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07.10.25



MORGYN BEASLEY was crowned the 2025 Miss Ontario by 2024 Miss Ontario Katie Bolin on June 29. The new Little and Junior Miss Ontario are Sadie Myers and Kenley Scott. (Bottom photo) Kenley Scott is crowned after being named Junior Miss Ontario.

(More Photos on Page 10)

Photos By Traci Little

Lexington Board makes plans for upcoming school year

The Lexington Board of Education met Wednesday, June 25.

Julie Borchers, special education, gave an administrative report.

The board approved the monthly financial report for May 2025 as submitted by the treasurer, temporary appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2026 at the fund level set at 50% of Fiscal Year 2025 final appropriations; property, fleet and liability insurance with the Ohio School Plan for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, at a cost of \$113,309; and cyber insurance coverage with Tokio Marine HCC for the period July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, at a cost of \$6,684.

A donation was accepted in memory of former employee Lois Lasker in the amount of \$50 from Jacque Daup for the Eastern Elementary Library.

Appropriation modifications approved for FY25 include Bond Retirement, \$78,908.92; LFI Building Fund, \$2,750,000; Public School Support, \$36,700; Local Grants, \$5,300; Student Activities, \$11,289.04; District Managed Activities, \$25,000; Network Connectivity, \$955.70; State Grants, \$113.58; IDEA-B, (\$10,437.35); Title I, \$3,885.85; Title IV, \$472.16; ECSE, (\$42.42); and Title II-A, \$3,273.13

Resignations were accepted, effective at the end of the 2024-'25 school year. These included Jennifer Butler, Elementary School Counselor; Noelle Dudgeon, Central Elementary, intervention specialist; Elisabeth Wells, Central Elementary, ETR chair for the 2025-'26 school year; Lydia Severns, Eastern Elementary, intervention specialist; Kelli Catanese, Central/Western, assistant principal; Stephanie Coffman, Central Elementary, third grade teacher; and Scott Curtis, Central/Western, elementary principal.

Employment was approved for the 2025-'26 school years for April Thompson, junior high, seventh and eighth grade ELA, one-year contract; Emily Roberts, junior high, seventh grade ELA, one-year contract; Megan McCammon, Central Elementary, ETR chair; Katie Craig, elementary guidance counselor, one-year contract; Erica Bauer, ELL mentor at the rate of \$20 per hour; Jodi McChesney, Central Elementary, intervention specialist, one year contract; Robin Dawson, high school, co-advisor for Key Club; Aubrey Klink, high school, co-advisor for Key Club; Sally Giefer, high school, advisor informed teens club; Kelli Catanese, Central/Western Primary Principal, two-year contract; and Stephanie Coffman, Central/Western Primary Assistant Principal, two-year contract.

(Continued on Page 14)

Free Shred-It event at Hawkins Corner is open to the public

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. will host a free Shred-It event on Saturday, July 12, from 10 am to 1 pm in the parking lot of Hawkins Corner, 2131 Park Avenue West, Ontario.

This community event is brought to you through a grant for outreach, education, and application assistance for Medicare Beneficiaries who may qualify for assistance with Medicare Part B through the Medicare Savings Program or Medicare Part D through the Medicare Extra Help Program. This grant is made possible through the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) and is funded through the Administration for Community Living.

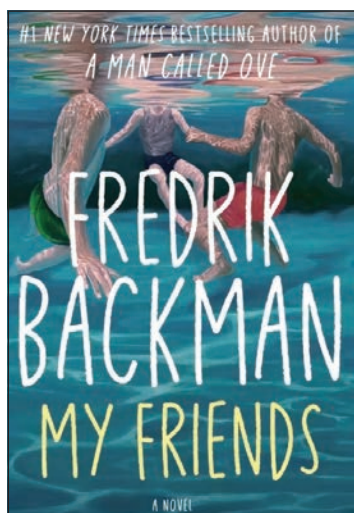
The Shred-It event emphasizes the importance of securely disposing of documents that contain personal information, such as outdated medical forms, bank statements, and insurance paperwork. Proper shredding helps protect older adults from identity theft, fraud and scams.

Attendees are encouraged to bring personal documents for on-site, secure shredding — free of charge. No RSVP is needed. For more information call 419-524-4144.

LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review
By Mandy Belczak Gurney



And just like that, *My Friends* has become my favorite Fredrik Backman book. And since he's my favorite author, this book may stay in my top five list for all time.

It's about summer time with your best friends when you are 14. Where you come from, there is little money or opportunity so these friendships are everything. They are love, life, laughter and the only glimmer of hope.

Years later, a painting is being sold for an ungodly amount of money. The critics and the art collectors believe it's special for its monetary value, but what's actually special is the story behind the painting.

The story is then told in true Backman form with laughter,

poetic truths about humanity and many tricks and surprises for the reader.

The character development is of course, brilliant. If you are a Backman fan you will fall in love with these friends just like you've loved Benji, Ove, Elsa and Britt-Marie. Read it now before summer ends.

My rating: ★★★★★
Follow my blog at GreenGurneys.com



Snyder promoted at Mechanics Bank

Mechanics Bank has announced the promotion of Abby L. Snyder to Senior Vice President, Risk and Strategic Initiatives.

Snyder joined Mechanics in 2008 as a Customer Service Representative and later served as the Information Security Officer and Vice President, Risk Management.

She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Toledo.

Snyder serves as a board member for Catalyst Life Services and is a 2022 graduate of Leadership Unlimited.

Mechanics Bank is a full service, independent community bank.

THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —



Director Joseph Kosinski brought *Top Gun: Maverick* expertly to life to huge success. He returns with an original movie called *F1* that is the very definition of a crowd pleaser and a great time from start to finish.

Brad Pitt stars as Sonny Hayes, a former Formula 1 driver who is recruited by his friend Ruben (Javier Bardem) to help out with getting his racing team APXGP out of last place. Hayes teams up with a young up and coming racer named Joshua Pearce (Damson Idris).

The movie chronicles the ups and downs with the expert and the rookie and is full of nonstop racing scenes with nine different races to try and achieve success.

Pitt is terrific in the lead role as this seasoned race car driver who wants to help his friend achieve some wins while also having one last win himself. He also sees so much potential in Pearce while butting heads with him along the way. This movie boasts a terrific supporting cast including an excellent Kerry Condon, Tobias Menzies, Kim Bodnia and Sarah Niles.

Kosinski is an expert director when it comes to tight, in your

face racing scenes. Much like he did with the *Top Gun* closeups, he makes the audience feel like they are in the driver's seat with all the turns and tension that come with this sport.

Writer Ehren Kruger, who co-wrote *Top Gun: Maverick*, writes this film with some interesting insights into the sport though it never gets bogged down in technical terms or confusing dialogue.

At two and a half hours, the movie clips along at a good pace too. It goes from racing scene to racing scene though the human elements in between them are also interesting.

Pitt is very good portraying a guy who plays by his own rules and it's constantly interesting to learn whether he really knows what is best versus the experts.

