

medina county board of developmental disabilities

# Monthly Board Meeting

## April 27, 2026

### Regular Board Meeting - 5:00 p.m.

- Executive Session: Following General Session (if needed)
- *Link to livestream available on*

<https://www.mcbdd.org/event-calendar/>

*MCBDD Board Meetings will be held in Board Conference Rooms 1 & 2. Attendees are requested to follow all posted safety guidelines.*

*The mission of the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities is to promote and empower individuals with developmental disabilities to live, learn, work and socialize as citizens in the community.*

**MEDINA COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**  
**Regular Board Meeting Agenda**  
**April 27, 2026**

**I. Call to Order (5:00 p.m.)**

**II. General Session**

**A. Pledge of Allegiance (5:00-5:10 p.m.)**

**B. Mission Statement Affirmation (5:00-5:10 p.m.)**

**C. Acceptance of Agenda (5:00-5:10 p.m.)**

**D. Approval of Minutes (5:00-5:10 p.m.)**

1. Approval of the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting, March 23, 2026

**E. Presentations (5:10-5:40 p.m.)**

1. MUI Annual Report
2. Outcome Tracking System

**F. Follow-Up (5:40-5:50 p.m.) (verbal report)**

1. Age brackets of CMOR Survey
2. Data Point Reporting Update

**G. Old Business (5:50-6:00 p.m.)**

1. State/Legislative Updates

**H. New Business (6:00-6:05 p.m.)**

1. Approval of February Financial Reports Resolution #09-26
2. Appropriation Transfer Resolution #10-26
3. Excess Property Resolution #11-26

**I. Reports Review (6:05-6:30 p.m.)**

- a. Superintendent's Report
- b. Financial Reports:
  - Revenue
  - Expenditure
  - Cash Balance
  - Cash Flow
  - Voucher Report
- c. Acceptance of Financial Reports Resolution #12-26
- d. Board Stats Report (current & proposed new)
- e. Quarterly Reports
- f. Action Plan Dashboard

**III. Open Forum (Board Policy Ch. 2, Sec. 4 E)**

- The Board maintains discretion to hold an Open Forum
- The Board may not elect to address public comments during Open Forum; however, the Board shall provide acknowledgement, and response will be provided within a reasonable timeframe
- Five minutes per speaker/9 speakers/45 minutes total

**IV. Executive Session (if needed)**

**V. Adjournment**

**The Next Regular Board Meeting is Scheduled for May 18, 2026**

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# Meeting Minutes

**MEDINA COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**  
**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 23, 2026**

**I. Call to Order**

The MCBDD Regular Board Meeting was called to order by Board President Mark Gryskiewicz at 5:02 p.m. By Roll Call, other Board Members present included the following: Kelly Smith, Lisa Dreaden, Dave Hartman, and Debbie Bokmuller. Adina Kolar and Andy Olah were excused.

Staff present included the following: Annie Finnerty, Shannon Lees, Diana Davis, Carey Bates, Tracey Lambdin, Bobby Richards, Ed Dryer, and Jennie Petrarca.

Others present included the following: Sandra Thomas Fain and Keisha Thomas.

**II. General Session**

**A. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**B. Mission Statement Affirmation**

The Mission Statement was recited.

**C. Acceptance of Agenda**

A Motion was made by Ms. Dreaden, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the Agenda as presented. The Motion was approved with a unanimous “yes” vote.

**D. Approval of Minutes**

**1. Approval of the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting, February 23, 2026**

A Motion was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Dreaden, to approve the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on February 23, 2026. Ms. Bokmuller abstained. All others voted “yes.” The Motion was approved.

**2. Approval of the Minutes from the Special Board Meeting/Board Training, March 16, 2026**

A Motion was made by Ms. Dreaden, seconded by Ms. Bokmuller, to approve the Minutes from the Special Board Meeting/Board Training on March 16, 2026. The Motion was approved with a unanimous “yes” vote.

**E. Follow Up**

Ms. Finnerty stated the responses to the Follow-up questions are in the Board Packet. There were additional questions that were asked regarding the CMOR Survey. They are listed below:

1. What was the total number of individuals and families whose contact information was supplied to CMOR and what was the breakdown of online vs. phone contact?
  - Individuals – 1668
  - Parents/Guardians – 2448
  - Individuals attempted to contact – 827
  - Actual contacted – 150

- Individuals contacted: In-person: 90/phone: 60
- Parents/Guardians: 1296 attempted, (options are email with an option for phone (3 opted for this option))

Ms. Bokmuller stated that the email she received stated there would be a follow-up contact made if the survey wasn't completed by a certain date. Ms. Bokmuller stated she intentionally did not complete the survey in the stated time frame and did not receive any follow-up. Ms. Finnerty stated that this may have been due to CMOR hitting the intended number of participants prior to the follow-up timeframe. Ms. Bokmuller stated she feels this is misleading to the families who receive the email. Ms. Bokmuller also stated she does not feel 20% is a statistically significant number of responses. Ms. Finnerty stated that CMOR determines what is statistically significant; in our case, 150 for individuals and 175 for parents/guardians with a 7% margin of error and 95% confidence level. Ms. Finnerty stated that CMOR gives us the guidance, but we can change some of that if we so choose. Ms. Finnerty will continue to work with them; another survey will be conducted at the end of this year/beginning of next year. She will have CMOR come in and present the process to the Board and present the results. Ms. Finnerty stated the cost will go up if we choose to add more to the survey. Ms. Dreaden stated that while we want a quality survey, we may not be in a place to spend more at this time; and questioned if more is necessary.

Mr. Hartman asked if we know the age brackets of those being surveyed. Ms. Finnerty stated CMOR has this information.

Discussed creating a committee to assist Ms. Finnerty with the CMOR survey questions and process. The Board will decide committee members at the May Board Meeting. Ms. Smith asked if Committee meetings can be virtual. Ms. Lees stated they can be virtual; however, the same rule applies as virtual attendance for Board Meetings in regard to how many must be in-person. Committee Meetings must be public and notice must be given to the media. Ms. Lees will provide the policy regarding this to the Board.

Mr. Hartman asked about the difference between non-profit and not-for-profit, as listed in Ms. Hetkey's presentation from the February Board Meeting Minutes. No answer was provided.

## **F. Old-Business – No Old Business**

### **G. New Business**

#### **1. Abolishment & Creation of Position Resolution #08-26**

A Motion was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Bokmuller, to approve Resolution #08-26 to abolish the Economic Developer position and create an SSA position. This SSA position will be the new InterRAI Assessor. Ms. Dreaden asked about the role of the position being abolished and where those duties have been assigned. Ms. Finnerty stated that the person in that position was the business liaison and had built a lot of connections in the community. The duties have been rolled into other positions; some of the business connections remain and we are working to build additional connections. Ms. Finnerty briefly reviewed what we know about the new state InterRAI assessment and the Assessor position. The Motion was approved with a unanimous "yes" vote.

## H. Reports Review

a. Superintendent's Report – Ms. Finnerty reviewed the Superintendent's Report and addressed Board questions.

b. Financial Reports

➤ Revenue

- YTD Federal Chart – Received CY23 Cost Report Settlement in January of 2026; should have been in December of 2025.
- YTD State Chart – We had one CAP housing project in early 2025.
- YTD Local Chart – School tuition costs less.
- Ms. Bokmuller asked about the wait list for housing. Ms. Petrarca stated that while some individuals may be waiting for a housing voucher or an accessible option to open, there is no “waiting list” for housing. When an immediate need arises, it is met.
- Ms. Bokmuller asked if we can work with more than one housing agency. Ms. Bates stated that we are and we have in the past, although at this time we only have a contract with Summit Housing.

➤ Expenditure

- We are at 15.97%; projected at 16.67%.
- Reduced general reserve appropriation to equal 40% of prior year's general fund expenses. This is a decrease of \$88,884.00; this occurs annually once prior year books close.
- Liability and Violence insurance renewed.
- Vehicle insurance renewed.
- Special Projects compared to prior year equal CAP housing pass through.

➤ Cash Balance

- \$33.7M.
- Compared to PY Cap Imp. Fund – change in capital reserve.
- NEON – larger locally funded contract expenses due to DSP wage increase; transfer completed January of 2026, last year transfer was completed April 2025.

➤ Monthly Cash Flow

- \$962K of fund balance used in February.
- \$4M YTD use of fund balance.

➤ Voucher Report

- Ms. Bokmuller requested year-over-year information on the voucher report. Ms. Bates stated that this information can be found in the expense report.

c. Approval of Financial Reports Resolution #09-26

While a roll call vote was taken on this Resolution, there was no Motion or Second made. This Resolution will need to be brought back at the April Board Meeting to be appropriately voted on.

➤ Board Stats Report.

- Ms. Lees reviewed the changes that were made to this report based on the feedback from the Board Report Workgroup.
- Ms. Bokmuller is looking for percentages regarding enrollment increases/decreases.
- Ms. Dreaden liked the new chart.

- Ms. Smith liked the age breakdown. Ms. Smith would like to keep the SSA/I&R count. The Board agreed.
- Mr. Hartman requested that we keep the old report for at least one more month while we work out the new report.
- Ms. Bokmuller asked Mr. Gryskiewicz if he and Ms. Maleckar are still working on some of the other data points that were discussed in the Board Report Workgroup i.e. housing, MUIs, customer experience, employment, etc. Mr. Gryskiewicz stated that yes, he and Ms. Maleckar are still discussing how this information can be reported; an update can be provided in April.

### **III. Open Forum**

Sandra Thomas Fain shared the difference between non-profit and not-for-profit, which was questioned earlier in the Board Meeting by Mr. Hartman.

Non-profit – Serves the public good i.e. charities, tax exempt status.

Not-for-profit – Serves the members i.e. hobbies/sports clubs, limited tax exemption.

General Questions/Comments:

- Mr. Hartman complimented Ms. Maleckar on attending the Hinckley Township Trustee Meeting and the article in The Gazette.
- Mr. Hartman also stated that he saw that Cloverleaf Local Schools is challenging the Budget Commission. Ms. Finnerty stated we are closely monitoring this. A Budget Commission Meeting regarding schools is scheduled on Wednesday, March 25.
- Mr. Hartman asked if federal money would be cut back if we lose local money. Ms. Bates stated that we cannot scale back match costs tied to waivers; we are required to pay them. With other federal funding, like the MAC program, we could risk losing if we didn't have the local match to pay.
- Mr. Hartman stated that he feels the Board should utilize committees more and look at the process/rules. Ms. Lees will pull the guidance on Board Committees and share with the Board.
- Mr. Hartman would like to see the new referrals number on the stats report rather than in the Superintendent's Report.
- Mr. Hartman asked why it was decided to abolish the Economic Developer position rather than just leaving it vacant. Ms. Finnerty stated that if we feel there is a need for that position in the future, we will bring it back to the Board. Ms. Bates stated that whenever a position is vacated, we evaluate to decide what would be the best use of the position. We prefer to be budget neutral with these changes.
- Ms. Bokmuller mentioned the Board looking at the policy manual and making recommendations to the Board about committees, their role, etc.
- Mr. Gryskiewicz reminded the Board Members to complete the required MUI trainings prior to the MUI presentation scheduled for the April Board Meeting.

**IV. Executive Session**

There was no Executive Session.

**V. Adjournment**

A Motion was made by Mr. Hartman, seconded by Ms. Dreaden, to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. The Motion was approved with a unanimous “yes” vote.

**FOR APPROVAL:**

A Motion to approve was made by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair  
Medina County Board of DD

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Secretary  
Medina County Board of DD

# Presentation

## No Attachment

# Follow Up

(No Attachment)

# Old Business

**No Attachment**

# New Business



**RESOLUTION #09-26**

**March 23, 2026**

**ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2026**

A motion was made by \_\_\_\_\_, and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, to authorize the Board to accept the financial reports for the month of February, 2026.

**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED AND ASSIGNED RESOLUTION #09-26.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair  
Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities



**RESOLUTION #10-26**

**April 27, 2026**

**MEDINA COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

**APPROPRIATION TRANSFER**

A motion was made by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ to authorize the Medina County Auditor to make the following appropriation transfers (\$39,117.00) from School Admin-PERS to School Admin-STRS:

From:	To:	Amount:
33001019-50080 – School Admin PERS	33001019-50082 – School Admin STRS	\$30,133.00
33003073-50080 – Nursing PERS	33003073-50082 – Nursing STRS	\$8,984.00

**Explanation:**

This transfer is needed due to improperly allocated appropriations for three staff (formula error). This transfer was already submitted to the County Auditor due to the STRS accounts being in the negative.

**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED AND ASSIGNED RESOLUTION #10-26.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Board Chair  
 Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities



**RESOLUTION #11-26**

**April 27, 2026**

**MEDINA COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

**EXCESS PROPERTY**

A motion was made by \_\_\_\_\_, and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, to declare the attached items as excess property and unusable by the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

**Explanation:**

The MCBDD Maintenance and/or IT Departments have inspected and evaluated these items and determined that the items are unneeded. This property will be sold through auction or other means as specified in ORC 307.12, Disposition of Unneeded, Obsolete or Unfit Personal Property.

**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED AND ASSIGNED RESOLUTION #11-26.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Board Chair  
 Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities

**Auction List**

7002	Lenovo ThinkBook 15-IIL	No longer useful to agency
7496	Lenovo ThinkBook 15-IIL	No SSD. No longer useful to agency.
6733	Lenovo ThinkPad E14 Gen 1	No longer useful to agency
6736	Lenovo ThinkPad E14 Gen 1	No longer useful to agency
6729	Lenovo ThinkPad E14 Gen 1	No longer useful to agency
6728	Lenovo ThinkPad E14 Gen 1	No longer useful to agency
6730	Lenovo ThinkPad E14 Gen 1	No longer useful to agency
7808	iPad 6th Gen	Damaged display, touch still good, for parts
6443	Lenovo ThinkPad E565	No longer useful to agency

**Disposal List**

7137	Apple iPad 11" A16	Broken, damaged battery.	Recycle
6895	ViewSonic LCD Monitor	Broken	RET3
A1440	Filing Cabinet	Broken	Recycle
A1435	Filing Cabinet	Broken	Recycle
A1439	Filing Cabinet	Broken	Recycle
A1065	Filing Cabinet	Broken	Recycle
W3248	Filing Cabinet	Broken	Recycle
A1438	Filing Cabinet	Broken	Recycle
A1436	Filing Cabinet	Broken	Recycle
S4274	Filing Cabinet	Broken	Recycle
W4335	Filing Cabinet	Broken	Recycle

# Monthly Reports

# 2025-2027 Strategic Plan Recap

FOCUS AREA 1

## Community Partnership

Enhancing partnerships and outreach that support inclusion, awareness, and engagement in the community.

- Initiatives:**
1. Increase Community Employment through community partnerships throughout the county.
  2. Use community partners to increase inclusion and accessibility throughout the county.
  3. Engage community partners through outreach and education.

FOCUS AREA 2

## Wellbeing

Fostering a holistic approach that supports individuals throughout their lives.

- Initiatives:**
1. Connect individuals and families with supports and resources for wellbeing.
  2. Increase advocacy skills for individuals to utilize throughout their lives.
  3. Expand the utilization of technology to promote independence and inclusion.
  4. Analyze sustainability of MCBDD supports and services

FOCUS AREA 3

## Thriving Workforce

Cultivating professional workforces that are engaged, informed, invested, and valued.

- Initiatives:**
1. Assist in recruitment and retention for positions in the developmental disabilities field.
  2. Support, train, and develop leadership and workforce.
  3. Promote a culture of value and respect within the local DD system.
  4. Engage workforces to increase communication and enhance relationships.

**AT OUR CORE**  
**We Are Grounded In Purpose**

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

April, 2026

Strategic Plan References in Green

### ADMINISTRATION

In response to the dashboard workgroup meetings, the following reports have been modified or changed:

- Quarterly report: Contract Report – moved responsible department next to contractor name, sorted by dollar amount and then responsible department, notes field added for comments related to a particular contract – renewals, price changes, etc.
- Quarterly report: Fiscal Indicator Report - being replaced with a waiver statistic report. The group felt that the Board financial information was already included in the Board financial reports and that the service-related costs information was unrelatable and felt that providing counts for various types of funding was more applicable. New referrals by age group will be tracked starting with April information. Administration will be discussing whether to continue with the fiscal indicator report (community facing) as opposed to including it in the Board packet.
- Monthly Board report: Board Stats Report – updated to add new referrals by age group, individuals assigned to SSA & IR (with footnote definitions), and individuals served with local funding – FSS and ISP authorize services. These should be all the requested updates for this report.
- The Ombudsmen and Catholic Charities will begin providing “open office” hours at the Medina Library every other week. This is collaboration between our Ombudsmen program and Catholic Charities to provide supports in the community. The Ombudsmen, Jill Boxler, and Michelle Kipfstuhl, Catholic Charities, will split the assigned days. MCBDD will be billed for any conversations regarding DD services, Early Intervention, IEPs, etc. This will be a 3-month trial to determine if the need is there.
- Stacey Maleckar participated in the speaking panel for *Advocating for Change: Disability Policy Updates from DC* presentation hosted by the Autism Society of Greater Akron. The discussion was to share information and takeaways from participating at the Disability Policy Seminar in March.

### SERVICE & SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION

- The SSA Department has one opening for which we are currently reviewing applications and scheduling interviews. While this was technically a newly added position, the new hire will be acting as a backfill position for the current SSA that is identified as the InterRAI Assessor.
- The first InterRAI Assessor training occurred this month, and the Summit County Assessor has started reaching out to gather information and schedule the DODD-selected 15 Medina individuals identified for phase one. The selected Medina Assessor will attend the second round of training, which is scheduled to occur in the second week of June.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- April is Autism Acceptance Month; outreach efforts across the nation continue to support a move from “Awareness” to “Acceptance.” MCBDD promoted these efforts through several articles in local media.
- MCBDD participated in an interview on 3/27 with Wadsworth Community Radio related to DD Awareness Month, collaborations with first responders, and the Donor Scholarship.

- MCBDD participated in the Pinwheel Garden project during the month of April to support awareness of child abuse. Also participated in the Pinwheel Walk on 4/19 and provided information related to bullying of people with developmental differences.
- MCBDD participated in the Brunswick Senior Expo on 4/1 and provided general agency information and information related to seniors and family members who may have disabilities.
- MCBDD participated in the Medina Rec Center Touch-A-Truck event on 4/25 and promoted general agency information and inclusion resources.
- MCBDD participated in the NEO Transition Fair and provided information about transition age related information.

### **Upcoming Engagements and Promotions**

- May promotions will include Early Intervention and Developmental Milestones, Safety Town Plus+, Mental Health Month, Donor Scholarship Recipient, and Provider Job Fair.

### **EARLY INTERVENTION**

- The Early Intervention team held their first play group in Lodi on 3/20. The event was a wonderful success with an increase in attendance of babies!
- We are continuing our collaboration with the Buckeye Branch of the MCDL system for their toddler and baby spring story-time series.
- EI Coordinator/EISC Supervisor participated in a grant mandated monitoring meeting with a regional consultant and compliance specialist from DCY. The meeting was collaborative and productive and gave our EI program some great direction to finish out SFY26.
- Our program is in the preparation stages for the upcoming 45-day monitoring compliance indicator. This compliance measure ensures that our program takes no longer than 45 days from referral through initial IFSP to complete all necessary steps and activities.
- During the month of March, Team A and Team B both participated in their first in-person team meeting since before COVID, hosted by the Medina County Health Department. Weekly team meetings are typically held virtually, but we are planning for some increase in in-person team meetings in SFY27 to promote more team collaboration.

### **WINDFALL SCHOOL**

- Art Fest will be held on 4/24 to celebrate our students' artwork for the school year. Studio 21 will be there to support an all-student artwork piece.
- Two families came in for tours, looking at their child's placement.
- A new daycare connection was made for behavior support. (Focus Area 1)

### **COMMUNITY SUPPORTS & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

#### **Community Partnerships**

- The Medina County Employment Collaborative (MCEC), chaired by MCBDD Employment Navigator, Jason Dresden, met at the Medina County Career Center South for their quarterly meeting on 3/17. The business spotlight was the Meijer store in Medina, which discussed a variety of openings at the store. A total of 22 people attended representing provider agencies, community organizations, and businesses.

**Past Trainings and Presentations**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title of Training</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Target Audience</b>
3/18/2026	Provider & SSA Mingle, Voting Info & Rights for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities <i>Attendance: 40</i>	Medina County Board of Elections	Providers & SSAs
3/24/2026	MUI Training & Stakeholder Meeting <i>Attendance: 35</i>	Nik Pokrzywa & Brittney Kosinski, Investigative Agents	Individuals/Families Other Stakeholders Providers
4/15/2026	Frontline Supervisor Mingle- Supportive Tech (Focus Area 3)	Connie Jack, Assistive Technology Specialist	Agency Frontline Supervisors
4/15/2026	CPI training	Jerry Thomas, Individual Supports Coordinator	Providers

**Upcoming Trainings and Presentations**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title of Training</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Target Audience</b>
4/21/2026	Crisis Safety: Preparing, Responding and Repairing	Jerry Thomas, Individual Supports Coordinator	Individuals/Families Other Stakeholders Providers
4/22/2026	Independent Provider Meet & Greet – Tableau Use, Advocacy	Courtney Jordan, Provider Relations & Family Support Specialist and Molly Usner, Community Resource Coordinator	Independent Providers

**Advocacy**

- **People Together** - Four Advocates spoke to 40 Buckeye Elementary students on 3/6 and two Advocates spoke to 77 students at St. Francis on 3/13. The students listened to the Advocates attentively, asking very insightful questions, such as: How does it feel when people stare at you? What is their biggest struggle and how do they overcome it or work on overcoming it?
- **Advocacy Meeting** - The General Advocacy Meeting was held over Zoom with three group homes and one individual participant present. We talked about events happening around town, the new Guest Comfort Zone at the Akron Zoo, the mandate for all airports installing universal changing stations, and Nike’s new running shoe that was developed for and with those with Down Syndrome. We also talked a little about Earth Day and ways to be better to the environment in preparation for our Earth Day Mingle next month.
- **Leadership Academy** - Participants have been selected and contacted; our first class will be held on 4/21. We have a new time frame this year, outside of regular work hours, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

## **Provider Support**

### **DSP Spotlight**

**Mary Findley** was recognized as the April DSP Spotlight. Mary has been an Independent Provider for seven years. Mary was nominated by a parent who shared, *“Mary is so valued and appreciated by our family. She is patient and caring and truly understands my daughter. Mary respects and encourages my daughter’s independence but is also a trusted resource for her when needed. Their relationship adds immeasurable quality to my daughter’s life.”*

When asked, what is your favorite part of being a Direct Support Professional, Mary replied, *“My favorite part is seeing the people I work with grow as individuals. I find it really rewarding when someone identifies new things about themselves and pursues their interests; whether it's new skills or hobbies they enjoy or just a new type of food that they like to eat. I love seeing someone explore what interests them and evolve as an individual!”*

Congratulations, Mary!!! Thank you for all you do!!!

### **DSP Appreciation – Spring**

Over 700 treat bags went out to DSPs and Direct Care Staff of 18 participating Provider Agencies in Medina County. Just to say, “Thank you!” and “MCBDD appreciates all they do.”



## **OPERATIONS**

- Finalizing assessment software related to Microsoft Office skills. Following assessment results, training will be developed. (Focus Area 3)
- Tech replacement devices have been ordered and will be deployed as the devices arrive.

## **SPECIAL OLYMPICS OHIO, MEDINA COUNTY**

**219 Athletes; 23 Unified Partners**

138 Bowling; 22 Unified Partners

18 Volleyball

35 Track

7 Powerlifting

21 Bocce; 1 Unified Partner

- **Bowling** - The Invitational was scheduled for 4/18 with 20 Medina bowlers participating. The Bowling Banquet will be held on 5/4. Six Bowling Athletes will be selected to go to the State Summer Games. The Bowling sponsorship program will increase in Fall 2026; this is due to the fact AMF Medina Lanes has raised their fees.
- **Volleyball** - Practices began on 3/17 and will be held on Tuesday/Wednesday this year. Four games were played on 3/28 due to a condensed spring sport schedule.

- Track - Practices began on 3/17. The Track Meet scheduled for 5/17 at Brunswick HS has been cancelled.
- Powerlifting - Practices began on 3/3. Three new Powerlifting Athletes signed up this season.

