Several new businesses have popped up downtown Delaware over the past year with more on the way.

The area's foot traffic has increased by 58 percent, according to city officials. "The Flying Pig Beer House will open at 12 S. Sandusky St., serving bacon infused dishes with craft beer. The owners are renovating the space as of July. In addition, a Powell wine producer will open an urban winery at 30 E. Water St., next door to the Strand Theater. "The building has sat empty for 10 years now and has become a black hole in what has become a great entertainment area," said Melissa Dixon, owner of Common Threads. "This should not be the case."

The winery will be expanded with a building next to the Powell Flying Pig. Wine, which rolled opened in 2011. Here are some businesses that opened in the last year:

Real Big Puppy
Kimberly Zoob opened Real Big Puppy, 228 S. Sandusky St., in June. The estimated 1,300-square-foot loca-
tion features a retail section in the front and a self-service dog wash in the back. The retail portion has collars, toys, leashes and beds for dogs up to 200 pounds. And the wash room has two tubs delivered from the west to provide convenience for owners of dogs that are too large for the bathtub at home.

"We just love this town," Zoob said.

Secret Identity Comics
Downtown Delaware patrons and vis-
tors won't mistake 34 N. Franklin St. for a book, a plane or Superman. But stories about the alien who fights villains in a red cape were likely to be found at Secret Identity Comics when it opened in May. "There are many kids in this town and they have no place to just go to get a comic book," said Leanne McFarland, a co-owner of the store. "Hopefully we can provide that for them and, hopefully, I don't make too many parents angry."

For more information go to www.
secretidcomics.com.

South Sandusky Block Revitalized
The South Sandusky Street block has a variety of restaurants and businesses. Honey & Abelton Studio started sharing space with Royal Cabinets, 3 S. Sandusky St., in October, while Olivina opened in May. Honey & Abelton Studio owner Melissa Clark almost decided to wait until the spring to find a storefront for her specialty retail boutique for apparel and jewelry in downtown. But the owner was fortunate to connect with the Kreiner family, who opened the Royal Cabinets downtown in October. Clark, who was born and raised in Delaware, has an extensive background in retail, which involved a lot of travel. Although it was a rich experience, Clark was interested in becoming more grounded at this point of her life.

"If I'm still running my own business by August I would want to open it in my own hometown," she said.

Chris Scheiber renovated his 1,400-square-foot venue to have the welcoming Olivina Taproom that will feature about 20 different kinds of olive oil and vinegar, available for sampling and tasting.

"(We) want to (also) find a way for us to engage and interact with the community by providing interesting and unique products," he said.

Scheiber has family connections to a distributor of oils from across the globe and hundreds of acres to produce their own oils. Nearly 50 percent of its product-

The development cost for Delaware County’s new 36,450-square-foot courthouse is $200 million, according to the construction committee. "Currently, they are working on a plan to be placed throughout the shop area," she said.

Construction on time for Olentangy Berlin High School
By Brandon Klein
The consultant for the Olentangy Local School District’s fourth high school project gave what he called "a long-winded" way to say the building’s construction was on schedule.

"It’s starting to look very much like a school," said Bill O’Donnell of Construction Analy-
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Inaugural Ironman triathlon featured local athletes

All World Athlete 2015 champion and multiple Ironman World Championship qualifier Hailey Manning competed in the 2016 Ironman event. She is a Hayes High School graduate.

NAMI Delaware and Morrow Counties still growing

The families and members of NAMI Delaware and Morrow Counties are here to help! We offer educational programs to anyone concerned about mental illnesses and the treatment of mental illness. We provide a network of local groups that are biologically based medical problems. Untreated, they can cause severe disturbances in thinking, feeling and behavior. This results in substantial diminished capacity for functioning with the ordinary demands of life. Mental illness can affect persons of any age and occur in any family. They are not caused by bad parenting and not evidence of weakness of character. In 2006, we offered our first community event, a special presentation by Dr. Fred Ross, Ph.D., a psychologist who specializes in the area of schizophrenia for our forty years and a former NAMI Board Member. He was diagnosed with the condition himself at the age of twenty-five.

