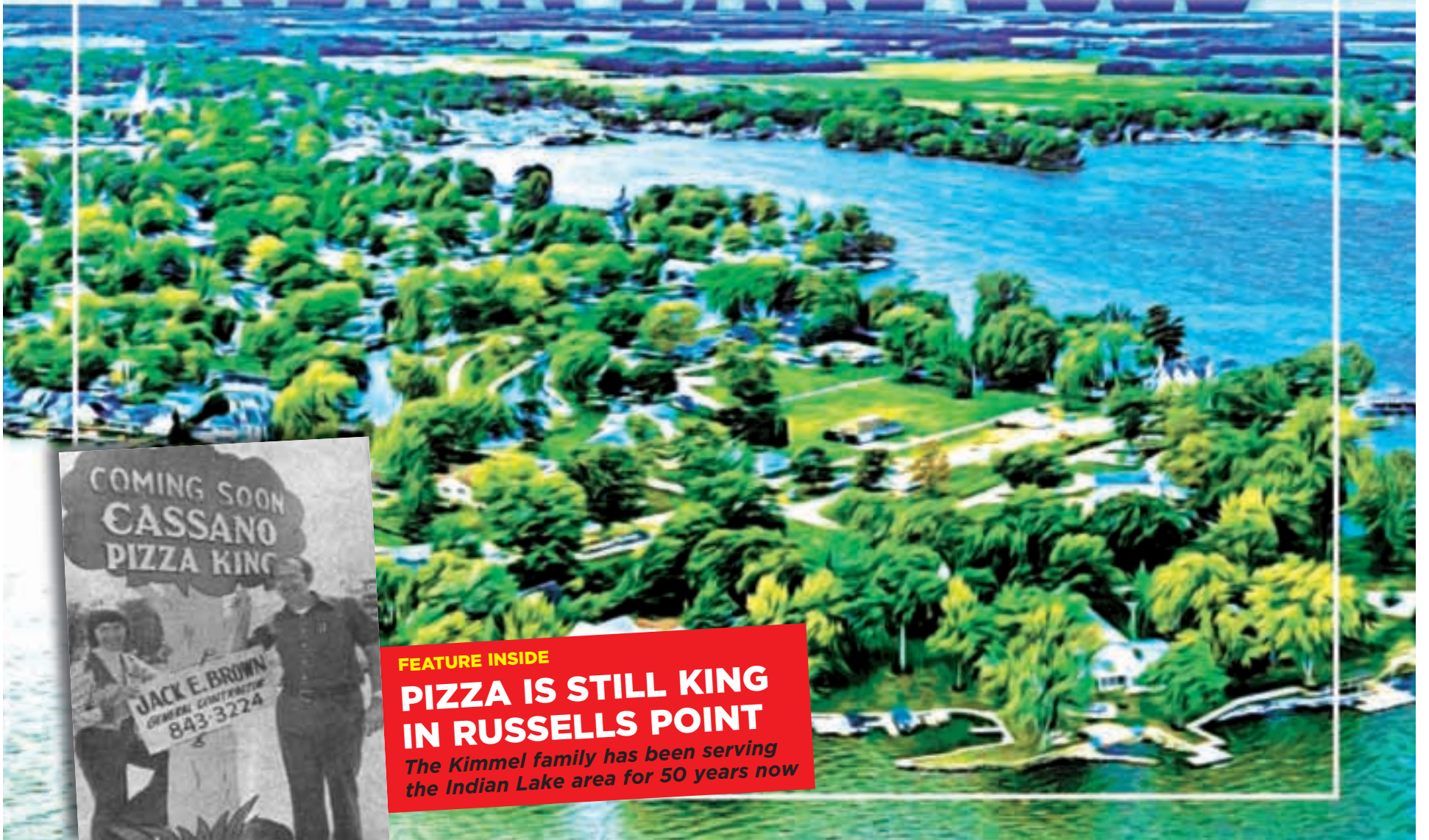


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FEATURE INSIDE
**PIZZA IS STILL KING
IN RUSSELLS POINT**
*The Kimmel family has been serving
the Indian Lake area for 50 years now*

Cassano's Pizza marks 50 years at Indian Lake

BY MANDY LOEHR
EXAMINER STAFF WRITER

Dayton area native
Wayne Kimmel had a vision

in the early 1970s of bringing the quality, fresh ingredients and welcoming atmosphere of Cassano's Pizza to the Indian Lake area, where he worked at that time at Major Marina.

