

Live Music

A feature publication of The Courier & REVIEW TIMES

Discover 419



June 2026

Get busy living at Mansfield's Inkarceration music festival

Prison-hosted event brings together heavy metal, tattoos and Ohio history

Inkarceration is a rock and metal music concert and tattoo festival which is held
Continued on page 3



Thousands attend a previous Inkarceration Festival.

By Ava Thoman, Correspondent

“Get busy living or get busy dying.” The quote, from Tim Robbins’ character Andy Dufresne in “The Shawshank Redemption,” is something Inkarceration fans live by.

“It’s definitely an experience you’ve got to experience at least once in your life,” said Ritchey Mercer, who attended Inkarceration last year.



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Museum

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OhioStateReformatory.org

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the prison.

While Blood Prison is a scripted haunted house, you can also tour the historical reformatory, which many staff members have said is haunted — hearing loud sounds and voices when they walk its halls.

Take Me Home Animal Charity will also be selling exclusive merchandise and products signed by the bands, and in support of helping animals in need.

Mercer, who has attended the festival twice, said it's all about the atmosphere.

“They (fans) have to at least go once in their life. It's definitely an experience with the prison, the music, the atmosphere,” Mercer said.

Last year, when Mercer attended, it rained the entire weekend, which he said just allowed fans to have more fun.

“There was anywhere from 6 inches to a foot of mud, and people were just covered in mud, but the bands played through the weather and it was a huge show still. I think people had more fun because of it; they were all just covered,” Mercer said.

Because of this experience, Mercer said first-timers should dress for the weather.

“Make sure to dress accordingly, be prepared for the weather regardless of what it is, make sure your cell phone is charged, sunscreen big time,” Mercer said.

He also points out the importance of filling up a water bottle for your time outside.

“They have (water) filling stations, so say you go in there and buy a water bottle, they have stations that you can walk up and refill instead of continuously buying water,” Mercer said.

While Inkarceration is known for its alternative, scary atmosphere, Mercer said the fans just want to have a good time.

“It's really just a big party — and rockers and metalheads are just wholesome people who want to have fun,” Mercer said.

For more information on Inkarceration, including information on passes, go to www.inkcarceration.com.



at the Ohio State Reformatory, a historic prison and filming site of “*The Shawshank Redemption*” in Mansfield.

From July 17-19, 67 bands, including headliners Disturbed, Bad Omens and Limp Bizkit will bring life to the prison, which closed in 1990. The full lineup can be found on Inkarceration's website at inkcarceration.com.

In “*The Shawshank Redemption*,” Andy was sentenced to solitary confinement for playing music for his fellow inmates, but this festival is all about loud, headbanging music.

“The experience itself (is worth it): there are so many people there, people from all different walks of life, just experiencing the music and having different genres of rock and metal music combined,” Mercer said.

Along with the music, Monster Energy Tattoo X will host tattoo artists from around the United States in and around the reformatory. A full list of the tattoo artists can be found on Inkarceration's website.

Both appointments and walk-ups are available, and there will be tattoo competitions throughout the weekend.

Monster Energy also hosts an experience, giving away samples of its caffeinated beverages.

Once the festival dates get closer, you can also reserve a spot for Blood Prison, the haunted house attraction within the walls of



Thousands watch a hard rock band take to the stage at a previous Inkarceration Festival, outside the Ohio State Reformatory in Mansfield.

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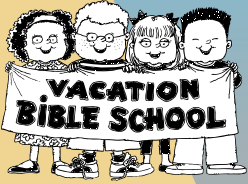


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Vacation Bible School is on the way.



The sun is shining, the kids are out of school and churches throughout the area are preparing for their annual Vacation Bible Schools. Following is a list of Vacation Bible Schools. Mark your calendars and make sure your child doesn't miss out on the fun!