F1 needs to be seen on the biggest screen possible. This is the very definition of a popcorn flick in the best way. With great performances, excellent racing sequences and terrific editing from Oscar winner Stephen Mirrione, *F1* is a great time at the movies and absolutely one to see.



Stuff the Bus to benefit Madison students

The 2nd Annual Stuff the Bus will be held at Frenchie Roast, 1262 Ashland Rd., Mansfield (Madison area), on Sunday and Monday, Aug. 3 and 4, from 8 am to 1 pm.

There are also drop off locations at Caliber Collision, 892 Park Avenue E., Mansfield, and VFW Post 3494, 853 Ashland Rd., Mansfield. An Amazon Wish list is available at <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/JR8ZMDAVN3M3>.

The event will benefit students in Madison Local School District.

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Serving Ontario, Lexington, Madison, Bellville and Butler Communities in Madison, Mifflin, Springfield, Troy, Washington and Jefferson Townships

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News Briefs

Trinity Grace Fellowship Church, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield (Madison area), will hold its annual Vacation Bible School July 20–24 from 6–8:30 pm each night.

The VBS is for children kindergarten through eighth grade.

Entitled “Wonder Junction,” children will marvel at the life of Jesus and learn to live for His glory. Registration is available online at <https://trinity-grace.myanswers.com/wonder-junction>.

★

The City of Ontario will host Concerts in the Park at Marshall Park’s band shell from 6 to 8 pm this summer.

Concerts are scheduled for:

July 22, The Return

Aug. 12, Soul Town Live

Aug. 26, Oolong Gurus

★

The Lexington Area Senior Citizens Inc., invites those 55 and older to attend meetings the third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 am. February through May, the group will meet at New Life Church of Christ (NLC of C), 195 W. Durbin, Bellville. Cost is \$17 for the meal.

Meetings June through December will be held at Der Dutchman, Rt. 96, Bellville. Meals are \$16, with an additional \$2 for pie.

The next meal will be July 16, with roast beef and bingo. Those attending are asked to bring a prize labeled for a man, woman or both.

For information visit www.lexasc.org. Dues are \$10 per year.

★

Mansfield Airport Day will be held at Mansfield Lahm Airport on Saturday, Aug. 2, from 2–10 pm.

The lighted drone show is back for a third year and there will be a food truck rally, aircraft fly-in, airplane and helicopter flights, free live entertainment and kids zone. There will also be a car, truck and cycle show.

Admission and parking are free. Lahm is located at 2000 Harrington Memorial Rd., Mansfield. For information call 419-295-2478.

★

A Shiloh Mennonite Community Benefit Auction for Special Needs Children will be held Saturday, July 12, from 9 am to 4 pm, at the Blooming Grove Auction, Inc., 1091 Free Rd., Shiloh.

This will be a live country auction held in an open-air barn. Proceeds benefit both the DDC Clinic and the Clinic for Special Children in Lancaster, PA.

★

Lexington Church of the Cross UMC, 236 Otterbein Dr., Lexington, is hosting Wonderful Wednesdays now through July 30, from 10–11:30 am. The Wednesdays will include crafts, snacks, games, music and stories. A fiesta will be held Aug. 3, at 11 am.

For information and registration call 419-884-2150 or visit www.churchofthecrosslex.com.

★

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, July 26 and 27. Acceptable items include steel and aluminum cans, crushed milk jugs, de-

tergent bottles, plastic bottles with number 1 or 2 on the bottom, broken down cardboard, all papers included with the newspaper but no other magazines or paper. Please remove caps from bottles and rinse all containers well.

★

Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio will host the Annual Golf Classic on Monday, July 21 at Deer Ridge Golf Course in Bellville. The event supports financial literacy, career readiness and entrepreneurship education for thousands of K–12 students across our rural communities.

Cost is \$600 for a four-person team and the fee includes lunch, snacks, SuperTicket, drink tickets and contests. Cash prizes include awards for first, second, middle of the pack and 24th place. There will be a putting contest, hole-in-one challenge, closest to the pin, longest drive and more.

For information or to register visit <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/shcgo/event/2025drgolfgolfclassic/>

★

CACY’s Store It Safe Richland Program offers lock boxes for firearms, sharp objects and medications to protect and reduce risk of injury and save lives.

Contact the CACY office at 419-774-5683 or andersont@cacyohio.com for details. If someone is thinking of harming themselves, call the local crisis helpline at 419-522-HELP (4357).

★

The 35th Annual Silver King Tractor Festival and Show will be held Aug. 1, 2 and 3 at Mary Fate Park, 200 Sandusky St. (Rt. 61), Plymouth.

The Silver Kings of Yesteryear Tractor Club will host the event that will include all brands of antique tractors and farm equipment, a parts swap meet for Silver King parts, vendors, entertainment, raffle items and a 50/50 drawing.

Set-up is July 31. For information call 567-275-1105.

★

Richland County Children Services (RCCS) will team up with community partners Richland Newhope, Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Catalyst Life Services, Mansfield Branch-YMCA of North Central Ohio and Richland Public Health for the Together We Move 5K & 1-miler Fun Run.

The event will be Saturday, July 26. The 5K starts at 9 am at the Mansfield YMCA and the 1-Miler Fun Run starts at 10:15 am at Sterkel Park. Race day registration opens at 8 am. Sign up at <https://runsignup.com/Race/OH/Mansfield/TogetherWeMove5K>

★

Kingwood Walks, hosted By Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, will be held July 8 and Aug. 12, at Kingwood, 50 N. Trimble Rd., Mansfield, from 10–11:30 am.

No registration is required for this Mobility Steps event and gates open at 10 am. Check-in is at the welcome desk and admission is free if participating in the walk.

Learn about the AAA5 programs and services and Richland County Mobility Management while walking through Kingwood Center Gardens. For more information on the walk at Kingwood contact Randy Hutchinson at 567-247-6483.

(Continued on Page 5)



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Church Directory

Clay Memorial Lutheran Church

1601 Amoy East Rd., Mansfield
419-747-6882

Pastor Carol Kilgore

Sunday School 9:15 am • Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Clear Fork Alliance Church

1008 State Route 97, Bellville

419-886-4333 • www.clearforkalliance.org

Rev. Matt Merendino

Rev. Mike Stine, Associate Pastor

9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship

Sunday Evening 6 pm Home Groups

Monday Men's Group 7:30 pm

Wednesday evenings: 6:45 pm, Prayer Meeting

6:30-8 pm and TeamKID and Youth Group

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

200 West Third St., Mansfield

419-524-4813 • mansfield1stcc1833@gmail.com

Rev. David Zerby

Office Hours: Tu., W., Th. 9 am to 1 pm

10:30 am Sunday Worship

Christian Builders, Sunday, 9:30 am

www.FirstChristianChurchMansfield.com

FB: FirstChristianChurch,Mansfield,Ohio

First Congregational Church

640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield

419-756-3046 • www.mansfieldfcc.com

Pastor Brad Bunn

8:30 am Chapel • 10:30 am Sanctuary

10:30 am Sunday School (nursery-high school)

10:30 am Monday Morning Bible Study

7:30 am Wednesday Men's Breakfast

First English Lutheran Church

53 Park Avenue West, Mansfield

419-522-0662 • www.felc-mansfield.org

Pastor Jay Jackson

9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship

Call about Prayer Groups, Small Groups, Bible Studies, Book Clubs, Pub Theology, Community Meals, Free Produce distribution and Senior Boxes.