Wayne and his wife, Sue, thought that Indian Lake needed a quality restaurant and they believed Dayton-based Cassano's could help to fill that void, their son, Ron Kimmel recounts.

When the Kimmels purchased a plot of land from John Rudolph, owner of Major Marina, little did they know the legacy that their independently-owned and operated restaurant would have on the community and the memories that would be made at the dine-in facility.

Construction began at 424 E. Main St., Russells Point, in 1974, and the restaurant officially opened in 1975.

This year, Cassano's Pizza is celebrating its 50th anniversary at the same location under the same family ownership. Wayne Kimmel, now age 83, and Sue, 80, own the business in partnership with their son, Ron, a 1985



Cassano's Pizza, 424 E. Main St., Russells Point, celebrates 50 years at Indian Lake this year. (EXAMINER PHOTO | MANDY LOEHR)

Indian Lake High School graduate, who related he moved to the Indian Lake area with his family when he was just 3 years old.

"It was a big decision and a big risk that my parents made in opening the business, but I credit my dad with being quite the visionary and both of my parents for being very hard workers to get this off the ground," Ron said. "They had never operated a restaurant before,

but Dad had sales experience and restaurant equipment experience as well.

"We've been very blessed to have such great clientele here, whether folks visiting in the summer come back to see us or our residents who live here year-round."

Over those five decades, much has changed around Indian Lake and visitors and residents alike have moved in and out of the area. However, one thing they can

come to expect at Cassano's is the same quality and consistency in taste and flavor.

"That's something that we absolute want to stick to is keeping the menu consistent, so our customers know what to expect when they came and dine in with us or pick up a carry-out order," Ron said. "I think we've done a good job at keeping our product and quality very consistent over these many years."

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Ron related that he and his older sister, Lisa, grew up around the restaurant, with his sister working there some in high school. Following graduation from ILHS, Ron attended The Ohio State University for two years, and then soon found himself back at Indian Lake.

He began working for his parents at Cassano's in 1989, which was meant as "a stepping off point," he said with

"We've been very blessed to have such great clientele here, whether folks visiting in the summer come back to see us or our customers who live here year-round."

RON KIMMEL

a chuckle. Eventually, he worked in management there, and Ron even met his wife, Ginger, at the pizza restaurant in 1993, when she was previously an employee there as well.

Ron and Ginger, who reside at Indian Lake, will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary this November and they have two adult children, a daughter, Rachel, and a son, Rece. Ginger is

also stays busy as a business owner herself, running Tranquility Salon.

Wayne and Sue's son has been a part of the business now for 36 years, along with their current, longtime manager, Betty Bodi.

Their famous hearth-baked pizza comes in four different sizes, and specialty pizzas are available as well, along with Cassano's original subs.

The menu incorporates a wide variety of appetizers, from mozzarella cheese sticks to blooming colossal onion, fried pickles, buffalo wings, cheesy bread and more; to specialty salads, including chef salad, taco salad, grilled chicken salad and crab salad.


Dinner menu items include pasta favorites like lasagna and spaghetti, and also fried shrimp, fish and

chips, chicken tenders and other options.

Beverages include beer on tap, bottled beer and a variety of soda, tea and lemonade.

Cassano's is closed Monday, and is open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, 4 to 9 p.m. Saturday and 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday. To order carry-out, call (937) 843-2501.

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Family ties come together for Casey's Automotive and Performance's opening

BY MANDY LOEHR
EXAMINER STAFF WRITER

Casey Moke has worked in the automotive repair business for nearly two decades, which is especially noteworthy for someone who is only 33 years old.

The Ada resident, who recently opened Casey's Automotive and Performance in Huntsville, said he got his start at age 14 while living in Columbus during his high school

years, working at a shop under the tutelage of his boss turned mentor and close friend, Tim Dutton.

Casey would go on to work for Dutton for many years at the Village Auto Care. Later when Dutton was ready to retire, Casey began leasing that same facility and ran his own shop, Casey's Village Auto Care, at that Columbus location.

However, Casey found himself making the long 1 1/2-hour one-way commute from Ada to Columbus each day, and was tiring of the long days, getting home late to his wife Audrey and their two boys, now ages 7 and 1 1/2.