The event was held in December of 2016. Having our own Health and Recovery Services Board office was monumental. We moved into our own office space. We introduced three new NAMI signature programs in 2016 (Peer to Peer Classes, Ending the Silence, and BASICS Classes). We helped to reduce stigma and bring mental illness “Out of the Shadows” by hosting a NAMI Ohio sponsored event in downtown Delaware. We offered educational presentations to the community and provided family and consumer speakers for various events. In 2016, we met NAMI National’s re-affiliation standards and were approved as a “model small affiliate.”

With the hard work of our dedicated and committed volunteers we will continue to grow here in Delaware and Morrow Counties and help to improve the quality of life and ensure dignity for persons with serious mental illness, and offer support to the people who love and care for them.

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County's growth triggers plenty of road construction

By D. Anthony Botkin

The completion date for the new Delaware County courthouses has been extended to a new date according to Facilities Director Joe Moscato Aug. 4. Work continues on the new building located at North Sandusky Street to meet the new date.

Courthouse

From page 1

construction management company, Landlode, was concerned about the status of work on the courthouses on the fifth floor of the new building, "They're anticipating that we will be completed by the end of August," he said.

County Administrator Forzam Ahmed said until the fifth floor of the new courthouses is completed the county can't move into the building until September.

"The contractor has requested a time extension through Aug. 31," Ahmed said. He said he recognizes July 31 as a legitimate time extension to do various things, mostly weather related, that happened in 2016. Landlode officials have reported to commission meetings of delays in construction due to poor weather conditions and labor shortages throughout the course of the project. The contractor also had reported to make up for lost time that had been lost because of weather, and schedule changes.

Moscato said there are more than 250 pages of detailed drawings related to the construction of the courthouse. He said it attributed some of the delay and cost to omitted details in the design and the associated coordination issues due to the change in the design.

Moscato said the changes varied from adjustments in the courtrooms that were requested by judges, mechanical issues, details in the drawings, and some value-added changes.

In the meantime county officials who will be moving into the new building have watched the progress of the work through tours conducted by Moscato. "The 300 level is the fastest," Moscato said recently on one of his tours. "They are working their way up the floors." The 300 level will house the Clerk of Courts Office, a grand jury space, an adult court services and public parking.

The 400 level will house the new Domestic Relations Court with four hearing rooms and a courtroom. The public hallways have floor to ceiling windows with a view of the Hayes building to the north and Delaware to the east.

"This will be Judge Baldwin's floor pretty much," Moscato said. "It's intended for future growth if we add another general division judge."
The 2017 Delaware County Fair is scheduled for Sept. 16-23 at the county fairgrounds, 236 Pennsylvania Ave.
J.Gumbo’s locally owned, supporting the community

When you choose to dine at a D.C. Rajun Cajun owned J. Gumbo’s, you are supporting a locally owned business. We strive not only to keep dollars local, but make every attempt to bring a collaborative working environment to Delaware County. Additionally, we are fully committed to the following:

- Supporting the community
- Delaware Gazette

Delaware Gazette Thursday, August 3, 2017

5

PROGRESS 2017

Among the many awards J.Gumbo’s has won are "Most Authentic Cajun/Creole cuisine" and "Best Customer Service" as voted on by readers of the Delaware Gazette.

PROGRESS 2017

1 in 5 Americans live with a mental health condition
Are YOU looking for education, support and hope???
All of our classes and programs are FREE

NAMI Family to Family Education Program – This educational program is a 12-week course for the family and caregivers of individuals living with serious mental illness. Advance registration is required.

- Dates: Wednesdays, August 16 – Nov. 8, 2017
- Time: 6:00 – 8:30 pm
- Location: NAMI Delaware & Morrow, 560 Sunbury Road, Suite 11, Delaware, OH 43015

Family Support Group – Ongoing support for family and friends of individuals who live with mental illness.

- Dates: 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month
- Time: 6:30 pm – 8:00 p.m.
- Location: NAMI Delaware & Morrow, 560 Sunbury Road, Suite 11, Delaware, OH 43015

Ending the Silence – This interactive 50-minute presentation helps teens (13 through college age) learn about the warning signs of mental health conditions as well as what steps they should take to find support for themselves or their friends.

