

Gettysburg Connection

FALL 2026 EDITION

NEWS, CULTURE, AND ARTS FROM ADAMS COUNTY, PA • FIND US ONLINE @ GETTYSBURGCONNECTION.ORG • FREE

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America's 250th Celebration Continues

BY COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTORS



PHOTO CREDIT: JIM BARGAS

Adams County has made America's 250th anniversary one of its signature initiatives for 2026, transforming the event into a year-long celebration of history, culture, arts, and community, centered in Gettysburg.

Rather than focusing on a single anniversary event, the county's observance highlights America's founding, Gettysburg's pivotal role in preserving the Union during the Civil War, and the stories of local residents, veterans, artists, educators, and civic organizations who continue to shape American democracy.

The celebration officially began with a county-wide kickoff in January that brought together local governments, museums, tourism organizations, schools, arts groups, nonprofits, and businesses to launch a year of commemorative programming. County organizers have set an ambitious goal of presenting approximately 250 America250-themed events throughout 2026, ranging from neighborhood programs and educational activities to nationally significant commemorations.

Throughout 2026, visitors and residents can take part in dozens of events, including Battle of Gettysburg anniversary programs featuring living history demonstrations, lectures, battlefield tours, and commemorations; the Gettysburg Film Festival; Gettysburg Community Theatre's production of *1776: The Musical*; dedications at Dobbin House Square, including the Charters of Freedom and Pennsylvania Liberty Bell; Gettysburg Brewfest and the Trail 5K; the Labor Day Weekend Music Festival; the Remembrance Day Parade;

and Dedication Day ceremonies commemorating Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

One of the year's signature events will take place Nov. 18–19 with "Lincoln to Gettysburg Shall Not Perish," a large-scale immersive reenactment commemorating Abraham Lincoln's 1863 visit to Gettysburg and the dedication of Soldiers' National Cemetery. Organizers describe the production as the centerpiece of Adams County's America250 observance and one of the nation's premier 250th anniversary events.

The two-day production will recreate Lincoln's arrival by steam locomotive, his appearance at the David Wills House, an evening of music and historical storytelling in Lincoln Square, and a full procession along Baltimore Street to Gettysburg National Cemetery, where the cemetery dedication ceremony and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address will be reenacted. Billy Campbell will portray Lincoln, joined by actors and historians portraying figures including Edward Everett and presidential secretary John Hay.

Carl Whitehill, chair of the America250PA Adams County Steering Commission, said Gettysburg is uniquely positioned to host one of the nation's most meaningful commemorations because it connects the country's founding with its preservation. Gettysburg National Military Park historian Chris Quinn described the reenactment as an opportunity to bridge the ideals proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence with the sacrifices that preserved the Union in 1863. Organizers say the event is intended not simply as

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historical theater, but as a reflection on Lincoln's enduring message of liberty, equality, and a "new birth of freedom."

The production is expected to draw large crowds, with extensive planning underway for road closures, satellite parking, shuttle transportation, accessibility accommodations, emergency services, and visitor amenities. Local tourism leaders also anticipate a significant economic impact as visitors from across the country travel to Gettysburg for the anniversary observance.

Community organizations across Adams County have also developed their own America250 programming, including exhibits, concerts, lectures, educational programs, walking tours, veterans events, local history projects, art installations, and community festivals.

Gettysburg's Fourth of July celebration demonstrated the scope of the county's America250 efforts. Historic sites across the community hosted living history programs, music, seminars, reenactments, and fireworks. The Daniel Lady Farm presented three days of battle reenactments featuring cavalry and artillery demonstrations. The Shriver House Museum shared the experiences of Gettysburg civilians during the Civil War. Seminary Ridge Museum welcomed descendants of Revolutionary War participants to tell family stories connecting past and present. At the Dobbin House Tavern, a costumed Thomas Jefferson read

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the Declaration of Independence as both the nation and the historic tavern marked their 250th birthdays. Thousands gathered at the Gettysburg Rec Park for live music, crafts, food vendors, family activities, and an evening fireworks display.

For many organizers, however, the anniversary is about more than commemorating the past. It is also an opportunity to leave lasting improvements that will benefit future generations.

Main Street Gettysburg President and CEO Jill Sellers has described the celebrations as moments that create shared memories while emphasizing that the true legacy of America's 250th anniversary will be measured by the permanent investments made during the commemoration.

Among those projects is the planned Gettysburg Welcome Center between Lincoln Square and Steinwehr Avenue. The facility is intended to provide visitor information, public restrooms, changing stations, drinking water, and a welcoming orientation point that encourages visitors to spend more time exploring downtown Gettysburg and supporting local businesses.

Another major initiative

is the restoration of the Hopkins House by the Adams County Historical Society. The 1840s home of Jack and Julia Hopkins, a free Black family, is being preserved as Gettysburg's first permanent Black history museum. The museum will tell the stories of Gettysburg's Black community, the Underground Railroad, and the United States Colored Troops, expanding the community's interpretation of its history.

Dobbin House Square will also become home to Charters of Freedom Park, featuring life-sized replicas of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. The permanent outdoor exhibit is intended to provide year-round opportunities for civic education and reflection.

Few communities are as closely connected to America's history as Adams County. Gettysburg was established before the American Revolution, the county contributed soldiers during the Revolutionary War, and in 1863 became the site of the Battle of Gettysburg. Four months later, President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address, redefining the nation's founding principles for generations to come.

Today, that history is reflected not only in the battlefield and museums but also in a wide range of community-driven America250 initiatives, including public readings of the Declaration of Independence, arts projects such as The PEOPLE Project, educational programs at Seminary Ridge Museum and Gettysburg College, and exhibits presented by local historical organizations.

Organizers hope that when Americans gather to celebrate the nation's tricentennial in 2076, they will enjoy not only Gettysburg's historic landmarks but also the community investments inspired by the 250th anniversary. Through major commemorations such as Lincoln to Gettysburg Shall Not Perish, permanent projects including the Gettysburg Welcome Center, Hopkins House Museum, and Charters of Freedom Park, and hundreds of community-led events, Adams County aims to honor the nation's past while leaving a legacy that will inspire future generations.

Learn more about the celebrations here: https://destinationgettysburg.com/america-250th/ CC

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Parking Guidance



Downtown Gettysburg is definitely worth visiting -- it's full of opportunities for shopping and dining, and you can even take in a movie or a show. So don't let parking deter you. You'll rarely have trouble parking. But realize you might need to walk a couple of blocks.

Unless you are a Gettysburg resident, and unless you park in the parking garage, your metered parking will be limited to three hours in one place.

Meters are easy to use. There are over 300 of them in the business district around the Gettysburg Square. If you drive a bit around the blocks near the square you'll almost certainly find an open metered space.

The meters on the square and within one block of it are the most expensive, \$2.00 per hour. Meters more than one block from the Square are \$1.50 per hour, and you need only walk one block.

If you're in a non-metered space farther from the Gettysburg Square, parking is free but you are limited to two hours unless you have a permit.

You can use the parking app to pay at the meters, and you can also use nickels, dimes and quarters. You'll need 16 quarters to park for two hours near the square, however. Many locals keep a stash of quarters in their car. You can also pay on the Pay by Phone app. View each meter for more detailed information.

Parking Tips:

There is a parking garage, **located at 74 East Racehorse Alley**, just behind the Gettysburg Hotel between Carlisle Street and North Stratton Street where you can park all day and not worry about the three-hour limit.

The **parking garage rates are cheaper: only**

\$1.00 per hour. The garage requires head-in only parking, and you must park within the lines of one space.

