



Makers control initial infant formula investigations

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The Marion Star

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MARION MADE!



Hundreds of guests came to celebrate Urszula’s 15th birthday celebration. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY ARRIAGA PRODUCTIONS

‘I felt like a Disney princess’

Quinceañera blended family traditions, modern interest

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 and on social media.

“Some girls don’t want one, but it keeps traditions alive,” Evelyn said.

Evelyn’s mother in Peru had a quinceañera. When Evelyn was turning 15, her mother was recovering from a car accident. Evelyn thought the celebration might be canceled, but her family stepped in to help.

“My aunt made my dress. Another aunt made a cake. Grandma cooked all night. Another aunt decorated,” Evelyn said.

Her brothers and cousins formed her court of honor, similar to bridesmaids and groomsmen.



The Lisiecki family: Tomasz, Urszula and Evelyn.

Serving as a special sponsor of a quinceañera is a time-honored tradition similar to being a godparent.

“I didn’t have to ask. People offer to be a padrino [male sponsor] or madrina

[female sponsor]. Your friends and family will help. That’s why it’s a community event,” Evelyn said.

One gift was planned for years. Before Evelyn’s father died three years ago, he made sure to give Evelyn a necklace for his granddaughter to be presented with at her quinceañera. The priest at St. Mary Catholic Church blessed it and Urszula’s grandmother presented it to her at a special mass for her.

“In his last hours, Dad was thinking of her,” Evelyn recalled.

The love of family and community was evident in other touches.

“My mother-in-law made my dress. She sewed it by hand. I offered her my sewing machine, but she refused,” Evelyn said.

A friend donated a bouquet left at the statue of the Virgin Mary.

Urszula selected eight boys, called “chambelanes,” and eight girls, called “damas,” for her court of honor. When they were announced at the start of the reception, Urszula said it felt surreal.

“Honestly, I felt like a Disney princess,” Urszula said.

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MARION DRIVERS

Data shows more than 700 crashes in 2026

Abby Bammerlin
Marion Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

In the first half of 2026, the Ohio State Highway Patrol recorded 784 car crashes across Marion County.

The crashes are attributed to all sorts of causes, from alcohol to failing to yield. But there are a few commonalities between many of them, including when and where they occur in Marion.

“When you’re out in the community and when you’re talking to people and you’re trying to gauge the things that matter to people, you would often-times expect them to talk about drugs or things like that,” Marion Police Major BJ Gruber said. “But, really, what you hear the most complaints about is traffic.”

Here’s what the data shows:

What variables are involved with the crashes in Marion?

The Ohio Statistics and Analytics for Traffic Safety Dashboard identifies all crashes into 19 crash variables.

OSTATS found the most crashes, 257, involved a driver 55 years or older, followed by crashes involving drivers 15-24 with 223 crashes.

The fewest crashes were buggy-related crashes (which involve an animal with a rider or an animal-drawn vehicle), school bus-related crashes and pedestrian-related crashes.

- Alcohol-related: 28
- Bicycle-related: 6
- Buggy-related: 1
- Commercial-related: 44
- Deer-related: 128
- Distracted-related: 31
- Drug-related: 8
- Failure to yield-related: 122
- Mature-related: 257
- Motorcycle-related: 13
- OVI-related: 29
- Pedestrian-related: 3
- Ran red light/stop sign-related: 47
- School bus-related: 2

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Cases of explosive diarrhea parasite in Ohio more than double in a week

Chad Murphy
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ohio is second in the nation for cases of an intestinal parasite that causes explosive diarrhea amid a nationwide outbreak, with the number more than doubling in the past week.

As of July 9, the Ohio Department of Health is reporting 364 cases of cyclosporiasis, a gastrointestinal illness

caused by a parasite known as cyclospora cayatenensis, in 51 counties so far in 2026, with 46 people hospitalized. That’s up from 177 in 43 counties the previous week. All but six of those cases occurred in June and July, mostly since June 20.

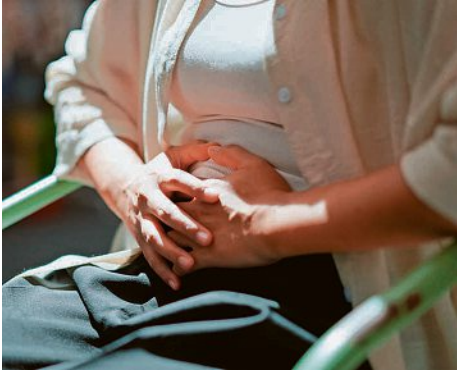
WLWT is reporting the Hamilton County Public Health department has identified 13 possible cases in the county as of July 9, including eight confirmed

cases, four suspected cases and one probable case.

The most cases in Ohio are in Lucas County in the northwest portion of the state, which reports 86, up from 30 the previous week. Wood County, just to the south of Lucas, reports 49 cases, up from 20.

Only Michigan has more than Ohio,

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Ohio has seen rising case of a parasitic infection causing symptoms that include nausea, cramps and explosive diarrhea in July. KEEPROLL, GETTY IMAGES

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