St. Tiffin. Event will be 10AM – 5PM.

All walkers receive a Pumpkin Stroll T-shirt. 100% of the walk proceeds will be donated to the Downtown Tiffin Revitalization Fund. Visit www.DowntownTiffinEvents.com for more information. Cost \$20 per person or \$35 VIP tickets



OCTOBER 12 – VAN BUREN

APPLE BUTTER FESTIVAL

Don't miss the family friendly craft and quilt show festival with food vendors, homemade apple butter, bean soup and children's activities. 9AM – 3PM held at the Van Buren High School, 217 South Main Street, Van Buren.

let's go **Wine Tasting!**

OCTOBER 19 - FOSTORIA

WINE & CHEESE TASTING

Enjoy the annual Fostoria Community Arts Council fall event complete with five samples of wine and goodies to eat, a silent auction, giveaways, 50/50 drawing and much more. Held at BANKquet Hall 125 S. Main Street, Fostoria. 7-10PM

Presale tickets \$20.00 each or \$25.00 at the door.

OCTOBER 29 - FINDLAY

HALLOWEEN PARADE

Ghosts, goblins, princesses, pirates and more take over South Main Street in Findlay as Findlay|Hancock Leadership Alumni Association presents the 2019 Halloween parade. Spectators are invited to dress in their best family friendly Halloween costumes and cheer on the participants as they walk (or ride, roll, or drive) by! The parade is open to all Findlay and Hancock County groups, organizations, businesses, and schools. Registration is open from September 8th through October 25th. 7-10PM

OCTOBER 31 - FINDLAY

TRICK or TREAT

The city will be invaded by mummies, skeletons, clowns and more as children of all ages go door to door begging for candy. Please drive cautiously and watch out for participants as they cross city streets. 6:30-8PM



*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.

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SATURDAY NIGHT	Varies	\$5 admission, \$3 skate rental
SUNDAY	2pm-3:50pm	\$5 admission, \$3 skate rental

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Shannon Andersen is the daughter of Sandy and Kevin Thomas. She has two older sisters, Andrea and Shena. She graduated from Vanlue High School in 2002, where she excelled in basketball. She was a natural "post" player, loved to drive the basket and played well enough to receive a scholarship to play for Shawnee State University in Portsmouth, Ohio. While there she earned a four-year Sports Management degree with aspirations to one day be on staff for a professional sports team.

Upon graduation, Shannon accepted a position in 2006 working as the Membership/Wellness director for the YMCA. After two years there she made a transfer to the larger Beavercreek YMCA where she spent an additional two years. Motivated to get her master's degree, Shannon drove from Dayton to Cincinnati four times a week to attend Xavier University. She made the most of her years in the Dayton area, learning about different cultures, how to care for her very diverse members and to play sand volleyball where she met her future husband, Andrew in 2008. They would wed in 2010.

At the same time the

Membership Director position at the Findlay YMCA opened up which Shannon applied for and was accepted. Andrew accepted a job at Ball Metal and the family settled into Findlay. In addition, the couple's first son Bentley arrived that year. He would be joined by younger brother Lincoln in 2013.

In 2014 Shannon took a position as Event Coordinator at Susan G. Komen tasked with obtaining sponsors and handling the logistics of the Findlay "Race for the Cure". She stayed with Komen until 2016. In 2017 Shannon was approached about an opportunity to work for the Hancock Literacy to oversee fundraising, event planning and write start-up grants to fund the pre-school through early elementary literacy programs in Hancock County. Shannon began attending Gateway Church searching for answers to life's many questions she had. She speaks of a spiritual awakening that led her to what happened next in her life. "I felt a strong prompting to look into researching what it would take to become a kidney donor. I didn't know anyone that needed one, but in my heart, I was willing to donate a kidney if I matched someone."

Time went by and in August of 2018 Shannon was accepted into the 2018-19 Hancock Leadership class. The new classmates met for the first time at Camp Berry to participate in team building exercises and activities to get to know one another. As they shared stories about their lives, one story grabbed Shannon's attention. A fellow classmate, Michele Gibson, shared that her father was in desperate need of a kidney transplant. Without telling anyone, Shannon applied to the Ohio State University donor program where after



completing numerous rigorous tests over the next two months, she received word, "I was a match for Michele's dad!" Andrew and close friends were still concerned about Shannon's decision as it could adversely affect her life and she had two little children to raise.

Two weeks before the scheduled surgery, Shannon finally shared with Michele that she was to be the donor for her father.

Things became a little more complicated as organ donor situations often do. Shannon was also matched with a woman who had a very rare gene that would cause rejection unless a perfect match was found. The logistics are confusing, but Shannon became part of a six-way kidney donation swap, where she would donate to the woman and another donor would give a kidney to Michele's father.

The day of the surgery Shannon arrived at OSU where she remembers, "I had no doubt, no fear. I was not at

all nervous." When she woke from surgery, happily attached to a morphine pump for pain, Shannon was informed all the transplant surgeries had been successful. Two days later she was discharged and returned home with limitations of not lifting anything over five pounds. That was difficult with two active little children. Andrew, family and friends were very supportive helping with the children, bringing in meals and allowing Shannon to heal. On Monday, May 20th, six weeks post-surgery the doctors gave Shannon a complete clear bill of health. At the recent Hancock Leadership graduation Michele Gibson spoke, tears in her eyes, voice cracking, about how well her father is doing. She gave Shannon a big hug of love and gratitude.

Shannon is very humble and did not seek notoriety or attention for her selfless gift of a kidney. Her greatest reward was receiving a video of the woman who received her kidney, dancing with her grown son, at his wedding.



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LEE'S
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Dig In, It's

Pizza Month!

CHICAGO STYLE DEEP DISH PIZZA

INGREDIENTS

CRUST

- 2 ¼ tsp. active dry yeast
- 1 ½ tsp. white sugar
- 1 1/8 cup warm water
- 2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup oil
- ½ stick butter, cut into pats
- ½ cup corn meal
- 1 ½ tsp. salt
- Non-stick cooking spray

SAUCE

- 15 oz. can of diced tomatoes with basil, garlic and oregano, drained
- 8 oz. can tomato sauce
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. Italian seasoning
- Mix all ingredients together

TOPPINGS

- ½ lb. Italian sausage, smashed into thin patties, cooked, drained
- 20 slices of pepperoni
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 12 slices provolone cheese

DIRECTIONS

1. Dissolve yeast and sugar in warm water in a bowl. Let stand for 5 to 10 minutes until the yeast softens and begins to form creamy foam.
2. Combine yeast mixture, flour, oil, corn meal, butter and salt in a large stand mixer with a hook attachment; knead until dough holds together but is still slightly sticky, about 2 minutes.
3. Form dough into a ball and transfer to a bowl sprayed with nonstick cooking spray, turning to coat. Cover bowl with a towel and allow dough to rise at room temperature for 45 minutes.
4. Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Punch down dough and let rest for 10 to 15 minutes. Spray pan with non-stick cooking spray. Press dough into a 12-inch deep dish pizza pan. Poke holes in the bottom of the crust with a fork. Put pizza in oven and par-bake for 5 minutes. Remove from oven.
5. Place the slices of provolone along the bottom of the crust. Next layer the Italian sausage, then pepperoni and then spread the sauce over the pepperoni. Spread shredded mozzarella evenly across the top of the pepperoni.
6. Bake at 450 degrees for 20-25 minutes. Remove from oven and let stand 15 minutes.



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- DJ Wedding Reception Service from Ary Entertainment Mobile DJ*
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