



TRIBUNE-COURIER

RICHLAND COUNTY'S ONLY LOCALLY-OWNED NEWSPAPER • SINCE 1961

news@tribune-courier.com

12.4.25



Pioneer accepts donations from long list of donors

At the Nov. 24 meeting, the Pioneer Board of Education accepted donations from Ron Hockenberry, Mansfield, various drafting items with an approximate value of \$150 to be used in the Engineering Design Technology program; Christopher Lane, Galion, steel with a value of \$280 for a welding table to be used in the Welding program; and MaryAnn Moyer, Mansfield, a green screen with an approximate value of \$200 to be used in the Media Communication program.

Donations to the Rene' Burtcher Scholarship Fund included \$100 from Mr. & Mrs. Walter Burtcher and \$202 from Kevin Vargyas, Willard. Carl Medley, Virginia Beach, donated \$75 for the Art Barr Scholarship Fund.

Penguin Fund donations came from Al Sears, \$25; Amanda Snipes, \$50; Amy Law, \$30; Brandi Jensen, \$50; Cindy Bodkin, \$30; Deb Sal-lee, \$50; EAP, \$1,500; Ellen Huffman, \$100; Grant Brockwell, \$50; Greg Nickoli, \$100; J. Colton Penwell, \$25; Jeremiah Howe, \$50; Jerry Mingus, \$40; John Burgess, \$25; Juli Adair, \$100; Justin Tuttle, \$50; Karen Donahue, \$50; Kathleen Fiske, \$30; Kelly Purvis, \$25; Mary Cosker, \$50; Mary Lee Barr, \$100; Molly Belcik, \$50; Monica Bautista, \$25; Preston Foy, \$50; Rick Harvey & Sue Switzer, \$45; and anonymous donors gave \$50, \$80, \$40, \$25, \$100, \$50, \$50, \$50, \$35, \$100, \$50 and \$50.

The board approved students for participation in the SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference including Jose Figueroa, CBI, Willard; Josiah Freewalt, CBI, Crestview; Lilliana McLaren, Engineering Design, Ontario; Cierra Schneider, Engineering Design, Buckeye Central; Eli Keefe, First Responder, Willard; Gage Benner, Graphic Arts, Ontario; Shelby Bloemen, Graphic Arts, Crestview; Mackenzie Booth, Graphic Arts, Bucyrus; Serenity Cole, Graphic Arts, Ontario; Tasia Crank, Graphic Arts, Wynford; Natalie Evans, Graphic Arts, Shelby; Kaley (August) Faulds, Graphic Arts, Galion; Kylee Gearheart, Graphic Arts, Crestview; Skyla Gramley, Graphic Arts, Wynford; Erik Hill, Graphic Arts, Lexington; Liana Jones, Graphic Arts, Shelby; Owen Parsons, Graphic Arts, Shelby; Morgan Prichard, Graphic Arts, Willard; Savannah Smith, Graphic Arts, Shelby; Emily Vermillion, Graphic Arts, Bucyrus; Hanna Walton, Graphic Arts, Shelby; Chloe Wetzel, Graphic Arts, Crestview; Kalissa Case, Homeland Security, Lexington; Maziah Grubaugh, Homeland Security, Northmor; Bradley Swain, Homeland Security, Ontario; Samantha Hiler, Media Communications, Buckeye Central; Alanya Hill, Media Communications, Ontario; Allysann Knackstedt, Media Communications, Northmor; Cheyenne Monk, Media Communications, Wynford; Benjamin Smith, Media Communications, Crestline; Kaitlyn Meadows, Performing Arts, Northmor; Kelcie Smith, Performing Arts, Northmor; Erica Davisson, Welding, Crestview; Elias Diaz, Welding, Willard; and Isaac Hammer, Welding, Lexington.

A resignation was accepted from Krista Snider, cosmetology instructor, effective Oct. 28, 2025.

The board approved the extension of a maternity leave/leave of absence request as outlined in section 401 of the negotiated agreement for Jennifer Verspoor, intervention specialist, for the remainder of the 2025-26 school year.

Voluntary transfers of positions were approved for Nicole Harding, cosmetology related instructor to cosmetology lab instructor; and Caitlin Roub, ECE lead teacher to cosmetology related instructor.

Conference period pay was granted to Nicole Harding, cosmetology instructor, beginning Oct. 29, for the remainder of the 2025-26 school year.

An updated supplemental contract was approved for Melinda Meisse, FCCLA Club Advisor, \$1,000. A stipend contract was approved for Stephanie (Katie) Eichorn, HOSA Cavs Day Chaperone Stipend, \$50.

Jason Voelp was approved as a certified substitute instructor.

(Continued on Page 2)



DOC STUMBO was recognized with the Waterford at Mansfield's Distinguished Patriot Award in recognition of his exceptional leadership and devoted service to others. The recognition took place in honor of Veterans Day. Larry Polk also received the Distinguished Patriot Award for continuing to honor fellow veterans by caring for the burial grounds at Mansfield Cemetery and for helping veterans struggling with depression. Three World War II Victory Ribbons were presented to Eleanor Kline, Guy Long and Wilbur Streib. Doc Stumbo is pictured with Air Force Brigadier General Pamela Milligan. Gentiva Hospice provided pins for the veterans attending the event.

Ontario hosting lighting, toy drive

The City of Ontario's annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held Thursday, Dec. 4, in Marshall Park.

The event will open at 5:45 pm with a special candle light vigil will be held at the pavilion. The candles will be in honor of the memories of those we've lost.

This quiet time of reflection and remembrance invites the community to hold space for loved ones and share their light with family and friends. Candles will be provided.

