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The Marion Star

MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026 | MARION, OHIO | MARIONSTAR.COM

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MARION MADE!



Marion County artist Jodi Castillo is painting murals for The Explore-It-Torium Children's Museum, 244 S. Main St. in downtown Marion. PHOTOS PROVIDED MARCA INDUSTRIES

Castillo selected to create murals for public art project

Special to Marion Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Each week, Marion Technical College shares MarionMade! stories of our many wonderful people, places, products and programs in the greater Marion community. To read more positive stories of Marion, or to share some of your own, visit us at marionmade.org or on social media.

Jodi Castillo, a lifelong Marion County resident, didn't plan to become an artist. She said it's almost as if art found her. The experience has been rewarding and enjoyable.

"Oh, I love it," Castillo said. "It's a chance for me to express myself and my ideas and to create something that people will enjoy. Something that will last."

Castillo, a Ridgedale High School

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The Farm Room at the Explore-It-Torium Children's Museum features local agricultural images.

Campaign launches to raise \$10M for veterans

Madeline Mitchell
USA TODAY

Ed Bambas, 88, was bagging groceries at Meijer during one of his regular shifts when his life changed forever.

Samuel Weidenhofer, a social media influencer, shared a video of Bambas in December. In the TikTok, Bambas shared how the cost of caring for his wife and a confluence of other factors made it impossible for him to retire. The video went viral, and more than 60,000 online donors raised nearly \$2 million for Bambas in less than a week.

Now, Bambas wants to help other struggling veterans retire, too.

On April 30, Weidenhofer launched the For Your Service campaign to raise \$10 million for 50 more veterans, one from every state. Bambas is donating \$1,000 to each of the 50 GoFundMe campaigns to get them started.

"I never dreamt that I could be in this position where I wasn't forced to work 'til I die," much less give so much to those in need, Bambas told USA TODAY.

It speaks to Bambas' character, Weidenhofer said, that "the first thing he's thought of, rather than splurging or buying a new house, it's really to help veterans across the country."

"That's the type of person Ed is," Weidenhofer said. "His first thought

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Social media influencer Samuel Weidenhofer has launched the For Your Service campaign with veteran Ed Bambas. PROVIDED BY LUKE MARRIOTT

Ohio lawmaker wants to suspend gas tax

Haley BeMiller

State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

A state lawmaker wants to give Ohioans tax relief at the pump.

Rep. Ty Mathews, R-Findlay, is finalizing legislation that would temporarily suspend Ohio's gas tax. The move comes as motorists nationwide contend with high prices driven by the U.S.-Iran war, including nearly \$5 per gallon in

parts of Ohio.

Mathews said his plan is still taking shape, but he hopes to pitch a three-month gas tax holiday that would overlap with the busy summer travel season.

"How do we give meaningful relief to the taxpayer and to Ohioans at the pump, hopefully in the meantime praying this conflict resolves?" Mathews told the statehouse bureau April 30.

The average gas price in Ohio hit \$4.46 this week, according to AAA, and

some gas stations in Columbus and Cincinnati sold regular fuel for \$4.99. The cost of gas continues to skyrocket as the U.S. and Iran remain deadlocked over blockades in the Strait of Hormuz, which transports 20% of the world's oil.

In response, officials in Georgia and Indiana suspended their state's gas tax to ease the burden on drivers.

Ohio's gas tax is 38.5 cents a gallon,

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Gas prices in some parts of Ohio, including this Cincinnati-area BP station, have surged to nearly \$5 per gallon. CARA OWSLEY/THE ENQUIRER

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Volume 149 | No. 147
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