Grace Episcopal Church

41 Bowman Street, Mansfield

419-524-2661

Rev. Christopher D. Hofer, Priest-in-Charge

Rev. Daniel Orr, Associate Priest

Worship: Sundays, 8 am and 10:15 am

Christian Formation for All Ages: Sundays, 9:15 am

Food Pantry: Thursdays, 9-11 am

2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 4-6 pm

gracemansfield.org • facebook.com/GraceChurchMansfield

G & M Body & Paint Shop

1689 West Fourth St., Ontario • 419-529-2747

Wappner Funeral Home

Mansfield • Ontario • Ashland • 419-522-5211

Lexington Church of Christ

230 Delaware Ave., Lexington

419-884-1532 • www.lccoh.com

Lead Minister Brandon Bogue

9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship

Lexington Presbyterian Church

35 Church St. West, Lexington

419-884-1330

Pastor Denny Nezirick

10:30 am Sunday Worship

<https://www.facebook.com/Lexington-Presbyterian-Church-117768414915815>

Mansfield 1st Presbyterian Church

399 Trimble Rd., Mansfield

419-756-7066 • www.mansfield1st.com

Rev. Joseph Yerger

9 am Adult & Youth Sunday School

10 am Traditional Sunday Worship

ADA Accessible Nursery & Children's Programming

Mansfield Baptist Temple

752 N. Stewart Rd., Mansfield

419-589-5413 • www.mbt.org

Pastor Rob Kurtz

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am & 5:30 pm Sunday Worship

7 pm Wednesday Service

Oakland Lutheran Church

2045 Olivesburg Rd., Mansfield

419-571-9920

Pastor Paul Lintern

9 am Sunday Worship

Ontario United Methodist Church

3540 Park Avenue West., Ontario

419-529-4345 • ontarioumc.com

Rev. J.P. Snyder

9:30 am Grace & Eggs

11 am Sunday Worship and Kingdom Kids

St. John's United Church of Christ

68 Park Avenue East, Mansfield

419-522-2813 • www.stjohnsmansfield.org

Pastor Faith Proietti

10 am Sunday Worship

Office hours: Mon-Fri 9 am to 1 pm

AA Meetings M & F 10 am & noon;

Wed. noon Brown Bag and Sat. 6 pm

Clothing Ministry by appt: 419-512-9817

Southside Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

2055 Middle-Bellville Rd., Mansfield

419-756-3436

Pastor Paul Lintern

10:45 am Sunday Worship

Trinity Grace Fellowship

1592 Grace St., Mansfield

419-589-5890 • trinitygracefellowship.org

Pastor Larry Carnes

9:30 am Sunday Worship • 11 am Sunday School

Bible Study Mondays 2 pm

Richland County Fair begins Aug. 3

The 175th Richland County Fair is coming Aug. 3-9.

The fair's opening day is Sunday. At 2 pm there will be a 4-H Dog Agility Show in the horse pleasure arena. A fair opening ceremony and flag raising will be held at the center flag pole at 3 pm. The Jr. Fair King & Queen Pageant and Coronation will be held in the John Hartz Building at 5:30 pm. Harness racing will also be at 5:30 pm.

The Bake-a-Rama Awards & Auction will be in the John Hartz Building at 6:30 pm.

Heartland will perform in the Nature Park at 7 pm. They are a contemporary Christian band.

On Monday, the Ageless King/Queen Contest will be held in the John Hartz Building at 2 pm. The Horse Royalty Coronation will be held at 5 pm in the horse arena. Harness racing will be at 5:30 pm, followed by weiner dog racing. The Jr. Fair Dog Fun Show begins at 6:30 pm in the John Hartz Building. The Mid-Ohio Community Band will give a performance in the Nature Park at 7 pm.

Christian music artists Jordan Feliz and Riley Clemons will perform Tuesday, Aug. 5. Gates open at 6 pm with the concerts set to start at 7 pm. For tickets visit <https://app.fairs.com/e/4a69d5626f0f4591>. Mason Shane will give a performance of light rock and original songs in the Nature Park at 7 pm.

On Wednesday, a pie auction is planned for 5 pm in the Arts and Crafts Building. Keith Hunter will give an acoustic/easy listening concert in the Nature Park at 7 pm.

The rodeo will be held Wednesday at 7 pm. Grandstand seating is free with \$10 reserved seats available. Also at 7 pm will be the Jr. Fair Talent Show in the John Hartz Building.

At 1:30 pm, the Barnyard Olympics will be held in the show arena on Thursday.

The Central Ohio Truck Pull Circuit and County Tractor Pull is also Thursday beginning at 5 pm. Grandstand seating is included with admission with \$10 reserved seats, \$10 pit and \$20 back gate tickets.

The Johnny Appleseed Squares will meet in the Red

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•News Briefs

(Continued from Page 3)

Mobility Steps meets at The Ontario Center (formerly Richland Mall) from 10 am to noon on the first and third Wednesday of every month (excluding holidays). Walkers meet at the Center Mall anytime between 10 am and 12 pm.

★

Richland Public Health in collaboration with Avita, Cleveland Clinic, Nationwide Children's Hospital, OhioHealth and Third Street Family Health Services, will present the 2nd Annual Free Community Health Day on Tuesday, July 22 from 9 am to 3 pm in the Richland Public Health parking lot, 555 Lexington Ave., Mansfield.

Free/low cost health services will be provided.

The vendor registration deadline is Friday, July 11. For information contact Shannon Nelson at snelson@richlandhealth.org or 419-774-4761.



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Jacob King, June 28
Joyce Cora Wendland, June 28
Donald Edward Crist Jr., July 1
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Donald Eugene Thomas, July 1
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Photo By Mark Shutt

Richland County Fair August 3–9, 2025

GRANDSTAND EVENTS:

Sunday: Harness Racing, 5:30 pm

Monday: Harness Racing, 5:30 pm

Tuesday: Riley Clemons/Jordan Feliz, 7 pm
(Tickets: richlandcountyfair.com)

Wednesday: Rodeo, 6 pm • \$10 Reserved Seats

Thursday: Truck/County Tractor Pull, 7 pm
\$10 Pit or Reserved • \$20 Back Gate

Friday: Motocross 7 pm
\$10 Pit or Reserved • \$20 Back Gate

Saturday: Demolition Derby, 5 pm
\$10 Reserved • \$20 Back Gate

Monday Senior Citizens \$5

Tuesday Kids Day (\$10 Ride Wristbands 12–4 pm)

Thursday Free for Military & Veterans with ID

General Gate Admission (Includes Grandstand) \$10
Admission for Children 48" and under is free!
Membership & Season Tickets (7 admissions) \$40

Richland Co. Fairgrounds • 750 N. Home Rd. Mansfield
richlandcountyfair.com

Ontario Fourth of July Festival

Photos By Lilliana Allen



A banner for Ontario Youth Sports. It features the "Community Events" logo, the "OYS" logo with a Native American head in the center, and the "Ontario Youth Sports" logo. To the right is a logo for "Ontario's 4th of July" featuring a clock tower. At the bottom, it says "BE THE BEST VERSION OF YOU!" in yellow text on a blue background.

