

HOPE HAPPENINGS

NEWS FROM HOPE SERVICES

Seeing Potential ~ Inspiring Opportunities



HOPE Services at the Henry County Fair: Join the Fun!

The Henry County Fair is just around the corner, running from August 7th through the 14th, and HOPE Services is excited to take part in several activities throughout the week. Fair week is always a highlight of the summer, and we can't wait to connect with the community in meaningful—and fun—ways.

Be sure to stop by the Henry County booth to learn more about our programs and the individuals we serve. You'll find helpful information and friendly faces! While you're enjoying the fairgrounds, grab a bite to eat at the HARC Concession Stand under the Grandstand, where proceeds help support opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities. Don't forget to treat yourself to something sweet at the milkshake stand on August 7th from 11am-5pm as it will be operated with help from HOPE volunteers!

We'll also be part of the Fair Parade on Sunday August 10th, so keep an eye out for HOPE Services as we celebrate "Moving Forward" with creativity and a strong sense of community spirit. We hope to see you at the Henry County Fair—come say hi, cheer us on, and join in the fun!

One of the most heartwarming events of the week is Shine in the Show Ring on Tuesday August 12th, where individuals with disabilities are paired with local mentors to experience the joy of showing animals. This event celebrates inclusion, confidence, and community support in action. On Wednesday, August 13, we'll be joining in on the excitement of Kids Day at the Fair with interactive activities and games for families to enjoy. It's always a great time for all ages, come see us at the fair!



Price Reduced!!

Support our self-advocates by purchasing **Voices of HOPE stickers**—now available!

Stop by the front desk at the HOPE Services office or contact Keri Bunke for more details at kbunke@henrydd.org or 419-599-2892.

Every sticker sold helps support advocacy, inclusion, and community engagement.



We are looking for students/youth ages **14-22** to help at the **Milkshake Stand** at the Henry County Fair on **August 7th**.

Details:

- Location:** Henry County Fairgrounds – Milkshake Stand
- Shifts:** 11:00 AM to 2:00pm or 2:00 to 5:00 PM
- Date:** Thursday, August 7, 2025
- Who Can Help:** Youth ages 14–22
- Experience:** No experience needed – training provided!

Contact Mel Dachenhaus or Melinda Camp at **419-599-2892** to reserve your shift.

Be part of a favorite fair tradition—and make a difference, one milkshake at a time!

There will be not be a Board meeting in August. The next meeting is September 17th, 2025 at 4:00 pm HOPE Services Activity Center

Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month

Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness month takes place yearly in August. It is a hereditary neurological illness that inhibits voluntary muscle action, leading to gradual muscular weakness and atrophy; it is a condition in which the spinal cord does not form normally. This neural tube develops into the baby's brain, spinal cord and the tissues that surround it. The disease does not cause any impairments and does not manifest until later in life.

Spinal muscular atrophy is a rare neuromuscular disease that causes motor neuron loss and gradual wasting of muscles. It is typically identified in infancy or early childhood and is the leading cause of infant death. It may sometimes occur later in life, resulting in a milder version of the disease.

The information was found on www.nationaldaytoday.com/spinal-muscular-atrophy-awareness-month/

-submitted by Stephanie Jones



Quote of the Month by Jessica

[quote] verb

"A cheerleading friend is someone who never lets you forget how amazing you are, both on and off the sidelines."

~Author Unknown

*We look forward to
next month's quote...*

CELEBRATING IN AUGUST

August Birthdays

Aaron Delgado
Tony Patterson
Tyler Silveous
John Isaksen
Madison Lutts
Chad Fritz
Suzanne Volkman
Erika Dehn
Jonathan Fisher
Kateena Spence
Todd Rothenberger
Brandon Smith
Jose Sifuentes, Jr.