It's easy to park in Gettysburg, but consider walking or cycling when you can.

Park carefully, drive safely, and please enjoy your visit to Gettysburg.

How to pay a ticket:

If you do get a ticket for overtime parking, it's really not that expensive. Tickets are \$25 if they are paid within one week; \$40 after that.

There is no grace period for borough meters, and they are enforced. If your time is expired, you will likely get a ticket.

Payment can be made online at www.gettysburgpa.gov, or you can send a check or money order, payable to "Borough of Gettysburg," to the Gettysburg Borough Office: 59 E. High St. Gettysburg, PA 17325
There is also a dropbox at the borough office where you can leave your check.

Cultural Arts Listing

Gettysburg abounds in culture. From movies to theater to live music, there is plenty to choose from. Here are some suggestions from our culture expert Gail Jones. *Please recheck dates and times, which may change..*

AUGUST

Aug 12 at 7:30 pm – Summer Classic Movies – Pretty Woman (1990)

@ Majestic Theater Tickets: \$10
www.gettysburgmajestic.org

Aug 13-16 – Gettysburg Bluegrass Festival @ Granite Hill Camping Resort

www.gettysburgbluegrass.com

Aug 15 at 7 pm – Songs and Stories for the Closing of a Civil War Hospital @ Christ Lutheran Church Free

www.songsandstoriesgettysburg.org

Aug 16 at 7:30 pm – Dancing Dream: The Tribute to Abba @ Majestic Theater, Tickets: \$35/\$45/\$55

www.gettysburgmajestic.org

Aug 18 at 2 and 7:30 pm – The Boy Band Project @ Totem Pole Playhouse

Tickets: \$38-47 www.totempoleplayhouse.org

Aug 19 at 7:30 pm – Summer Classic Movies – Tombstone (1993) @ Majestic Theater, Tickets: \$10

www.gettysburgmajestic.org

Aug 20-29 – Dolly Tribute by Karen Hester @ Totem Pole Playhouse

Tickets: \$61-71 www.totempoleplayhouse.org

Aug 21 at 10:30 am – Patriotic Lawn Concert - Flute Flock of Gettysburg @ Children of Gettysburg 1863 – Rupp House, Free

www.gettysburgfoundation.org

SEPTEMBER

Sept 4 from 5-7 pm – First Friday Art Exhibit @ Adams County Arts Council

Artists: Mike Sanni, Gretchen Schultz, Robin Robertson, Free www.adamsarts.org

Sept 4 at 7 pm – Poetry First Friday @ Ragged Edge Coffeehouse, Free

www.katygiebenhain.com/firstfridays.html

Sept 12 at 6 pm – United 93: A 25th Anniversary Screening and Conversation @ Majestic Theater

Tickets: \$25 www.gettysburgmajestic.org

Sept 13 at 4 pm – Gettysburg Chamber Orchestra @ United Lutheran Seminary, Free

www.musicgettysburg.org

Sept 17 at 7:30 pm – Safety Last! with the Paragon Ragtime Orchestra @ Majestic Theater, Tickets: \$25

www.gettysburgmajestic.org

Sept 19 from 10 am-4 pm – Historic Barns Tour in Adams County

Tickets: \$35-40 www.HGAConline.org

Sept 22 at 7:30 pm – Trio Eris @ St. James Lutheran Church, Tickets: \$20

www.gettysburgcca.org

Sept 26 at 4 pm – Jeremy Huw Williams, Welsh Baritone @ United Lutheran Seminary, Free

www.musicgettysburg.org

OCTOBER

Oct 2 from 5-7 pm – First Friday Arts Exhibition @ Adams County Arts Council, Artists: Joh Ricci, Chris Glatfelter Legacy Project, David Harrison, Free

www.adamsarts.org

Oct 2 at 7 pm – Poetry First Friday @ Ragged Edge Coffeehouse

Free www.katygiebenhain.com/firstfridays.html

Oct 3-4 at 2 and 7:30 pm – The Music of Queen and Journey @ Totem Pole Playhouse

Tickets: \$50-61 www.totempoleplayhouse.org

Oct 9-17 – The Rocky Horror Show @ Gettysburg Community Theatre

Tickets: \$25 www.gettysburgcommunitytheatre.org

Oct 10 at 4 pm – Lyrica Chamber Music @ United Lutheran Seminary, Free

www.musicgettysburg.org

Oct 15 at 7:00 pm – The PEOPLE Project 2026: Crossroads @ Majestic Theater

Tickets: \$20 www.gettysburgmajestic.org

Oct 24 at 2 and 7:30 pm – Jonathan Burns, Comedy @ Totem Pole Playhouse,

Tickets: \$38-47 www.totempoleplayhouse.org

Oct 25 at 4 pm – Bowers (flute), Hochmiller (soprano), Day (guitar) @ United Lutheran Seminary, Free

www.musicgettysburg.org

Oct 30 at 7:30 pm – Peggy Haas Howell, Organ @ United Lutheran Seminary, Free

www.musicgettysburg.org

NOVEMBER

Nov 3-Dec 5, Tues-Sat from 10 am-4 pm – A Great and Truthful Medium: Photography at Gettysburg and Beyond plus "Uncle Abe: The Common Image of the Uncommon Man @ Schmucker Art Gallery, Gettysburg College, Free

www.gettysburg.edu/gallery

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LISA GREGORY

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A horizontal campaign banner with a dark blue background. On the left, the text "BETH FARNHAM" is in large, bold, white capital letters, with "FOR CONGRESS" in smaller white capital letters below it. A white line separates this from "U.S. House Pennsylvania District 13" in white capital letters. Below that is the website "www.bethfarnhamforcongress.com" in white. To the right of the text is a white line-art icon of the U.S. Capitol dome. In the center is a portrait of Beth Farnham, a woman with brown hair, smiling, wearing a dark blue blazer, with an American flag behind her. To the right of the portrait is a white box with a pink border containing the text "Vote for Beth Farnham on November 3rd!" in bold pink, followed by "Beth is fighting for:" in bold pink, and a list of six issues in pink bullet points: Voting Rights, Reproductive Freedom, Gun Safety, Affordability of everyday essentials like gas in the tank, food on the table, healthcare, housing, and more!, and Public Education. At the bottom right, it says "paid for by Beth Farnham for Congress" in pink.

A promotional banner for the Adams County SPCA's 50th anniversary. The banner is divided into three main sections. The left section has a black background with the text "Celebrating 50 YEARS 1976-2026 Adams County SPCA" in gold and white, accompanied by paw print graphics. The middle section has a light blue background with the text "Help support our animals! Make a donation to the Adams County SPCA today!" in black, followed by "Make Adoption Your First Option!" in large, bold black letters. Below this text is a photo of a golden retriever and a tabby cat. The right section features a black silhouette of a dog's head and the text "ADAMS COUNTY SPCA" in large, bold black letters. At the bottom, a black bar contains the address and phone number: "11 Goldenville Road • Gettysburg, PA 17325 • 717-334-8876".

“That sword was a wonderful example of the thin line that existed on that film between the actors and the historical characters we were playing,” says Rothman.

Rothman had no qualms about passing the sword on to Pinkerton. “I gave my sword to him because he more than anyone has kept the flame burning and the faith in the enduring importance of Gettysburg, the movie.”

However, there is one item that Pinkerton has yet to acquire. “Sam Elliott’s hat,” he says of the actor who played Brig. Gen. John Buford in *Gettysburg*. “He still has it. But I don’t think he’s ready to part with it.”