Ontario Fourth of July Festival

Photos By Lilliana Allen



Ontario Fourth of July Festival

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Ontario Fourth of July Festival

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MISS ONTARIO 2025 — Photos By Traci Little



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National Corvette Museum celebrates sports car's history, showcases inspiration for future design

Photos and Article By Jenna Wolford

As many of our readers may recall, my family usually takes a family vacation around this time of year and I report about our experiences at family-friendly attractions. Readers have followed us to Michigan, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Florida, and this year we make our way to "The Bluegrass State" of Kentucky.

Our first stop was the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green.

I have visited my share of car museums over the years, but this exceeded my expectations with the quality and number of vehicles and exhibits.

Corvettes of every year, style and color were placed for an optimal visitor experience. Plaques and videos accompanied the vehicles to help tell the full story of each piece. Some vehicles were grouped together in displays including a 1950s Mobil1 gas and service station.

At the beginning of our self-guided tour was a car that is highly significant to the museum and its founding. A 1953 Corvette, it is only one of 300 General Motors built that year — the Corvette's first year of production. Each was hand-assembled in a delivery garage in Flint, MI and were painted Polo White with red interior and a black soft top.

Helping to launch the museum in 1988, Ray Quinlan offered the car which was the first on display when the museum opened in 1994. The car recently returned to the museum after a partial-restoration focusing on paint, body and interior.

Quinlan's donation shifted the conversation from a proposed Corvette library to a museum dedicated to preserving and celebrating the legacy of Corvette.

A 1954 Corvette of high interest was the "Entombed Corvette." This car definitely has an interesting story to tell after being contained in a brick encasement in the back room of a Maine grocery store for over 25 years. The car remains as it was the day it was entombed, original paint and all.

After the grocery store was sold, the new owners asked that the car be removed and the daughter of the original owner took the car and placed it in her living room in Daytona Beach, FL for 10 years, beginning in 1986. It has now found its home at the museum, displayed in a partial recreation of its grocery store tomb.

The McMichael Family Education Gallery, which opened in April, is a 2,500-square foot space is inspired by the small studios utilized in designing many Corvettes including the Mako Shark and Manta Ray models. It includes interactive displays and production photos.

Among the collection of over 100 cars are prototypes that never made it to the production line. Even the futuristic 1968 Astro-Vette is included — created as part of an aerodynamic study. The 1964 XP-819, known as The "Ugly Duckling," was the first concept Cor-

vette with a rear engine and helped with later design even though the prototype was proven to have issues that prevented it from being mass produced.

The history of the Corvette is also prominently covered in the museum. From the development of the logo to how the name came to be, all aspects of its creation and introduction to the world are explored.

Pop Culture and Corvette: An American Love Affair is the newest exhibit. Here visitors will find over a dozen Corvettes featured in movies, tv and popular culture. Among cars on display is the 1973 Corvette from the *Hawaii Five-O* reboot and futuristic concept cars from the *Transformer* movies. Also on display is the 1959 Stingray Racer driven by Elvis Presley in *Clambake* and a 1954 model owned by Jerry Lee Lewis. Visitors can also view custom signed guitars inspired by Corvettes as part of this exhibit.

These cars are showcased in the skydome at the museum. This skydome is not only iconic for its shape resembling the curvature of a Corvette's speedometer, but for an event that happened in 2014 when a sinkhole measuring 40 feet wide by 60 feet long and 30 feet deep, opened and swallowed eight Corvettes.

Now, 11 years later, the floor has been repaired with a viewing window allowing visitors to see the depth of the sink hole. The 1984 Corvette PPG Pace Car involved in the cave-in remains on display. Far beyond repair after its fall into the sinkhole, it has become a popular

(Continued on Page 13)



THIS 1953 CORVETTE was once encased in a brick "tomb" in a grocery store for over 25 years. It still has the original paint.



THIS 1953 CORVETTE helped launch the museum after being donated by Ray Quinlan. It was the first on display when the museum opened in 1994.



•National Corvette Museum celebrates sports car's history

(Continued from Page 12)

stop for visitors as it remains in the same condition as when it was recovered.

The one millionth produced Corvette also fell into the sinkhole but has been restored to its glory days and is on display once again.

An exhibit is dedicated to the photographic talent of Richard Prince, a Corvette Hall of Fame inductee. Large photo prints celebrate his 30 years of documenting American sports racing cars. The exhibit also features five race cars including a C5-R Chassis #4 driven by Dale Earnhardt, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Kelly Collins and Andy Pilgrim. Its most famous appearance was at 2001's 24 Hours of Daytona, just two weeks before Earnhardt Senior's crash which took his life.

As we were leaving we stopped to view the Corvette "nursery" where new models await their adoption date from their new owner. Picking-up a new vehicle at the location qualifies the buyer for special treatment including a museum tour, photos with their new "baby" and special plaques. If you are in the market for a new 'Vette you'll want to look into making the special trip.

For those bringing their Corvette to the museum for a visit, check out www.corvettemuseum.org/corvette-experience-program to find out about special opportunities, tours and services.

The museum also offers Stingray Grill, open daily from 10 am to 3 pm and a racing simulator experience utilizing virtual reality.

The museum will celebrate its 31st anniversary with a three-day celebration Aug. 28-30, filled with special presentations, raf-

fles and festivities. Registration is required and ends Aug. 1. Register online or call Melissa at 270-777-4556.

The National Corvette Museum is located one mile from the General Motors Bowling Green Assembly Plant where Corvettes are manufactured. Plant tours are available a few weeks each year including the weeks of Aug. 11 and 25 and Nov. 10. Reservations are required.

Honoring veterans and active military, the museum participates in the Blue STAR Museum Program offering free admission in November. Additionally, until Sept. 1, active-duty military personnel can receive free

admission for themselves and up to five family members. A military ID is required.

Visit the museum at 350 Corvette Dr., Bowling Green, KY. For information visit corvettemuseum.org or call 270-781-7973.



THIS 1984 CORVETTE PPG PACE CAR was the product of a collaboration between Chevrolet and PPG Industries, the sponsor of the CART IndyCar World Series. Their result was a 450-horsepower Corvette, featuring a V8 built by Katech and a Borg-Warner five-speed transmission. The custom chassis included coil-over shocks on each corner, and the body was finished in a special PPG paint called Deltron Acrylic Urethane Orange Glow Candy. It featured a special exhaust system that could be easily heard, even in front of a pack of race cars. The car was one of eight Corvettes that plunged into the sinkhole in 2014. Since the car featured so many custom-built parts, it was determined that any attempt at a restoration would be impractical. This Corvette remains in the same condition as when it was extracted from the sinkhole.