Last year, he learned from a family friend that the former Jamie's Garage location at

4802 W. State Route 274, Huntsville, was going up for sale. So he decided to take the plunge and open a new shop much closer to home. While it was nerve-racking to make the jump miles away from his established customers, the expert mechanic said it's been a very positive change for his business and his family life.

"I was nervous to make this change, as I was very established with my customers where I worked in Columbus. However, it's been such a positive change for us," Casey said.

"Huntsville and all of the great people around here have been so welcoming from the start. There have been so many wonderful people and neighbors, and the best thing is,

CONTINUED >



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some of my customers from Columbus are making the drive up here as well for auto work.”

The new business officially opened in July 2024. In addition to providing the Moke family with more quality time together, the new shop is extra special because it also is the site

where Casey proposed to Audrey, ahead of their October wedding last fall.

Casey mostly runs a “one-man” shop, with some administrative assistance from his wife Audrey, and with their small helpers spotted at the shop on occasion as well. The family owned and operated

business handles a wide range of automotive repair and performance work, servicing all makes and models.

“We do everything from engine repair to oil changes, alignments, air/conditioning, anything to do with vehicle maintenance. Anything other than

body work, we can handle it,” the owner noted.

Casey’s Automotive and Performance in Huntsville is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, with drop off hours available anytime.

To schedule service, contact them at (937) 589-9033 or visit “Casey’s Automotive & Performance” on Facebook.



Casey Moke works behind the desk at his new business, Casey’s Automotive and Performance, 4802 W. State Route 274, Huntsville, which opened in July 2024. (EXAMINER PHOTO)

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County poised to receive \$11.2M in disaster funding

BY JOEL E. MAST
EXAMINER CONTRIBUTOR

Logan County is in the pipeline to receive \$11.292 million in federal funding to help recovery efforts addressing damage from the March 14, 2024, tornado that struck the Indian Lake area.

Logan County Administrator David Henry said the money will be funneled through Ohio's Community Development Block Grant Disaster Funding system and could be available mid- to late-summer.

At this point, the Logan County Commissioners and

the Logan County Emergency Management Agency will work to finalize a plan to use the money; set a public comment period for the plan; and then submit it for state and federal approval.

"We have had a series of public hearings where citizens submitted ideas to help craft our plan," Henry said. "It may be that we implement the plan as is or modify it based on what we learn during the public comment period."

The current plan calls for 40 percent spending on infrastructure to primarily help Russells Point and

Lakeview; 30 percent to Logan County Habitat for Humanity to build 30 homes; and 30 percent for multi-family housing development.

County leaders may also leverage some of the money to cover local matching fund requirements for other grants targeting the Indian Lake area and currently in development.

All of the CDBG money would have to be spent within three years, Henry said. He believes the infrastructure and Habitat projects would kick off soon after the money is released to the county.

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Wacky Boat Races return to Lakeview Harbor Aug. 9

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

Downtown Lakeview is preparing for the 2025 Harborfest Event and Wacky Boat Races, slated for Aug. 9, a day filled with boat race entertainment, live music, food trucks, shopping and more.

Wacky boat race participants are invited to build their own boat using non-marine materials, and then they will race other participants in the Lakeview Harbor. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team.

The event is rain or shine from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Lakeview Harbor near downtown Lakeview.

Race participants should arrive at the Lakeview Harbor in plenty of time to check-in. Check-in opens at 8:30 a.m., and races begin at 10 a.m.

Boats must be homemade using any material that float; however, the material must not



Wacky Boat Race crew members paddle their boat in a previous year's race. (SUBMITTED PHOTO)

be manufactured for marine purposes.

No motors or any kind of paddle or surfboard like crafts can be used. The homemade boat must be "people powered."

Race participants must be 18 years of age or accompanied by an adult. You must be registered with a team/boat prior to the event date.

In addition, USCG approved

personal flotation devices must be worn by all crew members.

Please arrive early if your boat requires any on-site "touch ups." The number of applications will determine the number of heats.

The event is sponsored by the Lakeview Business Group, and spectators are welcome. Take your lawn chairs and enjoy watching the Wacky Boat Races.