The items in his collection are not just those associated with the actors, but with re-enactors as well. Daniel Bauman gave Pinkerton the uniform that he wore in both *Gettysburg* and *Dances with Wolves*, as well as other items. Bauman, who has been struggling with health issues for several years, takes comfort in the fact that Pinkerton will care for these items. “I just figured it was better with him,” say Bauman. “I trusted him.”

So impressive is Pinkerton’s collection that he was contacted by the television show *American Pickers*. But when told he would have to sell the

entire collection if they wanted to purchase it, he declined. “I can’t part with Stephen Lang’s uniform,” he says. “That was a gift from him. So, I said, no.”

Through these relationships, Pinkerton has played a key role in reaching out to actors to participate in such events as the 30th anniversary of the movie *Gettysburg* which was held in Gettysburg in 2023.

“He’s an invaluable asset to Gettysburg,” says Andrew Dalton, Gettysburg History president and CEO. “He has built these incredible relationships with the actors from *Gettysburg* and over many years has really earned their respect and friendship. Because of that he was able to connect us with almost the entire cast of the film in preparation for the movie’s 30th anniversary. He was the real go-between in order to get these folks booked to be here.”

Pinkerton does not ask for payment for his efforts. It is a labor of love for him. “He just cares so deeply about the movie,” says Dalton.

That includes stepping up when needed. “A couple of the actors who couldn’t afford to get to these reunions, he has bought their plane tickets and paid for their hotel rooms,” says Ron Max-

well, director of both *Gettysburg* and *Gods and Generals*. “This is a selfless, generous, devoted and very special guy.”

During the 30th *Gettysburg* movie event, Pinkerton had the opportunity to exhibit his collection in Gettysburg. “I kept hearing people say, ‘Oh my God, this collection.’ ‘How can I see this every day?’ ‘How can I bring so and so here to see this?’” he says.

Those like Garry Adelman, local renowned historian of the Civil War and the Battle of Gettysburg, understand the appeal. “*Gettysburg* was a movie about a battle where you came to know and like and in some cases love and emulate the main characters,” he says. “Therefore, where they stood, what they said and what they wore becomes a cherished part of somebody’s *Gettysburg* experience.”

Adds Dalton, “There’s no way to separate that if you’ve seen the movie. You read about Chamberlain or you visit Little Round Top, you’re picturing Jeff Daniels. And so, I think that’s what makes these items so much more meaningful. It gives people a sense that they’re an artifact.”

While in Gettysburg, Berenger was able to visit the collection and revisit the uniform he wore as Longstreet. “He joked, and said, ‘Oh, look, the dirt’s still on my jacket,’” recalls Pinkerton, chuckling. . GC

Cultural Arts Listing

continued

Nov 6 from 5-7 pm – First Friday Art Exhibition and Reception @ Adams County Arts Council, Artists: Harley Weigle, Mary Jane Schnurer, Members Show, Free www.adamsarts.org

Nov 6 at 7 pm – Poetry First Friday @ Ragged Edge Coffeehouse , Free www.katygiebenhain.com/firstfridays.html

Nov 6-15 – Airness (Comedy) @ Gettysburg Community Theatre, Tickets: \$25 www.gettysburgcommunitytheatre.org

Nov 7 at 2 and 7:30 pm – Toby: A Tribute to Toby Keith @ Totem Pole Playhouse, Tickets: \$50-61 www.totempoleplayhouse.org

Nov 10 at 7:30 pm – Yu and I (Chamber Music) @ St. James Lutheran Church, \$20 www.gettysburgcca.org

Nov 11 at 7 pm – Gettysburg 1863 Film Premiere @ Majestic Theater, Sold out!

Nov 14 at 8 pm – The Original Civil War Ball @ Eisenhower Hotel, Tickets \$30 or \$55/ couple theoriginalcivilwarball.svr@gmail.com

Nov 19 at 7 pm – 64th Annual Robert

Fortenbaugh Memorial Lecture: Twelve Score and Ten: Lincoln, Gettysburg, and America 250 with Matt Pinsker @ Majestic Theater with *A Lincoln Portrait* by Copland performed by Sunderman Conservatory Wind Symphony, Free tickets www.gettysburgmajestic.org

Nov 27 at 7 pm, Nov 28 at 2 pm – Home for the Holidays 2026 @ Gettysburg Community Theatre, Tickets-\$25 www.gettysburgcommunitytheatre.org

Nov 29 at 7:30 pm – Advent Vespers @ United Lutheran Seminary Chapel, Free www.musicgettysburg.org

DECEMBER

Dec 4 from 5-7 pm – First Friday Exhibits and Reception @ Adams County Arts Council, Free www.adamsarts.org

Dec 4 at 7 pm – Poetry First Friday @ Ragged Edge Coffeehouse, Free www.katygiebenhain.com/firstfridays.html

Dec 4-13 – A Christmas Carol @ Majestic Theater www.gettysburgmajestic.org

Dec 5 at 7 pm/Dec 6 at 3 pm – “Gloria in Excelsis Deo” with Gettysburg Choral Society @ United Lutheran Seminary www.gettysburgchoralsociety.org

Dec 11 at 7 pm – Tuba Carol Fest @ Downtown Gettysburg

Dec 11-20 – Cinderella @ Gettysburg Community Theatre, \$25 www.gettysburgcommunitytheatre.org

Dec 13 at 7 pm – A Christmas Offering @ United Lutheran Seminary Chapel, Free www.musicgettysburg.org

Dec 18 at 7:30/Dec 17 at 3 and 7:30 – A Gettysburg Christmas (film) @ Majestic Theater, \$15 www.gettysburgmajestic.org

Dec 31 from 7-10 pm – New Year’s Eve Open House @ Christ Lutheran Church, Free www.christgettysburg.org

Dec 31 – From Lincoln Square to Times Square @ Downtown, Free www.facebook.com/lincolnsq2timesssq



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Live Music

After a long day hiking, visiting historical sites, or learning about the Battle of Gettysburg, what could be better than a fall evening at a local winery, cidery, or brewery listening to live music? Gettysburg prides itself on its craft beverages and musical offerings.

The **Arts Oasis Stage** on the Gettysburg Square is a popular venue for performances by solo artists and bands. Stop by and pull up a folding chair on weekend nights, 7:00-10:00 p.m. adam-sarts.org/event-schedule/.

Bourbon Mill at 4797 York Rd, New Oxford provides live music on Saturday and Sunday evenings as well as karaoke on Sundays: www.facebook.com/p/Bourbon-Mill-100063503563628/

Ploughman Cider Taproom on the Gettysburg Square features PA-made ciders, beers, and distilled liquors. Original live music by local and traveling artists is featured 7-9 p.m. every Thursday evening. Open mic evenings are on Wednesdays, 6-9 pm. www.ploughmancider.com/thetaproom

Ploughman also hosts four concerts at the **National Apple Museum** in Biglerville. If you're lucky, you might catch a set from one of the county's most popular bands, Chuck Darwin & The Knuckle Draggers. www.nationalapplemuseum.com/events/

The Garryowen Irish Pub, 126 Chambersburg St., Gettysburg, offers live music every Friday and Saturday from 8-10 pm, featuring mostly traditional and contemporary Irish and Scottish songs. garryowen-irish-pub.square.site/music

O'Rorke's Family Eatery and Spirits, located at 44 Steinwehr Ave., Gettysburg, offers live music on Saturdays. www.ororkes.com/events.html

Big Hill Ciderworks, 338 Georgetown Rd, Gardners. Cidery serving a variety of apple-based beverages and featuring a pizza menu as well as live music events.

Gettysburg Eddie's, at 217 Steinwehr Avenue, presents live music every first and third Thursday.