THE ONE MILLIONTH CORVETTE was produced in 1992. This was one of eight Corvettes that fell into the sinkhole. General Motors restored the Corvette at its Technical Center in Warren, MI. Restoration took four months and about 1,200 man-hours. The car's hood and front fascia were replaced, but other original components like the wheels, exhaust system, instrument panel and leather seats were fully repaired.

•Lexington Board makes plans for upcoming school year

(Continued from Front Page)

The board approved Michelle Rastetter, Marsha Hass, Gretchen Winner, Ashley Smith, Lynn Walters, Annette Rush, Melanie Walker Jessica Reasor, Cara Pelphrey, Bethany Sharrock, Rachel Smith, Stephanie Blackstone, Lindsay Them, Janie Zeger, Hannah Whitney, Karie Whitaker, Elisabeth Wells, Lindsey Musille, Amanda Jones, Jessica Duffey, Jaime Chambers, Judith Hoover, Jennifer Hooper, Christina Mueller, Ellissa Anderson, Mark Hoover, Mike Schwechheimer, Maty Haas, Danya Davis, Joy Bowman (volunteer), Christine Elder, Laura Pfeiffer, Bruce Dewey, Kevin Richer, Erica Bauer, Amy Richwine and Sandra LaLiberte for working STEAM camp, July 28 through Aug. 8, 2025 (\$1,200 total for both weeks).

Salary adjustments were approved for Dairia Edmunds and Buck Morton. Katie Craig resigned as an elementary aide, effective end of the 2024-'25 school year.

Sonja Knapp was hired as an elementary custodian, effective June 16, for one-year. Also hired were Mason Ball, custodial substitute, effective June 5; Isaiah Kimmert, custodial substitute, summer 2025; and Haylee Hershner, summer 2025 academic mentor at \$25/hour, dates to be determined.

Coaching resignations were accepted from Jeff Strickler, high school varsity baseball coach; Jason Whitesel, volunteer coach, girls bowling; and Holli-Ann Anschutz, freshman cheer.

Coaches approved for the 2025-'26 school year are Lisa Pfizenmayer, junior high cross country; Grayson Murray, freshman football; Luke Roger, junior high football; John Watkins, junior high football; Mason Willeke, boys soccer; Abbegeael David, varsity girls basketball; Whitney Eibon, JV girls golf; Aedan Nicol, assistant varsity football; Brian George, volunteer assistant boys soccer and Eric Turlo, volunteer assistant boys soccer.

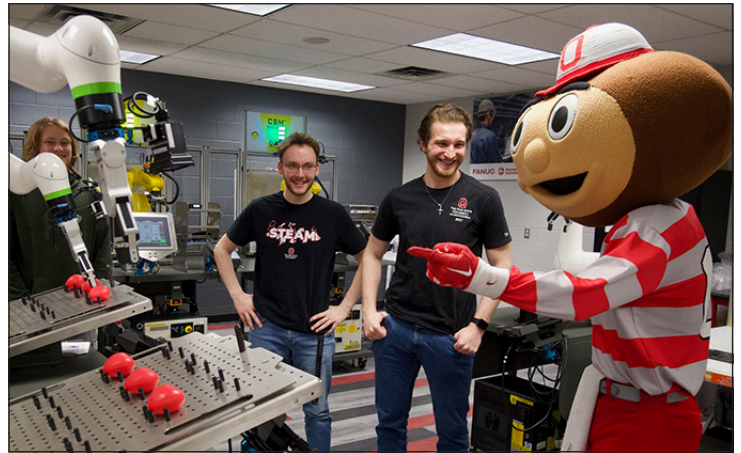
Tuition students approved for the 2025-'26 school year include Lucille Strang, new, second grade, tuition waived, following a teaching parent; Theodore Strang, new, fourth grade, tuition waived, following a teaching parent; Benson Brown, continuing, fourth grade; and Bronson Brown, continuing, eighth grade.

The board approved the course description change for 'Memoirs' and 'Reading for College'.

The board approved district building handbooks for the 2025-'26 school year and the Special Education Department Policies, Procedures, and Practices and Section 504 Guidebook.

Emma Bacquet was named the student representative to the board for the class of 2026.

A contract with Allerton Hill Consulting Services, effective July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026, was approved. The FY '26 845 contract with MOESC was also approved.



STUDENTS IN THE ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM at Ohio State Mansfield show Brutus how robots can be programmed to perform basic engineering functions.

Ohio State Mansfield to host Buckeye Preview Day July 25

The Ohio State University at Mansfield welcomes students of all ages for a special summer Buckeye Preview Day July 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Students interested in a college degree from Ohio State will get to explore campus and interact with staff in admissions, financial aid, current students and faculty.

"Buckeye Preview Days are perhaps the best way to experience The Ohio State University at Mansfield," said Diane Kanney, director for Regional Campus Recruitment Strategies and Initiatives. "We're very excited to offer this opportunity during the summer, when most students are out of class and still making plans for college."

Students who would like to enroll for the autumn semester, but have not yet applied, are welcome. Students who are already admitted are encouraged to register for orientation.

Attendees are asked to register by July 23, although walk-in participation is also welcome. To register, visit go.osu.edu/visitmansfield. For more assistance contact Mansfield-AskABuckeye@osu.edu.

Madison Board holds special meeting

The Madison Local School Board of Education met for a special meeting June 25 in the Madison Middle School Professional Development Room.

The board approved an advance of funds from General Fund to Health Insurance Liability Fund in the amount of \$865,000 to be reimbursed in FY 2026. The board also approved the revised permanent appropriations for FY 2025.

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**WALK TO END
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FIGHTING FOR A DIFFERENT FUTURE

SAVE THE DATE : 2025 Walk to End Alzheimer's - Saturday, September 13

**SCAN
ME!**



alz.org/nw ohio/walk



Richland Carrousel Park 75 N. Main Street, Mansfield

Event Details : Check in 9:00 am | Ceremony / Walk at 10:00 am

•County fair begins August 3

(Continued from Page 4)

Barn from 6–8 pm. The Draft Horse/Pony Under Saddle Fun Show will be in the Draft Horse Arena at 6 pm and the 4-H Style Revue will be in the John Hartz Building at 6:30 pm. The classic rock group Diminished will perform at 7 pm in the Nature Park.

The Light Horses “Easy Gaited Fun Show” will be at 10 am Friday and the Kiddie Pedal Tractor Pull will be in the show arena at 1 pm.

The Jr. Fair Showman of Showmen Contest is at 3:30 pm and Open Free Style Reining is at 5:30 pm.

At 6:30 pm will be the Draft Horse/Draft Pony Pull in the Draft Horse Arena and Sweet Umbra will perform older classic rock at 7 pm in the Big Red Barn.

Motocross will begin at 7 pm on Friday. Gates open at 3 pm with practice until 5 pm. This is included with admission. \$10 reserved seats, \$10 pit and \$20 back gate tickets are also available.

The Jr. Fair Livestock Auction will be held in the Show Arena at 9:30 am Saturday. The Jr. Fair Recognition & Awards Program will be in the John Hartz Building at 4:30 pm.