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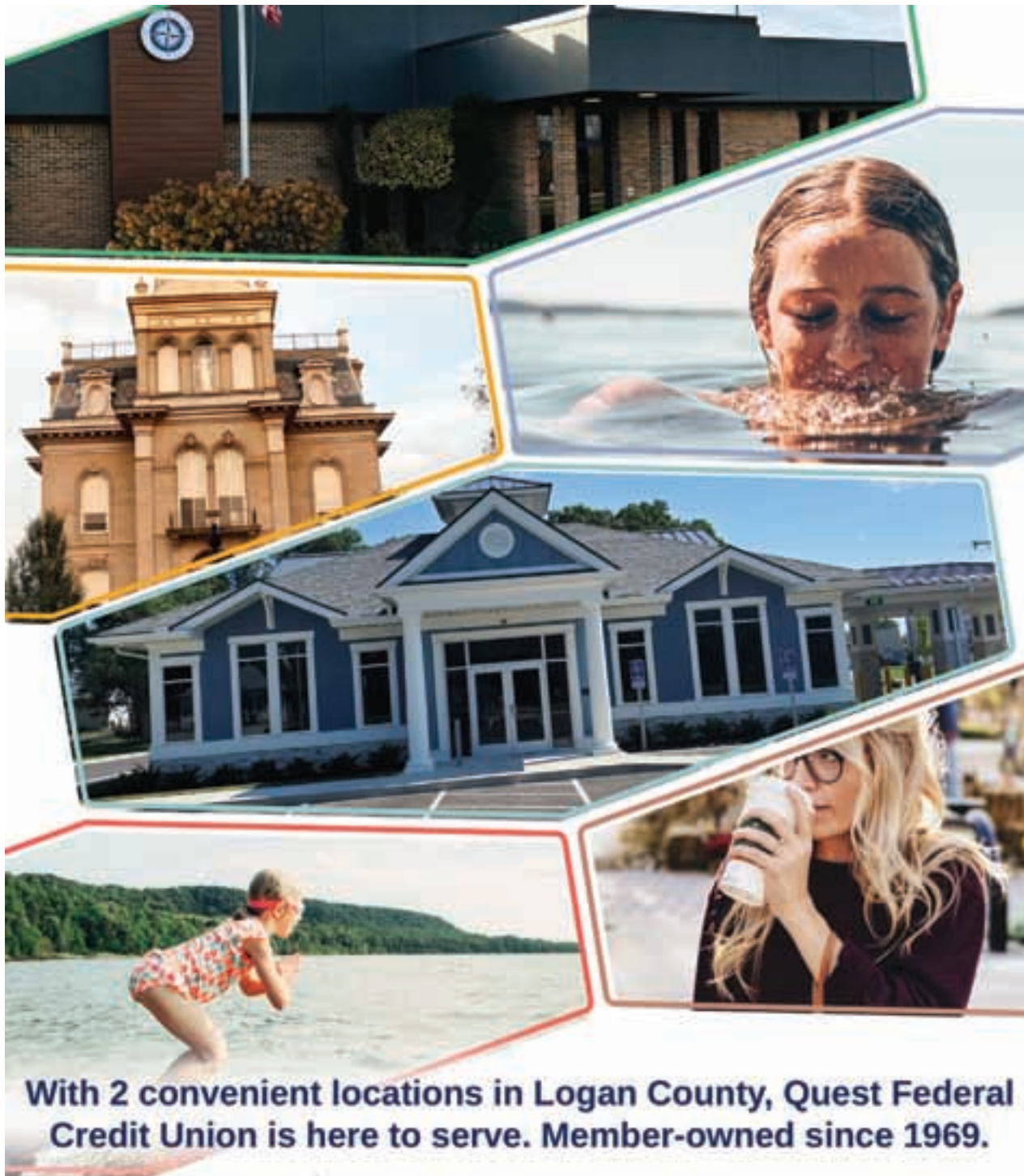


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ILDC puts proposed gateway sign at the top of their project list

BY SHARYN KOPF
EXAMINER STAFF WRITER

The Indian Lake Development Corporation (ILDC) has a lot planned for the community, and finishing up the pickleball courts at Old Field Beach is just the beginning. But their main focus at the moment is creating a gateway sign at Lakeview Harbor, where State Route 235, State Route 366 and U.S. Route 33 intersect.

According to Dale Frymeyer, president of ILDC, the 30-foot by 50-foot sign will feature two-foot-tall letters saying “Welcome to Indian Lake State Park.” He added it will be “something

you can’t miss.”

But first they need to raise close to \$50,000, which they have already started working on. Frymeyer’s goal is to have the sign up and greeting residents and visitors by the end of the year.

With the pickleball courts nearing completion—they’re waiting for the rain to stop long enough to coat the blacktop—the ILDC has other projects to focus on, like replacing the trees destroyed during the March 14, 2024, tornado.

