River Raisin Ragtime Revue to close Musical Arts Series

The Musical Arts Series in Port Clinton will close the season with the rousing River Raisin Ragtime Revue (R4) at the Port Clinton High School Performing Arts Center on Sunday, May 19, at 3:30 p.m.

Leading off with Alexander's Ragtime Band by Irving Berlin, ragtime music by such legends as Scott Joplin and "Jelly Roll" Morton will provide a lively afternoon of music in our country's early popular music style. R4 also emphasizes the contributions of African American composers and the obstacles they overcame in attempting to gain acceptance of this unique, original art form.

Based in Tecumseh, Michigan, R4 regularly performs at renowned venues including The Henry Ford Museum, the Detroit Institute of Art, Ann Arbor's Michigan Theater, historic Greenfield Village in Dearborn, and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

This concert is sponsored by Bolte Insurance Agency and Miller Ferries to Put-in-Bay and Middle Bass Island. Tickets are available at the door for $20, and student admission is free. The Performing Arts Center at 821 Jefferson St., Port Clinton is handicap accessible. More information about R4 can be found at www.ragtimeband.org and www.musicalartsportclinton.com, which also lists the complete program to be performed.

The River Raisin Ragtime Revue will perform on Sunday, May 19, in Port Clinton.

Artist Robert Kroeger to be featured speaker at Ottawa County Historical Society event

Author and artist Robert Kroeger will be the featured speaker at a June 5 event hosted by the Ottawa County Historical Society and Lakeside Chautauqua. (Submitted photo)

Book author and artist Robert Kroeger is returning to Ottawa County on Wednesday, June 5, at 10:30 a.m. at Lakeside Chautauqua's Train Station. In collaboration with Lakeside, the Ottawa County Historical Society (OCHS) invited Kroeger to speak and do a painting demonstration, as well as share barn stories from his two books, "Historic Barns of Ohio" and "Round Barns in America."

In 2023, the Ottawa County Historical Society featured Kroeger at a scholarship fundraising event at Port Clinton's The Arts Garage. On that visit, Kroeger toured the county's historic barns and completed 14 paintings. These 14 paintings will be on exhibit at the June 5 event.

Images of the collection were compiled into a 2025 calendar, "Barns of Ottawa County." The calendar can be purchased for $10 at the Wolcott Keeper's House, The Arts Garage and the Ottawa County Soil & Water District Office. The calendar is also available online at www.ottawacountyhistory.org.

During the month of June, these Ottawa County paintings along with three paintings and one print from his book, "Round Barns of America," will be part of an online auction via Bidding Owl. Details on the online auction may be found at https://new.biddingowl.com/ScholarshipOCHS. The auction begins on June 1 at 12:01 a.m. and ends June 30 at 11:59 p.m. Proceeds from the auction will benefit the OCHS scholarship fund.

Artist Robert Kroeger created this painting, "Henrich's Heritage." (Submitted photo)

For the June 5 Kroeger event, a free Lakeside gate pass is available to Ottawa County Historical Society members. RSVP to Linda Huber at abhawkins57@me.com.

PC FLIP is ready for action

City officials, representatives of Kleinfelder of Bowling Green and prospective contractors gathered on May 9th at 11 am in Port Clinton City Council Chambers for the long-awaited bid opening for the Forward Looking Infrastructure Project (FLIP) Plan A / Phase I paving project.

Doug Nusser, Port Clinton Special Projects Coordinator and former Project Manager at Kleinfelder, was among the group present for the bid opening.

"FLIP is comprised of nine projects and more than a dozen funding sources. Plan A / Phase I is the second of these projects to go out for bid and will involve approximately $4.3 million of paving primarily in the western end of the city," Nusser said.

Port Clinton Safety Service Director, Tracy Colston, is ready to begin work on the project.

"Best case scenario is, we are moving asphalt sometime this summer," Colston said. "Kleinfelder will be checking the math and other specifics of the bids received, and then they will deliver the apparent low bid package to the USDA for final authorization. The USDA has between 30 and 60 days to give construction authorization."

In mid-April, the Lakeshore Drive sidewalks and enhanced crosswalk portion of FLIP was awarded to Perram Electric, Inc.

Mayor Mike Snider is optimistic about where FLIP is today and where it will be going over the next several months and years.

"It's been a long time coming. Five of us met in the City Hall Conference Room on my second day as mayor back in March, 2019, to discuss the concept of FLIP. Several community discussions, dozens of pieces of legislation went before City Council for consideration and hundreds of meetings and decisions at City Hall got us to this point," Snider said. "I'm so very thankful for everyone who has played a role in FLIP. This process hasn't been easy. If it were, it would have been undertaken decades ago. Now, understand, we certainly are not done, but we've just taken a very large leap forward for the community."

Ben Black from Kleinfelder out of Bowling Green opens bids for the FLIP Plan A/Phase I paving project on May 9. (Submitted photo)

Is it Just Me?

BY MICHAEL SCHENK

I wonder if it is age, recent surgery, years of hard work, or yes, inevitably hard play, but why is it so hard to find something you are looking for, pick that something up, or let something go?

I seem to have a mental image of where I last saw something or, if it was a note, what color of paper or what notebook it was on or in, and lastly knowing we are going on a trip that I packed that needed something really for sure!! But, alas, where is the item, note or packed item? Nowhere but somewhere in my determined recollection.

On the topic of letting something go, it is just frustrating to be 100% sure of the answer to a question, and yet when found wrong, I still search for an exception or an alternative to the Googled answer. I know you are thinking that I just do not like to be wrong. LOL

I like to make lists to make sure that when I go out on errands, I accomplish my mission. Alas, but do I use the list? 50% of time the answer is NO!!

On the topic of aging, does it seem to be a little bit harder to bend over or turn your head directionally to see something? Also, it is clear to me now that having the right shoes for walking, running or just getting around is more important than ever. A change in maker, style, cushioning, etc., and this just throws my lower body physics totally off and really creates painful joints, muscles, etc.

It just seems so sudden that many of the above maladies or frustrations are occurring. One day, as I remember, I was exceptionally in a decent flexible way, and now movements without pain are the exception, not the rule.

I hope you have a pain-free day, as this might be as good as it gets, and relative to other hard stories certainly out there, it is reason to celebrate.

See you around Ottawa County!!

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