August Anniversaries

- Christina Clark is celebrating 8 years at HOPE Services
- Matt Flory is celebrating 7 years at Keller Packaging
- Dana Hockenbery is celebrating 6 years at Cooper Standard Automotive
- Renita Kuehner is celebrating 4 years at HOPE Services
- Bishop Nieto is celebrating 2 years at Chief Supermarket
- Logan Cavazos is celebrating 1 year at Danuvial Service Solutions
- Jennifer Jenkins is celebrating 1 year at JAC Products

**Know someone who
would make an
awesome volunteer?**

Share this opportunity with them and help us reach more individuals who are eager to make a difference!

Are you passionate about creating inclusive and empowering experiences for individuals with special needs? Do you want to make a positive impact in your community? If so, we invite you to volunteer with us for our upcoming Special Olympics and HARC recreational events!



Contact Zach Meister for Special Olympics at 419-260-2176 or Randy Barnes for HARC Recreation at 419-591-6798.

Attention Early Intervention Families

AUGUST EARLY INTERVENTION PLAYGROUP!

Come Join Us on

Tuesday, August 12th

Morning- 9:30am-11am

Evening- 5:30pm-7pm

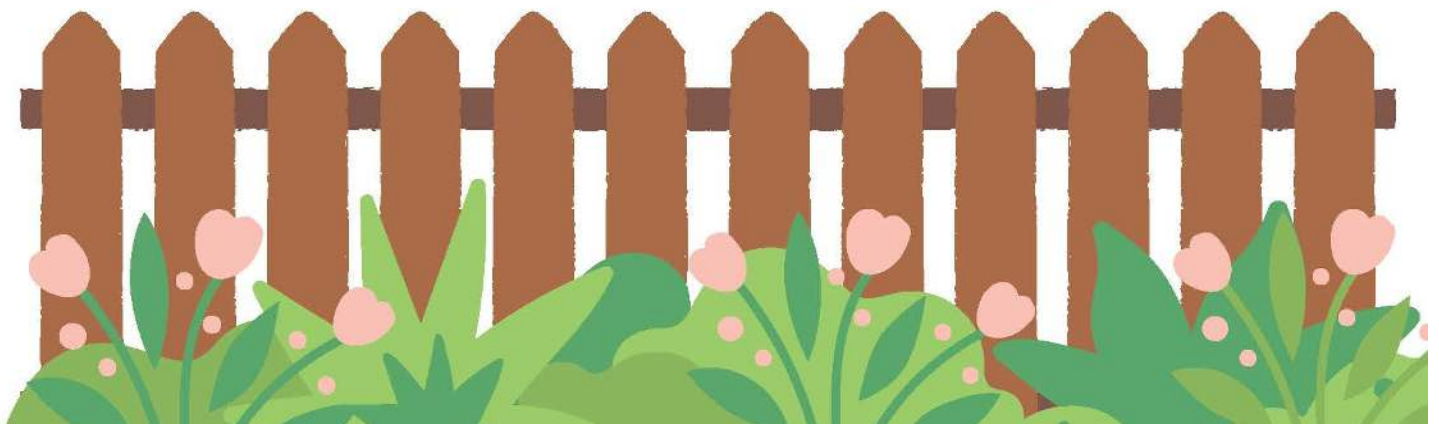
at HOPE Services

135 E. Maumee Ave,

Napoleon, OH 43545

We will enjoy being outdoors (weather permitting), water play, sand play, and more.

SEE YOU THERE!



OUTDOOR SENSORY MOTOR PLAY IDEAS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

*Just a quick word of caution about outdoor safety during play: always remember to scan the environment for hazardous items or situations that cause serious harm to your child and remove the danger or your child from this situation.

Play with sand or rocks:

Rocks come in all shapes in sizes. Pebbles, pea rocks, gravel, and sand are great for manipulating, holding, scooping, dumping, shoveling, digging, and collecting, which develop a child's sense of touch, hearing, and sight.

Walk barefoot on grass:

Walking and running barefoot on grass, sand, mud, or pebbles is a unique sensory experience that helps develop a child's sense of touch as well as their vestibular and proprioception senses.

Roll down a grassy slope:

This activity is a great way for developing a child's vestibular and proprioception senses. It also stimulates their sense of smell and touch.

