

Today's weather



HIGH: 86  
LOW: 65

Sunrise: 6:37  
Sunset: 8:25

# THE GAZETTE

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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## Board marks August 31 as Overdose Awareness Day

**Sara Crawford**  
The Gazette

MEDINA—Later this month, Hope Recovery Community will remember those who've died by overdose during its annual International Overdose Awareness event on Aug. 31.

To prepare for the event, the Medina County Board of Commissioners proclaimed Aug. 31 as Overdose Awareness Day in Medina County at a recent meeting.

International Overdose Awareness Day acknowledges those who have died from overdose and the grief felt by friends, family and community

members after someone has died, as well as raises awareness of the risks of overdose, the proclamation reads.

"Medina County remains committed to raising awareness surrounding overdose morbidity and mortality by reducing stigma through education, prevention, treatment and recovery support," Medina County commissioner Aaron Harrison read.

After the proclamation was presented, Hope Recovery Community Executive Director Stefanie Robinson spoke on behalf of the organization, thanking the board.

See **OVERDOSE**, A2

## OVERDOSE

From A1

Robinson said that Medina has been established as a place that no longer fears addiction but embraces recovery.

"Beyond this pretty piece of paper, you are putting dollars behind these words," she said. "You are putting funding, investment and commitment by the Medina County Mental Health and Recovery Board, but also with the commissioners."

Robinson said that while people can say words of support, without the crucial

funding to back up recovery services, it doesn't do as much. She noted how unbelievable the commitment to recovery is within the community.

"We are continuing to decrease the overdose deaths, not only in Medina, but in the state of Ohio and across the country," Robinson said. "Medina is a leader, not just in Ohio, but also across the country. We should be so proud of that."

In 2024, Medina County recorded more than 240 drug-related emergency room visits that resulted in 19 deaths, the proclamation states.

"While the number is low, every single

one of those deaths is still preventable," Robinson said. "We will continue to push on, and we're just really grateful for your support."

Hope Recovery Community will host its 8th annual International Overdose Awareness event at its Medina location, 200 Highland Drive, on Aug. 31 at 7:30 p.m. There will be several speakers, a candlelight vigil, a photo display and resources.

To learn more about the event, visit [tinyurl.com/y7wayj7t](https://tinyurl.com/y7wayj7t).

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