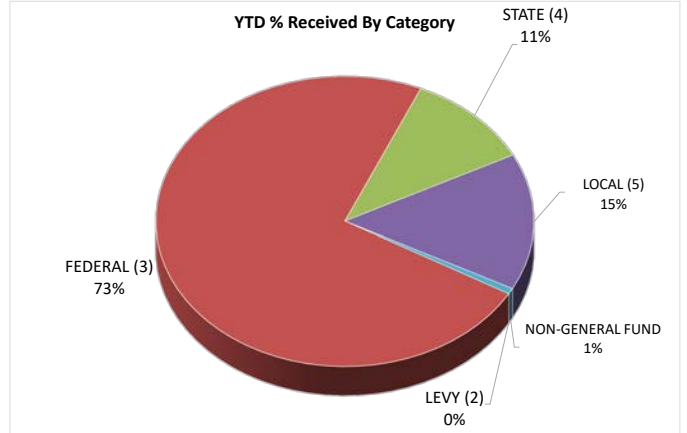
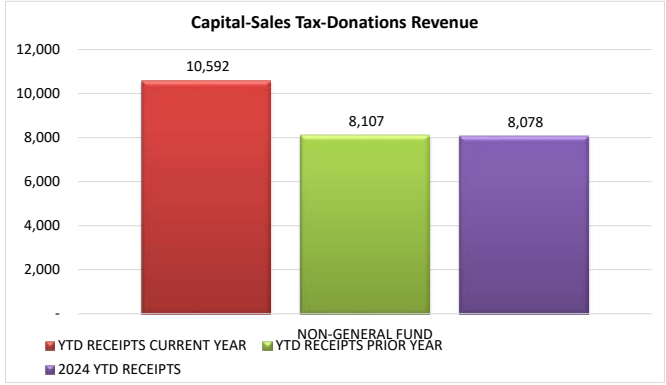
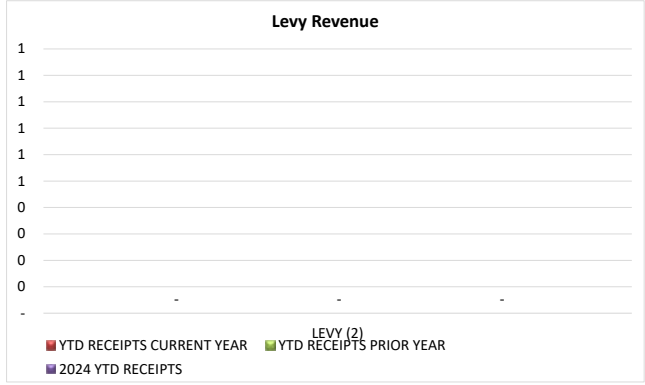
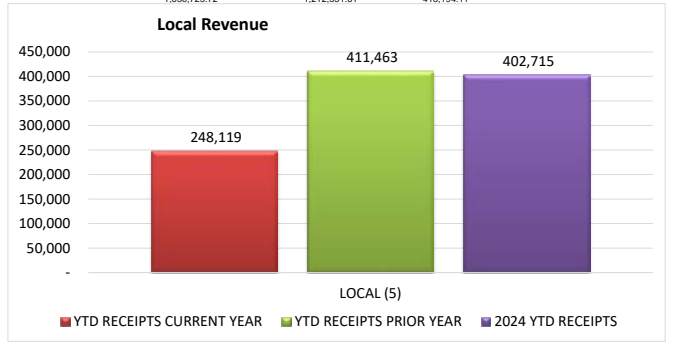
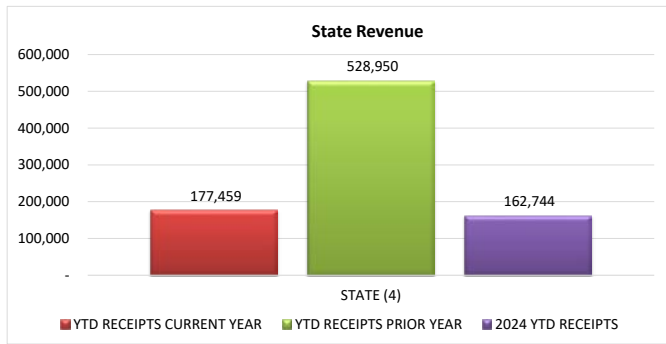
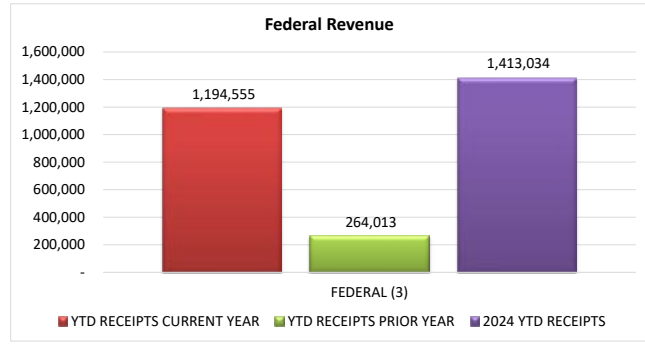
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The newly hired S.O. Medina Coordinator, Leah Casey, is scheduled to start on 5/4.
- Free YMCA membership continues for Athletes, through collaboration with S.O. OHIO; the S.O. Medina program continues to share information regarding this free membership throughout the year.
- Athlete Jared Sundby and Unified partner Eric Sundby have been selected to participate in Unified Golf at the USA Games being held at the University of Minnesota in 2026. USA Games Team Ohio training camp is scheduled for 4/10-12 at OSU. The 2026 USA Games are scheduled for 6/19-6/27 at the University of Minnesota. The Medina Coordinator, Amy Smith, has been selected to be the 2026 Team Ohio USA Games Family Support Coordinator. Over 300 Ohio family and friends will attend the event; approximately 10,000 spectators and 3,000 Athletes are expected from across the country.
- All medical and health history forms will be collected by S.O. Ohio beginning 1/1/2027 – actual process is still being formulated.
- The S.O. Medina program needs a Pickleball venue and coach in 2027.
- 4/16 - A Presentation about the SO Medina program was scheduled at Brunswick Rotary Club.
- 4/19 – Regional Tennis, Powerlifting, and Volleyball was scheduled at Medina High School.
- 4/25 – Regional Bocce is scheduled at Italian American Club in Wickliffe.
- 4/26 – Regional Athletics (Track and Field) is scheduled at Bedford High School.
- 5/9 – Raymond Biegel Memorial Tournament is scheduled.
- 5/29-31 – State Summer Games.
- 6/19-27 – USA Games at the University of Minnesota.
- 8/8 – Annual Softball Tournament scheduled in Tuscarawas County.
- 8/22-23 – Regional Softball at Willig Park, Canton, Ohio.
- 8/29 – Race For Glory fundraising event scheduled at Buckeye Woods.

**MEDINA COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
MONTHLY STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS  
ALL FUNDS (1) - NEW REPORT BY CATEGORY  
3/31/2026**

REVENUE CATEGORY	BUDGETED RECEIPTS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	VARIANCE ANALYSIS				MTD %	
														YTD RECEIPTS CURRENT YEAR	YTD RECEIPTS PRIOR YEAR	INCREASE (DECREASE)	% INCR. (DECR.)	% OF BUDGET RECEIVED	
LEVY (2)	20,286,010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FEDERAL (3)	3,729,958	986,637	85,876	122,042	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,194,555	264,013	930,542	352.46	32.03
STATE (4)	972,000	53,476	75,329	48,655	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	177,459	528,950	(351,491)	(66.45)	18.26
LOCAL (5)	1,101,739	61,698	157,380	29,042	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	248,119	411,463	(163,343)	(39.70)	22.52
NON-GENERAL FUND	37,400	7,767	-	2,825	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,592	8,107	2,486	30.66	28.32
	<b>26,127,107</b>	<b>1,109,578</b>	<b>318,584</b>	<b>202,563</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1,630,726</b>	<b>1,212,532</b>	<b>418,194</b>	<b>34.49</b>	<b>6.24</b>
check:	26,127,107	1,109,578.15	318,584.42	202,563.15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,630,725.72	1,212,531.61	418,194.11		

TRANSFER (9)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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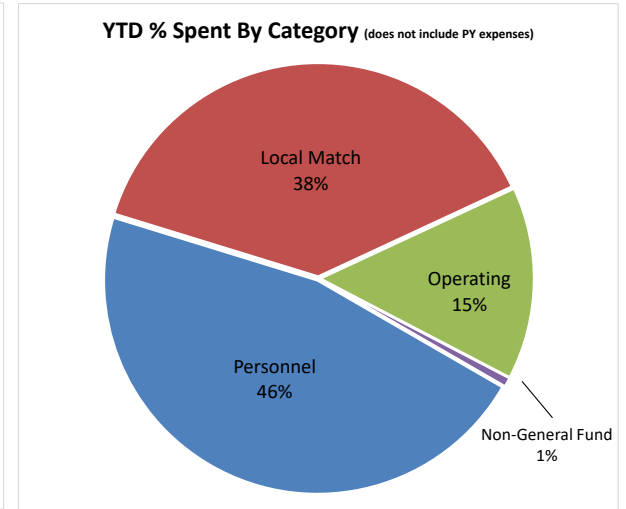
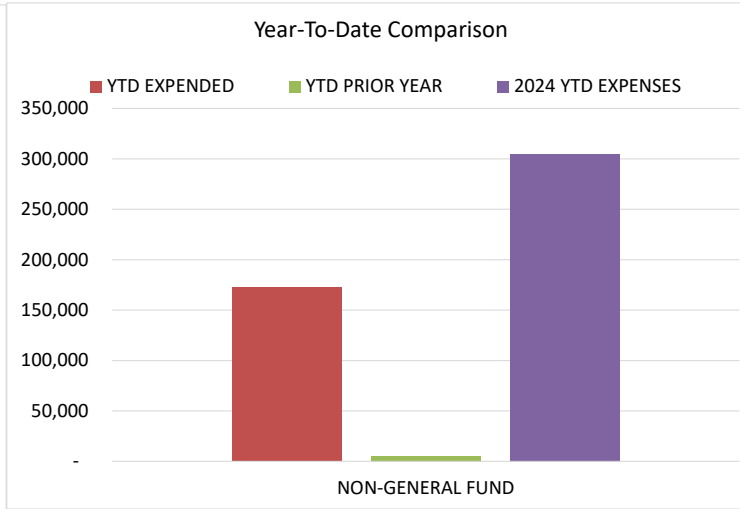
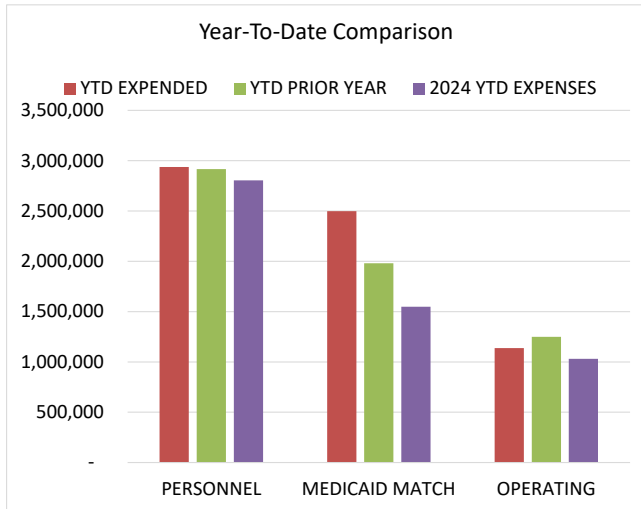


**Footnotes:**

1. This report combines all funds for MCBDD (General (3300), Capital (2855), Capital Sales Tax (2856) and Donated (3315)).
2. LEVY - Real Estate taxes and Rollback/Homestead (paid by the State) are each received twice a year. Typically in April/May and August/September, respectively.
3. FEDERAL - Targeted Case Management (TCM), Waiver, Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) revenues, as well as other Federal grants (Title XX, National School Lunch, Title VI). Medicaid Settlements - cost report and waiver match reconciliations. For CY26 budgeted for FY24 waiver match reconciliation and CY23 cost report settlement. Received the CY22 Cost report settlement in January 2026 that was expected December 2025.
4. STATE - Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODE-W) subsidy, as well as other State grants (Rental Assistance Program (RAP), Attorney General School Safety Grant, Keeping Families Together (KFT), and Capital Housing pass-thru funds).
5. LOCAL - School tuition, EI service coordination contract, county vehicle maintenance management, JFS match share, school lunch accounts, auction, scrap, rent, refunds, benefit contributions for PT staff.
6. CAPITAL - State capital grant funds (non-residential) - State FY bi-ennium cycle, other miscellaneous.
7. SALES TAX - Sales tax funds received for the benefit of capital projects for Windfall School only. Received quarterly.
8. DONATIONS (including interest and refunds): Mar - \$2,825.00 (Storypoint East bake sale proceeds - \$125 to donor scholarships, Robert Sefcik for camperships - \$1,200, Mark & Lisa Krosse for donor scholarships - \$1,500)
9. TRANSFER - Cash transfer from general fund to capital improvement fund - no cash transfers expected in CY26.

**MEDINA COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
MONTHLY EXPENDITURE STATEMENT  
ALL FUNDS (1) - NEW REPORT BY CATEGORY  
March 2026**

EXPENSE CATEGORY	INITIAL BUDGET	BUDGET CHANGES	ADJUSTED BUDGET	YTD PRIOR YEAR EXPENSES (3)	YTD VARIANCE ANALYSIS			YTD VARIANCE ANALYSIS		MTD %	25.00%		
					JAN	FEB	MAR	YTD BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	YTD PRIOR YEAR	INCREASE (DECREASE)	CY UNSPENT BALANCE	% SPENT
PERSONNEL (4)	13,276,708	-	13,276,708	-	1,000,075	958,407	979,018	3,115,271	2,937,500	2,916,136	21,364	10,339,208	22.13
LOCAL MATCH (2)	13,455,055	-	13,455,055	73,748	2,448,591	28,936	21,510	3,363,764	2,499,037	1,979,837	519,200	11,029,767	18.03
OPERATING (5)	4,681,383	-	4,681,383	215,087	709,177	218,458	209,683	1,170,346	1,137,318	1,249,413	(112,095)	3,759,152	19.70
NON-GENERAL FUND (6)	445,280	-	445,280	129,382	3,380	74,808	94,226	111,320	172,415	5,325	167,090	402,247	9.66
	<b>31,858,427</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,858,427</b>	<b>418,217</b>	<b>4,161,223</b>	<b>1,280,609</b>	<b>1,304,437</b>	<b>7,760,701</b>	<b>6,746,270</b>	<b>6,150,710</b>	<b>595,559</b>	<b>25,530,374</b>	<b>19.86</b>
			<b>MTD PRIOR YEAR EXPENSES (3)</b>	<b>418,217</b>	<b>195,066</b>	<b>158,218</b>	<b>64,932</b>		<b>418,217</b>	<b>562,715</b>	<b>(144,498)</b>		
	31,858,427	0	31,858,427	418,217	4,161,223.22	1,280,609.38	1,304,436.90	7,760,701	6,746,269.50	6,150,710.48		25,530,374	
TRANSFER (7)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RESERVE GENERAL (8)	10,985,275	(88,884)	10,896,391	-	-	-	-	10,896,391	-	9,528,651	1,367,740	10,896,391	-
RESERVE CAPITAL (8)	2,400,000	-	2,400,000	-	-	-	-	2,400,000	-	1,467,357	932,643	2,400,000	-
	<b>13,385,275</b>	<b>(88,884)</b>	<b>13,296,391</b>					<b>13,296,391</b>		<b>10,996,008</b>	<b>2,300,383</b>	<b>13,296,391</b>	



**FOOTNOTES:**

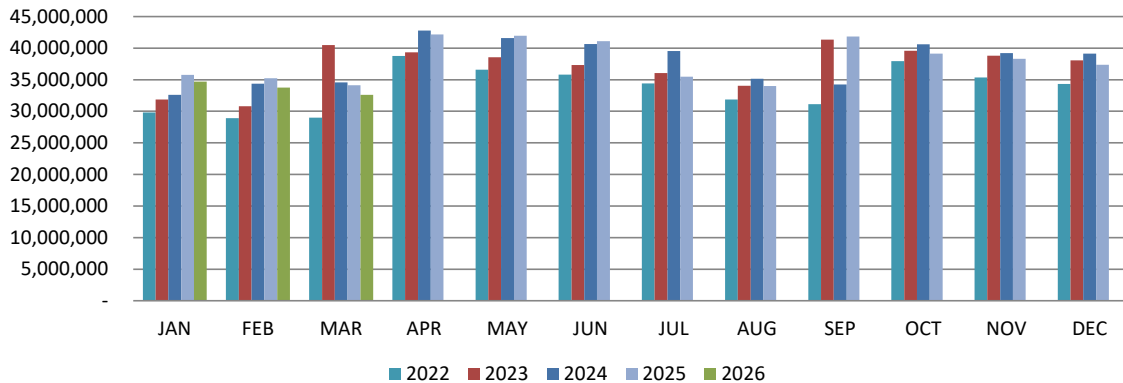
- This report combines all funds for MCBDD (General (3300 , Capital (2855), Sales Tax (2856) and Donated (3315)); Initial Budget is the initial approved 2026 Budget. Budget changes are for appropriation transfers, increases or decreases that occur after the initial budget is approved. Adjusted budget is current budget net of budget changes.
- Local Match includes quarterly payments (Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct) plus 5th invoice (Jul) to DODD for Medicaid match, as well as match for those individuals living in a DC (monthly).
- Prior Year Expenses is 2025 expenses paid in 2026. Starting in 2026, the unspent budget and % spent formulas will not include PY expenditures.
- Personnel - three pay months (May and October 2026). Group Health is paid 2x/month, Dental is paid monthly.
- Operating includes such expenses as supplies, fees, insurance, contract services, utilities, travel, training, equipment, etc.
- Non-general fund category includes capital improvements, capital sales tax and donated fund expenses.
- Transfers- This is not an expense but is needed when money is transferred between funds (e.g. general fund to the capital improvement fund). None needed for 2026.
- Reserve - Designated reserve accounts authorized by ORC 5705.222 (C). The general reserve gets adjusted every year once the prior year books close. General reserve can be up to 40% of prior year expenses.

**MEDINA COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
CASH BALANCE FOR MONTH ENDING: MARCH 31, 2026**

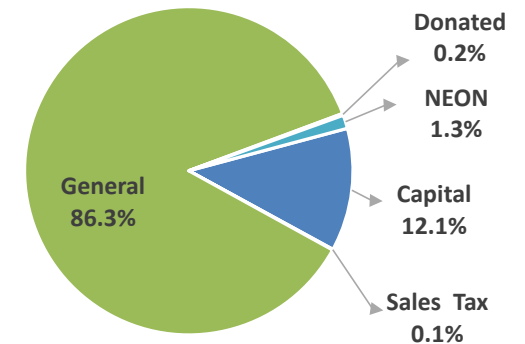
FUND #		CURRENT YEAR	PRIOR YEAR	NET CHANGE (3)
2855	Capital Fund	1,550,468.83	3,057,744.30	(1,507,275.47)
2855	Capital Fund Reserve (2)	2,400,000.00	1,467,357.00	932,643.00
2856	Capital Sales Tax Fund	23,848.19	21,122.97	2,725.22
3300	General Fund	17,251,184.53	19,951,964.20	(2,700,779.67)
3300	General Fund Reserve (2)	10,896,391.00	9,528,651.00	1,367,740.00
3315	Donated Fund	60,466.71	62,212.36	(1,745.65)
NA	Residential Fund- Held by NEON (1)	432,026.26	51,114.87	380,911.39
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>32,614,385.52</b>	<b>34,140,166.70</b>	<b>(1,525,781.18)</b>
	<b>RESERVE TOTAL</b>	<b>13,296,391.00</b>	<b>10,996,008.00</b>	<b>2,300,383.00</b>
	<b>TOTALS LESS RESERVES</b>	<b>19,317,994.52</b>	<b>23,144,158.70</b>	<b>(3,826,164.18)</b>

FUND	CASH BALANCE	% OF TOTAL CASH
Capital	3,950,468.83	12.1%
Sales Tax	23,848.19	0.1%
General	28,147,575.53	86.3%
Donated	60,466.71	0.2%
NEON	432,026.26	1.3%
	<b>32,614,385.52</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Cash Balance (All Funds)**



**% Cash by Fund**



**Footnotes:**

- 1 - Cash held by NEON is used to pay Supported Living and Family Support Services. The annual cash transfer to NEON occurred in January 2026, compared to April in the prior year, resulting in a timing-related difference in reported fund balance.
- 2 - Reserve accounts are authorized under Ohio Revised Code 5705.222. The General Reserve balance is projected to decrease to \$10,896,391 in February 2026, primarily due to prior-year expenditures coming in below budget, resulting in an adjustment needed to this account.
- 3 - Net Change - Year-over-year net changes reflect fund-specific activity and timing factors. The Capital Fund decrease is attributable to expenditures associated with prior-year capital project budgets and change to the capital reserve account. The Capital Sales Tax Fund change reflects the timing of revenue receipts and project expenditures. The General Fund change is primarily driven by the change in the general reserve appropriation and also reflects the deficit spending trend that began in 2025.

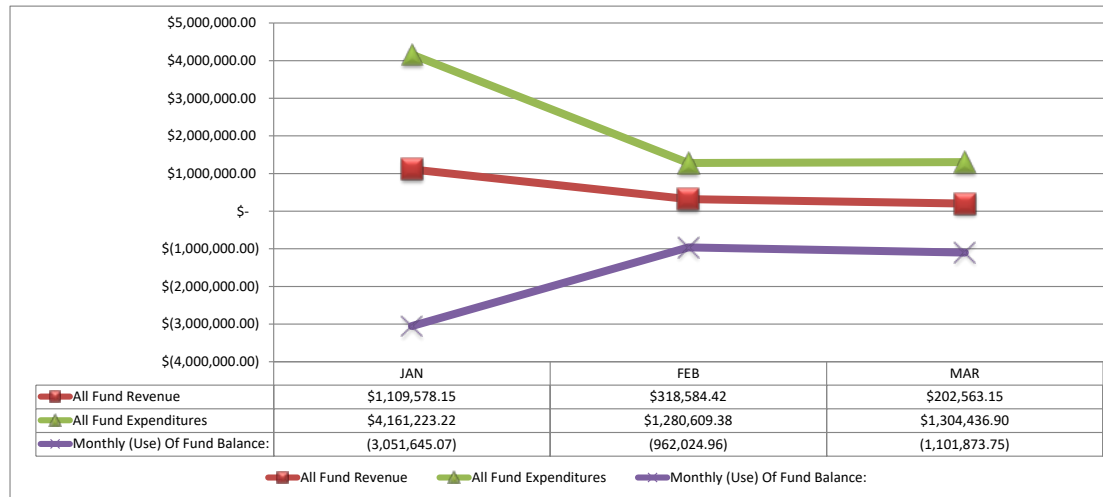
MEDINA COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES						
MONTHLY CASH FLOW						
3/31/2026						
FUND	DESCRIPTION	BEGINNING BALANCE	JAN	FEB	MAR	YTD TOTAL
2855	Capital Improvements Revenue		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,110,508.66
2855	Capital Improvements Expenses		\$ 3,380.00	\$ 74,808.48	\$ 81,851.35	\$ 160,039.83
	<b>Total Cash Available:</b>	<b>\$ 4,110,508.66</b>	<b>\$ 4,107,128.66</b>	<b>\$ 4,032,320.18</b>	<b>\$ 3,950,468.83</b>	<b>\$ 3,950,468.83</b>
2856	Capital Sales Tax Revenue		\$ 7,767.36	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,673.19
2856	Capital Sales Tax Expenses		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,825.00	\$ 11,825.00
	<b>Total Cash Available:</b>	<b>\$ 27,905.83</b>	<b>\$ 35,673.19</b>	<b>\$ 35,673.19</b>	<b>\$ 23,848.19</b>	<b>\$ 23,848.19</b>
3300	General Fund Revenue		\$ 1,101,810.79	\$ 318,584.42	\$ 199,738.15	\$ 34,721,430.20
3300	General Fund Expenditures		\$ 4,157,843.22	\$ 1,205,800.90	\$ 1,210,210.55	\$ 6,573,854.67
	<b>Total Cash Available:</b>	<b>\$ 33,101,296.84</b>	<b>\$ 30,045,264.41</b>	<b>\$ 29,158,047.93</b>	<b>\$ 28,147,575.53</b>	<b>\$ 28,147,575.53</b>
3315	Donated Fund Revenue		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,825.00	\$ 61,016.71
3315	Donated Fund Expenditures		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 550.00	\$ 550.00
	<b>Total Cash Available:</b>	<b>\$ 58,191.71</b>	<b>\$ 58,191.71</b>	<b>\$ 58,191.71</b>	<b>\$ 60,466.71</b>	<b>\$ 60,466.71</b>
ALL	All Fund Revenue		\$ 1,109,578.15	\$ 318,584.42	\$ 202,563.15	\$ 38,928,628.76
ALL	All Fund Expenditures		\$ 4,161,223.22	\$ 1,280,609.38	\$ 1,304,436.90	\$ 6,746,269.50
	<b>Total Cash Available:</b>	<b>\$ 37,297,903.04</b>	<b>\$ 34,246,257.97</b>	<b>\$ 33,284,233.01</b>	<b>\$ 32,182,359.26</b>	<b>\$ 32,182,359.26</b>

check 34,246,257.97 33,284,233.01 32,182,359.26 32,182,359.26

Monthly (Use) Of Fund Balance: (3,051,645.07) (962,024.96) (1,101,873.75) (5,115,543.78)

**FOOTNOTES:**

(1) Funds held at NEON are not included here since money available is already included as a transfer from Fund 3300, earmarked for Supported Living and Family Support Services (NEON balance 3/31/26: \$432,026.26)



Mar 2026 - Invoice History by GL Account  
Account then Vendor Summary

Account-Vendor	Sum of AMOUNT
<b>Advertising</b>	
Alonovus Corp	\$ 1,619.25
Joy Of Medina County	\$ 936.00
Wadsworth Communicat	\$ 125.00
<b>Advertising Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,680.25</b>
<b>Capital Projects</b>	
Budget Blinds Of Med	\$ 3,887.00
Eversharp Power Equi	\$ 14,998.00
Kamm Star Contractor	\$ 27,485.00
Rycon Construction	\$ 26,775.85
Securitec One Inc	\$ 8,705.50
South Akron Awning C	11,825.00
<b>Capital Projects Total</b>	<b>\$ 93,676.35</b>
<b>Contract Services</b>	
Ac Passage Enterpris	\$ 12,063.53
Advanced Behavior	\$ 1,000.00
Airgas Usa Llc	\$ 4.08
American Red Cross H	\$ 168.00
Anoh Phylippe	\$ 1,226.40
Apollo Pest Control	\$ 95.92
Armstrong Cable Serv	\$ 304.90
Asian Services In Ac	\$ 115.30
Biometric Informatio	\$ 800.00
Brittco Llc	\$ 7,100.00
Consumer Support Ser	\$ 3,350.58
Country Life Kids Ca	\$ 400.00
Cross Creek Apartmen	\$ 661.00
E.S. Beveridge & Ass	\$ 102.00
Enhance Ability Llc	\$ 6,772.33
Esc Of Medina County	\$ 2,112.00
Fairlawngig	\$ 600.00
Gold Care Services	\$ 960.00
Independent Employme	\$ 4,227.54
Innovation Food Serv	\$ 1,093.26
Internet Data Manage	\$ 1,200.00
Intervention For Pea	\$ 668.19
Invo Healthcare Asso	\$ 4,849.13
Iron Mountain Inc	\$ 6,836.70
Language Learning As	\$ 20,439.47
Larlham Hattie	\$ 115.50
Leadership Medina Co	\$ 4,661.25
Medina County Agricu	\$ 300.00
Medina County Transi	\$ 6,390.88
Medina Creative Acce	\$ 6,458.98
Medina Creative Hous	\$ 1,839.72
Medina Metropolitan	\$ 581.00
Midwest Innovations	\$ 8,035.86
Music Izz Groovy - M	\$ 975.00
Neon	\$ 13,535.53
Nurturing Hands And	\$ 500.00
Onebridge Support Se	\$ 797.50
Project 16	\$ 780.00
Renaissance Learning	\$ 500.00
Society For Handicap	\$ 3,347.62
Special Olympics Of	\$ 1,674.00
Stericycle Inc	\$ 230.20
Summa Health Corp	\$ 160.00
Summit Housing Devel	\$ 500.00
Treasurer State Of O	\$ 409.00
Viaquest Day And Emp	\$ 2,574.95
Visual Edge It Inc	\$ 1,464.98
We Thrive Together	\$ 2,750.00
Windfall Industries	\$ 3,454.94
<b>Contract Services Total</b>	<b>\$ 139,187.24</b>