Honey on the Rocks

Reid's Orchard and Winery, located at 400 Baltimore Street, Gettysburg, hosts live music on Saturday evenings. www.reidsorchardwinery.com

Sign of the Buck, a bar/restaurant at 29 Chambersburg St. Gettysburg, hosts live music on Mondays from 7-9 pm. signofthebuck.com/events/

Screaming Bambino, Boyer Nursery Rd. in Biglerville, provides live music in a bucolic apple orchard setting.

Thirsty Farmer Brew Works, located at 290 Cashtown Rd. in Biglerville, provides live music most weekends.



For a full live music schedule, please check our events calendar at gettysburgconnection.org/live-music-in-adams-county-pa/



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Festivals

From outdoor concerts to farm shows and historic commemorations, there’s always something happening in Adams County that draws a crowd. Here’s our list of 2026 festivals.

Sept 5 – Labor Day Weekend Music Festival. Gettysburg Recreation Park, 545 Long Lane, Gettysburg. Rescheduled from Memorial Day weekend, this free community festival features live music, local food and beverages, family activities, and the Adams County Farmers Market. gettysburgrecpark.org

Sept 5 – Community Day. Hollabaugh Bros. Fruit Farm & Market, 545 Carlisle Rd., Biglerville. A free family event celebrating the local community with activities, vendors, demonstrations, and fun for all ages on the farm. hollabaughbros.com

Sept 18–20 – World War II Weekend. Eisenhower National Historic Site, 250 Eisenhower Farm Rd., Gettysburg. Living history encampments, military vehicles, weapons demonstrations, period fashion, educational programs, and special presentations commemorate the World War II era. www.nps.gov/eise

Sept 19 – 20 - Sweet Potato Festival. Thomason’s Herb Farm & Gift Shop, 170 Stoney Point Rd., East Berlin. Family-friendly festival featuring sweet potato specialties, live music, craft vendors, farm animals, demonstrations, and activities for all ages. www.thomasonherbfarm.com

Sept 26 – 27 - Pippinfest. Downtown Fairfield. Annual community festival celebrating the Pippin apple with hundreds of craft vendors, food, live entertainment, children’s activities, antique vehicles, and small-town fall traditions. www.pippinfest.com

Sep. 20 – Adams County Heritage Festival. Gettysburg Recreation Park, 545 Long Lane, Gettysburg. Celebration of Adams County’s history and culture featuring historical exhibits, demonstrations, local organizations, artisans, music, food, and family activities. www.adamscounty250.org

Oct 3–4 & 10–11 – Hollabaugh’s Festival. Hollabaugh Bros. Fruit Farm & Market, 545 Carlisle Rd., Biglerville. Held during the National Apple Harvest Festival weekends, the farm offers pick-your-own apples, wagon rides, apple cider, baked goods, seasonal treats, family activities, and shopping at the market. While not the official festival site, Hollabaugh Bros. is a popular stop for visitors enjoying Apple Harvest Festival weekend.

Oct 3–4 & 10–11 – National Apple Harvest Festival. South Mountain Fairgrounds, 615 Narrows Rd., Arendtsville. One of Pennsylvania’s premier fall festivals, featuring fresh apple treats prepared nearly two

dozen ways, live music, artisan demonstrations, children’s activities, a petting zoo, antique displays, and hundreds of arts and crafts vendors. www.appleharvest.com

Oct 21 – Gettysburg Halloween Parade. Downtown Gettysburg. Beginning at approximately 7:15 p.m., *costumed marchers, bands, floats, emergency vehicles*, and community groups parade from Lincoln Square to Steinwehr Avenue in one of Gettysburg’s most popular family traditions. www.destinationgettysburg.com

Nov 14 – Remembrance Day Parade. Downtown Gettysburg. One of the nation’s largest Civil War parades, featuring hundreds of reenactors, military bands, mounted units, and historic organizations marching from Middle Street through downtown to Steinwehr Avenue. *Parade begins at 1 p.m.*

Nov 14 – Celebrating Military Heroes. Gettysburg. A special program honoring veterans and military service presented by the Battle of the Bulge Association as part of Remembrance Day weekend.

Nov 15 – Remembrance Day Illumination. Gettysburg National Cemetery, 97 Taneytown Rd., Gettysburg. Beginning at 5:30 p.m., volunteers place a luminary on each of the 3,512 Civil War soldiers’ graves while the names of the fallen are read aloud in one of Gettysburg’s most moving annual traditions.

Nov 18–19 - Lincoln to Gettysburg. Downtown Gettysburg. A large-scale immersive reenactment commemorating Abraham Lincoln’s 1863 visit to Gettysburg and the dedication of Soldiers’ National Cemetery. The two-day production will recreate Lincoln’s arrival by steam locomotive and his procession along Baltimore Street to Gettysburg National Cemetery

Dec 4–6 – A Gettysburg Christmas Festival. Downtown Gettysburg. Three-day holiday celebration featuring live entertainment, Christmas market vendors, carriage rides, children’s activities, historic house tours, visits with Santa, and seasonal festivities throughout the historic district. www.agettysburgchristmasfestival.com

For a full list of festivals, please check our website at gettysburgconnection.org/calendar

Biglerville Mail Carrier reaches One Million Miles

AMY BOYER-THOMAS

For nearly four decades, Eddie Diveley has traveled the roads of Adams County delivering letters, packages and a friendly greeting to residents along his rural mail route. In June, the United States Postal Service at the Biglerville Post Office recognized his extraordinary milestone, and recognized him with the million-mile safety award. He efficiently serves the community delivering mail Tuesday through Saturday.

Diveley's achievement represents years of dedication, commitment and countless hours behind the wheel. This year will mark his 40th year with the Biglerville Post Office. Covering a rural route requires more than simply delivering mail; it means becoming a familiar and trusted face for the customers along the way. It's more challenging to drive now that other drivers on the road are more distracted. In recent years, the Post Office has formed working relationships with Amazon and UPS so there are more packages with some being larger in size than years ago.

USPS Regional Manager Lisa Pecht was present for the award ceremony and very pleased. "There's more distractions on the roads now and (other) drivers are worse," she said. Biglerville Postmaster,

Amy Egner said "I have only been here a year, but it's important for our staff to be safe on the streets. I want you to all go home to your families."

When Diveley was prompted by Pecht to give his co-workers advice, he advised "Listen to your Postmaster and focus on the mail."

Throughout his career, Diveley has witnessed the changing landscape of the Postal Service, from handwritten letters and greeting cards to the growing demand for package deliveries. Through it all, he has remained committed to providing reliable service and building relationships with the people on his route.

Reaching the million-mile mark is a rare accomplishment among rural carriers and reflects Diveley's professionalism, attention to safety and

dedication to his customers.

The Biglerville Post Office recognized Diveley for this remarkable milestone and thanked him for the many miles he has traveled in service to others. He was issued a plaque and a jacket to commemorate the milestone.

Diveley and his co-workers received new vehicle training in Harrisburg this spring. The new vehicle is called Next Generation Delivery Vehicle (NGDV). They are manufactured by Oshkosh Defense and are 19 feet long and 9 feet 3 inches in height. The new vehicles have already been issued to some of the local post offices, with more arriving in the near future.

If you see Diveley, or your own mail carrier, delivering your mail, be sure to thank them for their service. [GC](#)



PHOTO CREDIT: WESLEY THOMAS

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Making Movie Magic in Gettysburg

LISA GREGORY

Actor Alfonso Freeman was filming a scene for the upcoming movie, *Gettysburg 1863*, playing Basil Biggs, a Black man who lived near Gettysburg at the time of the battle and was a conductor for the Underground Railroad. In the scene, Freeman as Biggs was encouraging runaway slaves to embrace their freedom.

