

MARION COUNTY

JANUARY

Jan. 13 — Herman's Hermits starring Peter Noone, Palace Theatre, 276 W. Center St., Marion, (740) 383-2101. 8 p.m. Tickets \$28, \$25, \$22 (\$10 college rush). www.marionpalace.org.

Jan. 20 — Ellery, May Pavilion, Palace Theatre, 276 W. Center St., Marion, (740) 383-2101. Husband and wife duo from Cincinnati. 8 p.m. \$10. www.marionpalace.org.

Jan. 29 — Bridal Extravaganza, coliseum, Marion County Fairgrounds, 220 E. Fairground St., Marion, (740) 389-5707. 1-5 p.m., fashion show at 3. Free. www.emshows.com.

FEBRUARY

Feb. 2 — Ground Hog Day. Buckeye Chuck will make an appearance at Clear Channel Marion, 1330 N. Main St., Marion, (740) 383-1131. Buckeye Chuck, Ohio's official weather predicting groundhog, will check for his shadow. Hot drinks and spam burgers served. www.wmrr.com

Feb. 4 — Natalie Stovall, Palace Theatre, 276 W. Center St., Marion, (740) 383-2101. She has performed everywhere from Oprah to the Grand Ole Opry with her fiddle and big vocal sound. 8 p.m. \$15 (\$10 college rush). www.marionpalace.org.

Feb. 9 — Civil War Exhibit, Stengel True Museum, 504 S. State St., Marion, (740) 387-9630. 7 p.m. Mark Holbrook from Ohio Historical Society will impersonate Civil War photographer Matthew Brady. A Civil War exhibit with objects from the Stengel collection will be unveiled. Admission is \$5.

Feb. 11 — Spencers Theatre of Illusion, Palace Theatre, 276 W. Center St., Marion, (740) 383-2101. Duo presents a high-tech show that combines drama, comedy, romance and suspense with stage illusions. 8 p.m. \$22 (\$10 college rush). www.marionpalace.org.

Feb. 16-19 — Winter Musical, Palace Theatre, 276 W. Center St., Marion, (740) 383-2101 or www.marionpalace.org.

Feb. 19 — Bridal Show, All Occasions Catering and Banquet Facility, 6989 Waldo-Delaware Road, Waldo, (740) 726-2008. 1-4 p.m., style show at 3. \$2 per person. www.clasealoccasions.com.

Feb. 24 — NewFound Road, bluegrass band, May Pavilion, Palace Theatre, 276 W. Center St., Marion, (740) 382-2101. Hard-driving, soulful contemporary bluegrass and country and pop ballads. 8 p.m. \$15. www.marionpalace.org.

Feb. 25 — Kidsfest, Marion Centre Mall, 1509 Marion-Waldo Road, Marion, (740) 387-9326. Free. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For children 13 and younger. Bounce houses, face painting, entertainment, free goodies, games and prizes. More than 30 booths.

MARCH

March 4 — Sunday Arts: Neil Jacobs, May Pavilion, Palace Theatre, 276 W. Center St., Marion, (740) 382-2101. 12-string acoustic guitar. 2 p.m. \$10. www.marionpalace.org.

March 5 — U.S. Navy Band Sea Chanters, Palace Theatre, 276 W. Center St., Marion, (740) 383-2101. As the United States Navy's official chorus, this ensemble performs a variety of music ranging from traditional choral music to opera, Broadway and contemporary music. 7:30 p.m. Free. www.marionpalace.org.

ATTRACTIONS

Big Island Wildlife Area, five miles west of Marion off SR 95 — Wetlands and prairie areas. Large pond area. Bird watching, fishing, hunting. (800) 371-6688.

Buckeye Telephone Museum, 581 Bellefontaine Ave., Marion — A volunteer group of telephone retirees and employees working to preserve the telephone industry's history. Some items on display are 30 various open-wire insulators, 18 wall-mounted magneto crank phones, mechanical central, office switching gear, Ohio telephone exchange maps and charts and telephone directories dating back to 1902. The non-profit organization is funded by public donations. A \$1 donation per person is suggested. Tours by appointment. (419) 947-8676.

Claridon Prairie, east of SR 98 and north of SR 309 — A natural prairie strip along the Conrail tracks managed by the Marion County Historical Society. (800) 371-6688.

Crum Strawberry Farm, 3314 Marion Edison Road, Marion

— Pick your own strawberries and red raspberries. Open May-October. (740) 389-2161

Etowah, 429 Mount Vernon Ave., Marion — Completed in 1908, this mansion was once the home of Marion industrialist George W. King, founder of the Marion Power Shovel Co. President Harding entertained dignitaries there. Now the home of Central Christian Church. Listed on National Register of Historic Places in 1996. (740) 387-5120.