Mar 2026 - Invoice History by GL Account  
Account then Vendor Summary

Account-Vendor	Sum of AMOUNT
<b>Dental</b>	
Delta Dental Plan Of	\$ 10,427.90
<b>Dental Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,427.90</b>
<b>Equipment</b>	
Amazon Capital Servi	\$ 549.00
Capital Choice Offic	\$ 4,540.00
Famous Enterprises	\$ 885.91
<b>Equipment Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,974.91</b>
<b>Gasoline</b>	
Wex Bank	\$ 220.38
<b>Gasoline Total</b>	<b>\$ 220.38</b>
<b>Local Match</b>	
Treasurer State Of O	\$ 21,509.88
<b>Local Match Total</b>	<b>\$ 21,509.88</b>
<b>Materials</b>	
Famous Enterprises	\$ 485.69
<b>Materials Total</b>	<b>\$ 485.69</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>	
Academy Of Nutrition	\$ 264.00
American Red Cross H	\$ 1,050.00
Medina County Senior	\$ 70.00
School Nutrition Ass	\$ 173.00
<b>Other Expenses Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,557.00</b>
<b>Printing</b>	
Minuteman Press	\$ 396.89
<b>Printing Total</b>	<b>\$ 396.89</b>
<b>Rentals</b>	
Medina County Senior	\$ 125.00
Pitney Bowes Global	\$ 347.73
Sister Circle Medina	\$ 50.00
<b>Rentals Total</b>	<b>\$ 522.73</b>
<b>Repairs</b>	
Kamm Star Contractor	\$ 415.50
Pro Door And Securit	\$ 2,702.08
Securitec One Inc	\$ 192.00
Us Communications An	\$ 2,281.00
<b>Repairs Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,590.58</b>
<b>Special Projects</b>	
Intervention For Pea	\$ 1,250.00
Medina Creative Acce	\$ 878.67
Momentum Agencies	\$ 5,220.00
Project 16	\$ 390.00
Transitional Living	\$ 1,000.00
Windfall Industries	\$ 539.00
<b>Special Projects Total</b>	<b>\$ 9,277.67</b>
<b>Supplies</b>	
4 Imprint Inc	\$ 2,350.66
Amazon Capital Servi	\$ 2,116.49
Borden Dairy	\$ 258.84
Buehlers Food Market	\$ 887.22
Gordon Food Service	\$ 732.50
Home Depot Credit Se	\$ 426.79
Northrich Company	\$ 228.32
Pitney Bowes Reserve	\$ 1,983.64
Riverside Insights	\$ 1,486.19
T.F.H. (Usa) Ltd.	\$ 76.05
Trevipay	\$ 621.05
United Business Supp	\$ 2,006.62
<b>Supplies Total</b>	<b>\$ 13,174.37</b>

Mar 2026 - Invoice History by GL Account  
Account then Vendor Summary

<b>Account-Vendor</b>	<b>Sum of AMOUNT</b>
<b>Travel/Training</b>	
Bates Carey	\$ 153.12
Call Jenifer	\$ 196.46
Cooper Kristen	\$ 318.28
Fulton Savannah	\$ 68.80
Humphrey Debbie	\$ 305.95
Huntington National	\$ 877.01
Jaeger Amber	\$ 370.48
Kaptein Megan	\$ 106.50
Kirkpatrick Sherri	\$ 71.78
Lee Nastacia	\$ 179.44
Majkrzak Ashley	\$ 263.97
Majoros Paula	\$ 119.20
Maleckar Stacey	\$ 71.05
Mayes Hannah	\$ 52.49
Palasik Megan	\$ 349.60
Pryor Learning, Llc	\$ 199.00
Ricci Caitlyn	\$ 74.68
Sass Nicole	\$ 248.32
Schindler Natasha	\$ 156.24
School Nutrition Ass	\$ 359.00
Scozzaro Christine	\$ 158.05
Selva Lilly	\$ 132.11
Smith Amy C	\$ 142.83
Smith Amy L	\$ 152.25
Smith Casey	\$ 151.20
The Arc Of The Unite	\$ 495.00
The Pulse Provider	\$ 325.00
Ulmer Paxton	\$ 161.82
Wachsberger Diana	\$ 255.28
Zingales Samantha	\$ 30.45
<b>Travel/Training Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,545.36</b>
<b>Utilities</b>	
Columbia Gas Of Ohio	\$ 4,845.96
First Communications	\$ 2,433.98
Medina County Sanita	\$ 1,526.84
Ohio Edison Company	\$ 13,251.79
T-Mobile	\$ 2,063.89
Wm Corporate Service	\$ 497.08
<b>Utilities Total</b>	<b>\$ 24,619.54</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 335,846.74</b>

**Financial Statements for the month of March 2026**

The following financial reports are submitted for acceptance by the Board of the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities:

1. **Statement of Revenue for the period ending March 31, 2026.**
2. **Statement of Expenses for the period ending March 31, 2026.**
3. **Statement of Cash Balance for the period ending March 31, 2026.**
4. **Statement of Monthly Cash Flow for the period ending March 31, 2026.**
5. **Voucher-Vendor Report for the month of March 2026.**

By: Carey A. Bates 4/8/26  
Carey A. Bates, Director of Business Date

By: Stacey Maleckar 4/9/26  
Stacey Maleckar, Superintendent Date

Note: There should be a motion and a roll call vote to accept the statements as presented.



**RESOLUTION #12-26**

**April 27, 2026**

**ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2026**

A motion was made by \_\_\_\_\_, and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, to authorize the Board to accept the financial reports for the month of March, 2026.

**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED AND ASSIGNED RESOLUTION #12-26.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair  
Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities

# medina county board of developmental disabilities

## - Board Statistics - 2026

Statistics are as of the last day of the previous month

### Enrollee Statistics

Unduplicated Counts	2025		2026											
	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Eligible Children Active / Ages 0-22	811	820	819	821	820									
Eligible Adults Active / Ages 23+	751	753	755	757	764									
<b>TOTAL Eligible Individuals</b>	<b>1562</b>	<b>1573</b>	<b>1574</b>	<b>1578</b>	<b>1584</b>									

### Individual Service Enrollment

#### CHILDREN'S SERVICES

#### SERVICE AND SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION (SSA)

	Early Intervention Referrals	Enrolled Early Intervention	Enrolled Windfall School	New Individuals Found Eligible	Total Individuals Assigned SSA/I&R
<b>2025</b>					
NOV	20	242	45	25	1289
DEC	26	242	45	32	1297
<b>2026</b>					
JAN	27	247	46	29	1299
FEB	30	254	45	28	1304
MAR	25	250	45	32	1305
APR					
MAY					
JUN					
JUL					
AUG					
SEP					
OCT					
NOV					
DEC					

### MCBDD

### Staffing Statistics

	Total Approved Positions	Current Open Positions
JAN	139	3
FEB	139	2
MAR	139	2
APR		
MAY		
JUN		
JUL		
AUG		
SEP		
OCT		
NOV		
DEC		

**Year to Date Turnover Rate:**

2.16%

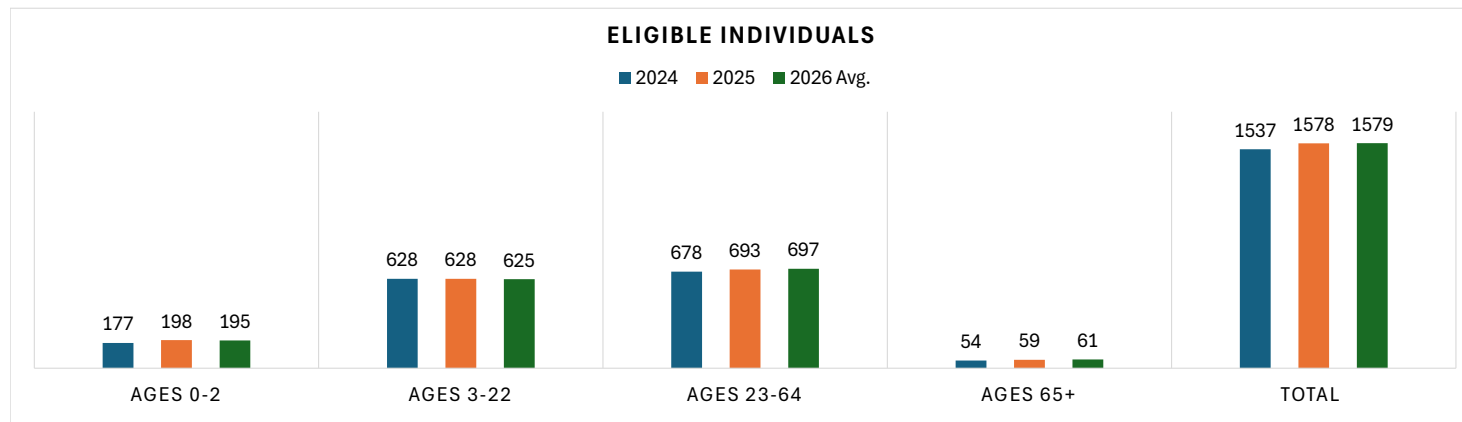
**Positions Affected This Month:**

Intervention Specialist (posted) and Economic Developer (request is being made to abolish the position)

**NOTE:**

## Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities - Board Stats -

	Year End		2026											
	2024	2025	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>Eligible Individuals:</b>														
Ages 0-2	177	198	194	195	197									
Ages 3-22	628	628	627	626	623									
Ages 23-64	678	693	694	697	701									
Ages 65+	54	59	60	60	63									
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1537</b>	<b>1578</b>	<b>1575</b>	<b>1578</b>	<b>1584</b>									
<b>% Change to prior period</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>									
<b>New Referrals:</b>														
Ages 0-2	379	395	27	30	25									
Ages 3-22						Age group reporting to start								
Ages 23-64	135	144	15	12	7									
Ages 65+														
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>32</b>									
<b>Windfall School:</b>														
Enrolled Students	41	45	46	45	45									
<b>*Individuals Assigned to:</b>														
SSA	957	989	995	1000	1003									
Information & Referral (I&R)	298	303	299	304	302									
<b>Individuals Served with Local Funding:</b>														
**Ohio ISP Authorized Services	126	122	71	74	74									
***Family Support Services (FSS)	148	169			89									
<b>Staffing Statistics:</b>														
Board Approved Positions	<b>139</b>													
Current Open Positions														
Turnover: 2.16%			3	2	2									



**Footnotes:**

- \*SSA Assigned - May or may not be receiving services - new children, new adult, assigned SSA for assessment & information gathering (about 90 days) if no services move to I&R
- \*Information & Referral (I&R) Assigned - Active, eligible, not receiving services
- \*\*Ohio ISP Authorized services could include: residential, adult day services, employment supports, non-medical transportation services
- \*\*\*FSS counts are lower in the first part of every year because this funding has an annual re-application for eligibility.

# Quarterly Reports

### MCBDD Ombudsman Report

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
ELIGIBLE	6	10	8									
NOT ELIG	5	3	4									
I & R	3	2	2									
CARRY OVER	3	4	7									
CLOSED	2	0	0									
IEPS ATTENDED	0	2	1									
0-2	1	2	1									
age 3-22	7	7	12									
age 23-64	1	0	1									
65 +	2	1	0									
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>									

Eligible- receives DD Services

Not Eligible- not receiving DD Services

Carry over- Ombudsman services carry over to new month/quarter/year

I & R- Information and Referral

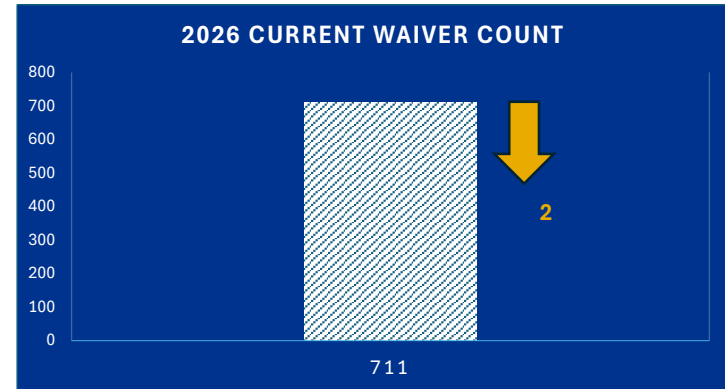
Closed- cases closed during during the quarter

## Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities - Waiver Statistics - First Quarter 2026

**2026 Starting Waiver Count** 713

2026 Budgeted Waiver Allocations	
Individual Options Waiver - IO	32
Level One Waiver - L1	26
Self-Empowered Life Funding Waiver - SELF	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>58</b>

Year-to-Date	
Additional:	4
Removed:	-6
<b>Net Change:</b>	<b>-2</b>

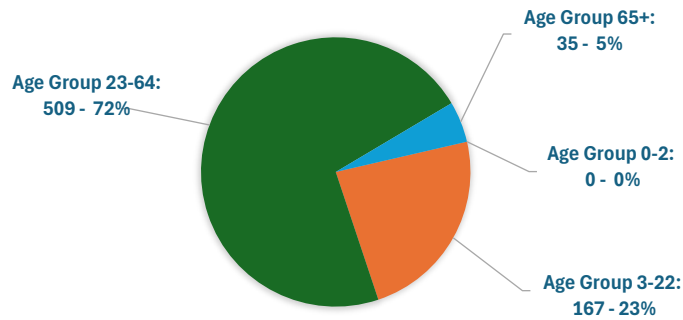


1st Quarter						
Type:	Jan. 1	Additional	Removed	Changed	Mar. 31	Net Change
IO	396	2	-6	3	395	-1
L1	270	2		-3	269	-1
SELF	47				47	0
<b>TOTAL WAIVER COUNT</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>-2</b>

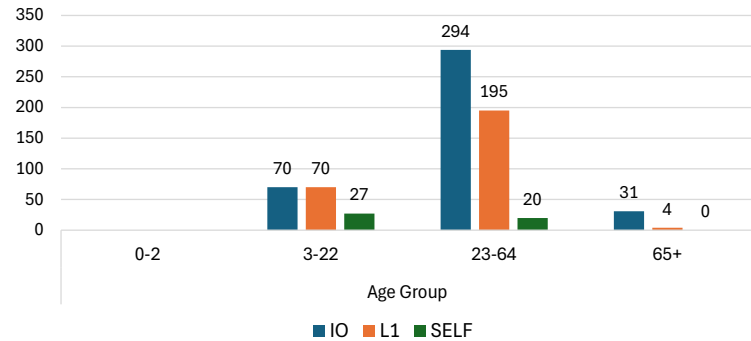
**2026 Current Waiver Count** 711      4% change over prior year, same period

Waiver Type	Age Group			
	0-2	3-22	23-64	65+
IO		70	294	31
L1		70	195	4
SELF		27	20	0
<b>TOTAL WAIVER COUNT</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>35</b>

**WAIVER COUNT BY AGE GROUP**



**WAIVER TYPE BY AGE GROUP**



## Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities

### - Contract Report -

Received 1/1/2026-3/31/2026

*Italicized - not listed on previous quarter's report*

Contracts to be Approved by Board	Contract Approved by Superintendent	NAME OF CONTRACTOR	Responsible Department	SERVICE PROVIDED BY MCBDD	SERVICE RECEIVED BY MCBDD	START DATE	END DATE	CONTRACT RATE	CONTRACT MAXIMUM	DATE APPROVED	DATE RECEIVED	NOTES:
	×	Fairlawn Gig	Operations/IT		100x100 mbps dedicated internet access (fiber), 13 IP addresses	4/1/26-3/31/29		\$550/month (fiber); \$50/month (all IP)	\$ 21,600.00	3/26/2026	3/26/2026	3 year renewal, no price change
	×	Greenleaf Family Center	SSA/Early Intervention		Sign Language Interpreter Services	1/1/26-12/31/26		Regular rate - \$72/hour, minimum 2 hours	Fee for service, up to \$4000 budget	1/16/2026	1/22/2026	Renewal, no longer needed for specific individual, so just as-needed now (EI, Eligibility). Last year's contract \$33k.
	×	United Disability Services, Inc.	Community Supports/Operations	Lease of school space	OOD summer work program for transition students.	6/8/26-6/26/26; 7/6/26-7/24/26		\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	3/19/2026	3/19/2026	New in 2026. UDS is trying to expand this service offering in Medina County.

# medina county board of developmental disabilities

## 2026 Action Plan Dashboard

Progress • Highlights • Concerns

March 2026

### Community Partnership

Enhancing partnerships and outreach that support inclusion, awareness and engagement in the community.

1. Increase community employment through community partnerships throughout the county.

2. Use community partners to increase inclusion and accessibility throughout the county.

3. Engage community partners through outreach and education.

- 1a. Everybody Works website changes are being finalized with Community Supports Department (CSD) and Community Relations (CR). Website will be reviewed by Employment Collaborative and then will be relaunched.
- 1b. Employment Navigator is working with other county boards to have consistent content to present to OOD counselors. CSD continuing to work with OOD to schedule trainings.
- 1c. The meetings from the 2025 Business Advisory Committee were reviewed and feedback received from businesses. CSD met with Portage County DD and ESC to discuss their Business Advisory Committees and what is working to determine ways to better engage businesses.
- 2a. A meeting was held with the Medina Rec Center to discuss 2 different projects. We have assisted and will be part of their upcoming Touch- A- Truck event. The second project is pending grant funding.
- 2b. Buckeye schools has developed Unified Sports to include Windfall students. Also, working with the Medina County Career Center for inclusion of students with more intense needs into their program. The Medina County District Library is creating interactive visuals for check out/ information with MCBDD assistance.
- 2c. Meeting with Early Childhood Resource Center and gathering information. Discussing format of tools and information.
- 2d. The master calendar has been discussed the with special education directors. Events will be sent to MCBDD and will be located on a shared calendar. MCBDD will push out information to families via the Remind app.
- 3a. A training "Safety on the Spectrum" was held in collaboration with the Autism Society on 2/11/26 and was open to all Medina County First Responders. There were 40 attendees, all in law enforcement. Training focused on understanding of autism and behaviors in individuals and strategies for de-escalation. MCBDD provided Blue Envelopes for personnel to take back to agencies.
- 3b. Agreements have been made with Medina City and Wadsworth police departments to use MCBDD disability registry. Work is continuing with Brunswick police department.
- 3c. Education gaps and opportunities to connect with local officials are being identified. Contact information for daycares, early education educators, and targeted school district personnel is being gathered in order to distribute a quarterly communication tool. A plan is being developed for content on LinkedIn platform as a base for additional outreach efforts.

#### Progress Color Coding:

On track to complete  
by end of 2026

Concerns for completing  
by end of 2026

Barriers to completing  
by end of 2026

## **Community Engagement**

### **April 27, 2026**

1. Advocacy Mingle - April 28, 2026
2. Commissioners News - Scholarship - March 20, 2026
3. Frontline Supervisor Mingle - April 15, 2026
4. Gazette - Autism Acceptance Month & Toddler Party -April 11, 2026
5. Gazette - Crisis Training - April 16, 2026
6. Gazette - Autism Awareness - April 2026
7. Gazette - DD Awareness Month -March 14, 2026
8. Gazette - Toddler Playgroup - March 21, 2026
9. Gazette - Scholarship - March 28, 2026
10. Gazette - Service Increases - March 25, 2026
11. Gazette - Stand Out Champions Award - April 13, 2026
12. Gazette - Summer Camp - March 21, 2026
13. Gazette - DD Awareness Month - March 18, 2026
14. Hinckley Record - Autism Acceptance Month - April 2026
15. IP Meet & Greet Meeting - April 22, 2026
16. Joy Magazine - Helping People Succeed - March 2026
17. Joy Magazine - Camperships - March 2026
18. MCBDD Crisis Safety Training - April 21, 2026
19. MCBDD Toddler Garden Party - March 20, 2026
20. Medina Weekly - Playgroup - March 19, 2026
21. Medina Weekly - Scholarship - March 12, 2026
22. Medina Weekly- DD Awareness- April 2, 2026
23. Mimi Magazine - Autism Acceptance Month, April 2026
24. NEO Parent E-News - March 2026
25. Gazette - Scholarship - March 14, 2026

# - Advocacy Mingle -



**Tuesday,  
April 28**  
**10:30 am - 11:30 am**

Carolyn Ludwig Mugrage Park  
4985 Windfall Rd.  
Medina, OH 44256

**Registration Required**

[Click Here to  
Register Online](#)

Join us for our very first Advocacy Mingle! At this event, advocates will gather together to celebrate Earth Day and learn about recycling and upcycling.

Inclement weather? No problem! In the case of rainy or cold weather, this event will take place at the Medina County Achievement Center (4691 Windfall Rd., Medina, OH). Registrants will be notified if needed.

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**

**For questions or to register by phone:**

**Call:** Molly Usner, MCBDD Advocacy  
Advisor, at 330-725-7751 x119

**Email:** [mollyu@mcbdd.org](mailto:mollyu@mcbdd.org)



Event Calendar

BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

# Scholarship available for county high school students

The Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities (MCBDD) is proud to offer a scholarship opportunity for local Medina County high school students.

The scholarship was founded to recognize and support young persons who are considering a career which may serve individuals with developmental disabilities.

The field of developmental disabilities is faced with a growing crisis in its workforce.

Finding and recruiting trained professionals for positions that range anywhere from administrators and therapists to educators and direct care workers is a daily struggle in the field.

The MCBDD hopes to address this workforce shortage by encouraging students to make an impact through public service and help improve the lives of thousands of individuals with developmental disabilities.

The MCBDD Donor Scholarship is offering one

\$1,500.00 scholarship this year.

Applicants must be a current Medina County high school senior and have been accepted into an accredited program in a field which may provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities, (i.e. special education, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, social work, behavioral sciences, etc.).

Applicants must also demonstrate involvement in, or provided services to, individuals with developmental disabilities through activities such as Special Olympics, classroom activities, volunteering, job shadowing, etc.

Interested students must complete and submit a MCBDD Donor Scholarship application form before Tuesday, March 31 to be considered.

Forms are available by calling 330-725-7751 ext. 273 or at [www.mcbdd.org](http://www.mcbdd.org).

COUNTY HOME

## Superintendent shares positive update on residents, staffing, renovations...

Continued from page 4

Brown also acknowledged the challenges created by recent windstorms. Power outages affected the property as well as the Home itself.

Crews from Ohio Edison worked through severe conditions to restore service. Brown recounted their efforts with appreciation, saying they "were up in that bucket in that wind" to ensure power was restored safely.

February and March brought a full schedule of resident events.

The Home hosted a Super Bowl party, multiple Valentine's Day celebrations, and an educational program on the Toledo War.

Residents also enjoyed the annual Chatham Sugarbush Pancake Breakfast, with 29 residents attending this year.

Community partners remain active as well — Access the Arts provided craft activities, Friends of the Medina County Home continued their monthly birthday party tradition, and the Chippewa Chipmunks 4-H group prepared for their upcoming bingo visit.

A special surprise is planned for Friday, March 27, made possible through a grant from the Senior Service Network.

Looking ahead to April, staff are preparing a volunteer luncheon to honor the many community members who support the Home throughout the year.

Commissioners thanked Brown for the update and noted upcoming coordination with a newly formed CCAO committee that will monitor legislation affecting county homes statewide.

### 30TH ANNUAL MEDINA COUNTY EARTH DAY FESTIVAL FOOD, ACTIVITIES & ENTERTAINMENT FREE FAMILY FUN EVENT

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH**  
10 AM - 4 PM

**BUFFALO CREEK RETREAT**  
8708 HUBBARD VALLEY RD.  
SEVILLE, OHIO

#### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- ANNUAL FAMILY FISHING DERBY**  
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
- NATE THE GREAT MAGIC SHOW**  
1:00 PM & 3:00 PM
- KIDS FACE PAINTING**  
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- COLORING CONTEST AWARDS**  
12:00 PM

#### RECYCLING STATION

- Eyeglasses
- Household Batteries
- School Supplies
- Dental Supplies

#### CLOTHING & TEXTILE DRIVE

Donate gently used clothing, shoes, and household linens at Planet Aid's drop-off at Hubbard Valley Park. View full list on website.



Scan for a full list of recyclable items and event details. Or visit <https://medinawcd.org/earth-day/>

#### ALL DAY EVENTS

- ECO FAIR & MARKET**  
Shop local vendors
- LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE**  
Borrow or return books!
- BUG ZOO**  
A hands on fan-favorite!
- HOUSE PLANT SWAP**  
Bring a houseplant cutting or seedling and swap from our selection with the OSU Master Gardeners
- TREE SEEDLING GIVEAWAY**  
Collect a native tree for your yard
- RAFFLE PRIZES**  
\$1/1 ticket or \$5/6 Tickets
- LOCAL FOOD TRUCKS**



**BRING YOUR REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE!**  
Refill Station presented by Clearwater Systems

Follow us on Social Media!  
@medinacountyearthdayfestival  
@medinacountyearthdayfestival



### Curious about foster parenting? Join us for Coffee & Conversation

Have you ever wondered what it's really like to be a foster parent?



Come hang out, grab your favorite drink, and learn more in a relaxed, no-pressure setting.



**The Grind Coffee Bar**  
124 N. Court Street, Medina  
**Tuesday, April 7th**  
6:30-8:00pm

**6:30 PM - Meet & Greet**  
Purchase your own coffee, connect, relax.  
**7:00 PM - Info Session**  
Learn the basics of foster care, requirements, and next steps.  
**7:15 PM - Foster Parent Panel**  
Hear real stories & experiences from current foster parents.  
**7:30 PM - Q&A**  
Ask questions in an open and supportive environment.



Scan to register. Registration is not required.

Questions?  
Call/text Layne at (330) 667-0167  
[www.fostermolina.com](http://www.fostermolina.com)



# - Frontline Supervisor Mingle -



**Wednesday,  
April 15**  
**10:00 am - 11:30 am**

Medina County Achievement Center  
4691 Windfall Rd.,  
Medina, OH 44256

Join the MCBDD for a Frontline Supervisor Mingle! The topic for this event is Supportive Technology. Come and meet other Frontline Supervisors, share ideas, and watch some supportive technology demonstrations.