“He was giving them a sense of dignity about themselves,” says Freeman. “You don’t have to be afraid anymore. Hold your head up. Look forward like you belong.”

Freeman, the son of actor Morgan Freeman, had never heard of Basil Biggs. However, the movie was filmed in Gettysburg, offering Freeman an opportunity to learn about Biggs in a more real and personal way. “I visited the memorials and museums here,” he says. “I talked to historians here. I paid my respects to him at the cemetery.”

In the end, Freeman didn’t just play the part of Basil Biggs, “I wanted to honor him.”

As Freeman can attest, there can be something special about making movies in Gettysburg. And perhaps no one knows this better than Bo Brinkman and Kris Webb. The couple, partners in life and business, are responsible for the films *A Gettysburg Christmas* and now *Gettysburg 1863*, which will be released this Nov. Both movies were filmed in Gettysburg and the surrounding area using locals as extras.

In fact, Brinkman, an actor, director, writer and producer, and Webb, a longtime resident of Gettysburg and a local business owner, have created the Gettysburg Film Commission to encourage others to make films here as well.

“It’s a filmmaker’s dream,” Brinkman says of Gettysburg.

Brinkman first came to Gettysburg in 1992 as an actor, playing the role of Major Walter H. Taylor in the movie *Gettysburg*. He was immediately taken with the area. “It changed me,” he says.

Brinkman took to its residents as well meeting Webb at a pub while he was in town. “He was so easy to talk to,” she says.

When Brinkman returned to Los Angeles the couple, who were both going through divorces when they met, kept in touch. But the distance proved too difficult.

So, from 2003 to 2020 they were not in contact. During those years, Webb, owner of Sixty East Hair Design in Gettysburg, says she was going through some personal changes. “I had an awakening,” she says. “Where I lived mattered. My genealogy mattered. My identity mattered.”

That self-realization would lead her to take a closer look at her home and its history. Her family, the Weikerts, have been part of Gettysburg since before the Revolutionary War. And she was, of course, familiar with the Battle of Gettysburg. “I started having prayer walks on the battlefield,” says Webb.

She began to ponder the toll taken on those who lived in Gettysburg during the battle, the civilians, who “had hell come to their doorstep,” she says. “I felt their story needed to be told.” And she knew just the person to tell it.

Webb found Brinkman’s phone number through a mutual friend and reached out to him. “The minute we heard each other’s voice, well, we’ve been talking ever since,” she says.

Brinkman, who also teaches film at Gettysburg College, now spends his time in both his home state of Texas and Gettysburg.

Their first joint project was a 2023 film called *A Gettysburg Christmas* and included actors Lee Majors and Bruce Boxleitner.

Working on *A Gettysburg Christmas* and seeing the economic boost for the community it provided, Brinkman and Webb were inspired to create the Gettysburg Film Commission, a nonprofit. The mission of the organization is to connect filmmakers with local resources, businesses and residents.

The commission also promotes the idea of filming in Gettysburg. “Because if you don’t know where and what Gettysburg is as a filmmaker, you’re not going to think about it,” says Webb, who has been a co-producer on both *A Gettysburg Christmas* and *Gettysburg 1863*.

Both volunteer their efforts with the film commission, which also has an internship program and movie nights in the summer. “We believe in it, and we believe in what we are doing,” says Webb.

During all of this time, however, Webb still had her heart set on her original story idea of civilians during the battle. And, word had gotten out in Gettysburg. “I would be walking down Baltimore Street, and someone would yell out, ‘How’s the movie coming along?’” says Brinkman.

While *A Gettysburg Christmas* was “was financed by an investor in Texas,” says Brinkman, “*Gettysburg 1863* is completely supported by people in Gettysburg because they believe in it.”

The story finally came to Brinkman while staying at the historic Sherfy Farmhouse, which still has bullet holes from the battle. “I began writing and it just poured out,” he says. He had most of it written in 24 hours. “I was on hallowed ground,” he says. “I felt the gravity of that. I felt the gravity of what I needed to write.”

Although the movie is a work of fiction, historical stories can present their own challenges. “I don’t want historians throwing tomatoes at me when I walk around Gettysburg,” says Brinkman.

Not to worry. He had plenty of experts at his disposal. Historical experts like Tim Smith, director of education for Gettysburg History, and Andrew Dalton, president and CEO of Gettysburg History.

“Andrew Dalton has gone through my script more than I have,” says Brinkman with a chuckle.

The places where filming took place would be authentic as well. “No soundstage, no expensive set was built,” says Brinkman. Instead, the movie was filmed at such local historic places as the Schmucker House which was built in 1833. “Right in the parlor,” says Brinkman. In fact, the original furniture from the house was in storage but was returned for the movie. “Furniture that had not been in that house for 150 years,” says Brinkman.

Being there in the room or at the place where it could have happened was powerful. “Every one of the actors said, ‘I can feel it,’” says Brinkman. “I felt it.”

Ron Maxwell, director of the movie *Gettysburg*, is not surprised that Brinkman is drawn to Gettysburg to tell his stories. Maxwell recalls his own determination to film here. “This is a unique place,” says Maxwell. “There’s no other combination of hills and dales and little mountains and fields and townships.”

Maxwell and Brinkman are friends and knew each other before Maxwell handpicked Brinkman for the role of Major Walter Taylor in both *Gettysburg* and *Gods and Generals*, also directed by Maxwell.

During the filming of *Gettysburg*, young Brinkman was often at the director’s side, observing him at work. “I was aware of him always looking over my shoulder,” says Maxwell. “I knew he was there, and he was welcome to be there.”

Maxwell says he plans to come back to Gettysburg for the premiere of his friend’s movie in early Nov. “He has always wanted to make films that were important to him,” says Maxwell of Brinkman. “Tell the stories that mattered to him.”

Stories like *Gettysburg 1863*.

“Bo and I had to happen,” says Webb. “We had to know each other for so many things to happen. I really believe that.” . CC

New owners write Baladerry Inn’s next chapter

PHOTO CREDIT: BALADERY INN



GETTYSBURG CONNECTION

couple transformed the property into one of the area’s highest-rated bed-and-breakfasts, earning a loyal following through their warm hospitality, acclaimed breakfasts, and careful stewardship of the historic home. Many returning guests who first stayed with the Caudills continue to visit today.

“Judy and Kenny really built up a nice following,” Curtian said. “We have a lot of repeat people that just keep coming back.”

The new owners hope to broaden that audience by expanding beyond traditional overnight stays. The inn has already hosted its first conference, and Curtian said they envision more small meetings, retreats, weddings and private events in the future.

“That’s what our goal is—to do small meetings and conferences and retreats,” she said.

The inn’s 11 guest rooms are spread among the original farmhouse, the historic carriage house, and later additions. Several rooms include kitchenettes, and a larger suite is being configured to accommodate families and small groups. Curtian believes one of the property’s greatest attractions is its peaceful location just outside the borough.

“It’s so tranquil ...
You’re close to town, but
it doesn’t feel like you’re
close to town.”

“It’s so tranquil,” she said. “You’re close to town, but it doesn’t feel like you’re close to town.”

Looking ahead, Curtian said the owners hope to preserve everything that has made the Baladerry a Gettysburg favorite while introducing it to a new generation of visitors.

“It’s really bright,” she said of the renovated inn. “It really worked.”