- Time of cost to schools, youth organizations and communities.
- Peer to Peer Education Program – This educational program is a 10-week course for adults living with mental health challenges. Advance registration required.

Connection Recovery Support Group – Ongoing recovery support for those who live with a mental illness.

- Dates: 2nd Thursday of each month
- Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Maryhaven, 88 N. Sandusky St., Delaware, OH
- Location: NAMI Delaware & Morrow, 560 Sunbury Road, Suite 11, Delaware, OH 43015

To register call 740-815-1767 or visit our website www.namiofdel-mor.org

Funded by Delaware Morrow Mental Health Recovery Services Board, Consolidated Electric, Delaware County Foundation, Healthcare Foundation of Delaware County, United Way of Central Ohio and Member Donations.

Syntero is now serving residents from Delaware and Morrow County.

Syntero – Intake Department | 614-889-5722 ext 133
Syntero – Northeast | 3433 Agler Road, Ste. 2000 • Columbus, OH 43219
Syntero – Mill Run | 3645 Ridge Mill Drive • Columbus, OH 43026
Syntero – Dublin | 299 Cramer Creek Court • Dublin, OH 43017

Providing compassionate, expert counseling and community-based services in central Ohio for over 40 years.

- Case management
- Community-based services
- School based programming for Delaware and Morrow County schools
- Mental health and substance abuse treatment for children, adolescents, adults and families
- Outpatient treatment and counseling
- Specialized therapeutic groups and programs
- Ongoing support for those who live with a mental illness

Delaware Gazette

Among the many awards J.Gumbo’s has won are "Most Authentic Cajun/Creole cuisine" and "Best Customer Service" as voted on by readers of the Delaware Gazette.

Delaware Gazette INTERVIEW

Supporting the community
OhioHealth Lewis Center Health Center

OhioHealth 24/7 emergency care. The difference is night and day.

+ Convenience without compromise: Close to home and work, staffed by the same expert emergency physicians found at OhioHealth’s hospitals.
+ Comfortable spaces for both patients and family members.
+ Prompt treatment for severe or life-threatening conditions like severe bleeding, shortness of breath, chest pains or broken bones.

24/7 Emergency Care for the entire family
OhioHealth and Nationwide Children’s Hospital both have 24/7 full-service Emergency Departments within the same building.

OhioHealth Lewis Center Health Center
7833 Pacer Drive, Delaware, Ohio 43015

Learn more at OhioHealth.com/LewisCenterHealthCenter
Convenience without compromise: Close to home and Prompt treatment for severe or life-threatening conditions

Comfortable spaces for both patients and family members.

OhioHealth 24/7 emergency care.

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Learn more at OhioHealth.com/LewisCenterHealth

7853 Pacer Drive, Delaware, Ohio 43015

W 315 Abbot Downing Blvd

3 W 315 Gooding Blvd

Refugee Rd

Hill Rd

N Powell Rd

Gooding Blvd

W Orange Rd

Pacer Drive

256 Columbus Pike

23 Orange Point Dr

OhioHealth is making cancer progress.

Patients in Delaware County have had access to high quality care through cancer surgery and medical oncology services, but now OhioHealth is making cancer progress.

In May, patients who need radiation oncology services can get it, close to home at the Delaware Health Center.

“It’s our goal,” said David Hinckley, OhioHealth system director of radiation oncology. “Patients receiving radiation are typically treated Monday through Friday, sometimes for six to eight weeks. It’s much more convenient to be able to receive state-of-the-art care close to home as opposed to traveling for it.”

“It can be stressful to go through treatment. Between surgery, chemotherapy and radiation, patients go through a lot. But to be able to have treatments, close to home, surrounded by friends and family it could help in the fight.”

“To be able to eliminate the hassle of a long commute is one way OhioHealth is making the overall experience better for patients. And, having all three services here will help ensure the continuum of care and better collaboration for patient care,” Dr. Li said.

In 2015, OhioHealth Grady Memorial Hospital became a certified member of the MD Anderson Cancer Network, a program of MD Anderson Cancer Center, a world-renowned leader in cancer care. Seven Grady cancer physicians have been certified through the network, including Dr. Chaoyang Li.