“We were able to raise \$17,500 this year,” Rachel Kubic, ILDC vice president, said. “We used half of that last October to plant trees

around the lake to replenish what had been lost. We’ll use the rest to do a second planting, probably this fall.”

The ILDC is working closely with Hiedie Whitman, Indian Lake State Park manager, and naturalists to make sure they choose the right trees for the area.

Another project at the top of their list also comes as a result of the tornado—replacing the destroyed shelter once located on Fox Island. With that in mind, the ILDC recently met with the Ohio House of Representatives to request funding for it.

In addition, they’d like to install a new shelter house

on the north side of the lake, near the Chippewa boat ramp.

Still, Kubic said, the biggest requests from the public involve expanding the bike path to Indian Head and adding a source of water to the dog park at the beach.

Which means the ILDC is staying busy. In fact, Kubic admitted, “We probably have 10 different things to work on.”

Since their mission is to restore and improve Indian Lake State Park, the ILDC is always open to feedback and suggestions from the community.

For more, visit ildcoho.com.

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Trina's reinvigorates an Indian Lake favorite

BY SHARYN KOPF
EXAMINER STAFF WRITER

Shopping at Indian Lake got a boost in September 2024 when Katrina Taylor opened Trina's Second Hand Rose. Taylor's goal was to bring "quality furniture at amazing prices to the community."

Currently situated at 150 E. Lake Street in Lakeview, Trina's is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The business and name were inspired by Taylor's Aunt Mo, who owned Mo's Second Hand Rose, which she got going in 1997 with stores in Lakeview and Russells Point. Later, she had a space at Fishers Flea Market.

Taylor originally planned to open in March 2024, but the tornado on the fourteenth of that month put a stop to that. It also changed the building

she would start out in, putting her in a temporary spot while waiting for her official location to be remodeled.

"I opened Trina's Second Hand Rose to continue my aunt's legacy," Taylor admitted. "She taught me everything I know."

Growing up in the area — just two blocks from her new business — gives Taylor a strong connection to Indian

Lake, even though she moved away for over a decade. She came back in 2019 to raise her daughter in her hometown and, eventually, open her store.

For local context, Taylor is the granddaughter of Charles and Juanita Taylor, people she describes as "amazing." She added, "They taught us unconditional love, to work hard for everything you want and to follow your dreams."

Taylor, 35, is the mother of Aaryahi Sharp, 8, an Indian

Trina's Second Hand Rose opened in September 2024 at 150 E. Lake Street in Downtown Lakeview. (EXAMINER PHOTO)



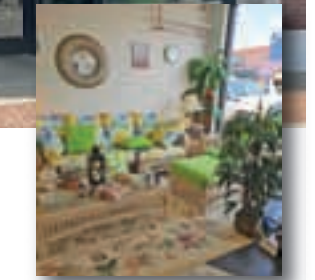
Katrina Taylor poses inside her new store, Trina's Second Hand Rose. (EXAMINER PHOTO)



Lake Honor Roll student.

"The more businesses

businesses that open in Lakeview, the better the community will be," Taylor said. "I hope to see all of Indian Lake striving again like it once did."



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Restaurant rises from tornado's rubble, prepping for summertime return

BY MANDY LOEHR
EXAMINER STAFF WRITER

Customers were enjoying a tasty dinner or after dinner drinks at Indian Head Roadhouse the evening of March 14, 2024, when guests and staff alike learned that a tornado warning was in effect.

Fortunately, the restaurant at 509 W. Main St., Russells Point, had a basement, and customers grabbed their meals and drinks and headed downstairs to seek

shelter from the intense storm, longtime employee Wendy Braun recounted.

Moments later, the deadly tornado whipped through the Indian Lake community, causing extensive damage to Indian Head Roadhouse, and completely demolishing residences nearby this property.

The restaurant was knocked off of its foundation, its HVAC system was blown off the roof, and part of the roof was damaged as well, Braun said.

While the longtime Indian Lake establishment couldn't operate as usual in the immediate aftermath of the storm, the business gathered grills and cooked up food outside, including burgers and gyros, and served them to their community and neighbors affected by the ordeal.

Then any remaining food at the business was donated to LuLu's at the Lake, which was serving up regular meals to storm victims and recovery

workers as well.