For guests, however, the greatest attraction may still be the one that has remained unchanged for more than two centuries: a historic home where Gettysburg’s past is never far from the present.. **CC**

When guests arrive at the Baladerry Inn today, they find bright, newly renovated rooms, a fitness center, pickleball courts, and updated gathering spaces. But innkeeper Suzanne Curtian hopes they also discover something that can’t be renovated: more than 200 years of Gettysburg history.

“We renovated the entire property,” Curtian said during a recent tour. “We started in February.”

The work followed the purchase of the historic bed-and-breakfast last November by business partners Josh Dominguez and Vanessa Lee, along with several investors. Lee moved her family from California to Gettysburg to help operate the inn, while Dominguez, who has lived in the area for about a decade, brought experience renovating homes and investment properties.

Curtian, who manages the day-to-day operations, said the goal was to modernize the property without sacrificing its historic character.

Among the improvements are redesigned guest rooms, a new sauna and fitness center, a relocated hot tub, and a pickleball court built on the site of a former tennis court. Designer Sherry Warren, who has worked on hotels around the world, selected much of the décor and furnishings.

“It was very farmhouse rustic,” Curtian said. “We just brightened it.”

While the appearance has changed, the inn’s history remains at the center of its identity.

“This part was built in 1812,” Curtian said, pointing to the original brick farmhouse.

Originally part of the George Bushman farm, the house stood just south of Gettysburg when the Civil War came to the area. During the Battle of Gettysburg it was converted into a Union field hospital where wounded soldiers were treated. Curtian said one reminder of that history remains inside the building.

“There’s a bloody footprint in the corner because this was a field hospital,” she said.

The building’s long history has also made it a destination for paranormal enthusiasts. Curtian said organized ghost-hunting groups regularly rent the entire inn during the slower winter months.

“I haven’t witnessed anything,” she said with a laugh. “But they bring their own gadgets.”

The property itself did not become a bed-and-breakfast until 1994, when it was converted by the O’Gara family. The name “Baladerry” comes from the Irish town of Ballinderry, reflecting the family’s heritage, and has remained through subsequent ownership changes.

For the past 15 years, the Baladerry became one of Gettysburg’s best-known inns under the ownership of Judy and Kenny Caudill. The



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PHOTO CREDIT: ALEX HAYES

Gettysburg Beer Runners keep moving under new leadership

ALEX HAYES

The concept behind Gettysburg Beer Runners is simple: run or walk a few miles—your distance, your pace—and have a cold beverage with friends old and new.

For 13 years, hundreds of Gettysburg-area residents and visitors have enjoyed the midweek respite best known as GBR. Members improved their health. Friendships and even marriages have formed over sweat and suds. Hundreds of dollars have been raised for non-profit organizations. Local businesses received much-appreciated support from their community, especially during the typically slow winter season.

In an age when social groups are waning, GBR succeeds because of consistency—same day and time every week, ensuring a bar is ready for an influx of customers, a weekly newsletter alerting subscribers where to gather on Wednesday, and a day-of social media post encouraging the crowds to gather.

While GBR may seem simple to those who attend, there are many keys to its success. Since day one, Mark Purdy has held those keys. He officially handed them over to Sean Lazarus and Shane Wright on Wednesday, June 3, at Four-Score Brewing Company, only a stone's throw away from where it all began.

EARLY DAYS

The inaugural GBR was held on June 6, 2013, at Tommy's Pizza on Steinwehr Avenue. Purdy, a longtime community advocate with a resume full of involvement in non-profit organizations, was inspired by Fishtown Beer Runners in Philadelphia. Fishtown Beer Runners launched in 2007 when Eric Fiedler told David April about a beer study conducted by Dr. Manuel Castillo (The Professor) at the University of Granada, Spain, which concluded that after exercise and subsequent water losses, a moderate intake of beer has no deleterious effects on markers of hydration in active individuals.

Fifteen people—five of whom were present Wednesday—gathered that first night, which ended with someone asking Purdy, “Where are we going next week?”

GBR evenings begin with walkers at 6 p.m. and runners at 6:30 p.m. Some people choose their own route or length, and are just as welcome as those who stay with the pack. At the bar of the week, conversations can center around anything on people's minds, including family, careers, nostalgia, or running goals. Before everyone goes their separate ways, Purdy thanks the group's host and raises a glass.

“To the professor!

To the run!

To the round!

GBR on three; one, two, three-GBR!”

GROWTH AND CHANGE

Word quickly spread about GBR, and the Wednesday gatherings ballooned. Some were lacing up running shoes for the first time and soon started making plans to run in formal races.

The Gettysburg beer scene has undergone some changes since GBR members first raised a pint. Early favorite stops including O'Rorkes, Taverna, and Gettysburg Eddie's remain on the rotation. The group has said goodbye to others such as The Blue Parrot Bistro, Appalachian Brewing Company on Buford Avenue, and The Arendtsville Inn.

When establishments opened, including Four-Score, Gettysburger, and Mason Dixon Distillery, proprietors could count on GBR being one of their first supporters.

GBR t-shirts were common sights at local races, including the YWCA Spirit of Gettysburg 5K, Encore Breast Cancer Awareness 5K, Race Against Racism, Gettysburg Battlefield Marathon, Linda Kranias Memorial 5K, inspired by Stacy Hobbs, and Healthy Adams County Free 5K. All but the Free 5K have since folded.

Groups of friends also traveled to races in Philadelphia and Virginia Beach, some accomplishing goals they never thought possible before joining GBR.

In 2022, United Way of Adams County awarded GBR its annual Heart and Hand Award for bringing the community together.

RELATIONSHIPS

The heart of GBR's success is not Gettysburg, beer, or running but the people pulled together by those common interests.

“From mid-Aug 2014, Wednesdays have been important and held a special place for me,” said Ted Samson. “Besides the weekly runs and evenings at the bar, I've found the best friends, run a couple hundred races, met up with so many people on cold mornings for training runs in the depths of winter, logged thousands of miles in and around town, always making time for a drink and friendship after.”

GBR has proven that good friends make each other better.

“I have developed lifetime friends who convinced me to sign up for races and distances that I never would have had the courage to do,” said Penny Yingling.

Group photos were common in the early days of GBR. One such shot, taken at Taverna, featured strangers Matt Booz and Megan Colbey. The two met shortly after, dated, married, and marked their own special occasion on the night of Mark's last night as GBR's leader.

“Today was the birthday of one of the three children we've had together since that beautiful night in Fairfield,” Megan Booz said.

The COVID-19 pandemic paused large social gatherings such as GBR beginning in March 2020. For several months, members stayed in touch on social media, sharing photos of their

continued, page 15

weekly runs and the beverages that followed. When restrictions were lifted, GBR fanatics raced back to normal.

“The most amazing thing that has happened throughout all of these years is that we survived COVID,” Purdy said. “That proved that people need to be together.”

TRADITIONS

As GBR grew, annual traditions began to form. In February, long-distance runners would trek from Gettysburg to the Ott House in Emmitsburg for the Groundhog (Almost) Half Marathon. Certified Race Director Lisa Angstadt organized the run with the assistance of volunteer course marshals.

For many years, the group convened at the South Mountain Fairgrounds on a Saturday afternoon for their annual GBR picnic. Like the Wednesday runs, the concept remained simple—

contribute money towards a catered BBQ lunch, and throw a six-pack or two into the community coolers.

The night before Thanksgiving, GBR gathered around the fireplace at the Reliance Mine Saloon for a pre-holiday Tommy’s Pizza feast. A month later, on Christmas Eve, they opened Gettysburg Eddie’s around 9 a.m. for a holiday toast after the community’s annual Santa Run.