Harding Home & Museum, 380 Mount Vernon Ave., Marion — Home erected in 1891 before the marriage of Florence King and Warren G. Harding, the 29th president. Harding memorabilia and original furnishings. Open Saturday before Memorial Day to Labor Day weekend noon-5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday. Closed Labor Day. Open noon-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday September and October. (740) 387-9630, (800) 600-6894, www.ohiohistory.org/places/harding.

Harding Memorial, US 423 at Delaware Avenue and Vernon Heights Blvd., Marion — Tomb for the remains of President and Mrs. Harding built of Georgian marble. Open dawn-dusk all year.

Henry A. True Home & Library, 149 E. Church St., Marion — Home of the True family, one of Marion's earliest settlers. Thousands of volumes of Ohio and U.S. history. Tours by appointment, by calling (740) 387-6140.

Heritage Hall, 169 E. Church St., Marion — Former Post Office houses Marion County Historical Society Museum and Wyandot Popcorn Museum. It contains Harding Presidential Collections, Marion County history exhibits and the Rinker/Howser Resource Center. Open 1-4 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday May-October, Saturday-Sunday November-April. (740) 387-4255.

Huber Machinery Museum, Marion County Fairgrounds, Marion — A memorial to Edward Huber, inventor of the wood-revolving hay rake. Also, early gasoline tractors, corn shredder, separator/threshers, orchard tractors, a combine and other machinery. Tours are 1-4 p.m. Saturdays and by appointment. (740) 389-1098.

Killdeer Wildlife Area, northwest edge of the county west of Harpster — Wetlands and prairie areas with bird watching, fishing, hunting. (800) 371-6688.

Linn School, SR 4 north of Marion — One-room school was built in 1897 and restored in 2003, rescued by two brothers, Oliver and Merle Hamilton. The Hamiltons restored the building, interior included, to the period of 1909-1913 when they attended the school. They donated it to the Marion County Historical Society to use for educational programs. Reflects a time when tin lunch pails, pot-bellied stove, McGuffy readers, desks with inkwells and foldup seats and a recitation bench were the norm. Tours are by appointment. Contact: Marion County Historical Society (740) 387-4255.

Marion County International Raceway, LaRue — Entertainment and automobile racing April-October, 7 p.m. Sundays. (740) 499-3666, www.mcir.com.

Marion Union Station, 532 W. Center St., Marion — An original railroad station built in 1902. On display are railroad items, history and a caboose. Open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday or by appointment. (740) 383-3768.

Mural in downtown Marion, corner of Prospect and Center streets — Renowned artist Eric Grohe is creating a mural in the heart of one of Marion's downtown parks.

Mysterious Revolving Ball, Marion Cemetery — A 5,200-pound granite ball that sits atop a pedestal and rotates. In 1929, it was featured in "Ripley's Believe It or Not."

OSU Marion Prairie Nature Center, south side of campus — Replanted native prairie grasses and nature center on the OSU-Marion campus. (800) 371-6688, (740) 389-OSUM, www.marion.ohio-state.edu/prairie/MainPage.htm.

Palace Theatre, 276 W. Center St., Marion — Built in the late 1920s, the theater has a Spanish courtyard theme. Live state performances and movies. (740) 383-2101, www.marionpalace.org.

Quarry Nature Park, Fairground Street off Hillman-Ford Road, Marion — Opened in 2002, park offers shelter houses, handicapped-accessible trails, fishing, gravel nature trails and bird watching.

Shamrock Vineyard, 111 Rengert Road, Waldo — The vineyard produces at least 10 varieties of fine wines. It is locally owned and operated, with 2,500 gallons of wine produced each year.

Open 1-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday January through March, 1-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday April-December. (740) 726-2883.

Stengel True Museum, Washington and State streets, Marion — Built in 1864, the home now contains collections of early guns, Indian artifacts, pottery and glassware and other primitives. Open by appointment.

Veterans Memorial Coliseum, fairgrounds — Home to concerts, motocross races, rodeos, dances, antique shows and other activities.

Veterans Memorial Park, Marion — The only park in the United States built specifically to honor those who fought in every war in which the U.S. has been involved. A separate monument is devoted to each war.

World War II Veterans Memorial, Marion Cemetery, 620 Delaware Ave. — The memorial has four sections: the Eagle Cascade entrance; the Canopy of Trees; the Plaza of Heroes; and the Memorial Monument itself. (740) 387-7050.

Wyandot Popcorn Museum, 169 E. Church St., Marion — The popcorn museum is under a circus tent filled with antique popcorn wagons and concession models dating from 1890-1940, all operational. Open 1-4 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday May-October, Saturday-Sunday November-April. (740) 387-4255, www.wyandotpopcornmus.com.