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“We have a very good oncology team, so we were very excited to bring them over to Lewis Center,” Dr. Li said. “The MD Anderson Cancer Network is already growing and we’re really excited about those relationships.”

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The Delaware Area Career Center was forced to suspend its plans to construct its consolidated campus due to tax issues.

In April 2016, the DACC approved plans for a $4.5 million project to bring all the DACC’s programs into a single consolidated campus after an uproar kept the DACC from collecting millions of dollars from a 2015 renewal levy.

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In November 2015, the DACC received a letter from the Delaware County Board of Elections that the levy did not pass. The levy was supposed to appear on the ballot in 2015, but due to an error made by the Delaware County Board of Elections, the levy did not appear in Franklinton, Marion, Morrow, and Union counties.

The Career Center filed a Writ of Mandamus with the Ohio Supreme Court on January 17, asking the court to order the Department of Taxation to certify the levy because the 1,026 qualified voters in Delaware, Union, Marion, Morrow, and Union counties did not get a chance to vote.

The Ohio Supreme Court granted the Writ on March 7, allowing the levy to be collected and the DACC to proceed with construction.

However, in December 2016 the DACC learned that they would not be receiving any funds from a renewal levy that was passed in 2015 and DACC Superintendent Mary Beth Freeman said the lack of funds would force the consolidation project to be postponed.

In 2015, the DACC’s renewal levy passed 1014 votes in Delaware County and was supposed to appear on the ballot in 1,016 votes in Franklinton, Marion, Morrow, and Union counties.

The levy was suspended in the fall following the Department of Taxation’s error.

DACC Superintendent Mary Beth Freeman said the lack of funds would affect the consolidation project.

On April 7, the Supreme Court ruled 4-3 to deny the motion to suspend.

In January, DACC Superintendent Mary Beth Freeman said the lack of funds would affect the consolidation project and the Supreme Court’s final decision.

Freeman said the DACC would allow contractors to finish walls and roofs and get the consolidation project to a structurally sound state before they suspended the construction.

At a June board meeting, the DACC Board of Education voted to suspend construction and took steps to place a new levy to take the place of the 2015 levy on the ballot this fall.

However, local state representatives Andrew Brenner (R-Franklinton) and Rick Carlquist (R-Glenos Town.) authored House Bill 124, which extends the DACC’s renewal levy that was passed by voters in 2015.

The legislation also stipulated that it would continue the previous renewal levy, which would collect revenues from the State of Ohio, instead of a replacement levy, which would not contain the state rollback.

The bill was approved by the House on March 29, but then went to the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

An amended version of the bill was approved on June 21 by the Senate and the bill was signed by Governor John Kasich on June 28.

“I would like to thank the governor for recognizing the importance of this bill,” said DACC Superintendent Mary Beth Freeman after the bill was signed.

Kathy Winter said that the lack of funds would force the DACC to go back to the drawing board.

The DACC board has a letter certifying a tax levy that would pass in 2015 and the ongoing construction project as structurally sound.

Since House Bill 124 passed DACC Public Relations Supervisor Alicia Mowry said the board will be taking steps to put a new levy to replace the levy that was on the November ballot in 2015.

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Mowry said in July that the DACC plans to remove the five-county levy before the election, but is keeping both levies on the ballot for the time being so that in the event of something going wrong, the DACC won’t miss the August filling deadline.

Despite the issues the DACC has faced, Freeman is looking forward to the future and providing instruction to students.

“Enrollment at DACC continues to climb,” Freeman said.

Programs that were added just last year are already filling quickly, Freeman said in July.

In addition, he has hired quality staff to join our team of outstanding professionals who provide high quality instruction and guidance for our students.”

The Greater Good has its grand opening in June 2016.

Located at 12 N. Sandusky St., the specialty grocery features fresh and local foods.

“We think of the Greater Good as a country cheese shop with a gourmet touch,” said owner Mark Smiles.

More than 80 types of cheese are available, as well as everything to make a gourmet sandwich.