Tours of the Smart Home will also be offered.

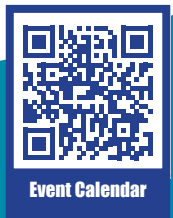
**Registration Required**

[Click Here to Register Online](#)

**For questions or to register by phone:**

**Call:** Nicole Richter, MCBDD Community Supports Manager, at 330-725-7751 x306

**Email:** [nrichter@mcbdd.org](mailto:nrichter@mcbdd.org)



# Artemis II's grand moon finale is almost here

**Marcia Dunn**

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Their dramatic grand finale fast approaching, Artemis II's astronauts aimed for a splashdown in the Pacific on Friday to close out humanity's first voyage to the moon in more than a half-century.

The tension in Mission Control mounted as the miles melted away between the four returning astronauts and Earth.

All eyes were on the capsule's life-protecting heat shield that has to withstand thousands of degrees during reentry. On the spacecraft's only other test flight — in 2022, with no

one on board — the shield's charred exterior came back looking as pockmarked as the moon.

Commander Reid Wiseman, pilot Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Canada's Jeremy Hansen were on track to hit the atmosphere traveling Mach 33 — or 33 times the speed of sound — a blistering blur not seen since NASA's Apollo moonshots of the 1960s and 1970s.

They didn't plan on taking manual control except in an emergency. Their Orion capsule, dubbed Integrity, is completely self-flying.

Like so many others, lead flight director Jeff Radigan

anticipated feeling some of that "irrational fear that is human nature," especially during the six minutes of communication blackout preceding the opening of the parachutes. The recovery ship USS John P. Murtha awaited the crew's arrival off the coast of San Diego, along with a squadron of military planes and helicopters.

The last time NASA and the Defense Department teamed up for a lunar crew's reentry was Apollo 17 in 1972. Artemis II was projected to come screaming back at 36,170 feet per second — or 24,661 mph — just shy of the record before slowing to a 19 mph splash-

down.

Launched from Florida on April 1, the astronauts racked up one win after another as they deftly navigated NASA's long-awaited lunar comeback, the first major step in establishing a sustainable moon base.

Artemis II didn't land on the moon or even orbit it. But it broke Apollo 13's distance record and marked the farthest that humans have ever journeyed from Earth when the crew reached 252,756 miles. Then in the mission's most heart-tugging scene, the teary astronauts asked permission to name a pair of craters after their moonship and Wiseman's late wife, Carroll.

During Monday's record-breaking flyby, they documented scenes of the moon's far side never seen before by the human eye along with a total solar eclipse. The eclipse, in particular, "just blew all of us away," Glover said.

Their sense of wonder and love awed everyone, as did their breathtaking pictures of the moon and Earth. The Arte-



NASA VIA AP  
Artemis II pilot Victor Glover is photographed in the Orion spacecraft during the Artemis II lunar flyby on Monday.

mis II crew channeled Apollo 8's first lunar explorers with Earthset, showing our Blue Marble setting behind the gray moon. It was reminiscent of Apollo 8's famous Earthrise shot from 1968.

"It just makes you want to continue to go back," Radigan said on the eve of splashdown. "It's the first of many trips and we just need to continue on because there's so much more to learn about the moon."

Their moonshot drew global attention as well as star power, earning props from President Donald Trump; Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney; Britain's King Charles III; Ryan Gosling, star of the latest space flick "Project Hail Mary"; Scarlett Johansson of the Marvel Cinematic Universe; and even Captain Kirk himself, William Shatner of TV's original "Star Trek."

Despite its rich scientific yield, the nearly 10-day flight was not without technical issues. Both the capsule's drinking water and propellant systems were hit with valve problems. In perhaps the most high-profile predicament, the

toilet kept malfunctioning, but the astronauts shrugged it all off.

"We can't explore deeper unless we are doing a few things that are inconvenient," Koch said, "unless we're making a few sacrifices, unless we're taking a few risks, and those things are all worth it."

Added Hansen: "You do a lot of testing on the ground, but your final test is when you get this hardware to space and it's a doozy."

Under the revamped Artemis program, next year's Artemis III will see astronauts practice docking their capsule with a lunar lander or two in orbit around Earth. Artemis IV will attempt to land a crew of two near the moon's south pole in 2028.

The Artemis II astronauts' allegiance was to those future crews, Wiseman said.

"But we really hoped in our soul is that we could for just for a moment have the world pause and remember that this is a beautiful planet and a very special place in our universe, and we should all cherish what we have been gifted," he said.

## Tools & Tech

A collection of useful gadgets available at your library

From stud finders to blood pressure monitors to pickleball sets and more, Medina Library offers a variety of items you may only need once or would like to try before you buy.

View the complete list and check availability at [mcdl.info/ToolsTech](http://mcdl.info/ToolsTech).

Medina County District Library • [mcdl.info](http://mcdl.info)

CALL TODAY for a quote

**Jennifer Hiteshue**  
329 N Court St  
Medina, OH 44256

State Farm

330-725-0128

**Office Hours**  
Mon-Fri 9:00AM to 5:00PM  
Evenings & Sat Mornings by Appointment

**Insurance Products**  
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[www.jenniferhiteshue.com](http://www.jenniferhiteshue.com)

## medina county board of developmental disabilities

# 1 in 31

## children are diagnosed with a form of autism

April is Autism Acceptance Month

*As people and families affected by autism know, acceptance is often one of the biggest barriers to being involved in the community. Autism acceptance asks the community to begin from a place of understanding and knowing all people are not the same and everyone has abilities and some imperfections. Acceptance looks at what we have in common and what strengths we share.*

- Autism usually appears before a child is 3 years old, while some signs may be evident as early as 10 months.
- It can be hard to diagnose, because symptoms range from mild to severe and are different for every child.
- It is important parents know developmental milestones for their children and discuss any concerns with their doctor.
- A child with autism should begin early intervention services as soon as possible when they are diagnosed.

For information about autism and early detection, call MCBDD Early Intervention Services, 330-725-7751, option 1

## It's a Toddler Rainbow Party!

Monday, May 18 from 10:00 am -11:00 pm  
Held at Wadsworth Blue Tip Playground  
300 Blue Tip Way, Wadsworth

Join us for a friendly, informal community playgroup where young families connect, laugh, and share the adventures of raising little ones. This rainbow-themed playgroup will be packed with activities, songs, early childhood tips and yes...**SNACKS!**

This playgroup is open to any family with children ages 0-3 with or without disabilities.

Register for events at [www.mcbdd.org/events-calendar/](http://www.mcbdd.org/events-calendar/)

APRIL 2026

Thank you Medina County for helping fund services through local property tax levy dollars.

## Helping families throughout life's challenges

Ages 0-2

- Development Screenings
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Parent Coaching
- In-Home Support
- Family Resources

Ages 3-22

- Education
- Therapies
- Family Education
- IEP Development
- Support Groups
- Behavior Support

Ages 23 and up

- Employment Training
- Housing
- Life Skills
- Transportation
- Adult Life Planning
- Financial Planning
- Recreation

Lifetime Help

- Community Inclusion
- Health and Safety Concerns
- Supportive Technology
- Community Resources
- Family Support

330-725-7751 • [www.mcbdd.org](http://www.mcbdd.org)

MCBDD Website

# FROM PAGE ONE

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

**Today**  
**Granger Township trustees**, regular meeting, 4 p.m., administration building, 3717 Ridge Road.  
**Medina County Data Board**, regular meeting, 9 a.m., multipurpose

room, 132 N. Elmwood Ave.  
**Medina County Mental Health & Recovery Board**, regular meeting, 5:30 p.m., conference room B/C of Human Services Building, 246 Northland Drive.  
**Medina Shade Tree Commission**,

regular meeting, 9 a.m., Amos Mears Building, 775 E. Washington St.  
**Spencer Community Fire District**, regular meeting, 7 p.m., Spencer Community Fire District, 105 E. Lorain St.  
**Wadsworth Airport Commission**,

regular meeting, 4 p.m., council chambers, 120 Maple St.  
**York Township trustees**, special meeting to discuss township storage plan and direction, discuss and approve the fireworks contract and any other business before the board,

7 p.m., township complex, 6609 Norwalk Road.  
**Friday**  
**Medina County Budget Commission**, regular meeting, 10:30 a.m., balcony room B, 144

N. Broadway St.  
**Medina County Sealed Bid Opening**, sale of county-owned property on South Elmwood Avenue, 2 p.m., room 201, 144 N. Broadway St.

## ALMANAC

The Associated Press  
*Today is Thursday, April 16, the 106th day of 2026. There are 259 days left in the year.*

### Today's history

■ Seung-hui Cho, a 23-year-old Virginia Tech student, killed 32 people on the Virginia Tech campus before taking his own life. It remains the deadliest school shooting in US history.

■ In 1866, a crate of nitroglycerine that had been shipped from New York to California by way of Panama exploded in the Wells Fargo building in San Francisco, killing 14 people and shattering windows up to a half mile away. The blast prompted passage of a federal law banning shipments of explosives on passenger vessels.

■ In 1917, Vladimir Lenin, after being exiled to Europe, returned to Russia by train to take command of the Russian Revolution that would overthrow a provisional government, install communism and bring about the rise of the Soviet Union.

■ In 1947, the French cargo ship Grandcamp, carrying over 2,000 tons of ammonium nitrate, blew up in the harbor of Texas City, Texas. A nearby ship, the High Flyer, which was carrying ammonium nitrate and sulfur, caught fire and exploded the following day. The combined blasts and fires killed nearly 600 people and injured 5,000 in the worst

industrial accident in U.S. history.

■ In 1963, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote his "Letter from Birmingham Jail" in which the civil rights activist responded to a group of local clergymen who had criticized him for leading street protests. King defended his tactics, writing, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

■ In 2023, the New York production of "The Phantom of the Opera" ended its 35-year Broadway run with standing ovations and champagne toasts. The final curtain came down on performance No. 13,981 at the Majestic Theatre, ending the longest-running show on "The Great White Way."

### Today's birthdays

Singer Bobby Vinton is 91. Basketball Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is 79. Football coach Bill Belichick is 74. Actor Ellen Barkin is 72. Singer Jimmy Osmond is 63. Actor Jon Cryer is 61. Actor-comedian Martin Lawrence is 61. Actor Peter Billingsley is 55. Actor Lukas Haas is 50. Actor-singer Kelli O'Hara is 50. Actor Claire Foy (TV: "The Crown") is 42. Rapper Chance the Rapper is 33. Actor Anya Taylor-Joy is 30. Actor Sadie Sink is 24. Boxer Emiliano Vargas is 22.

## WEATHER

**TODAY:** Showers likely..... 75/54  
**FRIDAY:** Partly sunny..... 72/57  
**SATURDAY:** Showers..... 73/39  
**SUNDAY:** Chance of showers..... 50/30

## CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

The Medina Gazette is committed to providing accurate news coverage. Call us at (330) 721-4060 to let us know about factual errors.

## LOTTERY

### Ohio (Wednesday)

**Midday Pick 3:** 6-5-9, **Pick 3:** 9-4-1, **Midday Pick 4:** 3-2-2-2, **Pick 4:** 2-7-3-7, **Midday Pick 5:** 8-8-0-1-7, **Pick 5:** 9-6-4-3-7, **Rolling Cash 5:** 10-23-26-31-34, **Classic Lotto:** 2-5-10-21-30-35, **Kicker:** 9-9-9-7-6-6. **Rolling Cash 5 jackpot is \$140,000.** **Classic Lotto jackpot is \$4 million.**

### Millionaire for Life

**TUESDAY:** 10-19-31-42-53, **Millionaire Ball:** 4.  
**WEDNESDAY:** 32-36-41-54-58, **Lucky Ball:** 3.

### Mega Millions

**TUESDAY:** 17-21-24-57-69, **Mega Ball:** 12.  
**Next Mega Millions jackpot is an estimated \$130 million.**

### Powerball

**WEDNESDAY:** 13-21-27-43-45, **Powerball:** 26, **Power Play:** 5.  
**Next Powerball jackpot is an estimated \$58 million.**

### Ohio (Tuesday)

**Pick 3:** 3-2-2, **Pick 4:** 7-6-1-1, **Pick 5:** 0-1-6-8-5, **Rolling Cash 5:** 12-15-20-23-29,

# THE GAZETTE

Thursday, April 16, 2026, No. 91  
**Medina (non-toll area).....(330) 725-4166**  
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### Board to host training for navigating crises

Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities will host a Crisis Safety: Preparing, Responding and Repairing presentation on April 21 at 10 a.m. at the Medina County Achievement Center, 4691 Windfall Road.

The training is designed to help anyone strengthen their crisis intervention knowledge, so people can create safer, more prepared environments before, during, and after a crisis.

It will not only help caregivers but also anyone who is responsible for the health and safety of people with developmental differences learn practical strategies for preventing and responding to crises. Attendees will learn about different crisis intervention models, ways to reduce safety risks, prepare for challenging situations, and best practices for post-crisis response and repair.

"Crisis situations can be challenging for both caregivers and the individuals they support," board Superintendent Stacey Maleckar said. "This training is designed to help anyone feel more confident, prepared and equipped with practical tools they can use in real-life situations."

Anyone interested in attending can register at [www.mcbdd.org/event-calendar](http://www.mcbdd.org/event-calendar), or by contacting Maggie Skultety, MCBDD training and compliance specialist, at [mksultety@mcbdd.org](mailto:mksultety@mcbdd.org).

### Wadsworth Area Chamber of Commerce celebrates ALO Family Counseling opening

The Wadsworth Area Chamber of Commerce recently celebrated the opening of ALO Family Counseling, 1219 High St., Suite 100, in Wadsworth.

Owner Amanda Owens said that ALO Family Counseling offers a wide variety of services and has multiple therapists on staff. It offers counseling for an array of issues, including depression, anxiety, ADHD, trauma, life changes, parenting

## ROUNDUP



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Wadsworth Area Chamber of Commerce celebrates the opening of ALO Family Counseling, 1219 High St., Suite 100.

issues and school issues.

To learn more about the business, visit [alofamilycounseling.com](http://alofamilycounseling.com).

### PBS Western Reserve to host screening alongside Medina County Park District

The PBS Western Reserve will hold a screening of its original series, "By Nature's Design: Exploring Our Native Wildlife," followed by a walk-and-talk tour of nearby wetlands.

The event will be held in partnership with the Medina County Park District on May 2, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Oenslager Nature Center, 6100 Ridge Road.

PBS Western Reserve will screen the season one finale of "By Nature's Design," which explores how local wetlands adapt to a changing climate. To celebrate Earth Month and the first anniversary of the "By Nature's Design" series premiere, attendees will also have the exclusive opportunity to see a teaser

trailer for season two of the series.

"By Nature's Design" is a docuseries offering approachable insights into the science behind the region's fascinating ecosystems. It is the recipient of the Division 2 Public Media Award for Youth Media Education, a recognition by the National Educational Telecommunications Association of media produced by those under the age of 25.

"Every event we plan focuses on bringing our mission of lifelong learning and connection beyond the screen through memorable experiences we hope bring our community closer together while deepening our understanding of the world around us," said Stephanie Pacifico, PBS Western Reserve marketing manager.

Wetland Wonders is free and open to the public, but registration is required. To register, visit [tinyurl.com/bdtkca3c9](http://tinyurl.com/bdtkca3c9).

— from staff reports

## BLOTTER

### Brunswick police

**Wednesday, April 8**  
 8:44 a.m. — Skyview Drive; a man was issued a citation for criminal trespass.

4:42 p.m. — West 3rd Street; the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office contacted Brunswick police regarding a man in their jail. He had multiple warrants and was transported to the Medina

County Jail without incident.

**Thursday, April 9**  
 10:40 a.m. — Independence Drive; a man turned himself in on a warrant.

**Tuesday, April 14**  
 5:43 p.m. — 1700 block of Pearl Road; police received a report of a woman going to restaurants and stealing to-go orders. An officer patrolled the

area of Taco Bell where she had last been seen. She left Taco Bell and tried to avoid the officer when approached. She had a stolen Chipotle order inside a large purse. She was later identified and arrested for petty theft and possession of criminal tools. She was charged into Medina Municipal Court and incarcerated at the Medina County Jail.

### Hinckley police

**Tuesday, Jan. 20**  
 11:47 a.m. — West 130th Street/Laurel Road; a vehicle was traveling through a construction zone when it struck a portable traffic light and left the scene.

**Wednesday, Jan. 21**  
 11:00 a.m. — Center Road/State Road; a vehicle drove into a ditch before hitting a culvert. The

vehicle then went over a driveway, struck a mailbox and drove into the ditch a second time.

4:33 p.m. — 2500 block of Center Road; a woman reported harassment.

**Thursday, Jan. 22**  
 10:24 a.m. — Boston Road/Evergreen Trail; one vehicle rear-ended another on the icy road. The vehicle then ran off the road, struck a mailbox and drove into a ditch.

10:35 a.m. — Ridge Road/Bellus Road; one vehicle struck another after failing to yield.

**Friday, Jan. 23**  
 12:32 p.m. — 1500 block of Center Road; information on a threat was requested.

9:29 p.m. — State Road; a transit vehicle was partially in a ditch, and it was towed.

## CHIPPEWA

From A1

Some plans include extending trails to the historic site, where visitors can view preserved relics like the Ferris wheel and Tumble Bug rides. Additional plans call for more parking, restrooms, picnic areas, and water access for fishing and kayaking.

"We're not encouraging people to climb on them, but we

want them to experience them because it tells a story," Eppink said.

The target opening date is in 2028, which marks 50 years since the park closed.

"There's a lot of interest and a lot of people who have fond memories of the amusement park. This is just the beginning of bringing that history back to life," he said.

Contact reporter Sam Russ at (330) 491-6962 or [sruss@medina-gazette.com](mailto:sruss@medina-gazette.com).

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# Health & Happiness & Harmony

SPECIAL ADVERTISING FEATURE



## How reading benefits young brains



Metro Creative

Reading is a beloved pastime that's having a moment. A number of variables have helped to renew people's interest in reading. BookTok, a popular subcommunity on the social media platform TikTok in which users create videos to recommend and discuss books, is one such variable.

The BookTok trend has helped to spark and revive many people's interest in reading, and that's paid dividends for the bookseller Barnes & Noble, which plans to open 60 new stores in 2026 after opening 30 new stores in 2023, 61 in 2024 and 67 in 2025. Reading more also pays considerable dividends for readers, particularly school-aged book lovers. Research has found that reading has a notable impact on brain development in children.

- **Reading can foster critical thinking skills.** Reading fosters critical thinking skills by engaging readers in a story and encouraging them to ask questions about its characters and plot. The tutoring experts at Readability, who specialize in helping a diverse group of readers in making the shift from learning to read to reading to learn, note that reading helps students assess situations logically and form reasoned opinions.

- **Reading can help build language skills.** Reading helps children build their vocabularies by enabling them to read new words. Reading aloud to children can be especially beneficial for young children, but reading to themselves also encourages kids to learn new words. As children read and learn new words, their language skills expand.

- **Reading fosters a sense of wonder about the world.** The wide range of literary genres, from sci-fi to fantasy to history, can instill in children a sense of curiosity and wonder about the world they live in. That can spark interest in other subjects at school, including science, mathematics and art.

- **Reading can benefit youngsters' attention spans.** Modern children are inundated with stimuli that does not necessarily foster longer attention spans. Social media videos and even some children's television programming may have an adverse effect on kids' ability to build a strong attention span. Reading helps kids to strengthen their focus by requiring them to concentrate on a narrative and process information as the story unfolds. That requires kids to maintain their attention for far longer than the average social media video.

Reading has a profound impact on the development of young children's brains. That makes it both an enjoyable and effective pastime.

## 6 Easter egg coloring tips

Metro Creative

Coloring Easter eggs is a time-honored tradition dating back more than 2,500 years. There is evidence that people living in the ancient settlement of Trypillia dyed eggs. Ancient Persians also were believed to paint eggs for Nowruz (Persian New Year).

Christians adopted similar traditions to symbolize aspects of the Easter story. Originally Christians dyed eggs red to represent the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed on the cross, according to Chase Oaks Church. Good Housekeeping reports early Christian missionaries adapted the dying tradition to include more egg colors to represent different aspects of

the Easter story. Yellow represented the resurrection, blue represented love and red remained a symbol of Christ's blood.

Whether families dye eggs to symbolize the Easter miracle or simply for fun, the following are some coloring tips to enhance the process.

1. **Prevent cracked eggs.** Most colored eggs are hard-boiled. To prevent cracking during the boiling process, add a teaspoon of vinegar and a tablespoon of salt to the boiling water. Additional anti-cracking measures include rubbing half a lemon on each shell before boiling.

2. **Boil eggs and cool completely.** It takes roughly 10 minutes to hard-boil an egg.

3. **Don't forget the vinegar.** Whether you use colored dye tablets or drops of food coloring from the pantry, use a mix of water and vinegar in the coloring solution. According to Education.com, food coloring is an acid dye and bonds using hydrogen. This chemical process only works in an acidic environment. Vinegar is added to water to make it more acidic and help the dyes adhere more strongly to the eggs and produce brighter colors.

4. **Stick to white eggs.** Stores sell both brown and white eggs. The species of chicken determines whether the eggs will be white or brown. When coloring eggs,

it might be better to purchase white eggs, as the dyes will show up more vividly on the white shells.

5. **Create distinctive designs.** By covering portions of the bare eggs before dipping into color, people can create unique designs. Things like masking tape, rubber bands, wax (or crayons), and even twine can be used. The dye will only take on the uncovered areas, leaving white behind.

6. **Dyes are not the only way to color eggs.** Everything from watercolor paint to acrylics to decoupage can be used to cover eggs in vivid colors. Egg decorators also can use colored yarns, fabric or stickers. Search for creative materials to set Easter eggs apart this year.

Coloring eggs is a popular Easter tradition, and there are many ways to ensure this beloved activity produces beautiful results.

**1 in 31 children are diagnosed with a form of autism\***

**Autism is the fastest growing developmental difference in the United States. Early detection and intervention can make a positive impact for the future of any child.**

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\*According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

## 4 Real-Life Things New Parents Should Know About Autism and Milestones

If you're a new parent, chances are you've already Googled something like "When should my baby start talking?" or "Is this normal?" You're not alone. Let's walk through this together—no pressure, just helpful guidance.

### 1. Milestones Aren't a Race

Childhood developmental milestones are not just about walking and talking. As your child grows, there's more going on than first steps and first words. Your child is also learning how to connect, communicate, think, and react to the world around them. Watching your child teaches you a lot about their development. You don't need to be an expert, just paying attention goes a long way. The more you observe your child, the easier it is to notice what's going well and what might need a closer look. You'll hear a lot about what babies "should" be doing by certain ages. Try not to stress—these are just general guidelines, not strict deadlines. Kids develop at different speeds, and that's completely normal.

### 2. Delays Can Be Helpful Clues

If your child isn't hitting certain milestones like babbling, responding to their name, or saying words, it doesn't mean something is "wrong." It just means it might be time to ask a few more questions. Early signs of autism can be easy to miss, especially at first. Maybe your baby doesn't make much eye contact, or your toddler isn't using gestures like pointing. These things don't automatically mean autism—but they're worth noticing. Trust your gut feelings. You know that little voice that says, "Hmm, I'm not sure about this..."? Listen to it. You don't need proof to bring up a concern with your pediatrician.

### 3. Earlier Support = Better Outcomes

If your child does need extra help, getting it early can make a big difference. Support can build a child's communication skills, confidence, and independence over time. Remember, you're not expected to figure everything out on your own. It's okay to ask for help. Pediatricians, screenings, and early intervention programs are there for a reason and they can be incredibly helpful.

### 4. Autism Isn't One-Size-Fits-All

Autism, or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), is a condition that affects how a child thinks, learns, and interacts with others. It's called a "spectrum" because it can look different in every child. Some kids may need more support, others less. It's not about labeling, it's about understanding how your child experiences the world and giving them space to grow in their own way with love and support. At the end of the day, your child isn't a checklist. Every child's path is different.

### Have Questions or Need More Help or Resources?

The Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities is the community resource responsible for connecting, coordinating, and funding services for individuals of all ages with developmental differences such as autism. We help with everything from early intervention and education opportunities for children to employment and community inclusive living for adults. Call us at 330-725-7751 or visit [www.mcbsd.org](http://www.mcbsd.org) for more information.

## WAR IN IRAN

## U.S. orders 2,500 Marines, ship to Mideast

Jon Gambrell, David Rising and Mike Corder  
The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The American military has ordered 2,500 Marines and an amphibious assault ship to the Middle East, a U.S. official said Friday, in a major addition of forces in the region after nearly two weeks of war with Iran.

Meanwhile in the Iranian capital, a large explosion rocked a central square where thousands were gathered for an annual state-organized rally to support the Palestinians and call for Israel's demise. Israel had warned that it would target the area in central Tehran.

There were no reports of casualties. But the decision to proceed with the mass demonstration attended by some senior government officials, and Israel's threat to target the area, underscored the fierce determination on both sides in a war that has rattled the global economy and shows no sign of letting up.

Iran has continued to launch widespread missile and drone attacks on Israel and neighboring Gulf states, and has effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's traded oil passes, even as U.S. and Israeli warplanes pummel military and other targets across Iran.

The humanitarian crisis in Lebanon deepened, with nearly 800 people killed and 850,000 displaced as Israel launched waves of strikes against Iran-backed Hezbollah militants and warned there would be no let up.

In an interview with Fox News, U.S. President Donald Trump said the war would end "when I feel it in my bones." He was also more measured about the prospect of opponents toppling the Islamic government.

"So I really think that's a big hurdle to climb for people that don't have weapons," Trump said, citing Iran's paramilitary Basij force, which has played a central role in crushing recent nationwide protests.

Elements from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and the amphibious

assault ship USS Tripoli have been ordered to the Middle East, according to the U.S. official, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive military plans.

Marine Expeditionary Units are able to conduct amphibious landings, but they also specialize in bolstering security at embassies, evacuating civilians and disaster relief. The deployment does not necessarily indicate that a ground operation is imminent or will take place.

