

The Herald-Star

Established June 7, 1806

401 Herald Square, Steubenville, Ohio 43952
(740) 283-4711

John Hale
Publisher

Ross Gallabrese
Executive Editor

Our opinion

It's shaping up as a busy season

If you live in this area, you know that one of the most common complaints is that there is nothing to do here.

As area officials have been reminding us, that's far from the truth.

On Friday, for instance, hundreds of residents from across the Tri-State Area gathered in downtown Steubenville for the September edition of First Fridays on Fourth, which featured a 1980s theme. Organized by the Harmonium Project and Leonardo's Coffeehouse, the monthly downtown street fairs will continue through November.

Also this weekend, dogs from around the world have converged on Friendship Park in Smithfield for the annual Friendship Cluster AKC All Breed Dog Show. Sponsored by the Fort Steuben Kennel Association and the Beaver County and St. Clairsville kennel clubs, the four-day show will run through Monday.

Toronto, meanwhile, is looking forward to the Toronto Art Festival, which is returns Saturday and Sunday after a one-year hiatus brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The annual concert series at the Berkman Amphitheater will come to a close on Labor Day with performances by the Fossils and the Funatics. It will, officials with Historic Fort Steuben point out, be a fitting bookend for this year's series, which opened on Memorial Day.

Weekly live concerts have become much-anticipated ways to spend late spring and summer evenings throughout the area, and other communities on both sides of the Ohio River have started their

own series.

Friday concerts at the Weirton Event Center, presented by the Top of WV Convention and Visitors Bureau, will continue through Sept. 17. Wednesdays in Wintersville will continue on Sept. 15.

The outdoor event along Main and Grove streets in the village is normally scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month, but rain from Tropical Storm Ida led organizers to move the September celebration. The monthly event is scheduled to conclude on Oct. 6.

If you are looking for fresh produce, the area's farmers markets are still open. The Farmers Gateway Market will run from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday through Sept. 29 in the parking lot at Blessed Sacrament Church in Wintersville, while the Downtown Steubenville Farmers Market will run from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Thursday through Oct. 28 at the corner of South Fourth and South streets.

Plus, the Brooke County Fair will run Sept. 10-12 at Brooke Hills Park, and the Hancock County Fair will run Sept. 17-19 at Tomlinson Run State Park.

And, the Herald-Star Speaker Series Presented by Eastern Gateway Community College will continue on Sept. 22 with a presentation by hockey star and cancer survivor Eddie Olczyk.

That's just a small list of things happening during the next few weeks.

Nothing to do? That's just not the case. There are plenty of opportunities to get out and enjoy everything our region has to offer. All you need to do is take a look around.

COUNTERPOINT.COM
2021 © CREATORS.COM

joe biden
saving biden's privates
kamala harris mark milley antony blinken

the mission was submission.

@Ramireztoons michaelpramirez.com

Sadly, some confusion

There are many good things about social media.

It offers a good way to keep up with acquaintances, for example. It provides a pretty good platform for municipalities to use to reach residents quickly with information concerning things like utility disruptions as well. Shops and stores use it as a way to help build traffic to their locations.

There can be some drawbacks, though, as we were reminded on Aug. 27.

Americans were caught up in watching our withdrawal from Afghanistan, an operation that was chaotic, at best, and coming to grips with the fact that 13 servicemen and women had been killed the day before in a suicide bombing at the Kabul airport.

News of that fatal attack put every newsroom around the country on alert, as editors and writers waited for the names and hometowns of those who had lost their lives to be released. It's especially true in an area like ours, which tends to have greater representation in the armed services than other parts of the country.

There's the knowledge that if one of those who lost her or his life was from our region, there would be a story that would have to be told. And it's never an easy job to have to do. There remains a tinge of sadness in her voice every time Marian Houser, the longtime city and community editor at the Herald-Star, remembers having to talk with the family members of servicemen who had grown up in our area and who had been killed while fighting in Vietnam.

No one on the list of names of those who died in Kabul was from our region, but one, Navy Corpsman Maxton W. Soviak, was a native of Ohio. His hometown was listed as Berlin Heights, which is just south of Sandusky, along the state's North Coast. The Associated Press reported. While in high school, he played football and



ROSS GALLABRESE

tennis, participated in track and field and was in the band, according to the Sandusky Register. After he graduated from Edison High School, he earned a two-year certificate in electrical technology from the EHOVE Career Center, which serves students from Erie, Huron and Ottawa counties.

Wait ... he graduated from Edison High School?

Once that news was released, the newsroom began to receive calls and e-mails, and staff members received texts asking what we knew about the Edison High School graduate who had lost his life in Afghanistan. The texts and calls continued well into the evening. Social media accounts from across our area were filled with reports that an area man, an Edison graduate, had been killed.

And all of it was true — except there are two Edison High Schools in Ohio.

Most residents of our area are familiar with the Edison High School in Richmond. But far fewer, apparently, are familiar with the Edison High School in Milan, which sits between Sandusky and Norwalk. To make the matter even more confusing — both schools are in an Edison Local School District.

It didn't take long to determine the corpsman was not from our area. First, his last name, Soviak, is not a common name in our area. Second, his

hometown, Berlin Heights, is not in our area. Third, no one in any official capacity to speak for the Navy or his family, or any local funeral home, had contacted the local media.