Since then, Indian Head Roadhouse has kicked off a complete restoration project, after working through construction and contractor delays, and insurance issues.

Getting the restaurant ready for the demo and construction project was a tedious process for the entire staff, Braun noted.

"We had to clear out every single item in the entire restaurant, down to the last lightbulb, and load them into temporary

storage."

Construction officially started in January, and in April, a new roof and exterior stonework was installed.

Braun said the opening for the completely restored Indian Head Roadhouse is estimated for early summer, in time to take advantage of the outdoor and indoor seating option at the dog-friendly locale.

The restaurant will be bringing back their famous bloody marys, along with many other

favorite menu items, from tasty appetizers, burgers, fresh fish, shrimp, sandwiches, tacos, salads and more.

Owners Wing and Linda Wang and manager Andi Lu, along with Braun are excited to welcome customers back for year-round dining.

Indian Head Roadhouse can be reached at (937) 843-5253. Braun provides regular updates via the business' Facebook regarding the restoration project and reopening.



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New scene at longtime tavern location

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

Indian Lake is the scene you should make and Holder's Hideaway is just the right place spot to enjoy a comfortable night out with old and new friends alike.

On April Fool's Day, Brenda Moots and Brian Holder purchased the local tavern formerly known as CJ's Lakeside or "the Old Vedna's."

The Holders welcome visitors and community members to the new neighborhood hideaway, dive bar and entertainment spot in Downtown Lakeview. Conveniently located at 105 E. Lake St., next to The Depot and Indian Lake Outfitters, the Hideaway has parking available in the back alley or it's just a short walk from the water's edge by boat.

In addition to the tavern's longtime history in the community, the local hideaway is near and dear to the husband



Customers enjoy a night out at Holder's Hideaway after the bar's opening this spring at 105 E. Lake St., Lakeview. (SUBMITTED PHOTO)

and wife team for a special reason. They survived the March 14, 2024, EF3 tornado together in the ladies' bathroom of the tavern. They find themselves very grateful to be here to share their story.

When the opportunity for purchase arose, Brenda, who

has always wanted to own a

bar, thought convincing her husband may be a challenge. However, Holder was the first one to jump behind the bar for training prior to the acquisition.

The couple is keeping the dive bar aspect very much alive with their own personalities mixed in.

Offering a full liquor bar, beer selection and variety of seltzers and wine, the cold drinks pair well with the new pizza oven and fresh popcorn.

The Hideaway opens at 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and the cozy venue also features pool tables, dart boards, bowling games and jukebox tunes every day.

Fridays feature live acoustic entertainment and Saturdays are typically tagged as karaoke night.

No matter if you're a full-time resident, part time homeowner, passerby, day tripper or traveling tourist, the Hideaway is for you and you're invited to

"Lake Like a Local" with each visit.

For a complete listing of daily events, future draws, food truck features and expanded hours, follow Holder's Hideaway on Facebook, www.facebook.com/holder-shideawayindianlake.



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Owners set off on new adventure to open camping store



Trace and Kim Weber opened My Camping Store, 821 S. Detroit St., Bellefontaine, in 2020. (SUBMITTED PHOTO)

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

For veteran outdoorsmen and new campers alike, a camping specialty store in Bellefontaine has all of their needs covered before they set out to their favorite camping spots at Indian Lake or other Logan County locales to make long-lasting memories.

My Camping Store, located at 821 S. Detroit St., Bellefontaine, is owned and operated by Kim and Trace Weber and opened in 2020.



A wide variety of RV parts and camping supplies are available locally at My Camping Store, located at 821 S. Detroit St., Bellefontaine. (SUBMITTED PHOTO)

The site, now a camping supply center, was formerly run by Trace Weber as Energy Saving Products. Established in 1978, the store specialized in providing a variety of stoves and

fireplaces, including wood, gas, pellet, and electric models serving Logan and surrounding counties for more than 40 years.