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

JR DAY CAMP
June 22-26

1st - 6th grade
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
(Lunch is Provided)

Kindergarten
9 a.m. to noon

EMERALD CROSSING
Answers 2024
An Irish Adventure Through Psalm 23

For registration and information
www.cbcbfindlay.org
419.422.6842

Vacation Bible School

ST. MARKS

June 16-19

for more info visit www.stmarksfindlay.org
800 S. Main St. in downtown Findlay 419-422-4236 www.stmarksfindlay.org

July 13-16
6-8:30 pm

DIVING DEEP
into God's Word

REGISTER AT FINDLAYFIRSTNAZ.ORG
KIDS AGES 4 YEARS - 4TH GRADE
FINDLAY FIRST NAZARENE CHURCH - 2501 BROAD AVE

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220 Cherry St.

June 22 - 24
5 - 7 PM
Ages 4-12

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4 VBS
July 20th - 24th

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JUNE

LOCAL EVENT CALENDAR

JUNE 4-6



OHIO BIKE WEEK BLOCK PARTY

Jackson Street Pier 221 W Shoreline Dr, Sandusky

Gates open daily at 6 pm

Ohio Bike Week 2026 keeps its 25+ year tradition rolling with motorcycles, live music, vendors, and unforgettable lakefront nights. Don't miss the three-day downtown Block Party featuring high-energy performances, national touring acts, and thousands of riders celebrating the North Coast Thunder Rally tradition. All concerts are free, with VIP upgrades available.

JUNE 5



BOOGIE ON THE BLOCK

MCPA Parking Lot 200 W. Main Cross St, Findlay

Boogie from 5 - 10 pm

Get ready to kick off the summer with the return of Boogie on the Block, Findlay's biggest block party! A Findlay tradition since the early 1990s, Boogie on the Block is the community's ultimate kickoff to summer. Enjoy two live bands on the outdoor stage, sip on refreshing drinks, savor tasty treats from local food vendors, and dive into family-friendly games.

JUNE 6-7



TIFFIN FLEA MARKET

Seneca County Fairgrounds 100 Hopewell Avenue, Tiffin

Saturday 6/6: 9 am - 4 pm and Sunday 6/7: 9 am - 3 pm

Come out and look for all sorts of collectibles, crafts, antiques and much more at Tiffin's annual summertime flea markets. Dozens of vendors line the fairgrounds and food trucks are on site to keep patrons refreshed.

JUNE 13



FLAG CITY COMMUNITY VETFEST MUSIC FESTIVAL

Downtown Findlay Broadway St, Findlay

Enjoy this fun night out from 4 - 10 pm

Celebrating our nation's heroes and enjoy a festival featuring live music, food trucks, adult beverages and special recognition for local veterans, veteran-friendly employers and veteran-owned businesses. Military vehicles will also be on display.

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

JUNE 19-24



ROTARY BIKE TOUR FOR MESA

Starts and Ends in Findlay

Ready to ride for a great cause?

Ride the full week or just a day—your participation helps deliver life-saving medical equipment to communities around the world. Register now at rotarymesa.org/mesa-tour and ride your way!

JUNE 20



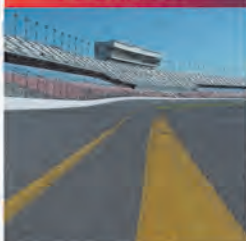
OHIO'S ISLAND WINE FESTIVAL

Heineman's Winery 978 Catawba Ave, Put-in-Bay

The fun lasts from 11 am - 5 pm

Enjoy a day of wine tastings, live music by Bob Gatewood, and local vendors. Featuring wineries from across Ohio, this is a celebration of great wine and island atmosphere. Your ticket includes sample tastings, a souvenir wine glass, and a tote bag for the first 800 attendees. Bid in the silent auction, and enjoy live entertainment throughout the day.

JUNE 26



RACERS REUNION

Millstream Speedway 7805 TR 95, Findlay

Feel the excitement starting at 2 pm

Heritage and horsepower square off at Millstream Speedway. The lineup includes USAC National Sprint Cars, Vintage American Race Cars and the Ohio Valley Late Model Dirt Series — a celebration of racing's past and present. The raw, mechanical presence of vintage cars alongside the precision and power of today's sprint cars and late models makes for a fun mix of racing action. Tickets available at MillstreamSpeedway.net.