The new Marine deployment was first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, as well as the Tripoli and other amphibious assault ships carrying the Marines, are based in Japan and have been in the Pacific Ocean for several days, according to images released by the military. The Tripoli was spotted by commercial satellites sailing alone near Taiwan, putting it more than a week away from the waters off Iran.

Earlier in the week, the Navy had

12 ships, including the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln and eight destroyers, operating in the Arabian Sea. Should the Tripoli join this flotilla, it would be the second-largest ship behind the Lincoln in the region.

While the total number of U.S. service members on the ground in the Middle East is not clear, Al-Udeid Air Base alone, one of the largest in the region, typically houses some 8,000 U.S. troops.

The explosion in Tehran rocked the Ferdowsi Square area midday, where thousands had gathered for an annual Quds Day rally, chanting "death to Israel" and "death to America."

Israel had issued a warning on a Farsi-language X account for people to clear the area shortly before the blast. But few Iranians would have seen it, as authorities have almost completely shut down the internet. Footage showed people chanting "God is greatest," as smoke rose in the area.

The Israeli military later posted a second message in Farsi, noting the

head of Iran's judiciary was at the rally and criticizing Iran for blocking many from seeing their warning.

The hard-liner who leads Iran's judiciary, Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei, was giving an interview on state television at the demonstration when the strike happened. His bodyguards encircled him, as he raised his fist and said Iran "under this rain and missiles will never withdraw."

Israel earlier announced another wave of strikes in Iran targeting infrastructure, and said its air force had hit more than 200 targets in the last 24 hours, including missile launchers, defense systems and weapons production sites.

In Washington, U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said that over 15,000 enemy targets have been struck — more than 1,000 a day since the war began.

He also sought to address concerns about the bottling of the Strait of Hormuz, telling reporters: "We have been dealing with it and don't need to worry about it."

## PLANE

From A1

Speaking at the same news conference, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth called the crew heroes.

"War is hell. War is chaos," Hegseth said. "And as we saw yesterday with the tragic crash of our KC-135 tanker, bad things can happen. American heroes, all of them."

Hegseth and Caine spoke to reporters before the deaths of the six crew member had been made public.

Yang Uk, a security expert at South Korea's Asan Institute for Policy Studies, said it would be rare for a refueling tanker to be downed by enemy fire because such operations are usually conducted in the rear of combat zones.

Last week, three U.S. F-15E fighter jets were mistakenly downed by friendly Kuwaiti fire. All six crew members ejected safely.

The KC-135 Stratotanker is a U.S. Air Force aircraft used to refuel other planes in midair, allowing them to travel longer distances and maintain operations longer without landing. The plane is also used to transport wounded personnel during medical evacuations or conduct surveillance missions, according to military experts.

"The last of these planes were produced in the 1960s," Yang said.

Based on the same design as the Boeing 707 passenger plane, the KC-135 is set to be gradually phased out as more of the next-generation KC-46A

Pegasus tankers enter service.

According to the Congressional Research Service, the Air Force last year had 376 KC-135s, including 151 on active duty, 163 in the Air National Guard and 62 in the Air Force Reserve.

A basic KC-135 crew consists of three people: a pilot, co-pilot and boom operator. Nurses and medical technicians are added in aeromedical evacuation missions.

Refueling typically happens at the back of the plane, where the boom operator is located. A fuel boom is lowered to connect with fighters, bombers or other aircraft. On many of the planes, the boom operator works lying face down while looking out of a window on the underside of the plane.

Some KC-135s can also

refuel planes from pods on their wings. The tankers have room to carry cargo or passengers if needed.

Refueling tankers could play an increasingly important role if the Iran war drags on, as U.S. aircraft may need to fly longer missions to pursue Iranian forces retreating deeper into the country, said Yang.

KC-135s have been involved in several fatal accidents. The most recent occurred on May 3, 2013, when one crashed after takeoff south of Chaldovar, Kyrgyzstan, while supporting the war in Afghanistan.

In that crash, the crew experienced problems with the plane's rudder, according to a U.S. Air Force investigation. While the crew struggled to stabilize the plane, the tail

section broke away and the plane exploded midair, killing all three onboard.

The most serious mid-air collision involving the plane happened in 1966, when a B-52 bomber carrying nuclear bombs struck a tanker near Palomares, Spain.

The accident caused the tanker to crash, killing four onboard. The disaster led to an extensive decontamination effort to clean up nuclear material dispersed when conventional explosives in the hydrogen bombs detonated after hitting the ground.

The plane has a good safety record overall, is well-maintained and has been updated often with new equipment, said Alan Diehl, a former investigator for the Air Force Safety Center who examined mishaps

that involved KC-135s.

But Diehl said an important question is whether this KC-135 was carrying any parachutes. The one that crashed in Kyrgyzstan was not, according to the investigation.

Diehl said the reasoning for not always requiring parachutes, at least in the 1980s and 1990s, included the expense of maintaining them and training to use them. He said K-135s are designed with an escape hatch on the flight deck and a spoiler to help airmen jump clear of the fuselage.

A 2008 news release from an air refueling unit said the Air Force was pulling parachutes from KC-135s, noting that it was statistically safer to stay with the aircraft, "especially when flying over enemy territory."

## medina county board of developmental disabilities

## Celebrating DD Awareness

## Compassionate. Strong. Adventurous. Hardworking. Hopeful.

One or more of these words may describe you. They also describe people with developmental differences. **March is Developmental Differences Awareness Month**, a time when we celebrate the abilities of all people! The Medina County Board of DD encourages you to take time to get to know someone with a developmental difference and join us as we look for new and meaningful ways to welcome them into our lives and our community.

## 4 Things People with Developmental Differences Want You to Know

"We have a wide range of intellectual and physical abilities, and no two people are the same. Look for our abilities first. Having a disability isn't a bad thing, what's bad is the way people treat me."

"Don't exclude me from plans just because you think I won't be able to participate. I am capable of living an independent and full life, just sometimes I need a little support to do the things I want."

"We hold part or full-time jobs, we are highly employable and actually enjoy working. We are not charity cases, sometimes we just need the right training."

"There's more to me than just my disability. I do not need special treatment. I want the same things everyone wants; to be included and valued by others."

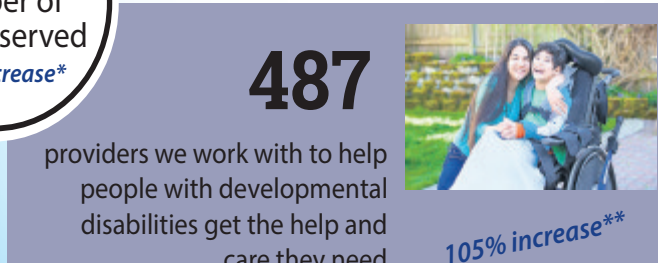
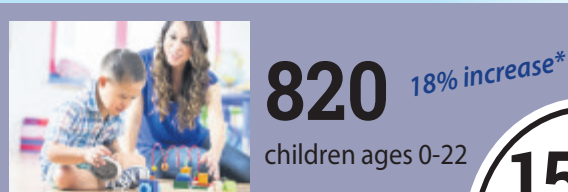
## - MCBDD Continuing to Meet Critical Needs -

The Medina County Board of DD is the community resource responsible for connecting, coordinating and funding services for people of all ages with developmental differences. We help with everything from early intervention and education opportunities for children to employment and community inclusive living for adults.

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- Advocacy
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- Residential Assistance
- Case Management

- Service Funding
- Training
- Family Support
- Health and Safety



## Scholarship Available

The Medina County Board of DD is offering a \$1500 scholarship - made possible by generous donors - to a local high school senior. Applicants must intend to enter into a field of study (i.e. special education, physical therapy, behavioral sciences, speech therapy, social work, etc.) which may provide services to people with disabilities.

Application deadline is Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

Application and more information at [www.mcbdd.org/donor-scholarship/](http://www.mcbdd.org/donor-scholarship/)



# MEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT

## Callaghan, Wright State fall to Virginia, **B1**



# FORMER OHIO URANIUM SITE

## Data center, gas plants announced, **A3**

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RESPONSE GIVEN TO COMMISSIONER'S DISAPPOINTMENT IN DELAY

# Official: Audit must be accurate

Sara Crawford  
The Gazette

In response to Medina County Commissioner Steve Hambley's disappointment regarding the delayed state audit, Medina County Auditor Anthony Capretta posted a news release on Friday to say the audit must be accurate before it's released. On Tuesday, Hambley talked about the county's unreleased state audit during the Medina County commis-

sioners meeting, sharing his disappointment in Ohio Auditor Keith Faber's office for not making it available yet.

At that time, Hambley said the exit conference was held, and there was an audit finding, along with findings for recovery regarding Capretta's negligence.

Friday's news release stated that Hambley is playing politics and that he supports Capretta's opponent in

the campaign for county auditor.

The Medina County Auditor's Office stated in Friday's release that information presented during the exit interview required correction before the audit was finalized and that nothing secretive is happening with the state audit.

"The state auditor has a responsibility to get this right, and we provided information both to the auditors and Medina County residents that there

was an error to correct before finalizing the audit," Capretta said. "Commissioner Hambley has, sadly, shown no such commitment to accuracy here, wrongly criticizing State Auditor Keith Faber and misrepresenting my actions as county auditor."

In mid-February, Capretta provided a news release regarding a finding in the state audit of Medina County's books. The release states that a draft letter issued in January indicated

that the audit revealed an issue with benefit administration payments to Guardian Life Insurance Co. of America.

During the reviewed period, more than \$1 million in insurance premiums were processed, the February release stated. The draft finding identified \$11,934 in payments made for personnel who were no longer employed by the county.

See **AUDIT, A2**

# Toddlers join playgroup



SARA CRAWFORD / GAZETTE

Katlynn Reale and Peter, 1½, play with Play-Doh during the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities' playgroup on Friday.

Sara Crawford  
The Gazette

LODI — Toddlers decorated spring-themed coloring sheets with dot markers, played in sensory bins and with Play-Doh during the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities' garden-themed toddler playgroup on Friday.

The playgroup is one of many that the board has planned this year for families

with children 3 and younger, with or without disabilities. Through the playgroup, the board's goal is to give young families a chance to meet, form connections, and share the experiences of raising toddlers.

Early intervention specialists attend each playgroup, bringing activities for the kids to interact with based on the set theme, like Friday's theme of a garden party.

The playgroup was held for the first

time at Lodi Library, 635 Wooster St., on Friday.

"This year, we're trying to have them at different places throughout the county," board speech language pathologist Diana Wachsberger said.

In addition to expanding the toddler playgroup's locations, the board also increased the number of playgroups held.

See **TODDLERS, A2**

# EMA reviews 2025 incidents; preps for 2026

Madysyn Woodring  
The Gazette

MEDINA — The number of incidents the Medina County Emergency Management Agency responded to increased from 55 in 2024 to 79 in 2025.

Medina County Emergency Management Director Ben Nau gave an update on the agency at the Medina County commissioners meeting Tuesday.

The most incidents were related to fire investigations for the past two years with 28 happening in 2024 and 37 occurring in 2025. There were also three more hazmat incidents, two more rope rescues and two more water rescues in 2025 compared to 2024.

"It's spread fairly evenly across the county," Nau said. "I believe every jurisdiction had at least something (in 2025)."

As of Tuesday, there have been 22 incidents in 2026 so far, he said. This time last year, there had been 10 incidents.

"We kind of started off with a bang this year," he said. "That includes one collapse, one rope (rescue), seven fire investigations, three hazmat, four water (rescues) and six others so far this year."

Commissioner Steve Hambley said Medina County is one of 40 counties in the state that obtained the National Weather Service's Storm Ready certi-

fication. To earn the certification, communities have to do the following:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center.
- Have more than one way to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts and to alert the public.
- Create a system that monitors weather conditions locally.
- Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars.

The agency also recently revised its damage assessment process, and how it collects data, he said. Part of that was done through the county's new Geographic Information System initiative.

"We're now being brought into the county's account," Hambley said. "That gave us a lot of other capabilities that we didn't have previously. We kind of rebuilt what those surveys looked like."

This week is severe weather awareness week. For more information on the Medina County Emergency Management Agency or to sign up for emergency alerts in Medina County, visit [medinacountyema.org](http://medinacountyema.org).

Contact reporter Madysyn Woodring at (330) 721-4049 or [mwoodring@medina-gazette.com](mailto:mwoodring@medina-gazette.com).



MADYSYN WOODRING / GAZETTE

The number of incidents the Medina County Emergency Management Agency responded to increased from 55 in 2024 to 79 in 2025.

# BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

## Group sees increased service need

Madysyn Woodring  
The Gazette

MEDINA TWP. — The number of people served by the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities increased by 26 percent from 2020 to 2025 with 1,573 people being served last year.

Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities Superintendent Stacey Maleckar gave an update on the organization to the Hinckley Township trustees during its

meeting Tuesday.

The board serves people throughout their lives, Maleckar said. Services include early intervention, therapy, employment and case management among others.

"I always say, Medina is a great county," she said. "People want to live here, so we continue to see a need for services. We continue to see more and more people eligible for services."

One of the biggest areas of

growth is young people, Maleckar said. In 2025, 820 people who are 22 and younger were served by the organization compared to 799 people in 2024.

"Our early intervention, (from ages) zero to 3, is a huge game changer in my book because we go out and work with families and their kids," she said. "It makes life a lot easier for the family and the child, working together, communicating, but it also gives

that child the opportunity to build some skills, so that they hopefully will need less supports and services as they grow older."

The board is also in its third year of sponsoring a mobile changing unit at events in Medina County, Maleckar said. It is a trailer, which features an adult-size universal changing table, a ramp and other features to assist those who have mobility issues.

See **SERVICE, A2**

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**Monday**

**Brunswick Board of Education**, special meeting to act on authorizing the superintendent and treasurer to request the Ohio Department of Taxation for a filing extension, authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor, 1 p.m., Board of Education offices, 1049 Hadcock Road.

**Brunswick Committee-of-the-Whole**, regular meeting, 6:30 p.m., followed by Brunswick City Council at 7 p.m., city hall, 4095 Center Road.

**Buckeye Board of Education**, special meeting, 6 p.m., Buckeye High School media center, 3084 Columbia Road.

**Granger Township trustees**, regular meeting, 7 p.m., administration building, 3717 Ridge Road.

**Educational Service Center of Medina County Governing Board**, regular meeting, 6 p.m., ESC building, 275 Center St.

**Medina Board of Control**, regular meeting, 4:30 p.m., multipurpose room, 132 N. Elmwood Ave.

**Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities**, regular meeting, 5 p.m., BCR 1 and 2, 4691 Windfall Road, virtual option available at [www.mcdbd.org/event-calendar](http://www.mcdbd.org/event-calendar).

**Medina Finance Committee**, regular meeting, 6:30 p.m., followed by Medina

City Council at 7:30 p.m., council rotunda, 132 N. Elmwood Ave.

**Medina Special Legislation Committee**, regular meeting, 5 p.m., council rotunda, 132 N. Elmwood Ave.

**Medina Township trustees**, special meeting to approve the permanent budget and to consider and approve engineer's estimates for the repair of Cook and Tompkins roads, 3 p.m., town hall, 3799 Huffman Road.

**Lodi Village Council**, regular meeting, 7 p.m., Lodi Village Hall, 110 Ainsworth St.

**Seville Board of Zoning Appeals**, regular meeting, 6:45 p.m., followed by Zoning and Planning Commission at 7 p.m., council room, 120 Royal Crest Drive.

**Wadsworth Architectural Design Committee**, regular meeting, 4:30 p.m. — canceled.

**Wadsworth Board of Control**, regular meeting, 1:30 p.m., mayor's office, 120 Maple St.

**Wadsworth Planning Commission**, regular meeting, 7 p.m. — canceled.

**Westfield Township trustees**, special meeting to discuss the employee handbook and other general business, 5:30 p.m., town hall, 6699 Buffham Road.

**Tuesday**

**Brunswick Hills Township trustees**, work session, 6 p.m., followed by a

**PUBLIC MEETINGS**

regular meeting at 7 p.m., Brunswick Hills Township Town Hall, 1918 Pearl Road.

**Chatham Township trustees**, regular meeting, 7 p.m., Chatham Community Center, 6306 Avon Lake Road.

**Guilford Township trustees**, special meeting to discuss general township business, 7 p.m., township hall, 3800 Greenwich Road.

**Litchfield Township Board of Zoning Appeals**, regular meeting, 6:30 p.m., town hall, 9256 Norwalk Road.

**Liverpool Township trustees**, regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., Liverpool Township office, 6801 School St.

**Medina County Board of Revision**, regular meeting, 9 a.m., room 301, 144 N. Broadway St., call-in to (330) 539-3171.

**Medina County Career Center Board of Education**, regular meeting, 6 p.m., Center Cafe, 1101 W. Liberty St.

**Medina County commissioners**, regular meeting, 9:30 a.m., commissioners' hearing room, 144 N. Broadway St., virtual option at [www.facebook.com/MedinaCountyCommissioners](http://www.facebook.com/MedinaCountyCommissioners).

**Medina County Investment Advisory Board**, regular meeting, 11:30 a.m., commissioners' conference room., 144 N. Broadway St.

**Medina County Zoning Board Basics Workshop**, regular meeting, 6 p.m.,

balcony room B, 144 N. Broadway St.

**Montville Township trustees**, regular meeting, 1 p.m., Montville Township Administration and Safety Services Center, 6665 Wadsworth Road.

**Sharon Township trustees**, department head meeting, 5 p.m., township administration building, 1322 Sharon Copley Road.

**Wednesday**

**Medina County Budget Commission**, special meeting to discuss final decisions of the fiscal year 2027 school tax budgets, 2 p.m., balcony room, 144 N. Broadway St.

**Medina County Family First Council**, regular meeting, 9 a.m., conference room, 4800 Ledgebrook Drive.

**Montville Township Zoning Commission**, regular meeting, 7 p.m., Montville Township Administration and Safety Services Center, 6665 Wadsworth Road.

**Thursday**

**Brunswick Civil Service Commission**, regular meeting, 10 a.m., Brunswick City Hall, 4095 Center Road.

**Medina County Advisory Council on Aging**, regular meeting, 1 p.m., Senior and Adult Services, 246 Northland Drive.

**Medina County Board of Revision**, regular meeting, 9 a.m., room 301, 144 N. Broadway St., call-in to (330) 539-3171.

**Medina County Data Board Technical Advisory Committee**, regular meeting, 9 a.m., multipurpose room, 555 Independence Drive.

**Medina Township trustees**, regular meeting, 7 p.m., town hall, 3799 Huffman Road.

**Wadsworth City Council**, work session on Wall Road annexation, 5 p.m., council chambers, 120 Maple St.

**York Township trustees**, regular meeting, 7 p.m., township office, 6609 Norwalk Road.

**Friday**

**NOACA Economic Development Subcommittee**, regular meeting, 8:30 a.m., followed by HR, Personnel and Organizational Development Subcommittee at 10 a.m., followed by Business/Community/Rural Emerging Leaders Advisory Council at 11:30 a.m., NOACA, 1299 Superior Ave., Cleveland, virtual option at [tinyurl.com/4urxcx32](http://tinyurl.com/4urxcx32).

**ALMANAC**

The Associated Press

*Today is Saturday, March 21, the 80th day of 2026. There are 285 days left in the year.*

**Today's history**

■ In 1873, the Spanish National Assembly abolished slavery in Puerto Rico, then a Spanish colony; enslaved people were required to work for three more years for their former owners.

■ In 1933, Germany's Nazi government established its first concentration camp in the town of Dachau, ostensibly for political prisoners; Dachau held more than 200,000 prisoners and more than 40,000 died there before American forces liberated the camp in April 1945.

■ In 1952, the Moondog Coronation Ball, considered the first rock 'n' roll concert, took place at Cleveland Arena.

■ In 1960, police in Sharpe-

ville, South Africa, opened fire and killed at least 69 people at a demonstration against apartheid laws.

■ In 1963, the United States closed Alcatraz Federal Penitentiary; over 1,500 inmates had been jailed at the island prison off the coast of San Francisco, California, over its three decades of use.

**Today's birthdays**

Football Hall of Fame coach Tom Flores is 89. Actor Timothy Dalton is 80. Actor Gary Oldman is 68. Actor Matthew Broderick is 64. Comedian-actor Rosie O'Donnell is 64. Former soccer player Ronaldinho is 46. Actor Sonequa Martin-Green is 41. Actor Scott Eastwood is 40. Tennis player Karolína Plíšková is 34. Actor Jasmin Savoy Brown is 32. Actor Jace Norman is 26. Actor Forrest Wheeler is 22.

**WEATHER**

**TODAY:** Morning fog, evening sun ..... 59/52

**SUNDAY:** Evening showers..... 73/33

**MONDAY:** Cloudy..... 39/24

**TUESDAY:** Partly cloudy ..... 50/36

**CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS**

*The Medina Gazette is committed to providing accurate news coverage. Call us at (330) 721-4060 to let us know about factual errors.*

**LOTTERY**

**Ohio (Friday)**

**Midday Pick 3:** 3-6-9. **Pick 3:** Not available at press time.

**Midday Pick 4:** 1-7-5-4. **Pick 4:** Not available at press time.

**Midday Pick 5:** 3-9-8-1-0. **Pick 5:** Not available at press time.

**Rolling Cash 5:** Not available at press time.

**Rolling Cash 5 jackpot is \$100,000.**

**Classic Lotto jackpot is \$2.8 million.**

**Millionaire for Life**

**THURSDAY:** 7-35-55-56-57, **Millionaire Ball:** 4.

**FRIDAY:** The numbers were not available at press time.

**Mega Millions**

**FRIDAY:** The numbers were not available at press time.

**Next Mega Millions jackpot is an estimated \$50 million.**

**Powerball**

**WEDNESDAY:** 14-18-19-21-69, **Powerball:** 1, **Power Play:** 3.

**Next Powerball jackpot is an estimated \$120 million.**

**Ohio (Thursday)**

**Pick 3:** 5-7-3.

**Pick 4:** 1-6-3-0.

**Pick 5:** 9-8-4-4-8.

**Rolling Cash 5:** 3-9-12-19-27.

**THE GAZETTE**

Saturday, March 21, 2026, No. 69

Medina (non-toll area).....(330) 725-4166

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**Sheriff's Office**

**Sunday, March 8**

11:16 a.m. — 8300 block of Hartman Road, Wadsworth Township; there was a motor vehicle crash with no reported injuries.

**Monday, March 9**

7:16 a.m. — 5100 block of Ridge Road, Granger Township; a motor vehicle crash with no reported injuries resulted in a citation/summons.

4:35 p.m. — 900 block of Granger Road, Granger Township; a call was made of a stolen vehicle or the unauthorized use of a vehicle, which was forwarded to the detective bureau.

4:46 p.m. — 9300 block of Hubbard Valley Road, Guilford Township; there was a motor vehicle

crash with injuries reported.

**Tuesday, March 10**

4:23 p.m. — Sharon Copley Road/Beach Road, Sharon Township; a motor vehicle crash with injuries reported resulted in a citation/summons.

**Wednesday, March 11**

8:54 a.m. — 3100 block of Columbia Road, York Township; a motor vehicle crash with no reported injuries resulted in a citation/summons.

10:03 p.m. — Interstate 71/Medina Road, Medina Township; a deputy conducted a traffic stop and arrested an adult.

**Thursday, March 12**

5:24 a.m. — Center Road/Station Road, Liverpool Township; a motor vehicle crash with no reported injuries resulted in a

citation/summons.

12:23 p.m. — 3800 block of Ridge Road, Granger Township; a call was made regarding threats.

9:21 p.m. — 300 block of Center Street, Seville; there was a motor vehicle crash with no reported injuries.

**Friday, March 13**

10:16 a.m. — 4600 block of Medina Line Road, Wadsworth Township; a call was made regarding threats.

12:20 p.m. — Interstate 76, Guilford Township; there was a motor vehicle crash with injuries reported.

6:24 p.m. — Ridgewood Road/State Road, Sharon Township; a motor vehicle crash with no reported injuries resulted in a citation/summons.

10:35 p.m. — 2100 block of Reimer Road, Wadsworth Township; a call was made of harassment via the phone or text, which resulted in a warrant.

**Saturday, March 14**

2:07 a.m. — 1400 block of Wolf Creek Trail, Sharon Township; a call was made of a bomb threat, which was forwarded to the detective bureau.

10:05 a.m. — Greenwich Road/Firestone Road, Homer Township; a motor vehicle crash with no reported injuries resulted in a citation/summons.

10:26 a.m. — 2100 block of Reimer Road, Wadsworth Township; a call was made of harassment via the phone or text, which resulted in a warrant.

**BLOTTER**

**Buckeye High School names student of the month**

Julia King was recently named the Buckeye High School student of the month.

King ranks fourth out of 176 students in the senior class. Her academic course load consists of advanced placement and advanced courses.



King

Bible School teacher. She also works as a tutor and a babysitter.

King is a four-year varsity soccer and varsity track athlete and club soccer player.

Her athletic honors include Team MVP of the Buckeye soccer team, defensive MVP, All-Ohio soccer, district defensive Player of the Year, team captain, academic letter recipient, district placer in track and first team All-Academic in both soccer and track.

**ORMACO concert Sunday**

ORMACO and the Akron-Summit County Public Library present “Larry and Joe” as the culminating concert in the spring 2026 World Tour of Music residency at 2 p.m. Sunday at 60 S. High St. in Akron.

“Larry and Joe” are multi-instrumentalists and singer-songwriters. As a duo, they perform a fusion of Venezuelan and Appalachian folk music on harp, banjo, cuatro, fiddle, maracas, guitar and upright bass.

The program is free. For more information, call (419) 853-6016.

**County road closures**

■ On Monday, in continuation of the current Lake Road reconstruction project, the intersection of Lake Road and Eastlake Road will be closed.

■ River Corners Road will be closed beginning Monday for 45 days between New London Eastern Road and Black River School Road, about 570 feet south of New London Eastern Road for road culvert replacement.

**Local students earn degrees**

■ Isabelle Wagner, of Medina, graduated with a bachelor's degree in conservation management in fall 2025 from Upper Iowa University.

■ Race Wickham, of Medina, earned a master's degree in cybersecurity management and policy from the University of Maryland Global Campus in fall 2025.

— from staff reports

**AUDIT**

From A1

After an internal review, the Medina County Auditor's Office staff found that the amount probably would increase to about \$15,000, due to an omitted month in the state audit's findings.