We join all Americans in mourning for Maxton Soviak — and the others who lost their lives in that blast on Aug. 26: Marine Lance Cpl. David Espinoza, 20, of Rio Bravo, Texas; Marine Sgt. Nicole Gee, 23, of Roseville, Calif.; Marine Staff Sgt. Darin Taylor Hoover, 31, of Utah; Army Staff Sgt. Ryan Knauss, 23, of Corryton, Tenn.; Marine Cpl. Hunter Lopez, 22, of Indio, Calif.; Marine Lance Cpl. Rylee McCollum, 20, Jackson, Wyo.; Marine Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Merola, 20, of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.; Marine Lance Cpl. Kareem Nikoui, 20, of Norco, Calif.; Marine Cpl. Daegan William-Tyler Page, 23, of Omaha, Neb.; Marine Sgt. Johnny Rosario, 25, of Lawrence, Mass.; Marine Cpl. Humberto Sanchez, 22, of Logansport, Ind.; and Marine Lance Cpl. Jared Schmitz, 20, of Wentzville, Mo.

We pray, for the souls of those who are gone and their families, and for the safety of those who remain on duty; we fly our flags at half staff; and we pause for a moment when we enter a restaurant and see an empty table holding 13 glasses of beer or an empty barstool with 13 shots of whiskey sitting in front of it, with no further explanation needed than a simple card that reads "Reserved."

Which brings us back to one of the major tenets of the news business — it's nice to be the first to report a story or reveal a fact, but it's even more important to have done as much as possible and made every attempt to be right.

That's something we all need to be reminded of from time to time.

(Gallabrese, a resident of Steubenville, is executive editor of the Herald-Star and The Weirton Daily Times.)

Guest column

Some ways we can commemorate Sept. 11

A day we will never forget ... and shouldn't forget. It's hard to believe it happened 20 years ago.

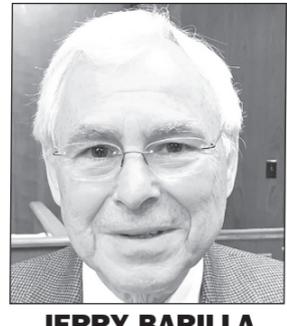
Our school children know it only as a part of history but those of us who were glued to our television screens on that bright blue September day still remember the shock, grief and tragedy of the event.

On this 20th anniversary, I encourage all our citizens to commemorate the day in some meaningful way. As mayor, I have asked the Steubenville City Council to proclaim Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021, as a Day of Remembrance, a day to act and make the world a little better, a little brighter, a little more hopeful.

There are many ways we can commemorate this day, and I have collected some suggestions that have been followed in the past.

Choose one or more so we may always remember.

- Give blood: In the days following 9/11, blood donations soared. With Americans looking to provide immediate assistance to those injured in the attacks, the country's blood banks collected 600,000 more units in the fall of 2001 than they would have otherwise.



JERRY BARILLA

Today, with the Red Cross' national blood supply having recently reached a critical low, going to a local blood bank and donating is among the most important contributions you can make to our community.

- Attend or organize a memorial. Even if you're far from New York, Washington D.C., or Shanksville, Pa., you can find several online or televised memorial services scheduled for that day. On network television NBC, CBS and ABC will be providing live coverage of memorial ceremonies in New York and elsewhere on the morning of Sept. 11. In primetime, also watch for documentaries airing over several

evenings leading up to the 20th anniversary.

- Perhaps you can organize or attend a prayer vigil or memorial service at your church or organization. If nothing else, start the day with a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m.

- Stop by your local firehouse or police station to say thank you.

Following 9/11, Americans paused to recognize the valor of our first responders, police officers and firefighters; taking the time to thank them during this year's anniversary speaks volumes.

- Sign Up for the National Day of Service. Since 2009, Sept. 11 has been officially declared the National Day of Service and Remembrance. On serve.gov, you can sign up for a service project, find volunteer opportunities in your neighborhood, or check out where others have been pitching in on the National Service Blog.

- Fly an American flag. Immediately after 9/11, American flag sales skyrocketed, with some manufacturers wiped out of their entire inventory within days. This Sept. 11, you can proudly wave Old Glory and show your support for the

country. Don't have a suitable place to hang the flag? You can always post a photo of one on your Facebook page.

- Tribute in Light: New York City has its famous beams of blue light piercing its skyline every 9/11 from sunset to sunrise on 9/12. New York also encourages all public

buildings to light their facades in Memorial Blue. You can use blue spotlights or outdoor lights to join the tribute in light in your own neighborhood.

(Barilla is mayor of Steubenville and president of Historic Fort Steuben.)

Deadline for election letters

The Herald-Star welcomes letters to the editor. Letters are published each Sunday. Letters must be signed and include your name, address and telephone number where you can be reached during the day to confirm information. Phone numbers will not be published. The deadline to submit letters is noon each Thursday.

With the campaign season under way, it's important to note that the deadline for letters concerning the Nov. 2 election will be noon on Oct. 21, with those letters appearing the weekend of Oct. 24.

We appreciate typing and writers who stick to the issues. We do not publish letters that are personal attacks on individuals or businesses. Letters

should be of general interest to all readers, and no more than 500 words. Letters should be written to the editor, not a public official or someone else. We reserve the right to edit or reject any letter submitted for publication.

In order to give as many readers as possible the chance to have a letter published, we limit individual submissions to one every four weeks.

We do not knowingly accept form letters or petitions or print multiple-signature letters represented as the opinion of a group.

You can send letters to: Editor, 401 Herald Square, Steubenville, Ohio 43952 or, via e-mail to newsroom@herald-staronline.com.