



## 'Made in America' vape products gain ground

BUSINESS, 6A

# Chillicothe Gazette

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The Basement Collective formed as a band in 2018, during that time they've played a multitude of events and at bars in the Ross County area and have just released their new album in March 2026. PROVIDED BY GUNNER BARNES

## Local band releases first album with original music

**Destiny Torres**  
Chillicothe Gazette  
USA TODAY NETWORK

CHILLICOTHE — At Apollo Records stand four local men, all with varying career backgrounds, but with one common interest: Their band, Basement Collective.

The band is made up of members Ben True, Jaret Kelley, Nick Davisson, and Jesse Mitten, who all have a passion for music in one way or another.

According to True, the lead singer, rhythm guitarist and lyricist, the band started in March of 2018, after he was asked if he wanted to record an EP.

"I said that I really didn't have a band and he [Paul Pollard] said he knew some people around town," True said. "A week later, he gave me Nick's number and we

set up some practice time down here in the basement of this record shop [Apollo Records]."

The band recorded the EP, and after that, True said that Davisson and Mitten asked if he wanted to play some gigs together.

"I said yes, that'd be great," True said. "Nick got a hold of Jaret, because Nick actually shines more on lead guitar and he was playing bass at the time when there was only three of us."

The band practiced for four months together before they played their first show at Steiner's Speakeasy on March 17, 2018, and the rest was history.

"Jesse and I had played music together on and off for a long time at that point," Davisson said. "This was kind of a new opportunity to play different rock music that we've always been drawn to."

The band has now released its first-ever album, something True said is all original music.

"I wrote the lyrics for it and kind of the chord structure of the song," True said. "Then I would bring it to the guys and I would bring the skeleton, they would kind of flesh out the song and really make it shine."

True said the feeling of releasing this album has been 'wild'.

"We started recording it back in March of 2023, so it's been a long time working on it," True said. "We've been playing those songs around town, but there's a big difference between playing your song live and then a studio version. It's just so surreal and the responses have been great."

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## Fire chief says levy is needed to keep up with calls

**Shelby Reeves**  
Chillicothe Gazette  
USA TODAY NETWORK

CHILLICOTHE— Those living in Scioto Township will be tasked with voting on an additional levy. Before you hit the polls, here is what you need to know about the issue.

### What is the levy?

The levy for Scioto township voters is an additional 2.95 mills levy for fire and emergency medical services.

### What does the levy support?

Previously passed levies for Scioto Township have helped bring on full-time fire and EMS staff, allowing a trained professional to be available to answer calls 24/7. This levy will allow the emergency service team to expand and hire more full-time employees to cover both stations.

In 2025, Scioto Township answered around 1,700 EMS calls and 280 fire calls. A majority of those calls came from within the township, but first responders also assisted those in other townships and those within the city of Chillicothe's jurisdiction. The township does receive funding from the other municipalities when Scioto crews respond to an out-of-township call.

"Our run volume just continues to go up," said Fire Chief Rick Ray.

### How much would this levy cost me if passed?

According to the Ross County Auditor's Office, the Scioto Township additional levy will cost a property valued at \$100,000 around \$103 per year.

### What happens if it doesn't pass?

If this item does not pass, Scioto Township could face a financial deficit,

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## Lyle Farms expands with new gym addition

**Shelby Reeves**  
Chillicothe Gazette  
USA TODAY NETWORK

CHILLICOTHE— If you are invited to a farm, you may be thinking you're in for a day of apple picking, finding your way out of hay mazes, or enjoying animals, but if you get invited to Lyle Farms you just might be in for a workout.

The newly opened Gym at Lyle Farms offers people a place to start building a healthier life without feeling intimidated by other gym goers. Owner Lacey Lyle has been a personal trainer for 13 years and has worked in a gym in Circleville, however, after six years of

living on the farm, she has decided to move the business to Ross County.

"I wish I would have done it years ago," said Lyle.

From cardio to strength training, Lyle has a clientele ranging in age from 12 to 78 years old. She said her goal is to help others feel better in their body and live healthier lives.

Lyle Farms is also home to a rentable batting cage, a farm stand, a short-term apartment rental, RV camping spots, and more.

The Gym at Lyle Farms is located at 6829 State Route 159 in Chillicothe. You can learn more about Lyle Farms online.



Lacey Lyle with The Gym at Lyle Farms cuts the ribbon officially opening her gym in Ross County on April 3. SHELBY REEVES/CHILLICOTHEGAZETTE

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