Saturday’s entertainment will be a demolition derby at 5 pm. This is included with admission with \$10 reserved seats and \$20 back gate seats available.

Gone Sovereign, a classic rock and country band, will perform at the Red Barn at 7 pm.

General gate admission includes most grandstand activities and is \$10 and free for children under 48 inches tall.

A membership ticket (seven admissions) is \$40.

Senior Citizens Day is Monday Aug. 4, with \$5 admission for senior citizens. Armed Forces Day is Thursday Aug. 7, from 8 am to closing. Admission is free with ID to all veterans and active duty.

Kids Day is Tuesday, Aug. 5, from noon to 4 pm. Ride wristbands will be \$10. Sunday through Wednesday, wristbands will be \$20 and Thursday through Saturday they will be \$25. Rides open at noon, Sunday through Saturday.

The Richland County Fairgrounds are located at 750 N. Home Rd., Mansfield. For information and the full schedule visit <https://richlandcountyfair.com>.

New Dolly Parton Imagination Library kiosk announced

Parents and caregivers will now be able to register children 0–5 years of age for a free book each month, through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, at Buckeye Imagination Museum.

Richland Public Health and Buckeye Imagination Museum will celebrate with a ribbon cutting on Thursday, July 10, at 11 am at the Buckeye Museum, 175 W. 3rd St., Mansfield.

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library of Ohio mails one age-appropriate book to children each month at no cost to families. Any child in Ohio between birth and age five can sign up. The Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading and learning by gifting books, free of charge to families.

Currently, only 4,459 (66%) of Richland County’s eligible children (birth to age five) are registered in the program. “We are thrilled to spearhead this initiative and provide the children of Richland County the opportunity to read, learn, and grow with their families. Extensive studies have shown that reading with young children is important for kindergarten readiness and improves health literacy” Dr. Julie Chaya, Health Commissioner, stated.

Each book is \$2.60 for each child every month. The total cost of Richland County’s current Imagination Library program is approximately \$120,000 each year. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Ohio pays for 50% of program costs. This means that the remaining 50% of programming costs (\$60,000 each year) is the responsibility of donors and sponsors in the Richland County community. Organizations or individuals who wish to support Richland County’s Imagination Library can reach out to 419-774-4761 or chps@richland-health.org to learn more about the local Coalition and sponsorship/donor opportunities. To learn more or to enroll a child between the ages of 0–5 visit richlandhealth.org/imagination-library.



Chamber’s Clint Knight graduates from Institute for Organization Management

Institute for Organization Management, the professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, is pleased to announce that Clint Knight, IOM, Director of Workforce Development of the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development, has graduated from the program and has received the recognition of IOM. Awarded to all graduates of the Institute program, the IOM Graduate Recognition signifies the individual’s completion of 96 credit hours of course instruction in non-profit management. In addition, participants can earn credit hours towards the Certified Chamber Executive (CCE) or Certified Association Executive (CAE), certifications. Nearly 1,000 individuals attend Institute annually.

“Institute graduates are recognized across the country as leaders in their industries and organizations,” said Raymond P. Towle, IOM, CAE, the U.S. Chamber’s vice president of Institute for Organization Management. “These individuals have the knowledge, skills, and dedication necessary to achieve professional and organizational success in the dynamic association and chamber industries.”

Since its commencement in 1921, the Institute program has been educating tens of thousands of association, chamber, and other non-profit leaders on how to build stronger organizations, better serve their members and become strong business advocates. Institute’s curriculum consists of four weeklong sessions at four different university locations throughout the country. Through a combination of required courses and electives in areas such as leadership, advocacy, marketing, finance, and membership, Institute participants are able to enhance their own organizational management skills and add new fuel to their organizations, making them run more efficiently and effectively.

Institute for Organization Management is the professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. It is the premier nonprofit professional development program for association and chamber professionals, fostering individual growth through interactive learning and networking opportunities.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world’s largest business organization representing companies of all sizes across every sector of the economy. Our members range from the small businesses and local chambers of commerce that line the Main Streets of America to leading industry associations and large corporations.





Photos By Traci Little

STEM Summer Camp offered to sixth through eighth graders

Youth in sixth through eighth grade have an exciting opportunity to attend STEM Summer Camp July 21–25 at Ohio State Mansfield. Join Ohio State professors in biology, engineering, math and a NASA Solar System Ambassador for a hands-on learning experience you're sure to remember.

Students will get hands-on experience learning how to survive in space, by building a lunar-based structure and using real engineering skills to solve problems.

"If you have a student or a child who is interested in STEM or might be, this is a great time to explore opportunities and help stimulate interest in our youth," said Adrienne Hopson, senior lecturer of biology at Ohio State Mansfield.

Other staff and faculty helping put on the program include Terri Bucci, associate professor of education; Juan Pablo, assistant professor of engineering; Gabe Karns, clinical assistant professor of environment and natural resources; and Ashley Smith, associate faculty of education.

There are no overnight provisions, so parents or guardians need to provide transportation for each day. Lunch is provided.

Registration is capped at 36 participants. Register online at https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0pmbRXapG3xjJs.

For more information, contact Adrienne Hopson at hopson.37@osu.edu or Ashley Smith at smith.15229@osu.edu

Richland Academy unveils newly renovated studio

Richland Academy of the Arts held a ribbon cutting ceremony Wednesday, June 25, celebrating the completion of phase one of the "Empower the Arts" renovation and modernization project.

The event marked the official opening of the new Tap-Jazz Dance Studio.

The celebration brought together community leaders, donors, parents, students, alumni, instructors, board members, elected officials and local council members.

After opening remarks, the ribbon was ceremonially cut, symbolizing a new milestone in the RAA's mission to foster artistic growth and creativity for all

ages. Guests then enjoyed light refreshments while touring the new studio and sharing in the academy's commitment to excellence in arts education.

RAA extends its deepest gratitude to State Senator Mark Romanchuk, State Representative Marilyn John and Jessica DeLong, Senior Ohio Grants Administrator, whose support and advocacy were instrumental in securing the funding that made this transformation possible.

Their dedication to the arts and educational advancement has significantly enhanced RAA's ability to serve its students and the broader Richland County community.

The "Empower the Arts" Capital Campaign remains active, with ongoing efforts to raise additional funds for renovation and modernization of the facility.

Visit richlandacademy.com to learn more or reach out to executive director, Dr. Michael Benson at mbenson@richlandacademy.com.

Founded in 1991, RAA is located in downtown Mansfield at 4th and Walnut, next to the carousel.

Supported by the Ohio Arts Council and Area Agency on Aging, Richland Academy of the Arts offers programs for all ages in dance, music, theatre, visual arts and martial arts.

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Madison student honored at annual SkillsUSA Workforce Development event

A career and technical student from the Madison area was recognized at the 2025 SkillsUSA Championships, held in Atlanta, on June 25–26 with a certificate of accomplishment.

More than 6,500 students competed at the national showcase of career and technical education. The SkillsUSA Championships is the largest skill competition in the world and covers 1.79 million square feet, equivalent to 31 football fields or 41 acres.