Additionally, the Medina

County Auditor's Office stated in the February release that the benefit administration function is not a statutory responsibility of the county auditor's office.

On Dec. 23, the Medina County commissioners passed a resolution, amending the table of organization for the county's human

resources department to include a benefits coordinator position.

In response to Friday's release, Hambley said the allegations of his motivations being political are argumentative, and rather, he intended to get the report out as soon as possible.

“I'm still disappointed we

still haven't seen the final release of the audit,” Hambley said. “I mean, there's been a lot of talk for over a month about releasing it. In fact, there was talk back in January about a time frame to release it.”

Contact reporter Sara Crawford at (330) 721-4063 or [scrawford@medina-gazette.com](mailto:scrawford@medina-gazette.com).

**TODDLERS**

From A1

Board speech-language pathologist Megan Palasik said they've consistently received positive feedback from attendees and are often asked when the next one will be.

Rather than planning them one at a time, Palasik said the board planned last fall to determine where each playgroup would be held and when. This year's playgroups include:

■ May 18, 10-11:30 a.m. at Wadsworth Blue Tip playground, 300 Blue Tip Way in Wadsworth.

■ July 15, 10:30 a.m. to noon at Fred Greenwood Park, 350 W. Sturbridge Drive in Medina.

■ Sept. 14, 10-11:30 a.m. at Carolyn Ludwig Mudge Park, 4985 Windfall Road in Medina.

■ Nov. 5, 10-11:30 a.m. at Medina Recreation Center, 855 Weymouth Road in Medina.

“It's important to our organization, the



SARA CRAWFORD / GAZETTE

Lauren Zelei and Layla, 2½, color with dot markers on Friday.

Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities, to create or help facilitate spaces that are welcoming to everybody, regardless of ability,” Wachsberger said.

To learn more about the board's activities, visit [www.mcdbd.org](http://www.mcdbd.org).

Contact reporter Sara Crawford at (330) 721-4063 or [scrawford@medina-gazette.com](mailto:scrawford@medina-gazette.com).

**WHATZIT?**

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

**SCHEDULE**

**SOLUTION UNDER: FLOWERS - PLANTS**

**SERVICE**

From A1

“1,406 people last year used or visited the mobile changing unit, and we are out between 30 to 35 events throughout the community,” she said. “It's a game changer because now families can come and go to these events and not have that concern of the use of the restroom.”

The Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities is able to provide its services

because the community has supported its levy, Maleckar said.

“Our levy is a flat levy, so when the levy was voted in, that dollar amount that people are paying stays consistent,” she said. “When property taxes rise, our levy dollars do not increase. I think that's important to know that we are not getting additional dollars based on the increased values of homes.”

Contact reporter Madisyn Woodring at (330) 721-4049 or [mwoodring@medina-gazette.com](mailto:mwoodring@medina-gazette.com).

## FROM PAGE ONE

## ALMANAC

The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, March 28, the 87th day of 2026. There are 278 days left in the year.

## Today's history

■ In 1898, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, ruled 6-2 that Wong, who was born in the United States to Chinese immigrants, was an American citizen. It was the first Supreme Court decision to rule on the citizenship status of a child born in the United States to noncitizen parents.

■ In 1935, the notorious Nazi propaganda film "Triumph des Willens" ("Triumph of the Will"), directed by Leni Riefenstahl, premiered in Berlin with Adolf Hitler present.

■ In 1941, author Virginia Woolf, 59, drowned herself near her home in Lewes, East Sussex, England.

■ In 1969, the 34th president of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower, died in Washington, D.C., at age 78.

## Today's birthdays

Basketball Hall of Famer Rick Barry is 82. Actor Dianne Wiest is 78. Singer-actor Reba McEntire is 71. Olympic gymnastics gold medalist Bart Conner is 68. Rapper Salt (Salt-N-Pepa) is 60. Country musician Rodney Atkins is 57. Actor Vince Vaughn is 56. Sen. Ashley Moody, a Republican from Florida, is 51. Actor Julia Stiles is 45. Singer-actor Lady Gaga is 40. Stylist-TV personality Jonathan Van Ness is 39. Rapper Jackson Wang is 32. Russian figure skater and Olympic gold medalist Anna Shcherbakova is 22.

## ROUTE

From A1

The bid package was then adjusted, adding more money to the estimated cost, making it \$2.1 million.

The city put the project out to bid again in early December, Patton said. A single bid came in, more than \$1.1 million more than had been budgeted.

To help reduce the estimated costs, Patton suggested setting aside the bump-out portion of the resurfacing project. In talking with contractors, Patton said the bump-outs were what added to the cost.

While the city would set aside the bump-outs for now, Patton said Council could always revisit the idea in the future, as the plans are completed, and could seek out ODOT's safety fund grant.

Medina City Council President John Coyne asked if they could add the bump-outs as an alternate bid, so that they could get an estimate on what they would cost for the city to complete.

Patton said he would resurface potentially adding the bump-outs on as an alternate before Council is set to meet on April 13.

The resurfacing project without the bump-outs would cost about \$1.46 million. The Northeast Ohio Area-wide Coordinating Agency's TIP Award allocated \$902,136 to the project, while the city would allocate \$559,206.

"We'd really like to get this resurfaced," Patton said. "It's a dire need of it, and we do have a deadline of June 30 to award this contract."

Contact reporter Sara Crawford at (330) 721-4063 or [scrawford@medina-gazette.com](mailto:scrawford@medina-gazette.com).

## WEATHER

<b>TODAY:</b> Partly cloudy .....	<b>41/30</b>
<b>SUNDAY:</b> Cloudy.....	<b>58/48</b>
<b>MONDAY:</b> Cloudy.....	<b>67/59</b>
<b>TUESDAY:</b> Cloudy, wind .....	<b>76/54</b>

## CORRECTIONS &amp; CLARIFICATIONS

The Medina Gazette is committed to providing accurate news coverage. Call us at (330) 721-4060 to let us know about factual errors.

## LOTTERY

## Ohio (Friday)

**Midday Pick 3:** 5-1-8, **Pick 3:** Not available at press time.  
**Midday Pick 4:** 9-9-9-3, **Pick 4:** Not available at press time.  
**Midday Pick 5:** 2-0-5-5-2, **Pick 5:** Not available at press time.  
**Rolling Cash 5:** Not available at press time.  
**Rolling Cash 5 jackpot is \$182,000.**  
**Classic Lotto jackpot is \$3.1 million.**

## Millionaire for Life

**THURSDAY:** 1-8-18-39-47, **Millionaire Ball:** 1.  
**FRIDAY:** The numbers were not available at press time.

## Mega Millions

**FRIDAY:** The numbers were not available at press time.  
**Next Mega Millions jackpot is an estimated \$70 million.**

## Powerball

**WEDNESDAY:** 7-21-55-56-64, **Powerball:** 26, **Power Play:** 4.  
**Next Powerball jackpot is an estimated \$166 million.**

## Ohio (Thursday)

**Pick 3:** 1-5-8.  
**Pick 4:** 0-8-1-3.  
**Pick 5:** 3-4-3-6-9.  
**Rolling Cash 5:** 6-8-12-19-32.

## THE GAZETTE

Saturday, March 28, 2026, No. 75  
**Medina (non-toll area).....(330) 725-4166**  
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## EDITORIAL

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## Monday

**Brunswick Parks, Recreation and Community Committee,** regular meeting, 6 p.m., Pumpkin Ridge Park, 3062 Grafton Road.

**Medina County Budget Commission,** special meeting to discuss the recent letter from legal counsel for Highland Schools and to address possible approval of all school district budgets as proposed in advance of the April 1 deadline for school districts with no public comment scheduled, 4 p.m., balcony room B, 144 N. Broadway St.

**Medina County Land Bank,** regular meeting, 9 a.m., balcony room B, 144 N. Broadway St.

## Tuesday

**Granger Township Board of Zoning Appeals,** regular meeting, 6:30 p.m., administration building, 3717 Ridge Road.

**Lafayette Township trustees/**

**fire district,** regular meeting, 7 p.m., safety services building, 6367 Technology Lane.

**Medina County commissioners,** regular meeting, 9:30 a.m., commissioners' hearing room, 144 N. Broadway St., virtual option at [www.facebook.com/MedinaCountyCommissioners](http://www.facebook.com/MedinaCountyCommissioners).

**Medina County Port Authority,** special meeting to discuss support for economic development projects, 8 a.m., room 119, 144 N. Broadway St.

## Wednesday

**Brunswick Hills Township Board of Zoning Appeals,** regular meeting, 7 p.m. — canceled.

**Medina Civil Service Commission,** regular meeting, 8 a.m., multi-purpose room, 132 N. Elmwood Ave.

**Medina County Planning Commission,** regular meeting,

6:30 p.m., balcony room B, 144 N. Broadway St.

**Medina County Subdivision Regulations and Proposed Development Agreement work group,** regular meeting, noon, balcony room B, 144 N. Broadway St.

**Wadsworth Power Supply Commission,** regular meeting, 4 p.m., administrative conference room, 120 Maple St.

**Westfield Township Zoning Commission,** public hearing for a site plan review and amended use application for Westfield Commerce Park and to review recommendations of changes to the zoning resolutions, 6:30 p.m., town hall, 6699 Buffham Road.

## Thursday

**Brunswick Hills Township Zoning Commission,** regular meeting, 7 p.m., town hall, 1918 Pearl Road.

**Brunswick Planning**

**Commission, caucus meeting,** 6:30 p.m. — canceled.

**Hinckley Township Zoning Commission,** regular meeting, 7 p.m., administration building, 1410 Ridge Road, log onto [www.hinckleytwp.org/zoom](http://www.hinckleytwp.org/zoom) for Zoom option.

**Liverpool Township Zoning Commission,** regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., Liverpool Township office, 6801 School St.

**Wadsworth Cable TV Commission,** regular meeting, 4 p.m., council chambers, 120 Maple St.

**York Township Zoning Commission,** regular meeting, 7 p.m., York Town Hall/Fire Station Complex, 6609 Norwalk Road.

## ROUNDUP

## Brunswick students win awards in statewide Deaf-themed art contest

Brunswick Schools students won awards at the sixth annual Deaf-themed art contest on March 8 in Columbus.

The following Brunswick students were recognized:

■ Ava Biggs, of Huntington, won first place in the kindergarten through third grade division.

■ Niko Parsons, of Kidder, won second place in the kindergarten through third grade division.

■ Emersyn Korecky, of Huntington, won second place in the third grade through fifth grade division.

■ Mila Parsons, of Brunswick Middle School, won second place in the sixth grade through eighth grade division.

The statewide contest challenges kindergarten through 12th grade students to create original artwork inspired by deaf culture, history, experiences, role models and visual communication. Entries are grouped by grade level, with winners selected in each category.

The contest is put on by Ohio Deaf

Friends of the Library in partnership with Ohio Hands & Voices and Advocates for Kids.

## Local students recognized for academic achievement

■ Ben Emerson, of Hinckley, was named to the dean's list for the fall 2025 semester at Marquette University in Milwaukee.

■ Lukas Graber of Medina, made the dean's list for the fall 2025 semester at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

## Board of Developmental Disabilities offers scholarship opportunity

The Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities is offering a scholarship opportunity for local Medina County high school students. There is a single \$1,500 scholarship this year.

The scholarship was founded to recognize and support young people who are considering a career that may serve individuals with developmental disabilities.

Applicants must be a current Medina County high school senior and have been accepted into an accredited pro-

gram in a field which may provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities. Applicants must also demonstrate involvement in, or have provided services to, individuals with developmental disabilities through activities like Special Olympics, classroom activities, volunteering or job shadowing.

Interested students must complete and submit a donor scholarship application form before Tuesday to be considered. Forms are available by calling (330) 725-7751 ext. 273 or at [mcbdd.org](http://mcbdd.org).

## Road construction projects

■ Interstate 71 from state Route 18 to the Cuyahoga County line will have single-lane closures for final project work. Crews will be completing final smoothness grinding and final striping work, and traffic will be maintained by barrels. The estimated completion date is in June.

■ Interstate 271 southbound, east of state Route 94, will have daily right lane closures for embankment repairs. Traffic will be maintained by barrels. May is the estimated completion date.

— from staff reports

## BLOTTER

## Sheriff's Office

## Sunday, March 15

12:19 p.m. — 3700 block of Abbeyville Road, York Township; there was a motor vehicle crash with no reported injuries.

## Monday, March 16

6:58 p.m. — Wadsworth Road/Bear Swamp Road, Guilford Township; a motor vehicle crash with injuries reported resulted in a citation/summons.

## Tuesday, March 17

9:28 a.m. — Silvercreek Road/Eastern Road, Wadsworth Township; a motor vehicle crash with no reported injuries resulted in a citation/summons.

2:58 p.m. — 3900 block of Woodberry Drive, Granger

Township; a call was made regarding threats, resulting in the arrest of an adult.

## Wednesday, March 18

12:07 a.m. — 9800 block of Franchester Road, Harrisville Township; a motor vehicle crash with injuries reported resulted in the arrest of an adult.

6:42 a.m. — Marks Road/West Reagan Parkway, Medina Township; there was a motor vehicle crash with no reported injuries.

3:04 p.m. — 3100 block of Seville Road, Guilford Township; a motor vehicle crash with no reported injuries resulted in a citation/summons.

## Thursday, March 19

6:30 a.m. — 1200 block of

Maple Street, Liverpool Township; a call was made regarding criminal damage mischief/vandalism property damage.

9:31 a.m. — 2100 block of Sharon Copley Road, Sharon Township; a motor vehicle crash with no reported injuries resulted in a citation/summons.

3:30 p.m. — 7400 block of Grafton Road, Liverpool Township; a report was made of a vehicle in a ditch.

8 p.m. — State Road/Hatch Road, Sharon Township; there was a motor vehicle crash with no reported injuries.

## Friday, March 20

6:15 p.m. — 9800 block of Lafayette Road, Harrisville Township; a motor vehicle crash

with injuries reported resulted in the arrest of an adult.

## Saturday, March 21

7:22 p.m. — Fenn Road/Abbeyville Road, York Township; a motor vehicle crash with injuries reported resulted in a citation/summons.

8:10 p.m. — Ridge Road/state Interstate 271, Granger Township; a motor vehicle crash with injuries reported resulted in a citation/summons.

10:21 p.m. — 900 block of High Street, Wadsworth; an officer conducted a traffic stop, which resulted an arrest.

## CELEBRATES

From A1

"Tonight, we're not just celebrating a merger," Greene said. "We're celebrating what's possible when communities choose collaboration over competition, and when we stay committed not just where we came from, but where we're going."

At multiple points throughout the evening, people expressed the importance of looking forward to where the Northern Medina County Chamber Alliance will go, after 10 years of success in supporting businesses, building relationships and creating connections.

Boehmke was later presented with several proclamations from elected officials or their representatives, including state Rep. Melanie Miller, R-Ashland, Sen. Tom Patton, R-Strongsville, and Brunswick Mayor Ron Falconi.

"It's clear that the true strength of this chamber is in the relationships that have been built over the past 10 years; the connection, the support, the shared commitment to help one another succeed," Boehmke said. "That's what



SARA CRAWFORD / GAZETTE

Executive Director Debbie Boehmke was later presented with several proclamations from elected officials or their representatives on Thursday.

makes this organization really special. The friendships that we have made, the connections we have made, that is what is important. The networking that we do together to strengthen this area of our community is so important."

To learn more about the Northern Medina County Chamber Alliance, visit [nmccalliance.com](http://nmccalliance.com).

Contact reporter Sara Crawford at (330) 721-4063 or [scrawford@medina-gazette.com](mailto:scrawford@medina-gazette.com).

## FOOD

From A1

Feeding Medina County's home delivery program provides shelf-stable food and produce twice a month to individuals who have transportation and health barriers. The organization used \$5,673 of the donated funds.

The Staples for Seniors program brings bags of food to seniors living in low-income

housing facilities in the area. Feeding Medina County used \$11,767 of the funds to benefit that program.

As of March 20, Feeding Medina County used \$33,640 to assist city residents.

With the remaining funds, Newcomer said they'll hold another special distribution on April 21 at the Medina Fairgrounds Community Center, 735 Lafayette Road, from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

"In addition to that, we will be using those funds that are remaining from that for the Staples for Seniors program, for the emergency pantry, and for home deliveries," Newcomer said.

After presenting the information, Newcomer thanked Council for their contribution, stating people have dinner on their tables because of their thoughtfulness, compassion and consideration.

Medina City Council President John Coyne thanked Feeding Medina County for focusing some of its efforts on helping city residents.

"Our goal is to make sure that nobody goes to bed hungry," Coyne said. "If we can try to minimize that as much as possible, I think we're doing a great service to the city of Medina."

Contact reporter Sara Crawford at (330) 721-4063 or [scrawford@medina-gazette.com](mailto:scrawford@medina-gazette.com).

## KOPCHAK

From A1

Spellacy said people can be critical of Kopchak for making the wrong choice, but "he made a decision right or wrong in a split second that caused him to be sitting here." He added that Kopchak testified that he was acting as a police officer that night, and it was up for the jury to decide if that was the case.

"Guess what? When you make a wrong decision, and you act on it, it's a crime or

it can be a crime," Salisbury said. "In this case, it is. Was it a wrong decision? Call it that, or call it committing a crime. Right or wrong? That's the whole purpose of a trial."

On April 26, 2024, Lajack, 41, of Brunswick, and Kopchak, 48, of Brunswick, were off-duty officers when they questioned Yonas Bokredingil's citizenship status and detained him when they were at the Buzzard's Roost Tavern in Hinckley. At the time of the incident, they served on law enforcement agencies outside of

Medina County and were deputized to serve on federal law enforcement task forces.

Kopchak is scheduled to be sentenced on June 11.

Lajack originally faced similar charges to Kopchak, but he entered a guilty plea to attempted abduction, and the remainder of his charges were dropped in February. His sentencing is scheduled for Thursday.

Contact reporter Madisyn Woodring at (330) 721-4049 or [mwoodring@medina-gazette.com](mailto:mwoodring@medina-gazette.com).



...the number of people served by the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities increased by 26 p...

# Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities continues to see increased need for its services



Madisyn Woodring  
The Gazette

Mar 20, 2026 7:00 PM

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MEDINA TWP. – The number of people served by the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities increased by 26 percent from 2020 to 2025 with 1,573 people being served last year.

Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities Superintendent Stacey Maleckar gave an update on the organization to the Hinckley Township trustees during its meeting Tuesday.

The board serves people throughout their lives, Maleckar said. Services include early intervention, therapy, employment and case management among others.

“I always say, Medina is a great county,” she said. “People want to live here, so we continue to see a need for services. We continue to see more and more people eligible for services.”

One of the biggest areas of growth is young people, Maleckar said. In 2025, 820 people who are 22 and younger were served by the organization compared to 799 people in 2024.

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“Our early intervention, (from ages) zero to 3, is a huge game changer in my book because we go out and work with families and their kids,” she said. “It makes life a lot easier for the family and the child, working together, communicating, but it also gives that child the opportunity to build some skills, so that they hopefully will need less supports and services as they grow older.”

The board is also in its third year of sponsoring a mobile changing unit at events in Medina County, Maleckar said. It is a trailer, which features an adult-size universal changing table, a ramp and other features to assist those who have mobility issues.

“1,406 people last year used or visited the mobile changing unit, and we are out between 30 to 35 events throughout the community,” she said. “It’s a game changer because now families can come and go to these events and not have that concern of the use of the restroom.”



The Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities is able to provide its services because the community has supported its levy, Maleckar said.

“Our levy is a flat levy, so when the levy was voted in, that dollar amount that people are paying stays consistent,” she said. “When property taxes rise, our levy dollars do not increase. I think that’s important to know that we are not getting additional dollars based on the increased values of homes.”

Contact reporter Madisyn Woodring at (330) 721-4049 or [mwoodring@medina-gazette.com](mailto:mwoodring@medina-gazette.com).



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# Iranians disappointed as talks break down

/the Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iranians reacted with a mixture of disappointment and defiance on Sunday after peace talks with the United States failed to reach an agreement following hourslong negotiations.

U.S. officials said the talks collapsed over what they described as Iran's refusal to commit to abandoning its nuclear program. Iranian officials blamed the U.S. for failing to reach a deal, without specifying the sticking points.

The failure of the high-stakes talks in Pakistan after 21 hours casts doubt over the future of a fragile two-week ceasefire, due to expire on April 22.

While the fragile ceasefire seems to hold, the war is not over and uncertainty remains on the streets of Tehran where some residents were reluctant to speak to the media.

Iranians have been living in digital blackout for over a month after the internet was blocked shortly after the war started on Feb. 28. Since then,

the population has been relying on state-controlled media, with a limited number of people having access to overseas satellite TV channels for access to information.

Standing outside a newsstand in the capital, Tehran, Farhad Simia told The Associated Press he had hoped for successful negotiations and an end to the fighting, but stood with Iran despite the failure of the talks.

"I'm against war. I think negotiation is the better path," Simia, 43, said. He blamed "inappropriate demands" by the U.S. for the failure to reach a deal.

Mehdi Hosseini, also 43, agreed: "Considering the advantage Iran seemed to have on the battlefield, there was a real concern that we might lose all those gains in the negotiations.

"Whether the talks succeed or not is one matter, but the fact that the Iranian negotiating team managed to preserve what it achieved in the war, while refusing to back down

and surrender, gives reason for hope."

The streets of Tehran were lined up with large Iranian flags and giant billboards glorifying the country's leaders and military achievements. One large illustration depicted Iranian men in uniform lifting a fishing net out of the sea with a catch of miniature-sized U.S. military aircraft and warships. "The Strait Remains Closed," the billboard read.

Hamid Haghi, 55, said "America's overreach" was the reason for the talks' failure. The U.S. wants "to come to the Strait of Hormuz, which is a legacy from our fathers," he said. "We can oversee (it) ourselves."

Like many Iranians, 60-year-old Mohammad Bagher believes Iran should continue to stand strong against the U.S. in what he sees as a war of their own making.

"We are a nation of dialogue and negotiation as long as our interests are respected. We have never sought war," he said. "We will stand firm to



A woman sits at a cafe Sunday in northern Tehran, Iran.

the end, we are ready to sacrifice our lives, and will not give them one inch of our land."

Since the U.S. and Israel launched the war on Feb. 28, it has killed at least 3,000 peo-

ple in Iran, 2,020 in Lebanon, 23 in Israel and more than a dozen in Gulf Arab states, and caused lasting damage to infrastructure in half a dozen Middle Eastern countries.

Iran's grip on the Strait of Hormuz has largely cut off the Persian Gulf and its oil and gas exports from the global economy, sending energy prices soaring.

## PORTS

From A1

The face-to-face talks that ended early Sunday were the highest-level negotiations between the longtime rivals since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Neither indicated what will happen after the ceasefire expires on April 22.

"We need to see an affirmative commitment that they will not seek a nuclear weapon," said Vice President JD Vance, leading the U.S. side.

Iranian negotiators could not agree to all U.S. "red lines," said a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to describe positions on the record. These included Iran never obtaining a nuclear weapon, ending uranium enrichment, dismantling major enrichment facilities and allowing retrieval of its highly enriched uranium, along with open-

ing the Strait of Hormuz and ending funding for Hamas, Hezbollah and Houthi rebels.

Iranian officials said talks fell apart over two or three key issues, blaming what they called U.S. overreach. Qalibaf, who noted progress in negotiations, said it was time for the United States "to decide whether it can gain our trust or not."

Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said his country will try to facilitate a new dialogue in the coming days. Iran said it was open to continuing dialogue, state-run IRNA news agency reported.

The European Union urged further diplomatic efforts. The foreign minister of Oman, located on the Strait of Hormuz's southern coast, called for parties to "make painful concessions." The Kremlin said Russian President Vladimir Putin "emphasized his readiness" to help bring about a diplomatic settlement in a call with Iran's president.

## Nuclear program a sticking point

Iran's nuclear program was at the center of tensions long before the U.S. and Israel launched the war on Feb. 28. The fighting has killed at least 3,000 people in Iran, 2,055 in Lebanon, 23 in Israel and more than a dozen in Gulf Arab states, and damaged infrastructure in half a dozen countries.

Tehran has long denied seeking nuclear weapons but insists on its right to a civilian nuclear program. The landmark 2015 nuclear deal, which Trump later pulled the U.S. out of, took well over a year of negotiations. Experts say Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium, though not weapons-grade, is only a short technical step away.

An Iranian diplomatic official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of closed-door talks, denied that negotiations had failed over Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Inside Iran, there was new exhaustion and anger after months of unrest that began with nationwide protests against economic issues and then political ones, followed by weeks of sheltering from U.S. and Israeli bombardment.

"We have never sought war. But if they try to win what they failed to win on the battlefield through talks, that's absolutely unacceptable," Mohammad Bagher Karami said in Tehran.

Elsewhere in the region, airstrikes calmed over the past day except in Lebanon.

## Israel presses ahead in Lebanon

Iran's 10-point proposal for the talks called for a halt to Israeli strikes on the Iranian-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon. Israel has said the ceasefire did not apply there, but Iran and Pakistan said it did.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited parts of southern Lebanon under Israeli control on

Sunday, for the first time since the current fighting. Attacks on southern Lebanon have intensified alongside the ground invasion renewed after Hezbollah launched rockets toward Israel in the war's opening days.

Negotiations between Israel and Lebanon are expected to begin Tuesday in Washington after Israel's surprise announcement authorizing talks despite their lack of official relations. Israel wants Lebanon to assume responsibility for disarming Hezbollah, but the militant group has survived efforts to curb its strength for decades.

The day the Iran ceasefire deal was announced, Israel pounded Beirut with airstrikes, killing more than 300 people, according to the Health Ministry.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported six people were killed Sunday in Maaroub village near the coastal city of Tyre.

## MIAMI SAYS BYE, BYE BUILDING



People watch pyrotechnics just before the controlled implosion Sunday of the former Mandarin Oriental Hotel on Brickell Key in Miami.

# Historic hotel demolished

The Associated Press

MIAMI — A hotel at one of Miami's most-exclusive locations was demolished Sunday to make way for something bigger.

Demolition experts completed the controlled implosion of the former Mandarin Oriental, Miami on Brickell Key, a human-made island at the mouth of the Miami River, across from downtown. It marked the largest implosion for Miami in more than a decade, officials said.

The 23-story building, which opened 25 years ago, collapsed in less than 20 seconds following blasts that occurred around 8:30 a.m.