JUNE 27-28



COWBOY DAYS

Ghost Town 10630 CR 40, Findlay

Saturday 6/27: 9 am - 5 pm and Sunday 6/28: 12 - 5 pm

Step into an 1880s replica Ghost Town and experience the Old West! Enjoy horse and carriage rides, blacksmith and woodcarving demos, line dancing lessons, a Kids Korral with bounce house, gold panning, live entertainment, and more. Grab tasty vittles at the saloon. Admission is \$5 with one free child ticket per paid adult; kids 2 and under are free. Free parking and shuttle available.

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June 30-July 24, Opening Reception Friday, July 10, 6:00-8:00 pm

JUNE/JULY CLASSES

Register at www.findlayartleague.org

- Beginning Pottery Wheel Throwing** - Wednesdays, 7:00-9:00 pm, June 3, 10, 17, 24, July 8; Tuition: \$180, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome (18+). Instructor: Marcie Allen
- Intermediate Pottery Wheel Throwing** - Thursdays, 7:00-9:00 pm, June 4, 11, 18, 25, July 9; Tuition: \$180, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome (18+). Instructor: Marcie Allen
- Catching Waves Acrylic Pour Workshop** - Friday, 6-7:30 pm, June 12; Tuition: \$70, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome (15+). Instructor: Thomas Craley
- Youth Pottery, Ages 9-17** - Saturdays, 9-10:30 am Wheel, 10:30-noon Glazing, June 13, 20, 27; Tuition: \$150, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome. Instructor: Cindy Meadows
- Poppies On Tea Bags** - Saturday, 12:30-2:30, June 20; Tuition: \$40, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome (18+). Instructor: Patty Brown
- Parent & Child (or 2 Adults) "Play-in-Clay" Wheel Throwing** - Saturday, 1:00-3:00 pm, June 20; Tuition: \$100 (for two), all materials provided, all skill levels welcome. Instructor: Cindy Meadows
- Youth Pottery, Ages 9-17** - Saturdays, 9-10:30 am Wheel, 10:30-noon Glazing, July 11, 18, 25; Tuition: \$150, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome. Instructor: Cindy Meadows
- FREE "Fun for All" class sponsored by the Findlay/Hancock County Community Foundation - Hand-building Clay Class-Gingerbread Person** - Saturday, 1:00-3:00 pm, July 11; all materials provided, all skill levels welcome. Instructor: Cindy Meadows 
- Beach Acrylic Pour Workshop** - Friday, 6-7:30 pm, July 17; Tuition: \$70, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome (15+). Instructor: Thomas Craley
- Parent & Child (or 2 Adults) "Play-in-Clay" Wheel Throwing** - Saturday, 1:00-3:00 pm, July 18; Tuition: \$100 (for two), all materials provided, all skill levels welcome. Instructor: Cindy Meadows
- FREE "Fun for All" class sponsored by the Findlay/Hancock County Community Foundation-Watercolor Painting: Whimsical Owl** - Saturday, 1:00-2:00 or 2:30-3:30, July 25, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome. Instructor: Jennifer Doyle. 
- Colored Pencil Drawing: Barn** - Saturday, 9am-1pm, July 25, Tuition: \$45, some supplies required (see online class listing for details), all skill levels welcome (15+). Instructor: Mike Fink
- FREE "Fun for All" class sponsored by the Findlay/Hancock County Community Foundation - Sgraffito Plaque or Trivet** - Saturday, arrive anytime between 1-3 pm, July 25, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome. Instructor: Cindy Meadows 
- Pottery Parties:** Looking for a fun event with friends, family, or coworkers? Plan a Pottery Party! 2 hours clay time, projects picked up 3-4 weeks after the party. Contact the Findlay Art League at findlayartleague.org for details, cost, and to schedule a day and time.