Play with water:

Water play is a classic sensory activity. Splashing, stomping, scooping, pouring, and funneling engages all the senses. Water play outside can be fun and messy and can happen around natural bodies of water like lakes, creeks, ponds, and puddles and also in sprinklers, pools, buckets, or water tables. Safety tip: Always supervise young children near water.

Swing from a tree or monkey bars:

Hanging and swinging on a sturdy tree branch or monkey bars develops a child's vestibular and proprioception senses. Look for sturdy branches or monkey bars at parks and along trails.

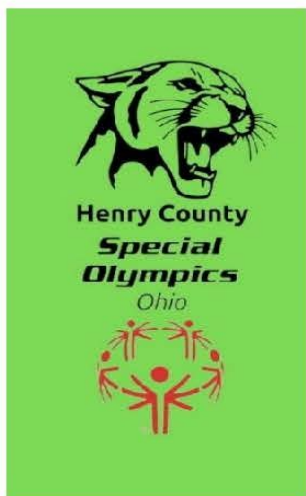
Sensory play includes activities that engage young children's senses. When identifying senses, we usually think about sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch, but vestibular (movement and balance) and proprioception (body position) are also included as senses. Children rely on their senses to interpret what is going on in their world. That's why from the age of birth to five, young children are often placing things in their mouths, grabbing things, and climbing on everything. Sensory play has a crucial role in a young child's brain development. It helps young brains make new connections, strengthen pathways, and adjust unnecessary synapses. When young kids engage their senses through play, they learn important skills such as cognitive skills (developing knowledge), fine motor skills (grasping small items), gross motor skills (balancing and walking), language skills (learning words), problem-solving skills (reasoning), memory skills (remembering experiences), social skills (collaborating), and emotional regulation skills (managing and expression emotions).

Make a sensory bin from nature items

Invite your young child to make their own sensory bin by collecting things like shells, pinecones, rocks, sticks, and leaves to bring indoors. Look for items with different shapes and textures. Place the items in a bin or basket for your child to explore. This activity will help your child develop their sense of touch and sight.



* The above information is adapted from: 20 outdoor sensory play activities for young children- Active For Life <https://activeforlife.com>



July Kicked Off with Heat and High Energy!

July came in hot—literally and figuratively—as we launched into fall sports training! That means practices are underway for golf, softball, and flag football. While the heat led to a few cancellations, our teams got creative to stay cool and keep the energy high. Alongside hydration popsicles, we added water fights and focused on offensive and defensive drills for flag football, making practices both productive and fun.

Golf Team Prepares for Regionals

Our golf team has been hard at work preparing for the Northwest Ohio Regional Golf Tournament on August 2. In addition to regular sessions at The Golf Shop driving range, the team has been playing at various local courses. We're incredibly grateful to the community and all those who have supported our golf program.

This year's unified golf teams are:

- Nate Vogelsong & Matt Harris
- Juan Delgado & Conner Bialorucki
- Anthony Delgado & Joe Kuehner
- Domenik Neumeier & Zach Meister
- Ashley Curtis & Cliff Curtis
- Tyler Silveous & Joe Bialorucki

Our singles competitors are Jacob Heath, Khristian Miller, and Zach Parcher. Best of luck to all our golfers!



📌 Summer Cheer Squad Bursting with Spirit

The summer cheer team is gearing up for a packed competition schedule, including:

- Wood County Fair
- Liberty Center Cheer Classic
- Napoleon Cheerleading Competition
- Henry County Fair
- Holgate Cheerleaders Gone Mad
- Defiance County Fair

This year's squad has grown significantly and includes: Logan Parker, Mary Ellen Ochoa, Tina Rader, Breckin Maas, Caitlin McCafferty, Bishop Nieto, Jessica Clapp, TJ Stover, Emmy Miranda, Dallas Cupp, Linda Baser, Emmy Schwiebert, Hannah Damman, Jordyn Beilharz, Adrienne Gerken, Mia Ramirez, Jacob Perry, James Guinn, Bella Moon, Bree Jensen, and Caty Kuehner. The coaches for this year are Kendyl Burkey, Amanda Seiler, and Jordyn Prigge.