People watching the implosion safely from afar cheered and recorded phone videos as the building's framework collapsed following a series of rapid charges. Dust soon filled the air as building material crashed down. Some watchers wore face masks as they left the area.

Residents within 800 feet of the building were asked to stay inside their apart-

ments during the blast with windows and doors closed.

According to Swire Properties, the demolition will make way for the groundbreaking of The Residences at Mandarin Oriental, Miami, a two-tower ultraluxury hotel and residential development scheduled for completion in 2030.

The operation follows nearly two years of planning and coordination with specialized contractors and the city, developers said. Implosion was selected to maintain the project timeline.

## DESIGNS

From A1

The design, often used where two closely spaced intersections meet, could help traffic flow more efficiently.

The intersection's config-

uration, with multiple roads meeting at different angles, makes it a strong possibility for a nontraditional design.

"It will not be a typical roundabout. That's why the peanut shape was one of the things they were looking at," he said.

Plans will also include

features aimed at improving traffic flow and reducing delays. In some cases, drivers making right turns may be able to bypass the roundabout entirely in the far right lane.

"There will be a right-turn lane where you won't even have to enter the roundabout.

You won't have to wait, you can just continue through," Stugmyer said.

Additional details, which includes the final layout and timeline, are expected to be released as planning progresses.

Contact reporter Sam Russ at (330) 491-6962 or [sruss@medina-gazette.com](mailto:sruss@medina-gazette.com)

## ROUNDUP

### Disabilities board seeks nominations

The Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities is accepting nominations for its 2026 Stand Out Champions Awards, which recognize individuals and organizations supporting people with developmental disabilities.

The awards honor those who have helped remove barriers and improve inclusion across Medina County through advocacy, leadership and community initiatives.

Nominations are open in several categories, which include individuals with developmental disabilities who demonstrate strong advocacy, businesses that make a positive impact and groups who support inclusion through programs.

Submissions are accepted year-round, but nominations for the 2026 must be received by April 30. Recipients will be announced in August.

More information and nomination forms are available at <https://tinyurl.com/n9anhktb>

### Brunswick Schools to host Safety Town

Brunswick school district will host its annual Safety Town program June 1-4 at Memorial Elementary School.

The program is designed for students entering kindergarten in the 2026-27 school year and will focus on teaching basic safety skills through hands-on activities and simulated traffic scenarios.

Two sessions will be offered daily 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30

to 3 p.m. Children will learn street and bus safety along with how to navigate common traffic situations while also building confidence and independence ahead of the school year.

The program also promotes social development through group activities as students prepare for kindergarten.

Enrollment is limited to district students entering kindergarten and is available on first-come, first-served basis. Registration is open through May 1. The \$55 fee includes a T-shirt.

### Bar association announces essay contest

The Medina County Bar Association is accepting entries for its 2026 Law Day Scholarship Essay Contest open to high school seniors living in Medina County.

This year's theme, "The Rule of Law and the American Dream," asks students to examine how the rule of law protects rights, liberties and opportunities in the United States.

Essays must be 500 to 1,000 words, typed and double-spaced and include a cover page with the student's information. Submissions are due by 4 p.m. Wednesday and can be sent electronically.

The contest offers a \$3,000 scholarship for first place and \$1,500 for second place. Winners will be recognized at the association's Law Day Luncheon on May 1, where they may present their essays.

— from staff reports

## MUSEUM

From A1

"We're close to breaking ground, and it will allow us to display more of what we have and bring in traveling exhibits," he said.

The museum is mainly operated by volunteers and relies on donations and community support to maintain the property and continue to develop exhibits. The steady addition

of new artifacts gives visitors a reason to return.

"Every time you come back, you'll see something different," Feron said.

The McDowell-Phillips House Museum, along with the John Smart House Museum, is open 1-4 p.m. the second Sunday of each month from March to November.

Contact reporter Sam Russ at (330) 491-6962 or [sruss@medina-gazette.com](mailto:sruss@medina-gazette.com)

## SUMMER CAMP

# Summer camp for kids with disabilities

## Tips for choosing the right camp for your child

Summer camp can be a wonderful opportunity for children to explore new activities, make friends and build confidence.

For parents of children with developmental disabilities, choosing the right camp may require additional research and planning.

The good news is that many camps today are designed to be inclusive and supportive of diverse learning and developmental needs. With thoughtful preparation, you can find a camp where your child will thrive.

### Understand different types of camps

Not all camps are the same, choosing the right type depends on your child's comfort level, abilities and interests. It's important to understand the options available.

**Inclusive camps:** These camps welcome children with and without disabilities and provide accommodations when needed. These camps often emphasize community, diversity and peer interaction.

**Specialized camps:** This type of camp is designed specifically for children with certain developmental or medical needs. Staff members are

usually trained in working with those specific conditions, and programs may include therapeutic activities.

**Day camps vs. overnight camps:** Day camps allow children to return home each evening, which can be comforting for children who prefer routine. Overnight camps can help children develop independence but may require more preparation.

Think about what you want your child to get out of the camp experience. Be realistic with goals and expectations. Deciding which type of environment will best address your child's strengths, needs and interests is an important first step in choosing a summer camp experience.

### Talk, talk, talk ... and be honest

When looking for a summer camp, parents should look beyond the brochure and ask important questions such as:

**Staff training and experience:** Ask about staff qualifications and training related to developmental disabilities. Find out the staff-to-camper ratio and whether specialists such as therapists, behavioral specialists or nurses are available.

**Safety and Supervision:** Make sure the camp has clear safety procedures, including medical protocols, communication systems and emergency plans.

**Individual support and accommodations:** Some camps create individualized support plans for campers. Ask whether your child can receive accommodations such as sensory breaks, visual schedules or one-on-one support.

**Activities and environment:** Look for programs that match your child's interests and abilities. A camp that allows flexible participation can help ensure your child feels included rather than overwhelmed.

When entrusting your child's care to others, it is important they understand how to take good care of your child.

Be completely honest when talking with camp personnel about the needs of your child. Let them know if there are any accommodations or limitations. If possible, share detailed information with camp staff about your child's strengths, needs, communication style and triggers. The more they understand your child, the better they can support them.

And don't forget to ask for references and talk to other parents about their experiences with the camp you are considering.

### Trust your instincts

As a parent, you know your child best. If a camp feels welcoming, flexible and genuinely interested in your child's success, that's a strong sign you're on the right track. Trust your instincts and don't hesitate to ask questions.

Finding the right summer camp for a child with developmental disabilities can take time, but the effort is worth it. The right camp can provide meaningful friendships, new skills and unforgettable memories.

With thoughtful planning and open communication, summer camp can become a joyful and empowering experience — for both your child and your family.

The Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities works within the community to help people with developmental disabilities and their families to find and connect to the resources they need. For more information, call the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities at (330) 725-7751 or visit [www.mcdbdd.org](http://www.mcdbdd.org).

## St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran to host Vacation Bible School

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church is excited for another year of growing together in faith at Vacation Bible School! VBS will be 9 to 11:30 a.m. June 22 to 26. This summer's theme, "Rainforest Falls," will take participants on a journey through the rainforest as they learn about the nature of God.

Children will explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God through Bible stories, music, crafts, games, snacks and a group service project. VBS is a great way to grow in faith while having fun with old and new friends!

VBS is free and open to all children ages 3 through those who have completed fifth grade. Registration is required and must be completed by Sunday, June 7. To register, visit [www.stmatthewmedina.org](http://www.stmatthewmedina.org) and click the link for VBS registration.

For questions or additional information, email Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach at [lindsay@stmatthewmedina.org](mailto:lindsay@stmatthewmedina.org).

St. Matthew hopes you'll join them for a week of learning, fun and discovering more about the loving nature of God!

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church is at 400 N. Broadway Street, Medina.

## Preschool, teen, specialty camps at Medina Rec

This summer, Medina Rec Center is bringing even more excitement to its camp lineup with something for everyone! From the Preschool Camp designed for curious 3- to 5-year-olds to the Teen Discover Camp packed with thrilling outdoor activities, they've got the perfect camp for every age.

Plus, their Specialty Camps give kids the chance to

explore tennis, basketball, chess, art and STEM/LEGO activities in a fun, hands-on environment.

Whatever your child's interests, this summer promises a season of exploration, learning and unforgettable memories!

Preschool camps are fun, half-day camps packed with creativity, adventure and exploration. Get ready

to blast Out of This World as your little astronauts explore outer space, planets, stars and galaxies through hands-on activities and stellar games.

Step right up for Circus Spectacular, where campers will juggle fun challenges, create colorful crafts and enjoy big-top excitement filled with laughter and movement. Then they'll travel

across the globe during Wonders of the World, discovering amazing landmarks, cultures and adventures from around the planet!

This summer, keep your teen engaged and active with the Teen Adventure Camp, a thrilling program designed for ages 12 to 15. If your teen loves being outdoors, this camp is the perfect way to get them moving, making new

friends and learning valuable leadership skills.

This camp is all about adventure, with three days each week spent off-site exploring the best spots around the area.

Teens will enjoy field trips and hiking trips, swimming at the rec pool and engaging in a variety of outdoor

See REC, 3

# MEDINA REC

## SUMMER CAMPS




**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**

- Discover Camp
- Basketball Camp
- Teen Discover Camp
- Volleyball Camp
- Preschool Camp
- Tennis Camp
- Camp Wonderful
- Guardians Baseball
- Creative Little Artists
- Cavalittles Basketball
- Artist & Beyond
- Mark Price Basketball
- Lego & Stem Camp
- Cavs Cheer & Dance
- Chess Camp
- Soccer Shots Camp

**Summer is Medina Rec's favorite time of the year!**

**MAKE NEW FRIENDS & MEMORIES THAT LAST A LIFETIME!**





**REGISTER TODAY!**





**Vacation Bible School**

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church  
400 N. Broadway, Medina, Ohio

June 22-26 from 9:00-11:30 a.m.

VBS is free and open to all children ages 3 through those who have completed 5th grade.

**Registration is required and must be completed by Sunday, June 7.** To register, please visit [www.stmatthewmedina.org](http://www.stmatthewmedina.org) and click the link for VBS Registration.

For questions or additional information, please contact Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach at [lindsay@stmatthewmedina.org](mailto:lindsay@stmatthewmedina.org).

## - Medina County Board of DD Offers Camperships -



### SUMMER MEANS CAMP!

The Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities is happy to offer camperships for students and adults with developmental differences to attend the camp of their choice this summer.

#### Two types of camperships are available:

- Student camperships are available to children who are ages 4 to 22, live in Medina County, have been found eligible for county board services and are not receiving Medicaid Waiver funding.
- Adult camperships are available to adults ages 22 and up, who live in Medina County, have been found eligible for county board services and are not currently receiving Medicaid Waiver funding.

Camperships are up to \$400 each, with a limit of one (1) per person.

Individuals and families who are interested in applying for camperships should visit [www.mcdbdd.org/service-funding/](http://www.mcdbdd.org/service-funding/) for more information and applications, or call 330-725-7751 ext. 130.



Helping people with developmental differences and their families with everything from early intervention and educational opportunities for children to employment and community inclusive living for adults.

330-725-7751 • [www.mcdbdd.org](http://www.mcdbdd.org)



# Health & Happiness & Harmony

SPECIAL ADVERTISING FEATURE

## What health care professionals say about kids and devices

Metro Creative

The ubiquity of devices in twenty-first century life is hard to miss. Whether it's smartphones, tablets or laptops, devices are seemingly everywhere in modern life. That's even true with young children, who have a tendency to bring tablets along during car trips or nights out at a restaurant.

Parents walk a tightrope regarding screen time and children. Though media use is often, and understandably, discussed in terms of its potentially harmful impact on young minds, the issue is not exactly as one-sided as it may seem. For example, kids are naturally curious, and parents may not always have the answers to youngsters' questions. In such instances, devices can fill the gaps by encouraging kids to explore topics that interest them and find answers. Device usage also can teach kids digital literacy, which can help to prepare them for life in an increasingly digital world and also provide a way for children to employ lessons about internet safety emphasized by parents and educators.

The danger of devices in regard to young minds largely concerns overuse. Parents uncertain about how to help kids reap the rewards of media use without overdoing it can consider these recommendations courtesy of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

- **Greatly limit device usage and access with children under age two.** The AAP notes that children two and younger learn best when they interact with other people, including parents, siblings, caregivers, and others. The AAP also notes that children two and younger do not easily understand what they see on a screen and how it relates to their world, which makes screens a less useful educational tool for such youngsters than parents may realize. If parents of children between the ages of 18 and 24 months want to introduce screens to their kids, the AAP advises watching only high-quality programming and watching along with them. Reteaching lessons when programs end also can help kids make the most of their limited screen time.

- **Limit screen time to no more than one hour per day for kids between the ages of two and five.** Children between ages two and five can utilize devices to build their vocabulary, and quality programming like "Sesame Street" can instill valuable social, language and reading skills. The AAP recommends co-viewing with youngsters in this age bracket as well, and be sure kids are watching interactive, nonviolent, educational, and pro-social media.



- **Don't allow devices to become older children's go-to activity.** Many schools now supply devices to children from kindergarten on. While that's a testament to the educational utility of devices, it also can complicate parents' efforts to minimize screen time, particularly if kids take tablets or laptops home from school each day. The AAP urges parents to make sure children five and older are not missing out on sleep, family time and exercise due to their device usage. The AAP also recommends that parents monitor kids' media usage to ensure they're safe and watching appropriate content.

- **Discuss media usage with teens and tweens.** Teens and tweens typically consume media without oversight. But the AAP emphasizes the importance of engaging teens and tweens in a dialogue regarding media use, digital citizenship and online content, whether it's read or viewed. It's also important that parents keep track of who teens and tweens are communicating with while on their devices.

It's not easy for parents to navigate their children's device usage. But the right approach can ensure kids are safe and reaping the rewards of engaging with their world through their devices.

## DD Awareness Month: How You Can Help

Have you ever thought about what it really means to feel like you belong somewhere? Maybe it's being part of a team, chatting with coworkers during a break, or simply being invited to a neighborhood event. Those

small moments help us feel connected to the people around us. For people with developmental disabilities, those same opportunities matter just as much. Every March, Developmental Disabilities (DD) Awareness

Month invites us to reflect on an important question: Are we truly welcoming to people with disabilities?

### What Does Belonging Really Mean?

For people with developmental disabilities, belonging means more than simply being present. It means being valued, supported, and given real opportunities to participate in everyday life—at school, at work, in neighborhoods, and in social activities. DD Awareness Month is a chance to recognize the importance of creating places where everyone belongs and everyone can thrive. It's about making sure people with developmental disabilities are not separated

or left out, but instead are active participants in the world around them. This can look like:

- Students with developmental disabilities learning alongside their peers in inclusive classrooms
- Employees with disabilities contributing their talents in the workplace
- Community members welcoming people with disabilities to local events, clubs, and activities
- Neighbors building friendships and supporting one another

### What You Can Do? - Small Actions Make a Big Difference

The good news is creating

a welcoming community doesn't require big or complicated efforts. Each small step we take helps break down barriers and build stronger connections. Often, it begins with simple actions:

- Inviting people with developmental disabilities to community events
  - Supporting hiring practices that give people with disabilities opportunities
  - Practicing patience and respect in everyday interactions
  - Encouraging accessible programs and activities in schools and organizations
  - Listening to and valuing the voices of people with developmental disabilities
- DD Awareness Month reminds us that welcoming people with developmental disabilities is not just a

one-month effort—it's an ongoing commitment. For people with developmental disabilities, being welcomed into their community leads to greater independence, stronger social connections and more opportunities to learn and grow. This March, let's continue building a world where everyone has the opportunity to participate, contribute, and belong. Because a truly strong community is one where everyone has a place.

The Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities works within the community to help people with developmental disabilities and their families to find and connect to the resources they need. For more information contact the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities at 330-725-7751, or [www.mcdbdd.org](http://www.mcdbdd.org).

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Behavior Therapies  
Windfall School  
Employment Assistance  
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Parent Resources  
Family Support  
Health and Safety

**Medina County**  
board of developmental disabilities

330-725-7751  
[www.mcdbdd.org](http://www.mcdbdd.org)

MCBDD Website

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## Did you know?

Mental health conditions during childhood are more common than one might think. The National Institutes of Health says many mental disorders can begin in childhood, including anxiety disorders, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, depression, eating disorders, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Estimates indicate one in five children are affected by mental health issues in the United States. The Mayo Clinic says it

can be challenging to detect mental health conditions in children because childhood involves a process of growth fueled by change. Children may not be able to express how they feel, and symptoms of a condition may depend on a child's age. Any parent worried about a child's mental health should consult the child's health care provider and describe the behaviors that are causing concern.

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# 1 in 31

## children are diagnosed with a form of autism

### April is Autism Acceptance Month

As people and families affected by autism know, acceptance is often one of the biggest barriers to being involved in the community. Autism acceptance asks the community to begin from a place of understanding and knowing all people are not the same and everyone has abilities and some imperfections. Acceptance looks at what we have in common and what strengths we share.

- Autism usually appears before a child is 3 years old, while some signs may be evident as early as 10 months.
  - It can be hard to diagnose, because symptoms range from mild to severe and are different for every child.
  - It is important parents know developmental milestones for their children and discuss any concerns with their doctor.
- A child with autism should begin early intervention services as soon as possible when they are diagnosed.**

**For information about autism and early detection, call MCBDD Early Intervention Services, 330-725-7751, option 1**

## Making Community Events Better for All

People with mobility issues - senior citizens, veterans, people with disabilities - want to enjoy all their community has to offer, but most often find barriers, such as restroom access, which stops them from attending and enjoying these opportunities. That is why the Medina County Board of DD is proud to fund the services of a Mobile Changing/Restroom Unit for events throughout Medina County.

The Mobile Changing/Restroom Unit is provided - free of charge - by the MCBDD to local community events to provide dignity and accessibility to quality restrooms in the community. This gives people who have mobility limitations a safe and dignified place for personal care. It ultimately allows everyone to enjoy participating in events without having to be concerned about a normal, daily activity others take for granted - restroom accessibility.

**49** number of community events using the MCBDD funded Mobile Changing/Restroom Unit

**1406** number of people who used or visited the MCBDD funded Mobile Changing/Restroom Unit at community events last year

To see what community events the Mobile Changing/Restroom Unit will be at this year visit [www.mcbdd.org/mobile-changing-unit/](http://www.mcbdd.org/mobile-changing-unit/)



APRIL 2026

330-725-7751 • [www.mcbdd.org](http://www.mcbdd.org)



# - Meet and Greet -



## Independent Provider Meet & Greet

**Wednesday,  
April 22**

**10:00 am - 11:30 am**

MCBDD Achievement Center  
4691 Windfall Rd.  
Medina, OH 44256



Join the Medina County Board of DD for an Independent Provider Meet & Greet. During this event, we will be covering information on using Tableau as well as self-advocacy offerings for individuals.

A light breakfast will be provided, and all attendees will have a chance to win a raffle basket.

**Registration is required:** [click here.](#)

**Call:** Nicole Richter, MCBDD Community Supports Manager  
330-725-7751 x306

**Email:** [nrichter@mcbdd.org](mailto:nrichter@mcbdd.org)

## HEALTH: PULL UP A CHAIR

**Give Without Strings**

by Emily Tinklepaugh

Several years ago, I had a best friend who drove an hour each way to work in downtown Cleveland.

He mentioned a few times that when he went to lunch, there were people panhandling outside of the restaurants.

Finally, one very cold day, my friend gave one of them a few dollars. Then, he asked the man what he was going to buy with the money. The man happily said a hot cup of coffee. The man's answer infuriated my friend.

When relating this story to me, my friend said that he expected the man to say he was going to buy a sandwich or some other food. He was so angry that the man was going to buy a cup of coffee, he swore he would never again give anyone a handout.

He explained that he wanted his hard-earned money to go toward something of substantial help, not coffee.

To this day, I still do not understand my friend's anger, but it touches on an interesting phenomenon: Those who expect any gift given or the use of the gift to still be under their control.

When something is given, it leaves the control of the person doing the giving. It is then up to the recipient to decide how the gift will be used.

Sometimes, the recipient is grateful and uses it toward a meal or helping someone else, too. Other times, the recipient may be a grifter who has a bank account full of funds from

soft hearts. Unless there has been an arrest in the past, there is no way to know whose hand is outstretched.

However, whoever the recipient is and no matter what the gift is, the giver makes the decision to give and the recipient is not the only one who gains.

For the giver who is able to give freely, it makes them feel good to help, to make a difference, and can relieve self-imposed guilt.

If you give someone a few dollars and they purchase something helpful to them but not what you wanted them to, and it causes you to respond with rage, some deep soul searching is needed.

If truly wanting to help, givers must give without judgment and an open heart, or an act of kindness that should give a lift will become something that causes the giver's psyche harm instead.

Use of any and all advice offered is solely at readers' discretion; seek professional help if needed at <https://tinyurl.com/ysrbph4n> or call 211. Emily Tinklepaugh is a local writer and a long-time observer and student of human nature and relationships. While not a licensed therapist, Tinklepaugh has successfully guided and advised many over several decades. Contact Tinklepaugh at [Joy@BlakeHousePublishing.com](mailto:Joy@BlakeHousePublishing.com) with Dear Emily in the subject line, or mail to Dear Emily, Joy of Medina County Magazine, 1114 N. Court, #144, Medina, Oh. 44256. All correspondence is kept confidential and printed with pseudonyms.



# Helping People Succeed



From the time a person finds out they have a developmental disability, we are here to help them through life's challenges. We help with everything from early intervention and education for children to employment and community inclusive living for adults.

## This Month's Highlights...

### March is DD Awareness Month

*Compassionate. Strong. Adventurous. Hardworking. Hopeful.* These words may describe you. They also describe people with developmental disabilities. March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, a time when we celebrate the abilities of all people!

The MCBDD encourages you to take time to get to know someone with a disability. Learning about people with disabilities helps create better understanding and allows us to work together to make our community one that is built on the abilities of all citizens. We invite you to join us as we look for new and more meaningful ways to welcome and include people with developmental differences into our community.

### Two Board Members Reappointed

The Medina County Board of DD is pleased to announce the reappointment of Andrew Olah and Mark Gyskiewicz by the Medina County Commissioners to each serve additional four-year terms. Both were sworn in by Medina County Commissioner Aaron Harrison at the Achievement Center.



330-725-7751

[www.mcbdd.org](http://www.mcbdd.org)

# SCHOLARSHIP DREAMS

Submit information on available scholarships at least two months prior to publication date to [Joy@BlakeHousePublishing.com](mailto:Joy@BlakeHousePublishing.com) There is no charge for this service.

Medina County high school students can compete for a \$1,500 scholarship from the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

The scholarship is for someone planning a career that would help people with developmental disabilities and has been accepted into an accredited program in the field.

For more information, call 330-725-7751 Ext. 273 or go to [www.mcbdd.org](http://www.mcbdd.org)

Deadline is March 31, 2026.



Sgt. Clean Car Wash is accepting applications for eight \$1,000 scholarships.

Four of the scholarships will be awarded to employees of the car wash, four will be awarded to recently graduated or current high school seniors in Cuyahoga, Medina, Portage, Stark, or Summit County.

A 300-word essay with application form must be submitted by April 30, 2026. The essay should answer the questions: "What does servant leadership mean to you? How will you show servant leadership in your life?"

Winners will be notified by May 12, 2026. Funds will be disbursed directly to the educational institution in the winner's name. Winners will be invited to a group luncheon with the company's senior executive team and will have the opportunity to ask leadership and business questions.

For more information and an application, go to <https://business.medinachamber.com/news/Details/sgt-clean-car-wash-scholarship-315697>



American Association of University Women of Medina County is accepting applications for its non-traditional female student scholarship. More information and an application is available at <https://tinyurl.com/48686rwu>

Deadline is April 9, 2026.



MCBDD also is offering camperships for children and adults with developmental differences so they can attend the camp of their choice.

Student camperships are for children ages 4 to 12, live in Medina County, are enrolled in a school program, are eligible for MCBDD services, and are not receiving Medicaid waivers.

Adults ages 18 and up are eligible if they are Medina County Residents, not enrolled in a school program, are eligible for MCBDD services, and are not receiving Medicaid waivers.

Camperships are up to \$400 each, with only one per person.

For more information, go to <https://tinyurl.com/n7kfbv85> For an application, go to <https://tinyurl.com/585tjvh4> or call 330-725-7751, Option 2.



Is your company or organization offering a scholarship? E-mail the information at least two months prior to publication date to [Joy@BlakeHousePublishing.com](mailto:Joy@BlakeHousePublishing.com) and put "Scholarship" in the subject line.

# - Upcoming Training -



## Crisis Safety: Preparing, Responding, and Repairing

**Tuesday,  
April 21**

**10:00 am - 11:00 am**

This training is offered virtually via Microsoft Teams and in person at the Medina County Achievement Center, 4691 Windfall Road, Medina, OH.

**Registration Required**

[Click Here to Register Online](#)

**Stay Ready. Stay Safe.  
Respond with Confidence.**

Join the MCBDD for a training on all things crisis intervention. Attendees will learn concepts from different crisis intervention models, methods to reduce risks to safety and ways to prepare, nonharmful options for personal safety and the safety of individuals in your care, and best practices for post-crisis response.

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**



Event Calendar

# - toddler garden party -



This friendly, informal community playgroup is a place where young families can connect, laugh, and share the real-life adventures of raising little ones. It's packed with playful activities, sensory fun, songs, hands-on play, and yes...snacks.

- **Sensory Play**
- **Gross Motor Play**
- **Snacks**
- **Songs**

**Friday, March 20**  
**10:30 am - 12:00 pm**

Lodi Library  
 635 Wooster St. Lodi, OH

Whether a child is brand-new to the world or an energetic three-year-old; whether they have disabilities or not; all families with children ages 0-3 are welcome

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3/24, 4/07, 4/21, 5/05, 5/26
- Annual Flower Garden From Seed To Bloom**  
5 Class Session Tuesdays 6:00p-7:30p **\$150**  
3/31, 4/14, 4/28, 5/12, 5/26
- Raised Bed Basics**  
One Session Tuesday 5/19 6:00p-7:30p **\$35**

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File

The Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities will host a Toddler Garden Party playgroup for children ages 0-3 from 10:30 a.m.-noon March 20 at the Lodi Library.