A tall, beer-bottle-shaped bank known as Big Brown became a staple of the weekly runs. Members would toss spare change or a couple of dollars into Big Brown each week. At the end of the year, they would nominate a worthy charity to receive the funds and guess the amount inside of the bank. Proceeds are donated to the charity chosen by the person whose guess was closest to the actual amount.

PURDY’S LEGACY

A year ago, Purdy decided his time as the group’s leader was coming to an end. He has always insisted that GBR is a group, not himself, but Wednesday night was fittingly about the group’s revered leader.

“It’s amazing that you work up a little sweat, you have a beer, you sit down next to somebody, and suddenly you are on the same page,” Purdy said prior to his final toast. “I think it’s the right thing, I know it’s the right thing, to turn the page.”

He firmly believes Lazarus and Wright are the right team to continue his legacy.

STILL RUNNING

As always, GBR is a fee-free, commitment-free social group open to all. Anyone interested in joining Lazarus, Wright, and occasionally Purdy on Wednesday evenings can learn more on Facebook or www.gettysburgbeerrunners.com. GC

Weddings

Adams County offers a wide range of wedding venues that capture the historic charm and natural beauty of south-central Pennsylvania. Couples can choose from elegant indoor spaces, rustic barns, scenic farm properties, and outdoor settings framed by rolling hills and orchards. Many venues highlight the region’s rich heritage while providing modern amenities, allowing for both classic and contemporary celebrations. Vineyard views, countryside landscapes, and panoramic mountain backdrops are especially popular for ceremonies and photos. With options that accommodate everything from intimate gatherings to large celebrations, Adams County provides a versatile and picturesque setting for weddings in every season.



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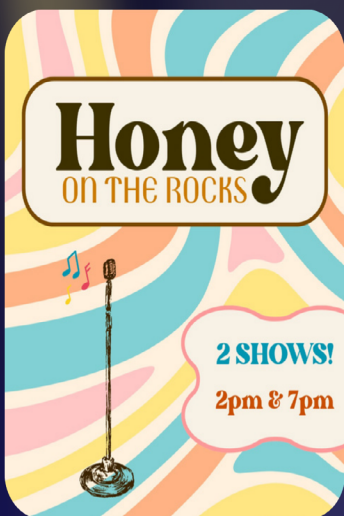




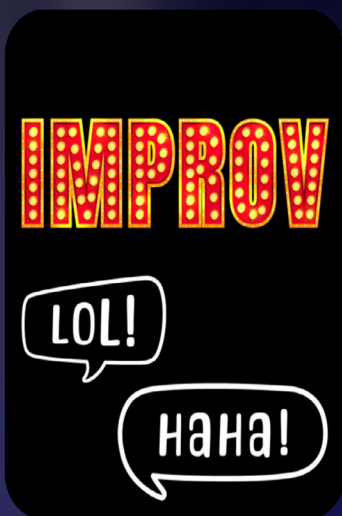


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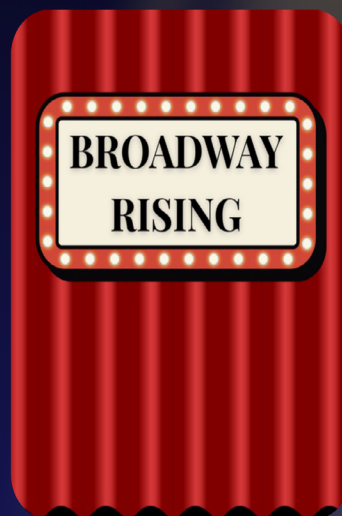
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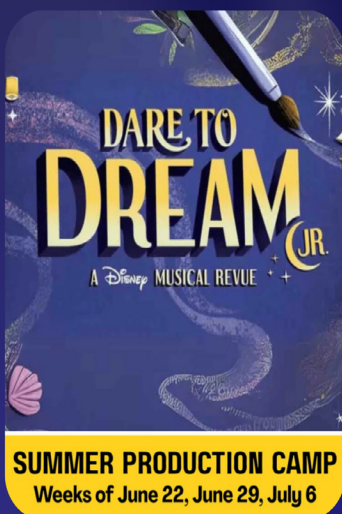
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June 12 - 13



June 15 - 19



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July 10 - 12



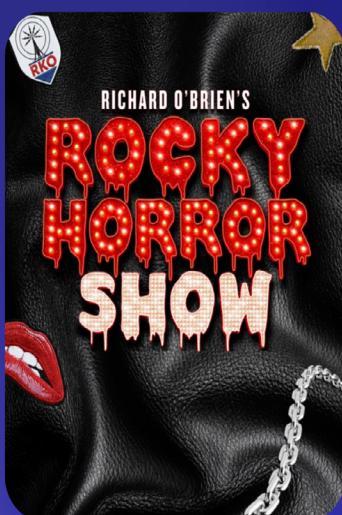
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July 17 - August 2



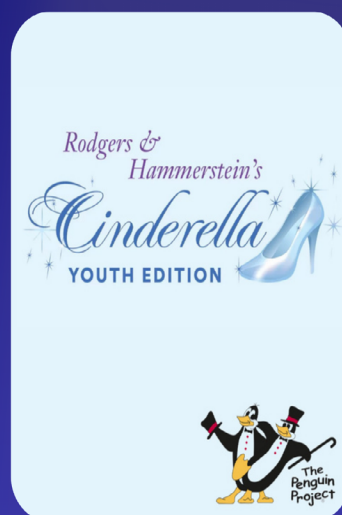
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Oscar and Felix keep audiences in stitches at Totem Pole Playhouse

PATTI RESTIVO

The legacy of Broadway’s “patron saint of laughter” is alive and kicking in Neil Simon’s hilarious “Oscar and Felix: A New Look at the Odd Couple” currently playing at Totem Pole Playhouse.

Based on the crazy chemistry that sparked between two wildly opposite personalities in the smash Broadway hit, “The Odd Couple,” in the mid 1960s, Simon updated his original script in 2002 to play to modern audiences, and “Oscar and Felix” has been staged in local and regional theaters across the country.

Ray Ficca and Darren Server are Oscar and Felix at Totem Pole Playhouse 2026

The tumultuous friendship that appeared onstage more than sixty years ago won numerous awards for Simon during his lifetime, including three Tonys, a Golden Globe, a Pulitzer Prize and the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. Adapted to film (1968) and the classic American TV sitcom (1970-1975) from the film; “The Odd Couple” also inspired an animated American cartoon (“The Oddball Couple”) featuring a neat-freak cat based on Felix and a carefree, fun-loving dog based on Oscar, as well as pop-culture male stereotypes.

Directed here by John Putch and produced by Producing Artistic Director Ryan B. Gibbs, the show opens to sportswriter Oscar’s messy apartment on the 12th floor overlooking upper west-side New York on Poker Night in the present day.

James Fouchard’s stationary set is chic enough to be believable as the divorced Oscar’s previous family’s modern residence and unkempt enough to symbolize their absence. The front door and entrance to the kitchen are built on multiple levels; doors stage right lead to other (unseen but referenced) parts of the apartment.

The tech (directed by Chris Russo) blends seamlessly, and eye-catching costumes (designed by Lisa Streett-Liebetau) are consistently appropriate to each character’s personality.

Gibbs’ lights rise on Roy (played by Ricardo Frederick Evans), Speed (Sam Little), Vinnie (Catherine Blaine), Oscar (Ray Ficca) and Murray (JJ Kaczynski) who have gathered for the weekly game. One-liners and banter take off immediately as Oscar serves slightly gross refreshments in a tame beginning.