After 40 years of the fireplace business, Trace and

Kim wanted to explore other options. They loved camping, so they decided to change the fireplace shop to a recreational vehicle parts and accessories store. Continued >



Summer ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

| MAY | | |
|------------|-------------------------|-------|
| May 23: | Mischief | 6-10p |
| May 24: | Fish Styx | 1-5p |
| | Katie & The Red Hots | 7-11p |
| May 25: | 10 Year Reign | 1-5p |
| | Marsha Brady | 7-11p |
| May 26: | Remsatz | 2-6p |
| May 30: | Thick N Thin | 6-10p |
| May 31: | Small Town Brothers | 3-7p |
| JUNE | | |
| June 1: | Exploit | 2-6p |
| June 6: | Flashback Unplugged | 6-10p |
| June 7: | The Twylights | 3-7p |
| June 8: | Graveyard Daisies | 2-6p |
| June 13: | Black Cat 5 | 6-10p |
| June 14: | Kodebreaker | 3-7p |
| June 15: | The Relic's | 2-6p |
| June 20: | RB Stone | 6-10p |
| June 21: | Probable Cause | 3-7p |
| June 22: | Foreplay | 2-6p |
| June 27: | 2 Wheels Down | 6-10p |
| June 28: | Session 5 | 3-7p |
| June 29: | Black Water Road | 2-6p |
| JULY | | |
| July 3: | Probable Cause | 1-5p |
| July 4: | Trailer Park Party Band | 1-5p |
| | Katie & The Red Hots | 7-11p |
| July 5: | Flat Bottom Boys | 1-5p |
| | Marsha Brady | 7-11p |
| July 6: | What About Bob | 2-6p |
| July 11: | Side Show | 6-10p |
| AUGUST | | |
| August 1: | Close To Home | 6-10p |
| August 2: | Jen Cross Band | 1-5p |
| | Katie & The Red Hots | 7-11p |
| August 3: | Probable Cause | 2-6p |
| August 8: | That's The Breaks | 6-10p |
| August 9: | Kodebreaker | 3-7p |
| August 10: | G-String Jettison | 2-6p |
| August 15: | J.R. Rostorfer | 6-10p |
| August 16: | Supervillin | 3-7p |
| August 17: | Turning Point | 2-6p |
| August 22: | The Old Pirates | 6-10p |
| August 23: | Driving Force | 1-5p |
| | Staples | 7-11p |
| August 24: | Limited Time Band | 2-6p |
| August 29: | Dave & Eric Acoustic | 6-10p |
| August 30: | Left Of Center | 1-5p |
| | Marsha Brady | 7-11p |
| August 31: | Kodebreaker | 1-5p |
| | JRossty Band | 7-11p |
| Sept. 1: | Session 5 | 2-6p |

*Acts subject to change.

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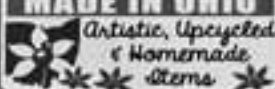
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The store’s curated selection offers a wide range of high-quality RV parts designed to meet a variety of customers’ maintenance, repair, comfort and safety needs.

“Whether you’re a seasoned RVer looking to upgrade your rig or a novice camper in need of essential supplies, our comprehensive collection has everything you need to make your travels memorable and worry free,” Kim and Trace said.

The one-stop shop also offers customers a 10 percent rewards program.

My Camping Store’s hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday; and closed Tuesday and Sunday.



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Read It Online: www.examiner.org

13 Annual Cruise for a Cure set for June

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

The JR Memorial Cruise for a Cure event has once again been added to the

Indian Lake Community Calendar with this year's event taking place on Saturday June 28, at Lulu's

*"We look forward to seeing everyone in June at Lulu's at the Lake for the JR Memorial, and to hear one day those magical words...
...We've found a cure for cancer."*

at the Lake in Russells Point.

The "JR" serves as a memorial to former Indian Lake resident and OSU fan, Jerry Richardson, who passed away in 2013 of a malignant brain tumor. The event also acts as a fundraiser for the Buckeye Cruise for Cancer and provides funding for cancer research at the James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute at The Ohio State University.

The dedicated friends, residents and volunteers of the organization will be presenting the 13th annual rendition of the JR Memorial this year. Organizers will be reinstating some of the more popular traditions, such as the pub crawl prior to the event.

The pub crawl will leave the harbor across from the

Donut Shop around noon and visit two or three of Indian Lake's favorite pubs and return to the harbor around 4 p.m.

A private cocktail party for qualifying sponsors will begin at 3:45 p.m. and last until the gates to the public open at 5 p.m. Shucking Bubba Deluxe will give a private performance at the cocktail party and continue until 6 p.m.

Following Shucking Bubba Deluxe, the OSU Alumni Band will perform and there will be a silent and live auction, a duck pond where everyone is a winner and a 50/50 raffle.

The Fabulous Johnson brothers are back this year and will perform immediately after the live auction.