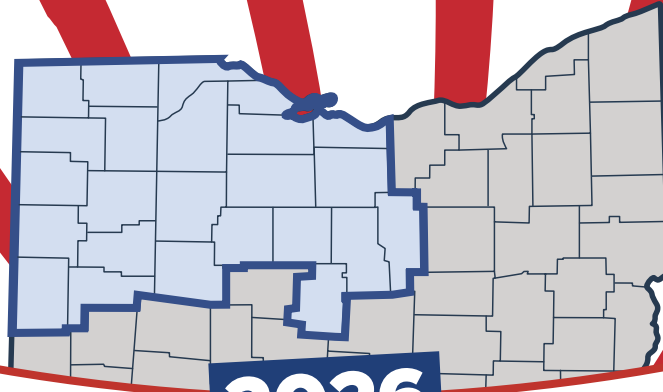


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Join the Findlay Art League, the oldest visual arts organization in the region (est. 1947) Network with other artists and become actively involved in our community. Class discounts. Leadership/volunteer opportunities. We encourage active participation for the common good and well being of our community. As a volunteer-driven organization, your action makes our existence possible. Memberships starting at \$50/yr. Visit findlayartleague.org to register.

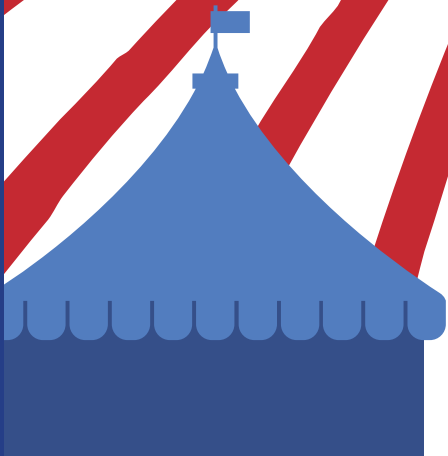


2026

NORTHWEST OHIO

FAIR

CALENDAR



JUNE

6th-13th	Paulding County Fair (Paulding)	pauldingcountyfair.com
22nd-27th	Putnam County Fair (Ottawa)	putnamcountyfair.com

JULY

13th-19th	Lucas County Fair (Maumee)	lucascountyfair.com
19th-26th	Ottawa County Fair (Oak Harbor)	ottawacountyfair.com
20th-25th	Crawford County Fair (Bucyrus)	crawfordcocountyfair.com
26th-Aug 2nd	Seneca County Fair (Tiffin)	senecacountyfair.org
29th-Aug 9th	Ohio State Fair (Columbus)	ohiostatefair.com

AUGUST

2nd-8th	Auglaize County Fair (Wapakoneta)	auglaizecountyfair.org
2nd-9th	Wood County Fair (Bowling Green)	woodcounty-fair.com
9th-15th	Richland County Fair (Mansfield)	richlandcountyfair.com
10th-16th	Erie County Fair (Sandusky)	eriefair.com
13th-19th	Mercer County Fair (Celina)	mercercountyfair.com
13th-20th	Henry County Fair (Napoleon)	henrycountyfair.org
16th-22nd	Huron County Fair (Norwalk)	huroncountyfair.com
21st-29th	Allen County Fair (Lima)	allencofair.com
22nd-29th	Defiance County Fair (Hicksville)	defiancecofair.com
24th-30th	Sandusky County Fair (Fremont)	sanduskycountyfair.com
31st-Sep 7th	Morrow County Fair (Mt Gilead)	morrowcountyfair.org

SEPTEMBER

1st-7th	Van Wert County Fair (Van Wert)	vanwertcountyfair.com
1st-7th	Hancock County Fair (Findlay)	hancockcountyfairgrounds.org
4th-10th	Fulton County Fair (Wauseon)	fultoncountyfair.com
8th-13th	Hardin County Fair (Kenton)	hardincountyfair.org
12th-19th	Williams County Fair (Montpelier)	wcofair.com
14th-19th	Wyandot County Fair (Upper Sandusky)	thewyandotcountyfair.com
20th-26th	Ashland County Fair (Ashland)	ashlandcountyfair.org

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



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July 6-20



COWBOY DAYS

June 27 & 28, 2026

SAT 9AM-5PM | SUN 12-5PM



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\$7.00 per person

Petting Zoo

Gold & Gemstone Sluice Panning



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- Ball Pit
- Strength Tester
- Giant Yard Games



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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT



COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING



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