**MCBDD to host toddler playgroup at Lodi Library Friday**

The Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities (MCBDD) will host a Toddler Garden Party Playgroup for families with children ages 0-3 from 10:30 a.m.-noon March 20 at the Lodi Library, 635 Wooster St., Lodi.

The informal community playgroup offers young families a chance to connect while children enjoy activities, sensory play, songs, hands-on play and snacks.

Children of all abilities are welcome.

The session will celebrate the arrival of spring, and MCBDD Early Intervention specialists will be available to share information about early childhood development.

For more information, contact MCBDD Early Intervention staff at 330-725-7751, option 1, or visit [mcbdd.org/event-calendar/](http://mcbdd.org/event-calendar/).

**MCJFS to host informal foster care information talk**

Medina County Job and Family Services will host a foster care information event April 7 at The Grind Coffee Bar in downtown Medina.

The event, called "Coffee & Conversation," will take place from 6:30-8 p.m. at the café, located at 124 N. Court St., and is designed to give community members a chance to learn about foster parenting in an informal setting.

Layne Hedden, foster care recruiter for Medina County JFS, said the event will provide a welcoming environment for people who may be curious about foster care but are unsure where to start.

"We will provide some basic info, hear from a panel of foster parents, and have plenty of time for conversation and Q&A," Hedden said.

The evening will begin with a meet-and-greet at 6:30 p.m., when attendees can purchase coffee and connect with others. An informational session will follow at 7 p.m. covering the basics of foster care, requirements and next steps.

At 7:15 p.m., a panel of current foster parents will share their experiences, followed by a question-and-answer session



MCJFS

Medina County Job and Family Services will host a "Coffee & Conversation" event April 7 at The Grind Coffee Bar to share information about foster parenting and answer questions from the community.

beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Hedden said the event is meant to be approachable for anyone interested in learning more.

"This is a great opportunity for anyone who is interested in learning more in a relaxed, no-pressure environment," Hedden said.

Registration is not required, though attendees may register in advance. For more information, call or text Hedden at 330-667-0167.



File

## Kindergarten registration open for 2026-'27

Medina City Schools is accepting enrollment for the 2026-27 kindergarten class. Families are encouraged to begin the process early to ensure a smooth start to their child's educational journey.

To be eligible for kindergarten for the 2026-27 school year, children must be 5 years old on or before Aug. 19. The age requirement reflects changes in Ohio law outlined in House Bill 114, which requires a child to be 5 years old by the first day of school to begin kindergarten.

Parents and guardians can access enrollment forms, required documentation and additional resources at [medinabees.org/studentregistration](http://medinabees.org/studentregistration).

For assistance, contact Student Registration at [registration@medinabees.org](mailto:registration@medinabees.org) or 330-636-3100.

## MCBDD offers scholarship for graduating seniors

The Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities is offering a scholarship opportunity for Medina County high school students.

The scholarship was created to recognize and support students who are considering careers serving individuals with developmental disabilities. The field faces a growing workforce shortage, with ongoing challenges in recruiting trained professionals for positions ranging from administrators and therapists to educators and direct care workers.

The Medina County Board of DD hopes the scholarship will encourage students to pursue careers in public service and help improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities Donor Scholarship will award one \$1,500 scholarship this year.



File

The Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities is offering a \$1,500 scholarship for local high school seniors planning careers serving individuals with developmental disabilities.

Applicants must be current Medina County high school seniors who have been accepted into an accredited program in a field that may provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities, such as special education, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech

therapy, social work or behavioral sciences.

Students must also demonstrate involvement in or service to individuals with developmental disabilities through activities such as Special Olympics, classroom activities, volunteering or job shadowing.

Interested students must complete and submit a Medina County Board of DD Donor Scholarship application by March 31 to be considered.

Applications are available by calling 330-725-7751, ext. 273, or by visiting [mcdbdd.org](http://mcdbdd.org).



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# Foundation grant brings coding robots to elementary schools

The Medina City Schools Foundation has awarded a districtwide grant to all five elementary schools — Ella Canavan, Sidney Fenn, H.G. Blake, Ralph E. Waite and Eliza Northrop — bringing hands-on coding and robotics experiences to students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

The grant was inspired and initiated by Julia Goll, media specialist, whose presentation to the foundation highlighted how Bee-Bots can enhance learning across grade levels and subject areas.

Bee-Bots introduce young learners to coding through a button-programmed robot that teaches sequencing, directional language and problem-solving through hands-on play. The devices require no screens or apps and allow students to begin programming immediately.

Students use the bee-shaped robots to build coding and problem-solving skills while working collaboratively. Each Bee-Bot can store up to 200 commands, allowing students to create increas-

ingly complex sequences. The robots can also be customized with recorded sounds, making them more accessible for learners with different needs.

The grant provides two sets of Bee-Bots for each school, with an additional set for Canavan, which already had one in use. It also includes 60 clear pocket mats for interchangeable lesson cards and six pen-holder attachments for Canavan's existing set. The multiple sets allow for small group work so each student can actively participate.

Bee-Bots can be integrated across subjects including language arts, math, geography and science, as well as social-emotional learning. The tools align with Medina City Schools' curriculum, strategic plan and Portrait of a Bee standards, supporting STEM education while fostering creativity and problem-solving.

Goll said the goal of the project is threefold: to enhance curriculum through hands-on technology, engage students in Portrait of a Bee standards and social-emotional skills, and support STEM learning through coding and sequencing.

Already, Goll and her team of paraprofessionals are using the robots to reinforce classroom lessons and develop new projects based on student interests. Activities include sight words, spelling, math problems, book reviews, angle mazes, land formations, weather concepts and more.

The Medina City Schools Foundation said it was pleased to support the project, which expands innovative learning opportunities and benefits students across the district.



MCSF

A districtwide grant is bringing Bee-Bot coding robots to Medina City Schools elementary schools, giving students hands-on STEM learning across multiple subjects.

## medina county board of developmental disabilities Celebrating DD Awareness

**Compassionate. Strong. Hopeful. Adventurous. Hardworking.**

One or more of these words may describe you. They also describe people with developmental differences. The Medina County Board of DD encourages you to take time to get to know someone with a developmental difference and join us as we look for new and meaningful ways to welcome them into our lives and our community. Let's celebrate the abilities of all people!



### 4 Things People with Developmental Differences Want You to Know

*"We have a wide range of intellectual and physical abilities, and no two people are the same. Look for our abilities first. Having a disability isn't a bad thing, what's bad is the way people treat me."*

*"Don't exclude me from plans just because you think I won't be able to participate. I am capable of living an independent and full life, just sometimes I need a little support to do the things I want."*

*"We hold part or full-time jobs, we are highly employable and actually enjoy working. We are not charity cases, sometimes we just need the right training."*

*"There's more to me than just my disability. I do not need special treatment. I want the same things everyone wants; to be included and valued by others."*

### Making Community Events Better for All

People with mobility issues - senior citizens, veterans, people with disabilities - want to enjoy all their community has to offer, but most often find barriers, such as restroom access, which stops them from attending and enjoying these opportunities. That is why the Medina County Board of DD is proud to fund the services of a Mobile Changing/Restroom Unit for events throughout Medina County.



The Mobile Changing/Restroom Unit is provided - free of charge - by the MCBDD to local community events to provide dignity and accessibility to quality restrooms in the community. This gives people who have mobility limitations a safe and dignified place for personal care. It ultimately allows everyone to enjoy participating in events without having to be concerned about a normal, daily activity others take for granted - restroom accessibility.

**49** number of community events using the MCBDD funded Mobile Changing/Restroom Unit

**1406** number of people who used or visited the MCBDD funded Mobile Changing/Restroom Unit at community events in 2025

To see what community events the Mobile Changing/Restroom Unit will be at this year visit [www.mcbdd.org/mobile-changing-unit/](http://www.mcbdd.org/mobile-changing-unit/)



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*Mimi is dedicated to preserving business diversity in Northeast Ohio by highlighting colorful, locally owned businesses offering quality, value and character. Recommendations are appreciated.*

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f t in

BFF-358016

**1 in 31** children are diagnosed with a form of autism

**April is Autism Acceptance Month**

*As people and families affected by autism know, acceptance is often one of the biggest barriers to being involved in the community. Autism acceptance asks the community to begin from a place of understanding and knowing all people are not the same and everyone has abilities and some imperfections. Acceptance looks at what we have in common and what strengths we share.*

**Do you know...**

- Autism usually appears before a child is 3 years old, while some signs may be evident as early as 10 months.
- It can be hard to diagnose, because symptoms range from mild to severe and are different for every child.
- It is important parents know developmental milestones for their children and discuss any concerns with their doctor.

**A child with autism should begin Early Intervention Services as soon as possible after they are diagnosed.**

**For more information visit: [www.mcbdd.org/early-intervention/](http://www.mcbdd.org/early-intervention/)**

From the time a person finds out they have a developmental difference, we are here to help them through life's challenges. We help with everything from early intervention and education for children to employment and community inclusive living for adults.

**Medina County**  
board of developmental disabilities  
330-725-7751  
[www.mcbdd.org](http://www.mcbdd.org)



[View this email in your browser](#)

Northeast Ohio  
**Parent**

**Special Needs Newsletter**



Early Intervention, Sensory-Friendly, Inclusion, & Adaptive

Welcome to the Northeast Ohio Parent's Special Needs Newsletter! We are excited to launch this monthly edition dedicated to supporting families and their children to provide a variety of inclusive articles about resources, services and upcoming happenings around the region.

You are receiving this email newsletter due to your affiliation with Northeast Ohio Parent. We hope that you find value in this content and would consider forwarding to a friend as well. If you want to update your subscription preferences or opt-out please go to the link at the bottom.



### **[Easter Bunny Arrival and Fun Egg Events for Children of All Abilities](#)**

The Easter Bunny is hopping around town to area malls and other family-friendly locations. Many are holding private events for families of children with disabilities so they can visit and take a photo with the bunny in a supportive and sensory-friendly environment.

## Inclusion

Read with your children to educate them about developmental disabilities and inclusive topics. Here's a list of children's books aimed at early readers (5-8 years old). This can help your kids better understand others, or better yet, read about a person just like them.



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**Medina County**  
board of developmental disabilities

CELEBRATING THE ABILITIES OF ALL!

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

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Share



Share



Forward

## 'Rayne Climbs Up' Hopes to Spread Awareness for Children with Brachial Plexus Injuries and Other Limb Differences

Tasha Wilburn's daughter came up with the idea of writing a book about her sister's arm, which became "Rayne Climbs Up". It's more than a book or a bracelet — it's a movement rooted in awareness, representation, and advocacy for children with brachial plexus injuries and other limb differences.

## FROM PAGE ONE

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

## Monday

**Brunswick Board of Education**, regular meeting, 6:30 p.m., Brunswick Board of Education office, 1049 Hadcock Road.

**Brunswick Board of Zoning Appeals**, regular meeting, 6 p.m., council chambers, 4095 Center Road.

**Brunswick Hills trustees**, special meeting to approve payroll and warrants, 7 p.m., town hall, 1918 Pearl Road.

**Highland Board of Education**, regular meeting, 6 p.m., Highland High School media center, 4150 Ridge Road.

**Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities**, special meeting for the purpose of board training, 5 p.m., board office, 4691 Windfall Road.

**Medina County Board of Health**, regular meeting, 5:30 p.m., Medina County Health Department, 4800 Ledgewood Drive.

**Medina County District Library trustees**, regular meeting, 6 p.m., Buckeye Library, 6625 Wolff Road.

**Montville Township Board of Zoning Appeals**, regular meeting, 7 p.m., Montville Township Administration and Safety Services Center, 6665 Wadsworth

Road.

**Seville Board of Public Affairs Council Utilities Committee**, regular meeting, 6:45 p.m., followed by Safety Committee at 7 p.m. or five minutes after BOPA, followed by Parks and Streets Committee at 7:15 p.m. or five minutes after Safety, council room, 120 Royal Crest Drive.

**Wadsworth Board of Zoning Appeals**, regular meeting, 6:30 p.m. — canceled.

**Westfield Fire and Rescue**, regular meeting, 6:30 p.m., followed by Westfield Township trustees at 7 p.m., town hall, 6699 Buffham Road.

## Tuesday

**Guilford Township trustees**, regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., Guilford Township Hall, 3800 Greenwich Road.

**Hinckley Township trustees**, regular meeting, 6:30 p.m., administration building, 1410 Ridge Road, log onto www.hinckleytwp.org/zoom for Zoom option.

**Lafayette Township Board of Zoning Appeals**, regular meeting, 6:30 p.m., town hall, 6776 Wedgewood Road.

**Lafayette Township trustees/fire district**, regular meeting, 7 p.m., safety

services building, 6367 Technology Lane.

**Liverpool Township trustees, regular meeting**, 7:30 p.m. — rescheduled for March 24.

**Medina Board of Education**, regular meeting, 6 p.m., professional development center at Garfield, 234 S. Broadway St.

**Medina County Board of Elections**, regular meeting, 3 p.m., board of elections, 3800 Stonegate Drive, Suite C.

**Medina County commissioners**, regular meeting, 9:30 a.m., commissioners' hearing room, 144 N. Broadway St., virtual option at www.facebook.com/MedinaCountyCommissioners.

**Medina Township Zoning Commission**, regular meeting, 7 p.m., Medina Township Town Hall, 3799 Huffman Road.

**Spencer Township trustees**, regular meeting, 7 p.m., township office, 110 N. Main St.

## Wednesday

**Cloverleaf Board of Education**, regular meeting, 6 p.m., Cloverleaf Elementary

School A220, 8525 Friendsville Road, virtual option available at www.cloverleaflocal.org.

**Hinckley Township Comprehensive Plan Update Committee**, regular meeting, 6:30 p.m., administration building, 1410 Ridge Road, log onto www.hinckleytwp.org/zoom for Zoom option.

**Lodi Planning and Zoning Commission**, regular meeting, 7 p.m., Lodi Village Hall, 110 Ainsworth St.

**Medina County Park District Board of Commissioners**, regular meeting, 8:30 a.m., Oenslager Nature Center, 6100 Ridge Road.

**Medina Township Board of Zoning Appeals**, public hearing for an area variance, 7 p.m., Medina Township Town Hall, 3799 Huffman Road.

**Spencer Village Council**, regular meeting, 7 p.m., municipal building, 109 N. Main St.

**Wadsworth Cemetery Board**, regular meeting, 5 p.m., council chambers, 120 Maple St.

## Thursday

**Brunswick Planning Commission**,

caucus meeting, 6:30 p.m., immediately followed by a regular meeting, council chambers, 4095 Center Road.

**Medina Cemetery Commission**, regular meeting, 1 p.m., Amos Mears Building, 775 E. Washington St.

**Medina County Mental Health and Recovery Board**, regular meeting, 5:30 p.m., conference room B/C of human services building, 246 Northland Drive.

**Medina Township trustees**, work session to discuss the permanent budget, 3 p.m., Medina Township Hall, 3799 Huffman Road.

**Spencer Community Fire District**, regular meeting, 7 p.m., Spencer Community Fire District, 105 E. Lorain St.

## Friday

**NOACA Air Quality Subcommittee**, regular meeting, 9 a.m., followed by Transportation Subcommittee at 10:30 a.m., followed by Water Quality Subcommittee at noon, NOACA, 1299 Superior Ave., Cleveland, virtual option available at tinyurl.com/ebvehs7v.

## ALMANAC

The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, March 14, the 73rd day of 2026. There are 292 days left in the year.

## Today's history

■ In 1794, Eli Whitney received a patent for his cotton gin, an invention that revolutionized the American cotton industry.

■ In 1900, President William McKinley signed the Gold Standard Act into law, tying the value of the U.S. currency solely to gold. (The United States remained on the gold standard until its suspension in 1933 during the Great Depression.)

■ In 1964, a jury in Dallas found Jack Ruby guilty of murdering Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, and sentenced Ruby to death. (Both the conviction and death sentence were overturned, but Ruby died before he could be retried.)

■ In 1967, the body of Pres-

ident John F. Kennedy was moved from a temporary grave to a permanent memorial site at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

■ In 1973, future U.S. senator and presidential candidate John McCain was released from North Vietnamese captivity after being held as a prisoner of war for over five years.

## Today's birthdays

Actor Michael Caine is 93. Country musician Michael Martin Murphey is 81. Actor-comedian Billy Crystal is 78. Country singer Kristian Bush is 56. Actor Betsy Brandt is 53. Actor Grace Park is 52. Actor Corey Stoll is 50. Actor Chris Klein is 47. Actor Jamie Bell is 40. NBA star Stephen Curry is 38. Actor Ansel Elgort is 32. Olympic gymnastics gold medalist Simone Biles is 29. Singer Olivia Dean is 27. Actor Abby Ryder Fortson is 18.

## WEATHER

**TODAY:** Partly cloudy ..... 42/35

**SUNDAY:** Cloudy, wind ..... 70/55

**MONDAY:** Rain, wind ..... 59/19

**TUESDAY:** Cloudy ..... 27/18

## CORRECTIONS &amp; CLARIFICATIONS

The Medina Gazette is committed to providing accurate news coverage. Call us at (330) 721-4060 to let us know about factual errors.

## LOTTERY

## Ohio (Friday)

**Midday Pick 3:** 5-3-1, **Pick 3:** Not available at press time.  
**Midday Pick 4:** 3-0-8-8, **Pick 4:** Not available at press time.  
**Midday Pick 5:** 0-6-5-5-5, **Pick 5:** Not available at press time.  
**Rolling Cash 5:** Not available at press time.  
**Rolling Cash 5 jackpot is \$130,000.**  
**Classic Lotto jackpot is \$2.5 million.**

## Millionaire for Life

**THURSDAY:** 10-24-37-49-54, **Millionaire Ball:** 5.  
**FRIDAY:** The numbers were not available at press time.

## Mega Millions

**FRIDAY:** The numbers were not available at press time.  
**Next Mega Millions jackpot is an estimated \$50 million.**

## Powerball

**WEDNESDAY:** 3-6-55-58-63, **Powerball:** 12, **Power Play:** 2.  
**Next Powerball jackpot is an estimated \$75 million.**

## Ohio (Thursday)

**Pick 3:** 7-2-1.  
**Pick 4:** 4-3-4-1.  
**Pick 5:** 3-4-0-0-1.  
**Rolling Cash 5:** 9-25-33-35-37.

## THE GAZETTE

Saturday, March 14, 2026, No. 63  
**Medina (non-toll area).....(330) 725-4166**  
**All other Ohio areas..... (800) 633-4623**

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**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to: The Gazette, P.O. Box 407, Medina, OH 44258-0407.

## New A.I. Root Middle School principal selected

Pending Medina Board of Education approval, Brittany Hartory will officially assume the role of principal of A.I. Root Middle School.

Hartory has served as the interim principal at A.I. Root Middle School for the past six months. Prior to that role, she was an associate principal at Medina High School and has been part of the Medina Schools administrative team since 2022.

“We are grateful for the leadership Brittany (Hartory) has already provided to the A.I. Root community and are confident that she will continue to build strong relationships with students, staff and families as she leads the school forward,” Superintendent Aaron Sable said.

## Access the Arts fundraiser

Access the Arts will have a “Boot Scootin’ Basics” line dance class fundraiser on March 28 at Thirsty Cowboy at 2743 Medina Road in Medina.

The line dancing class will be taught

by Debbie Rediger and will benefit Access the Arts programs.

The class is from 5:30-7 p.m., and then the floor is open for more dancing. A full bar and light appetizers will be available at 5:30 p.m., and the full menu from the kitchen will be available at 7 p.m.

Participants can register ahead of time to have their names in a drawing to win door prizes from local businesses. The suggested donation amount is \$15.

To register, visit the Access the Arts Facebook page or tinyurl.com/y7ee9k8t.

## Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities scholarship opportunity

The Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities is offering a scholarship opportunity for local Medina County high school students. The scholarship was founded to recognize and support young people who are considering a career that may serve individuals with developmental disabilities.

There will be a single \$1,500 donor scholarship this year. Applicants must be a current Medina

## ROUNDUP

County high school senior and have been accepted into an accredited program in a field that may provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities. Fields may include special education, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, social work or behavioral sciences.

Applicants must also demonstrate involvement in, or have provided services to, individuals with developmental disabilities through activities such as Special Olympics, classroom activities, volunteering or job shadowing.

Interested students must complete and submit a donor scholarship application form before March 31 to be considered. Forms are available by calling (330) 725-7751, ext. 273 or visiting mcdd.org.

Applicants must be a current Medina

County high school senior and have been accepted into an accredited program in a field that may provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities. Fields may include special education, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, social work or behavioral sciences.

Applicants must also demonstrate involvement in, or have provided services to, individuals with developmental disabilities through activities such as Special Olympics, classroom activities, volunteering or job shadowing.

Interested students must complete and submit a donor scholarship application form before March 31 to be considered. Forms are available by calling (330) 725-7751, ext. 273 or visiting mcdd.org.

## Road closure

Lake Road in Lafayette and Westfield townships will be closed beginning Monday for 90 days between Main Drive and Eastlake Road for culvert replacement and road realignment. The expected completion date is June 14.

— from staff reports

## BLOTTER

## Sheriff's office

**Sunday, March 1**  
 4:16 p.m. — 4100 block of Okey Court, Granger Township; a complaint was made regarding an animal.

**Monday, March 2**  
 6:55 a.m. — 4200 block of Marks Road, York Township; there was a motor vehicle crash with no reported injuries.

2:12 p.m. — Medina Line Road/Reimer Road, Wadsworth Township; a motor vehicle crash with no reported injuries resulted in a citation/summons.

6 p.m. — 3800 block of Greenwich Road, Guilford Township; a motor vehicle crash with injuries reported resulted in a citation/summons.

**Tuesday, March 3**  
 4:13 a.m. — 4200 block of Greenwich Road, Guilford

Township; a motor vehicle crash with injuries reported resulted in a citation/summons.

7:13 a.m. — 1400 block of Ridgewood Road, Sharon Township; there was a motor vehicle crash with injuries reported.

12:12 p.m. — Fixeler Road/Ridge Road, Sharon Township; a motor vehicle crash with injuries reported resulted in a citation/summons.

6:18 p.m. — U.S. Route 224/Buffham Road, Harrisville Township; a motor vehicle crash with injuries reported resulted in a citation/summons.

10:24 p.m. — Center Street/Interstate 76, Seville; a deputy conducted a traffic stop and issued a citation/summons.

**Wednesday, March 4**  
 11:11 a.m. — 7500 block of Buffham Road, Westfield

Township; a call was made regarding threats, which was forwarded to the detective bureau.

10:42 p.m. — 10000 block of Avon Lake Road, Harrisville Township; there was a motor vehicle crash on private property.

**Thursday, March 5**  
 6 a.m. — 5600 block of Greenwich Road, Westfield Township; a motor vehicle crash with injuries reported resulted in a citation/summons.

3:11 p.m. — Columbia Road/Center Road, Liverpool Township; a motor vehicle crash with no reported injuries resulted in a citation/summons.

5:53 p.m. — Chatham Road/Avon Lake Road, Chatham Township; a motor vehicle crash with injuries reported resulted in a citation/summons.

11:25 p.m. — 12000 block of

Bursley Road, Spencer Township; a motor vehicle crash with injuries reported resulted in the arrest of an adult.

**Friday, March 6**  
 3:05 a.m. — U.S. Route 224/Leroy Road, Westfield Center; a deputy conducted a traffic stop and issued a citation/summons.

**Saturday, March 7**  
 12:28 a.m. — 9400 block of Acme Road, Guilford Township; a motor vehicle crash with no reported injuries resulted in the arrest of an adult.

4:10 p.m. — U.S. Route 224/Lake Road, Westfield Township; a deputy conducted a traffic stop that resulted in the arrest of an adult.

10:54 p.m. — 5100 block of Ridge Road, Granger Township; a deputy conducted a traffic stop that resulted in the arrest of an adult.

## ARTISTS

From A1

■ Leah Andrews, of Medina, received the third place scholarship and won library's choice, which was determined by library staff members.

■ Alexis Mutch, of Highland, received an honorable mention scholarship.

■ Natalia Vujas, of Wadsworth, received an honorable mention scholarship.

“This is just a really special night for us,” Long said. “I look at you guys, and you are the future. It's colorful, and it's wonderful. Thank you for your work in the arts, and we hope we see more of you.”

Every student who exhibited their work in the

scholarship show automatically became a member of the Medina County Art League for the coming year, she said. Members of the organization can attend workshops, be eligible to exhibit at the league's member show and get discounted space at Art in the Park.

“Our meetings generally have a speaker who is a professional artist, and you can learn a lot from them,” Long said. “You're going to be exposed to a network of artists who will be invaluable to you in terms of mentorship and advice.”

Contact reporter Madisyn Woodring at (330) 721-4049 or mwoodring@medina-gazette.com.



MADISYN WOODRING / GAZETTE

Janet Baran from the Medina County Art League places a first place ribbon next to the artwork of Rebecca Wesig from Wadsworth.

## PINWHEEL

From A1

The pinwheels themselves carry a symbolic meaning. Blue pinwheels are widely used to represent child abuse prevention. They are meant to symbolize the joyful childhood every child deserves.

Each park will display about 10 pin-

wheels with signage for the Children's Center. The goal is to raise awareness in public spaces beyond the city square. Sponsors interested in supporting the project are encouraged to contact the Children's Center by Sunday.

By expanding into parks, the hope is to engage residents and reinforce the message that protecting children is a respon-

sibility of the community as a whole and that awareness can be promoted in everyday spaces where families can come together.

The Children's Center will also have its annual Walk on the Square event on April 19.

Contact reporter Sam Russ at (330) 491-6962 or sruss@medina-gazette.com.

# WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

**SOLUTION UNDER: SPECIAL NOTICES**

## DRIVER

From A1

“That is not something we're comfortable with. We want to provide transportation services for all of our students that are qualified and request it.”

Buckeye is going to have to continue discussing possible options to further address transportation if the district does not reach the number of drivers it needs, Stanton said.

“Any transportation change you make, you really have to make prior to the beginning of the school year,” he said. “It's really difficult on parents, students and teachers, and even there's some legalities that you can't change a whole lot during the school year. If we're considering any changes, they have to be in place before next school year.”

Contact reporter Madisyn Woodring at (330) 721-4049 or mwoodring@medina-gazette.com.

[WWW.MEDINA-GAZETTE.COM](http://WWW.MEDINA-GAZETTE.COM)