“We’re part of the Delaware family,” Store Manager Smiles said.

“That means we need to help those in need as well as serve those who love good food.”

For more information, visit www.thegreatergood.com.

Delaware Gazette
Delaware City School District completes construction projects

By Glenn Battishill

Workers from 2K General Contracting load dirt onto a truck while working on the expansion at the basement level of the Delaware Hayes High School. The expansion will add new classrooms, dining areas and improved routes for student pick-up and drop-off.

Workers from Dunlop and Johnston lay bricks on the new wing at Dempsey Middle School on Aug. 31, 2017. The new wing added new learning spaces, including an auxiliary gym, art classes and science labs.

For Years Construction Co. built a wall for the new wing at Carlisle Elementary School on Aug. 25, 2017. The new wing will house more classrooms and a gymnasium to accommodate fifth-graders.

HILBORN INSURANCE
Established 1938

Delaware Gazette
Thursday, August 3, 2017

PROGRESS 2017

After years of construction and renovation, staff at Delaware City Schools is ready to interact and enjoy all the new spaces around the district.

In total, situé in Delaware, approved 1.35 million bond issue for Delaware City Schools that aimed to expand and renovate every school in the district to accommodate the rapidly growing population in Delaware.

District officials reported that enrollment at Delaware Hayes High School is expected to reach 1,050 by 2020 and new spaces were needed both for instruction and for dining.

To that end, a new academic wing of 22 new classrooms was added to the northeast side of the building and several existing classrooms were renovated and updated. The new wing was completed earlier this year and crews have since been working to renovate spaces on the south side of the school to add a second eating area called "The Homestretch," named so because the room will be roughly the size of the homestretch at The Little Brown Jug harness race.

Delaware Hayes High School Principal Ric Stranges said this area will cut down on the amount of students that will have to eat in the gym and said there will be serving areas at both ends of the room to make lines shorter.

Additionally, crews added a new fitness area and locker rooms to the northeast side of the building for student athletes to use.

The front entrance at Hayes was also renovated over the summer and Stranges said the current airlock will be transformed into a waiting room to improve safety for students.

Stranges said the new entrance will create a "grander" face for Hayes. "The staff and students at Delaware Hayes are so excited to share the new spaces for learning in the 21st century," Stranges said. "We hope to continue to honor our past while looking forward to a bright future." The district has also spent the past four years renovating Dempsey Middle School and all of the elementary schools around the district so the district can move fifth grade back to the elementary schools and move sixth grade to the middle school.

Fifth and sixth graders at Smith and Woodward were still instructed at Willis while the new wings of classrooms were completed at Smith and Woodward.

At Woodward, a new wing of eight classrooms, an art room, a music room and a new gym were recently completed in time for the upcoming school year.

The new classrooms will be used for students who currently attend Woodward" said Woodward Principal Russ Mallory. "We are excited to have new brand new dedicated art, music, and physical education facilities for our students. The new fifth grade classrooms have turned out wonderfully and there are a number of smaller classrooms and spaces around the building that received great updates! It will be great to have our preschool programs all housed under one roof to allow for even better collaboration and support of these students!"

Woodward also gained a drop-off and new parking lot.

"It will be great to have students learning classes and get our buildings and improved routes for student pick-up and drop-off."

Workers from General Contracting laid brick onto the new wing at Delaware Hayes High School on Aug. 30, 2017. The new wing added new learning space, including an auxiliary gym, art classes and science labs.

For students, Chief Financial Officer Scott Sherrard said the new wings will be great to have students learning classes and get our buildings and improved routes for student pick-up and drop-off.

"We've got all the construction done and now we're about of enjoying the fruits of all that construction that has been done," Sherrard said on July 6. "It's great to see our students now in this new building and we're really happy with the final product."

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Workers from General Contracting laid brick onto the new wing of classrooms at Smith Elementary School. The new wing adds seven classrooms and a gymnasium and will be completed by the start of this school year.

The front entrance at Hayes was also renovated over the summer and the main entrance doors have been moved closer to the drop-off loop at the east end of the school. Hayes Principal Ric Stranges said the current airlock will be transformed into a waiting room to improve safety for students.