🌟 Leadership in Action: Krysta Delgado's Inclusion Project

Athlete Leader Krysta Delgado has been awarded the prestigious Diana Davis Spencer Leadership Grant—one of only ten recipients in Ohio! Her project, *"Building a Diverse Future: Workplace Inclusion for All Abilities,"* aims to promote inclusive hiring practices and create welcoming work environments for individuals of all abilities.

The project will be presented to local businesses and is completely free of charge. The team recently presented to a feedback panel and is working on improvements. Stay tuned to our Facebook page for updates and an upcoming interview with Krysta and her team!

Softball Season in Full Swing

Softball is off to a strong start! Cougars Team 1 began the season with a win against the Wood County Wildcats, followed by another victory at home against Williams County. The team faced a tough match against Lucas County Lightning, resulting in their first loss. That puts Cougars Team 1 at a solid 2-1 record so far.

Thank You for Supporting Us at the 2025 Napoleon Cork and Keg Festival!

A huge thank you to everyone who purchased tickets and came out to support our program at the 2025 Napoleon Cork and Keg Festival! Your enthusiasm and generosity mean the world to us. We had a fantastic time connecting with the community and sharing our mission. We're already looking ahead—planning for next year's event is officially underway, and we can't wait to make it even bigger and better!

Stay Connected & Get Involved

As always, remember to watch our Facebook page for updates, celebrations, and exciting changes coming your way!

Find us at: **Henry County Special Olympics and Young Athletes**

Interested in volunteering or getting involved? We'd love to have you!

Please contact:

Zach Meister – zmeister@henrydd.org – 419-260-2176


Renita Kuehner – rkuehner@henrydd.org – 419-601-2372

Stay cool!!

We can't wait to see everyone at the **upcoming Henry County Fair Parade** on August 10!

With Cougar Pride,
Coach Zach & Coach Renita







COUGARS HOME GAMES

9/2 - MARION CTY
9/4 - HANCOCK COUNTY
9/11 - LUCAS COUNTY
9/23 - WOOD COUNTY
9/24 - MARION COUNTY
9/25 - WILLIAMS COUNTY

**ALL HOME GAMES
ARE PLAYED AT
OAKWOOD PARK.
THEY START AT 6 PM.**

**WATCH OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
FOR UPDATES:**

**HENRY COUNTY SPECIAL OLYMPICS
AND YOUNG ATHLETES**





HARC Recreation Calendar August-September 2025

Contact Randy Barnes at 419-591-6798 or 419-599-2892 to sign up (required) Pay ONE WEEK prior to the event

DATE	EVENT	TIME	COST	LOCATION
Saturday, August 2, 2025	Return from Camp Palmer	2:00pm		
Saturday, August 9, 2025	Kings Island	7:30am-?	\$45.00	Cincinnati
Sunday, August 17, 2025	Mud Hens	11:30 am-5:30pm	\$20+ money to eat	Fifth Third Field-Toledo
Wednesday, August 27, 2025	BINGO	6:00 pm-8:00 pm	\$5.00	HOPE Activity Center
Wednesday Sept. 10, 2025	Cook Night	5:00 pm-7:00 pm	\$5.00	HOPE Activity Center
Sunday, September 14, 2025	Mud Hens	12:00 pm-5:00 pm	\$20+ money to eat	Fifth Third Field-Toledo
Saturday, September 20, 2025	Tigers Game vs. Atl	10:00 am-7:00pm	\$36 + money to eat	Comerica Park-Detroit
September 22-26, 2025	Lancaster Bus Trip	8:00 am leave		Pennsylvania

HARC Recreation Calendar—Youth August-September 2025

Contact Randy Barnes at 419-591-6798 or 419-599-2892 to sign up (required) Pay ONE WEEK prior to the event

DATE	EVENT	TIME	COST	Sign up required	LOCATION
Sunday, August 3, 2025	Camp Palmer	leave 8:00 am	\$250.00	yes	Camp Palmer, Fayette
Wednesday, August 6, 2025	Return from Camp Palmer	2:00pm		yes	HOPE
Saturday, August 30, 2025	Kids Picnic at Oak Openings	10:00am-4:00pm	\$10.00	yes	Oak Openings
Sunday, September 28, 2025	Kids Day at the Park	10:00 am-4:00 pm	\$10.00		TBA

Ohio's 2025 Expanded Sales Tax Holiday

Dates: August 1, 12:00 a.m. – August 14, 11:59 p.m.