But when the friends learn through a phone call that Felix (Darren Server) is not just late

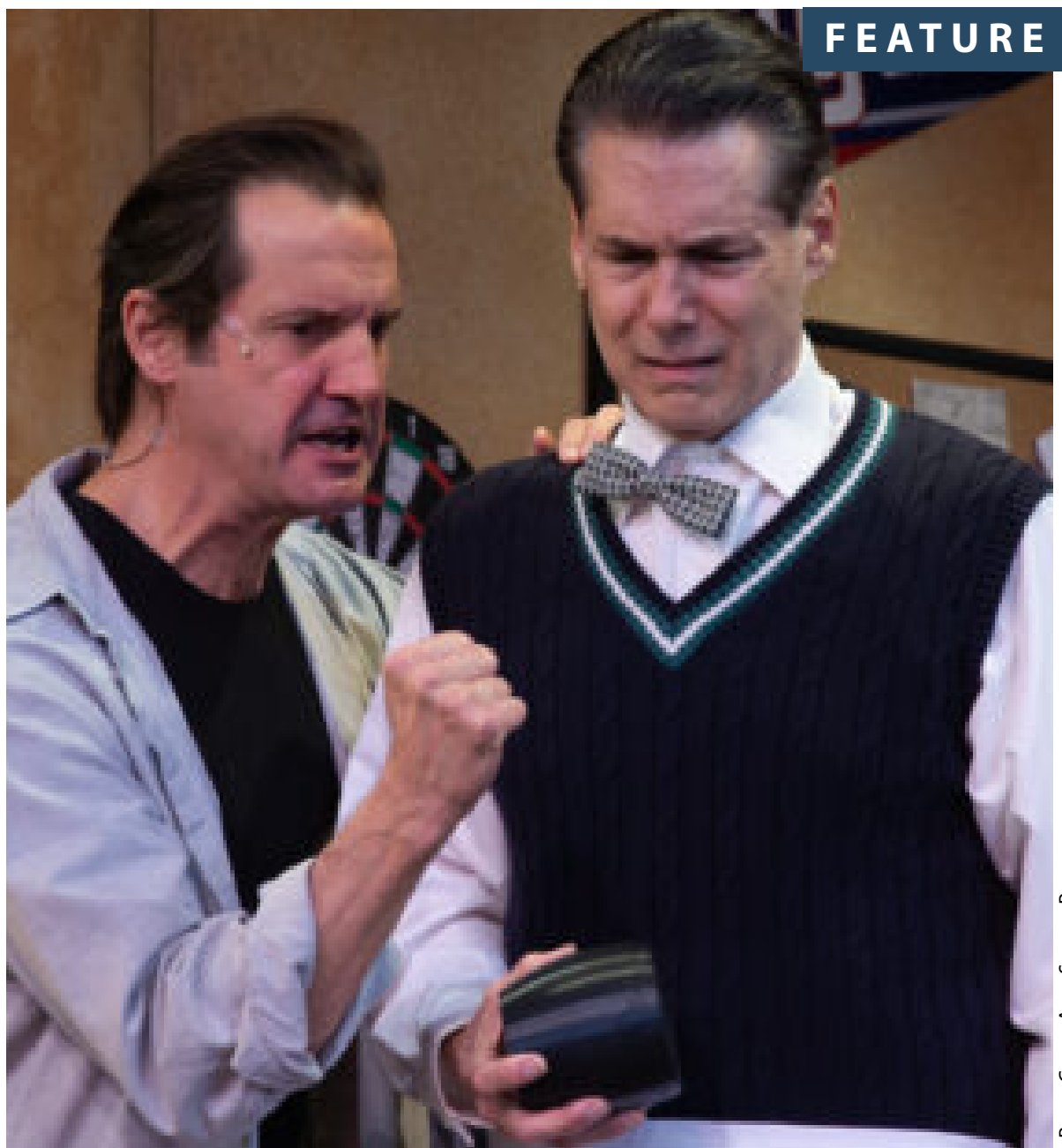


PHOTO CREDIT: ANDY SWETZER PHOTOGRAPHY

Ray Ficca and Darren Server are Oscar and Felix at Totem Pole Playhouse

but missing and possibly suicidal after being thrown out of his marriage, the comedy darkens. When Felix shows up homeless and drowning in melancholy, Oscar, who is worried about what his friend might do, invites him to move in. And a hilarious ride begins as Felix’s fastidiousness clashes with Oscar’s sloppy lifestyle.

Most of the cast and creative team have returned to Totem Pole Playhouse for this show; a few (including Ficca as Oscar and Darren Server as Felix) are Playhouse veterans.

As Gibbs mentioned in his preshow announcements on Opening Night, John Putch is the son of Totem Pole Playhouse founders Bill Putch and Jean Stapleton and has previously acted and directed there. And according to the program, Blaine — who incidentally will appear in the upcoming “Gettysburg 1863” film — has more than 25 Totem Pole shows under her belt.

In this delightful reunion of sorts, the show comes together beautifully. Chocked full of comic technique, expertly delivered one-liners and mild slapstick, the darkness of the humor barely registers beneath lighthearted laughter.

Evans is articulate as Roy, the accountant with meticulous attention to detail. Little (Speed) is sarcastic and a bit of a kibitzer, in contrast to Blaine’s (Vinnie’s) mild-mannered demeanor. And Kaczynski fits in beautifully as the sympathetic cop with a dry sense of humor.

Newcomers Torres-Rosario (Ynez) and Amadeo-Frost (Julia), the Spanish sisters who enter in Act 2, drive lovely moments of laugh-out-loud comedy with whirlwind timing.

And of course, Ficca and Server create exciting chemistry as the mismatched best friends, (a sportswriter and news writer, respectively) who embody the dynamic that opposites both attract and repel in a roommate relationship that

satirizes marriage. (Oscar and Felix occasionally call each other their wives’ names in the heat of inevitable arguments.)

Server juggles Felix’s uptight OCD-themed slapstick with great presence, while Ficca manages to wax (mostly) lovable despite being an unapologetic slob. Both lead actors deliver wonderful performances.

There is much one could contemplate in the show’s underlying themes — order versus chaos, respect and ego in relationships, loneliness, compromise and navigating the wreckage of failed marriages, for instance.

But most notably, whether one is a “Felix” or an “Oscar” — or familiar or not with Simon’s original play, film, or sitcom — “Oscar and Felix: A New Look at the Odd Couple” at Totem Pole Playhouse will keep anyone in stitches.

“Oscar and Felix” (sponsored by the Drager Family) continues at Totem Pole Playhouse through July 25th at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Friday (July 24 only) and Saturdays; and 2 p.m. Sundays–Thursday and Saturdays (with the final performance on July 25 at 2 p.m.)

“Oscar and Felix” is presented at Totem Pole Playhouse through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

OTHER PRODUCTION CREDITS:

Kate Wecker (Sound Designer), Sam Sims (Video/Lighting Associate), Rachel Landon (Properties Designer), Kia Armstrong (Production Manager), Paul Millsholmes (Production Stage Manager), and Keefer Stiles (Stage Manager Assistant)

COVERS/UNDERSTUDIES:

Sofia Pellegrino (Ynez and Julia), Michael Krikorian (Roy, Speed, Vinnie, Murray), Sam Little (Oscar), and JJ Kaczynski (Felix) [CC](#)

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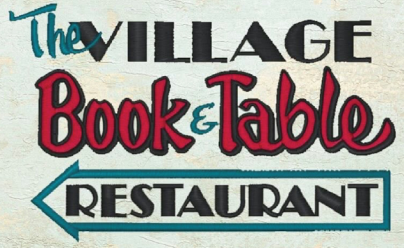
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