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IKEA officials report that everything has gone "smoothly" since the opening of the new Columbus store in June at the Polaris Centers of Commerce. "It's definitely meeting our expectations," Joseph Roth, IKEA public affairs manager, said about the new 354,000-square-foot Columbus store. "We opened in Columbus because the market is large enough to support the store. IKEA, the world's leading home furnishings retailer, opened the doors of the store on June 7. The 354,000-square-foot IKEA Columbus, 1900 IKEA Way, is located on 33 acres at the northeastern corner of Interstate-71 and Gemini Place in the Polaris Centers of Commerce.

The Swedish company's Columbus store is the second in Ohio, the 44th in the United States, and 397th worldwide. The other Ohio store is located in West Chester just north of Cincinnati. Both said the Delaware County store is now transitioning from the opening phase to everyday business. He said the flow of customers has remained steady and constant.

"The people who are shopping are not there for the opening might have been lighter than expected, business has been entirely constant." He said the flow of customers has remained steady and constant.

"We've been using the overflow parking lots every day since we've been open," he said. "Throughout the opening might have been lighter than expected, business has been entirely constant."

The store's parking lot has approximately 1,300 parking spaces with three electric vehicle charging stations. IKEA Columbus employs approximately 325 people who live in Delaware County and the Central Ohio area. The store features 10,000 exclusively-designed items, a 450-seat restaurant, 41 inspirational room settings, three model home interiors, and a supervised children's play area.

Roth said the store often draws customers who have driven a couple of hours to shop for its products or eat their ethnic fare. "The Columbus IKEA store often draws customers who have driven a couple of hours to shop for its products or eat their ethnic fare. "Many of the people are coming for the restaurant," he said. "The people who are shopping are not there to shop for just one item."

Once dropping off their children in the play area, customers can ride the escalator up to showrooms or eat in the restaurant. "Many of the people are coming for the restaurant," he said. "The people who are shopping are not there to shop for just one item."

The store's parking lot has approximately 1,100 parking spaces with three electric vehicle charging stations. IKEA Columbus employs approximately 325 people who live in Delaware County and the Central Ohio area. The store features 10,000 exclusively-designed items, a 450-seat restaurant, 41 inspirational room settings, three model home interiors, and a supervised children's play area.

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Kelly’s Wholesale Carpet & Flooring offers quality and experience

Submitted

At Kelly’s Wholesale Carpet & Flooring, we want to provide Central Ohio with a truly unique retail experience. Developing connections over the past two decades enables us to provide you with unbeatable prices on high-class retail flooring. We sell you short rolls and remnants full of these products. They offer in home shopping as well. All of their installers are experienced, so you’ll only have to do a take cash, check, VISA, MC, Discover. 6 months financing available as well. From our retail experiences we are positive that we are offering the best prices on these materials. Stop by to see our experience and help you with the world class service and unbeatable prices.

Specialties

Wholesale pricing on carpet, carpet rolls, carpet remnants, vinyl, hardwood, laminate, ceramic tile. From Dalton, Georgia, the carpet capital of the world, Kelly’s has a 5,000 square foot warehouse full of these products. They offer in home shopping as well. All of their installers are experienced, so you’ll only have to do a take cash, check, VISA, MC, Discover. 6 months financing available as well.

Stop by and see us today! 2075 London Rd Suite 1, Delaware, Ohio 43015. Monday, Wed, Friday 10-6 p.m. Tuesday 10-4 p.m., Thursday 10-5, and Saturday 9-12.

Kelly’s Wholesale Carpet & Flooring

KELLY’S

WORKSHOPS

7100 Graphics Center at 7100 Graphics Center

Buckeye Valley and the Big Walnut Schools, are looking forward to opening the completed center creates more than 400 jobs during the construction phase, developers said, and already had a positive economic impact on the area through the creation of 100 jobs for central Ohio,” Taylor said. “This has been a long journey,” Holton said. “Today is gorgeous,” Lewis said. “The sun is shining on the most beautiful mall with great merchandise.”