Eligible Items: Almost all tangible personal property priced at \$500 or less is tax-free.

Exclusions: The following items will still be taxed:

Watercraft or outboard motors, Motor vehicles, Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco products, Vapor products, Items containing marijuana

For more information visit:

<https://tax.ohio.gov/business/ohio-business-taxes/sales-and-use/sales-tax-holiday>



Follow Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities on Facebook to keep up to date with all the latest updates and

KELLY'S COLUMN

AUGUST 2025

Shine in the Show Ring at the Henry County Fair

by Kelly Rieke

Superintendent



This year at the Henry County Fair, the show ring shines brighter than ever with the incredible talents of individuals showcasing their livestock. Each participant has poured their heart and soul into preparation, demonstrating hard work, dedication and sportsmanship. As they enter the arena, their confidence radiates, and the audience can't help but cheer them on. Behind each ribbon won is a story of perseverance, teamwork and personal growth. These young individuals remind us of the beauty of hard work and the joy of community support. Come witness their inspiring journeys and celebrate the spirit of dedication that thrives at Shine in the Show Ring on August 12th at 6:00 P.M. at the Henry County Fair!

Henry County Fair Information

🎉 Join HOPE Services in the Henry County Fair Parade! 🎉

📅 **Sunday, August 10th** | 🕒 **Line-up begins at 4:00 PM (No earlier!)**

Where: Emanuel Lutheran Church, 810 Scott St Napoleon

Let's come together as **ONE UNITED GROUP** and show our HOPE spirit in this year's Henry County Fair Parade!

What to Wear:

👕 Your HOPE Fair T-Shirt, HOPE Shirt, or Cougars Gear!

Important Parade Guidelines:

- 🎒 **You MUST be signed up to walk in the parade. This includes athletes.**
- 👉 Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/jGuKL9PvsxFnpjfr8>
- 👤 Staff or family must walk *with you* the entire route.
- 👉 You **must be able to complete the full parade route.**
No last-minute entry at the gate!
- 🚫 **No bikes** allowed — you will not be permitted to go with the group if you bring one.

Let's show how UNITED HOPE can be!

👉 Walk proudly, smile big, and represent HOPE Services together!

Questions?

Contact **Keri Bunke** at 📞 419-599-2892 or 📧 kbunke@henrydd.org

Reminder, you **MUST** be signed up for any fair activities.

To sign up for the HARC Popcorn Booth contact Keri Bunke if you would like to volunteer to work a shift.

419-599-2892 or kbunke@henrydd.org

Don't forget!!

Kid's day is Wednesday 8/13/2025 from 1-3pm. Our Early Intervention Staff will have a table there to share information about our program and of course handout something to the kids! Come see us at the fair!

Do you have an article or photos to submit? We are always looking for stories. Submit items of interest to Keri Bunke: bunke@henrydd.org



COME SUPPORT HARC at our annual CONCESSION STAND (underneath the grandstands) AT THE HENRY COUNTY FAIR AUGUST 7TH THROUGH AUGUST 14TH!!



We have POPCORN!
We have HOTDOGS!
We have NACHOS!
We have PEANUTS!
We have GATORADE!
We have WATER and POP!
We have a super MEAL DEAL!

\$7 MEAL DEAL - 2 hot dogs, bag of chips and your choice of bottled water or a pop

HOPE SERVICES



MOVING FORWARD
at the
HENRY COUNTY FAIR



SUBMIT



Voices of HOPE Visits Fulton County

In July, Voices of HOPE took a short trip to Wauseon to spend time connecting with fellow self-advocates from the Fulton County Board of DD. The event brought together individuals from both counties for a fun-filled afternoon focused on inclusion, teamwork, and building new friendships.