There will be food available for purchase from Lulu's at the Lake and beverages provided by Coors Light, Simple **Continued >**

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Because of the tremendous support and participation by our sponsors and those who attended the 2024 event, the JR Memorial was able to raise \$315,000 for the Buckeye Cruise for Cancer and The James Cancer Research Center, bringing our 12-year total to close to \$2.5 million dollars.

The JR Memorial also contributes locally. Donations have been made in the past to the Indian Lake Chamber of Commerce's Fireworks Fund, the Russells Point Police Department and the Alliance for Community Partnerships of Logan County.

The JR Memorial Committee expressed appreciation to the many sponsors, volunteers and Indian Lake community for their continued support of

the event. The group also welcomes those who want to become involved with the cause.

"We are always striving to improve upon what we have accomplished," the committee members said.



FUNDING THE FIGHT

Proceeds raised during the JR Memorial Cruise for a Cure benefit the James Cancer Hospital and The Buckeye Cruise for Cancer Research Fund.

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Cobblestone Hotel ushers in new chapter for Indian Lake

BY MANDY LOEHR
 EXAMINER STAFF WRITER

Community members, investors and the Logan County and Indian Lake Chambers of Commerce commemorated a new chapter in the lake's history Tuesday, May 6, with a grand opening and ribbon cutting event for the new Cobblestone Hotel in Russells Point

The three-story, 54-room



hotel at 211 Lincoln Blvd., at the intersection of U.S. Route 33, offers a wealth of amenities and opportunities for commu-

nity members and guests to the Indian Lake region alike. It officially opened in December and its staff are busy preparing for a busy summer season ahead.

"It's a big investment for a small community," Mike Major, head of the investors group that helped to spearhead the project. An Urbana resident who owns a condo at Pirate's Cove at Indian Lake,

Major also was involved with the Cobblestone Hotel in Urbana.

"The investors hope this is a catalyst for good things to happen. It's been so rewarding to see that it's already being used for different events, meetings and weddings.

"We're hoping to spur business development here in the community, as this growth

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is appealing to restaurants and other businesses that would like to locate here. Our hope is that more and more year-round events will develop at the lake now that there is a place to stay."

Indian Lake Chamber of Commerce President Amber Fagan noted that it has been 35 years since Indian Lake has had a hotel to call its own in the community.

"Wicker Resort closed about 35 years ago, while O'Connor's Landing and Hotel closed 40 years again in 1985 after experiencing a fire. Beatley's closed in the 1970s.

"We are hearing such positive reactions to this beautiful new hotel. Now visitors and

extended family members have somewhere to stay all year-round. The chamber is looking into hosting 'stay and play' events during the winter-time to expand our offerings."

Logan County Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Ben Vollrath said the idea of bringing back a hotel to Indian Lake is many years in the making through the dedicated efforts of a number of individuals and a feasibility study.

"This is one of those amazing cooperative projects," he said. "While it had been an idea years ago, during 2018-2019, we really started sitting down and thinking that this is doable.

"We've been blown away

by the Indian Lake community. So many people who have stepped up and have wanted to be a part of this.

"Thank you to all of you who said, 'Yes.'"

Refreshments were served to guests in the lounge area. Then visitors also enjoyed tours of the hotel to check out the pool, fitness room and the variety of rooms that are available — including long-term stay units with a kitchen, living room and separate bedroom, ADA accessible rooms, suites and single and double bed units.

There is ample parking for cars at the front of the hotel and for boat trailers and trucks in the back parking lot.

Many local businesses are welcoming the opportunity to use the conference room and bar for hosting meetings and training sessions. Wedding guests also have been reserving accommodations and using the conference room for receptions.

Hotel staff noted that the Fourth of July weekend is nearly booked already, along with many bookings throughout the summertime. Vollrath urged those in attendance and in the community that "we want to fill it up, not just in the summer season, but all year

long.

"This is one of those very nice locations where you have a great view of Indian Lake as well," the Logan County Chamber president said.

The village also has stepped up to create a walking path that will connect the hotel to businesses in the area, Major noted.

Sue Webster is the general manager of the hotel. Cobblestone Hotel has 161 locations around the country that are currently open or under construction, including five locations around Ohio.

Construction of the Cobblestone Hotel in Bellefontaine also is nearing completion, with Vollrath estimating a potential ribbon cutting celebration for that location sometime this summer.

To make reservations for the Cobblestone Hotel at Russells Point, call (937) 810-0402 or go to staycobblestone.com

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