“We thank you for inviting us into your home,” Tiberi said. “We know the residents of Delaware Township and Delaware County take great pride in developing their economy. It’s been an interesting ride and a bumpy road getting here, but building deep and lasting partnerships is part of our philosophy.”

Sunbury Mayor Tommy Hall said that the Village of Sunbury was happy to welcome Tanger Outlets to the community.

“We are excited for times for Sunbury and Delaware County, and we think Tanger Outlets is going to make a great community partner,” Hall said. “We anticipate this to be the first step in what will be a wonderful development at 571 in Sunbury.” The Simon-Tanger Outlet Mall is the last stage in what will be a recapitulation of the I-71/97 Interchange. Interchange modifications will include a second interchange south of the existing interchange. The southern interchange will include NorthGate Commons and the link Sunbury Road — Sunbury Parkway. That interchange opening is scheduled to break ground in 2016.

“Today has been a long journey,” Hol- try said. “Today we're seeing the opening of a beautiful mall built by a world-class organization. This community has great schools, Delaware County has great places to golf, and now this will be a great place to shop.”

“Today is gorgeous,” Lewis said. “The sun is shining on the most beautiful mall with great merchandise.”

“Today was a bumpy road; getting to today was not easy. There could have gone anywhere in the country, but they stuck to it,” Taylor said. “Today the state was been rated for excellence in providing quality insurance programs tailored to your needs. Hillborn Insurance prides itself by helping local auto owners, homeowners and businesses in providing quality insurance programs tailored to their needs. We would like to thank all of our customers and look forward to working with you.

Hilborn Insurance

79 years serving Delaware County

Submitted

Jack Hilborn - Hilborn Insurance

Hilborn Insurance is celebrating 79 years in business. Since 1939 we have provided vital insurance programs for Dela- ware, Ohio, Delaware County, and the surrounding counties.

Hilborn Insurance provides policies for home, business, health, and farm insurance.

We always make sure you are well protected at a reasonable investment.

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Ironman

From page 2

Lewis Center resident Sean Kelly was among the 2,400 athletes at the inaugural Ironman Ohio 70.3 triathlon, bringing his “slightly complicated” back-story to Sunday’s race, he said.

Kelly, 36, has trained to become a top triathlete for three countries on three straight weekends, while the Olympics take place in Rio de Janeiro. Kelly competed in the London Triathlon in England with the bicycling portion going past the London Eye Ferris wheel. But his aspiration to become a triathlete was rooted in a traumatic experience.

“My only swimming experience when I was 6 years old, my dad saved my life,” he said in an email. “I spent my whole life scared of water, did everything I could to avoid it — I didn’t even stick my head under in a swimming pool again until I was 21. I would always try and get out of swim classes at school. It was like ritual humiliation.”

Before his mother died in 2006, Kelly said he told her she would love to compete in triathlons because he couldn’t swim or ride a bicycle well and hated running.

“After attending the 2012 Olympics in London, I decided to try and pursue it,” he said.

Kelly spent the first five months of 2013 in the shallow end of a pool (wearing “floaties”) with a coach, while trying to swim one width.

“Small children and [retirees] were swimming past me like it was nothing,” he said. “It feels bad enough when you’re a child, but when you’re 32, you feel completely inadequate.”

He finally could swim a width of a pool at the end of May 2013 before moving into open water, a terrifying moment for Kelly since his drowning incident. Seven weeks later, he completed a triathlon in London and four months later his first Ironman in Cozumel, Mexico, followed by a California marathon, a week later.

“It was only after it was all finished that my coach told me that when we had started in January, she thought there was no hope of getting me ready in time,” he said. “Apparently she didn’t want to discourage me.”

Kelly completed another Ironman in Cozumel in 2014 and has raced in the United States, Canada, Mexico and the United Kingdom.

“I’ve done all sorts of other races in between, but that was my first big test. I’ve been training for 10 to 12 hours a week, Hilarie said she found it therapeutic to get up and run in the dark at 4:30 a.m. before she started her day at Schultz Elem-

This year was Hilarie’s second-ever Ironman, as she competed in one year ago in Rhode Island. Barry and her husband, Joe, know they wanted to do something a bit different if they were going to do another Ironman.

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