The day kicked off with a friendly game of kickball in the park, bringing smiles and laughs all around. Later, everyone gathered under the pavilion for rounds of bingo, lunch, and time to socialize.

These opportunities to connect across county lines help our self-advocates grow in confidence and community spirit. A big thank you to the Fulton County Board of DD for your warm welcome and hospitality. We look forward to more collaborations in the future!



Upcoming Events!

Voices of HOPE August meeting will be a trip to see the magic of Cody Clark! Cody is great presenting on **ADVOCACY!**

If you are interested in attending with Voices of HOPE please RSVP by August 14th to Keri Bunke 419-599-2892 or at kbunke@henrydd.org Details will be given at sign up.

Cody Clark Magic



**MAKING LIFE MAGICAL
AND
A DIFFERENT WAY OF THINKING**

AUGUST 28TH AT 6:00 PM

TINORA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
5855 DOMERSVILLE ROAD
DEFIANCE, OHIO 43512

 **Defiance DD**
County Board of Developmental Disabilities
UNITE. INSPIRE. BECOME.



SAVE THE DATE

September 11th, 2025
5-6:30pm

Light Snacks and Drinks Provided

**Presentation by Susann Sheaffer with
Henry County Board of Elections**

Are you interested in becoming an Officer with Voices of HOPE? Come to this meeting! We will be accepting nominations for our upcoming elections in November!

RSVP Required Contact Keri Bunke at kbunke@henrydd.org or 419-599-2892



Tickets On Sale August 18th

HOPE Services Foundation Annual Fundraiser BBQ



Donation \$10.00



**** Pre-Sale Only ****

*Secure tickets by September 19th

Meal includes Pulled Pork Sandwich, Cheesy Potatoes & Baked Beans

Carry Out/Drive Thru

Date: Friday September 26, 2025

Time: 4:30pm-6:00pm

Location: HOPE Services 135 E. Maumee Ave.



**** Pre-Sale Only ****



Tickets are available at HOPE Services, from any HOPE Services employee or HOPE Foundation Board Member.

**Please make checks payable to:
HOPE Services Foundation**

Did a new online friend ask for money?

Odds are it's a scam

Social media can be a great way to connect with new friends, but it's a different story when someone approaches you to be friends and then asks for money. That's no friend, that's a scammer.

Scammers create fake profiles and pretend to be someone they're not, maybe a businessperson, servicemember, or member of an international organization, with profile details that seems to support their story. They try to become your friend, and as you start trusting them, they have explanations for why they can't meet in person. And then, eventually, they ask you for money, maybe to finally travel to see you or to help them out of a crisis.

When they ask for money, these scammers will often tell you how to send it. People report that scammers told them to wire money through a company like Western Union or MoneyGram, send the numbers on gift cards, use a payment app, or send cryptocurrency.

If you think someone you met on social media is a scammer, cut ties. Tell the social media platform, and then tell the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://reportfraud.ftc.gov).

Source: "Did a new online friend ask for money? Odds are it's a scam" by BCP Staff, June 12, 2025
<https://consumer.ftc.gov/consumer-alerts/2025/06/did-new-online-friend-ask-money-odds-are-its-scam>



If you're ever in a situation like this:

- Talk to your friends or family about your new online relationship. See what they say about the person.
- Search online for information about this person and their story, plus the word "scammer." Have other people posted similar stories?
- Do a reverse image search of the person's profile picture. Is it associated with another name or with details that don't match up?
- Don't send money to someone you've never met in person. If that person asks for money, no matter how friendly the online relationship seems, it's probably a scam.

Contact Us

www.henrydd.org

HOPE Services Office	419-599-2892
Special Olympics	419-260-2176
HARC Recreation	419-591-6798



**Scan Code to sign up
for the newsletter!**



Seeing Potential – Inspiring Opportunities

Our Mission

HOPE Services is committed to creatively working in partnership with eligible individuals and their families to discover, pursue and achieve what is important to them.

HOPE Services does not discriminate in provision of services or employment because of disability, race, color, creed, national origin, sex or age.

Napoleon, OH 43545

135 E. Maumee