First place state winners were invited to the event to demonstrate their technical skills, workplace skills and personal skills in



114 hands-on occupational and leadership competitions including robotics, automotive technology, drafting, criminal justice, aviation maintenance and public speaking.

Industry leaders from 850 businesses, corporations, trade associations and unions planned and evaluated the contestants against their standards for entry-level workers. More than 1,200 industry judges and technical committee members participated this year.

All SkillsUSA Championships competitors were honored on Friday night, June 27 at the closing SkillsUSA Awards Session at State Farm Arena.

As an indicator of proficiency, Skill Point Certificates were awarded to the national contestants

who met a predetermined threshold contest score for their SkillsUSA event, demonstrating workplace readiness. Students can add this certificate to an employment portfolio.

Jacylenn Barley, from Mansfield and a student at Madison Comprehensive High School, was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Prepared Speech.

“More than 6,500 students from every state in the nation participated in the 2025 SkillsUSA Championships,” said SkillsUSA Executive Director Chelle Travis. “This showcase of career and technical education demonstrates SkillsUSA at its finest. Our students, instructors and industry partners work together to ensure that every student excels. This program expands learning and career opportunities for our members.”

The SkillsUSA Championships event is held annually for students in middle school, high school or college/postsecondary programs as part of the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference.

The national, nonprofit partnership of students, instructors and industry is a verified talent pipeline for America’s skilled workforce that is working to help solve the skills gap.



Joe LaFevre and Albert Ross

KCCC’s Albert Ross places second at SkillsUSA national conference

SkillsUSA held its annual National Leadership & Skills Conference June 23–27 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Albert Ross, a recent graduate of Clear Fork High School and Knox County Career Center’s Precision Machining program, finished in second place in CNC Turning. Ross qualified for SkillsUSA Nationals by winning the CNC Turning event at the state level.

Ross said, “Simply put, I’m not done. Competing at SkillsUSA Nationals was one of the greatest technical challenges I’ve faced. It pushed me to study harder and think in ways I hadn’t before. Now that it’s over, I want more of that feeling. I’m not exactly sure what my next step is, but I’m proud of how far I’ve come.”

Joe LaFevre, KCCC’s Precision Machining instructor, expressed his joy and excitement about Ross’s achievement.

“The SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference is an absolute honor to attend. I encourage everyone to go to it at least once. Get out and support SkillsUSA! It’s something special to see, but becomes even more special when you have a student competing. Having a student place 2nd in our nation is humbling and emotional,” said LaFevre.

LaFevre added, “From my perspective, I know what I put into my students in an effort to help them succeed in life and I know what my students put in to do well and succeed at life. To see a student succeed on the level that Albert has, it feels like grace, because it’s a confirmation and recognition of the hard work everyone put in to make it all happen. It’s not something just anyone gets an opportunity in life to become such a part of. It’s an honor to be in the position and to be able to say we went and had such success. I’ll always be rooting you on, Albert!”

“We want to congratulate Albert and Mr. LaFevre! How exciting to win first place at state and then get second in the nation! Our national career technical student organizations, like SkillsUSA, provide great opportunities for leadership training, meeting students from around the state and country, and to hear from speakers such as Mike Rowe,” superintendent Kathy Greenwich shared.

News Briefs in Education

Kendall Nolen, of Mansfield was named to the Mississippi State University spring 2025 President’s List.

Students on the list achieved a 3.80 or better grade-point average, based on a 4.0 scale, while completing at least 12 semester hours of coursework with no incomplete grades or

grades lower than a C.

★

Jada Neal of Mifflin has been accepted to Hiram College as a member of the class of 2029. Students will join the Terrier family this fall as they begin classes at Hiram.

★

Local students graduated from Baldwin Wallace University in Berea, OH. Graduates are Will Laskey of Mansfield, a graduate of Madison Comprehensive High School, Bachelor of Science: Engineering; and Isabella Snyder of Mansfield, Master of Science: Speech-Language Pathology.

Bellville 4th of July Parade — *Photos By Jeff Hoffer*



Light Up The Valley – *Photos By Jeff Hoffer*





Photos By Jeff Hoffer

BUTCH PATRICK, the actor who played Eddie Munster on the popular 1960s television show *The Munsters*, visited Bellville last week. He brought with him the Drag-U-La and the Eddie Chopper and displayed them in front of the bandstand. Patrick also gave an appearance at the Ontario 4th of July Car Show on June 27 in Marshall Park.

Tim Kline earns Lifetime Service to Wrestling Award

Mapleton High School Wrestling Coach Tim Kline (Class of 1976), who mentored varsity teams for two decades at the helm of the Mounties' program, recently earned the Lifetime Service to Wrestling Award. This honor was presented to him by the National Wrestling Hall of Fame (NWHOF), which is based in Stillwater, OK.

"This award acknowledges that Tim's life has been significant and is leaving behind a legacy that others admire. He has a special place in the heritage of the sport," said NWHOF Executive Director Lee Roy Smith.

Kline, who was nominated for the award by the Ohio Chapter of the NWHOF, coached five individuals to Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) State Championships during his tenure at Mapleton. He also guided two wrestlers to OHSAA State Runner-Up accolades, 10 to All-Ohio placement, 26 state qualifiers, three to OHSAA District crowns, 21 to OHSAA Sectional championships, and an amazing 43 athletes to Firelands Conference First-Place finishes.

"My father has made such significant progress and contributions to the sport of wrestling over the years at all levels," said Mapleton Principal Corey Kline, who is also Tim Kline's son and a previous wrestling standout (Mapleton and Ashland University) and coach himself. "This lifetime achievement award recognizes not just the victories, but the lessons of discipline, perseverance and dedication that he has passed on."

Tim Kline was responsible for coaching an OHSAA State Tournament Most Valuable Wrestler, a four-time Firelands Conference Champion, and six All-Area Wrestlers-of-the-Year during his 20 years of Varsity tutelage. During that span of time, he also was named the Ashland Gazette Coach-of-the-Year twice.

"Tim is leaving his family, friends, and wrestling fans a valuable asset ... a respectable name and reputation for serving a sport that all consider worthy of passing on to future generations," stated Smith.

Tim Kline continues to do just that. After retiring as a varsity coach years ago he dedicated himself to the youth of his community and can always be found helping on the biddy mats and at area tournaments. His knowledge and dedication to the sport will remain an invaluable asset to the up-and-coming area wrestlers.



Michelle Gates, Butch Patrick and Brian Gates

THE ONTARIO 4TH OF JULY Festival Car Show at Marshall Park was sponsored by the Gates Insurance Agency. The evening included cars, music, food and a visit from the reigning Miss Ontario Katie Bolin, newly crowned Junior Miss Ontario Kenley Scott, Little Miss Ontario Sadie Myers, and all of the Miss Ontario contestants. Special guest was Butch Patrick, best known for his role as Eddie Munster in the cult classic show, *The Munsters*. He also brought the Drag-U-La and the Eddie Chopper.



THE ONTARIO BRANCH of the Mansfield/Richland County Public Library now offers 24-hour hold lockers, providing convenient, around-the-clock access for customers to pick up reserved library materials. Located just inside the first set of sliding doors, the new self-serve lockers will allow customers to retrieve items at their convenience. The system includes 24 lockers, each capable of holding reserved items for up to seven days. A user-friendly touchscreen guides customers through a simple pickup process. To use the locker service, customers can select "Ontario Locker Pickup" as their preferred location when placing a hold at mrcpl.org or through the MRCPL mobile app. Please note that some larger items from the Library of Things collection may not fit in the lockers and will need to be picked up during regular library hours.

Hamilton Insurance and Mansfield Rotary join together for scramble

Hamilton Insurance Group, Inc., in partnership with the Mansfield Rotary Club, has announced the 2025 Golf Scramble benefitting the Mansfield Police K9 Unit, will be held Friday, Aug. 1, at Deer Ridge Golf Course in Bellville.

Registration opens at 8 am, with a shotgun start at 9 am.

The golf scramble raises vital funds for the Mansfield Police Department's K9 Unit — a unit that is not included in the City of Mansfield's general operating budget, but instead depends on donations and community support.

All proceeds from the golf scramble will go directly to the K9 program, helping cover the costs associated with purchasing the dogs, specialized training, medical care, food and vehicle modifications needed for K9 transport.

The Mansfield K9 Unit plays a crucial role in ensuring public safety, not just within city limits but throughout the surrounding counties. These dedicated K9 teams assist in tracking missing persons, detecting illegal drugs, apprehending suspects and enhancing officer protection.

All this makes the K9 unit an indispensable resource to law enforcement and the greater community.

"I first learned about the incredible work of the Mansfield K9 Unit during a Mansfield Rotary meeting, and I was immediately inspired to help," said Neil Hamilton, president of Hamilton Insurance Group, Inc. "These dogs and their handlers put themselves in harm's way to protect all of us. They're an essential part of our safety network, and they deserve our support."

There are still openings for foursome teams, as well as opportunities for sponsorships and raffle donations. Foursome teams are \$400 and team and hole sponsorships are available for \$500. Donations of gift cards or raffle baskets are also appreciated.

To register a team, donate a prize or become a sponsor, contact Chris Bellamy at cbellamy@hamiltonins.net or 419-526-4700.

\$20 million investment in U.S. 30 broadband corridor included in state budget

Ohio's newly approved 2025-'26 biennial budget includes a \$20 million investment to expand broadband infrastructure along the full length of the U.S. 30 corridor, stretching from the state's eastern to western borders. This statewide project brings significant local impact to Richland County, where connectivity improvements are expected to enhance access, opportunity and economic competitiveness.

Locally, the funding will support increased broadband coverage in and around Mansfield, Ontario and Shelby, boosting service to key institutions such as North Central State College and the 179th Cyberspace Wing, as well as underserved areas in need of reliable high-speed internet access.

This success was made possible through the vision and collaboration of Dr. Dorey Diab, the Richland County Commissioners, Representative Marilyn John, Senator Mark Romanchuk, Speaker Matt Huffman, Mayor Tim Perry, Ken Kmetz and Walt Borowicz of the 179th Cyberspace Wing, BroadbandOhio, OARnet, Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development, the Richland Community Development Group (RCDG), and other local leaders committed to advancing digital equity and economic development in the region.

"We are thankful for this tremendous, impactful investment in the future of Richland County! Thank you to Governor DeWine, Representative Marilyn John, Senator Mark Romanchuk, Speaker Huffman, and all of the great leadership representing our state for their support and vision!" said Ellen Heinz, President & CEO of the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development.

Barrett Thomas, Sr. Director of Economic Development for the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development, added, "I'm incredibly proud of what this team has accomplished. Taking something of this scale from an idea to a fully funded plan is no small task. It didn't unfold the way any of us imagined, but we pushed forward with perseverance, flexibility, and most of all, a shared belief in our power to create positive change together. That spirit of collaboration and determination is the heart of what makes Richland County so special."

A key feature of the project includes establishing a secure "point-of-presence" in Richland County, enabling enhanced connectivity for both public and private users and aligning with critical infrastructure needs for national defense and innovation sectors.

"The State of Ohio's GRF investment in a fiber network along Route 30 is significant for Richland County and all communities along the entire Route 30 corridor. It positions our region at the forefront of digital infrastructure by boosting broadband access for residents and businesses while enhancing critical redundancy for the 179th Cyberspace Wing. This project strengthens not only our connectivity, but also our resilience and readiness for future growth and innovation," said Richland County Commissioner Tony Vero.

Additional planning and implementation details will follow as the project progresses. The Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development team will continue working closely with partners to communicate next steps and support regional engagement.

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PUBLIC HEARING

The Troy Township Trustees will hold a public hearing for input on a proposed resolution for small scale solar facilities. The public hearing will be held Monday July 28th 2025 at 6:30 PM at the Township meeting room at 247 S. Mill Street Lexington, Ohio. The proposed amendments and resolution can be viewed at the Township meeting room any time prior to the public meeting.

Kevin J. Angle
Troy Twp. Administrator
Lexington, OH
(T-C 7-10 '25) 15L



Strut Your Stuff celebrates 25 years

This year, Richland Academy of the Arts celebrates a remarkable milestone: the 25th anniversary of its dynamic Strut Your Stuff tap dancers.

For a quarter of a century, Strut has been a group built on confidence, connection, and creativity, tapping into the hearts of Mansfield and Richland County in lasting and meaningful ways.

Founded in 2000, Strut Your Stuff has grown into a beloved tradition at Richland Academy offering its performers the opportunity to inspire audiences with their dancing, but also their love and joy for their art.

Some of the dancers have been tapping since they were children, however, other members began their dance journey as adults proving; it's never too late to start tapping. RAA is thankful for the Strut you Stuff program; they have been our ambassadors into the community, traveling to nursing homes to perform and often requested to perform at local events. For 25 years, the dancers have inspired audiences with their signature blend of choreography, costumes, excellence, and self-expression.

"Strut Your Stuff is a legacy that these women have built to last," said Erin Wolford, Strut instructor.

"These dancers have created friendships that span decades, memories that have shaped the lives of its members, and have impacted the Richland County community in a wonderful & positive way."

To honor this 25-year journey, Richland Academy of the Arts hosted a heartfelt celebration filled with laughter, music, performances, and reunions. Families and friends gathered to reflect on how Strut Your

The group has contributed to the cultural fabric of the community and shaped lives. The group's impact will continue to ripple outward through every dancer who has ever participated in Strut, and every heart they've touched along the way.

To learn more about dance programming visit www.richlandacademy.com, call 419-522-8224 or contact Dr. Michael Benson at mbenson@richlandacademy.com.

Founded in 1991, RAA is located in downtown Mansfield at 4th and Walnut, next to the Carousel. Supported by the Ohio Arts Council and Area Agency on Aging, RAA offers programs in dance, music, theatre, visual arts, and martial arts.

Through its Empower the Arts Capital Campaign, RAA is working to renovate and modernize its creative spaces for the community.

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