Hot chocolate and cookies will be served beginning at 6 pm.

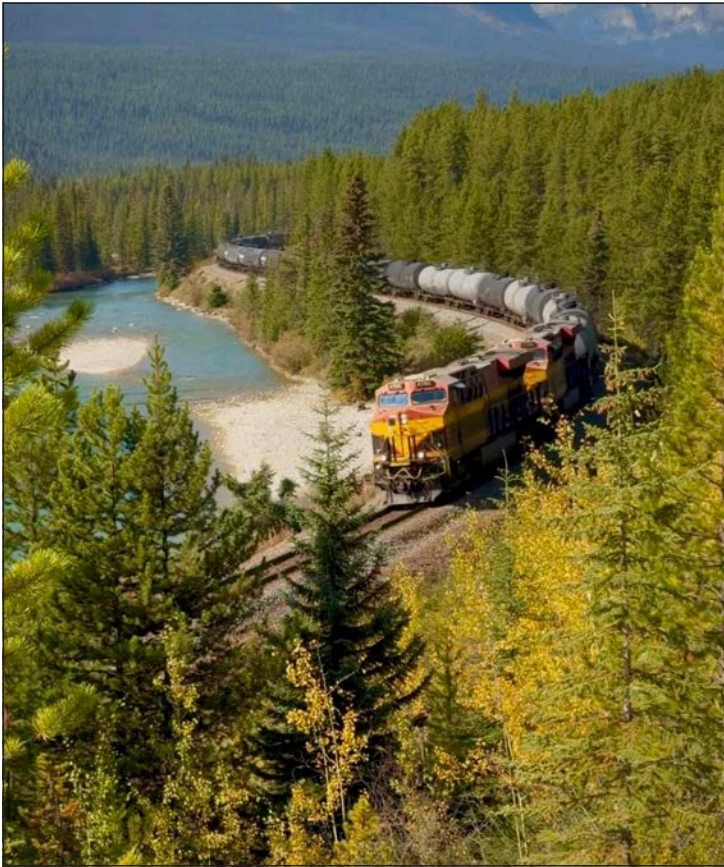
The event will include a visit from Santa and performances from Rhapsody in Blue, the Ontario High School Jazz Band and the Ontario High School Golden Girls.

The tree lighting will be held at 6:30 pm with Mayor Knapp. Announcement of the winner of the Lions Club Coloring Contest will be announced following the lighting.

The event is coordinated by Ontario Community Events, Ontario Local Schools, the City of Ontario and the Ontario Lions Club.

Also in Ontario, Springfield Township Fire Department is once again teaming up with The Ontario Center and Ontario Community Events, Menards and Dollar General for the Giving Ontario Toy Drive.

New, unwrapped toys, teen gifts and gift cards are being collected until Dec. 18. Donations can be dropped off at Fire Station #1, 3700 Park Avenue West, Ontario; and Fire Station #2, 400 S. Lexington-Springmill Rd., Ontario.



Morants Curve, Banff, Alberta, Canada
Photo By Mark Shutt

•Pioneer accepts donations

(Continued from Front Page)

The board accepted the resignation of part time classified personnel Patty Coleman, part-time cafeteria worker; and Sarah Kilgore, part-time cafeteria worker.

The board approved employment of Deborah Brewster, part-time cafeteria worker and Kristina Wharton, part-time cafeteria worker.

Lisa Kilgore was hired as a substitute cafeteria worker.

The board hired student workers Miranda Beekman, cafeteria (EJP); Cassidy Cullen, Early Childhood Education (ECE); Lexi Ferguson, ECE; Nevaeh Hill, ECE; Madelyn Mogle, ECE; Haylee Seymour, ECE; Madelyn Welling, ECE; and Payten Zimnickas, ECE.

Joan Kanne resigned as the Adult Ed LPN coordinator, effective Jan. 30, 2026.

The board approved a clinical agreement with Shelby Pointe, an agreement with Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center and revises policies.

The Domestic Violence Shelter seeking community input

The Domestic Violence Shelter has launched a county-wide community needs assessment to guide future services and better support survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking in Richland County. For more than four decades, the shelter has provided safety, advocacy and resources for individuals and families in crisis. This new assessment marks an important next step in ensuring programs remain responsive to the community's evolving needs.

"The Domestic Violence Shelter is committed to supporting survivors and creating a safer community," said executive director Colleen Rice. "This assessment is a crucial step in shaping our services to reflect the voices of survivors and community members. Input will help us secure funding and plan strategically for the future"

The shelter is encouraging residents, survivors, businesses, schools, churches and local organizations to partake in the assessment. The goal is to ensure that voices from across Richland County, including survivors and partner organizations, are heard and incorporated into the shelter's future planning.

The information gathered will guide programming decisions, support grant applications, and in-form strategic initiatives designed to better meet the needs of survivors.

Individuals interested in joining an online or in-person listening session — or in receiving updates about upcoming opportunities— can sign up at <https://thedvshelter.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/thedvshelter/subscribe.jsp?subscription=11>

Confidentiality and survivor safety will remain a top priority throughout the process. For additional information, contact Colleen Rice at 419-774-5843 ext. 101 or by email: crice@thedvshelter.com.

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Saturday, December 6

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Muenster Cheese..... **\$3.39 /lb**

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Vol. 65
No. 8

Tribune-Courier



Serving Ontario, Lexington, Madison, Bellville and Butler Communities in
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News Briefs

The Richland Rural Life Center, 969 E. Crall Rd., Mansfield, will host its annual Breakfast with Santa event on Saturday, Dec. 6.

The event will include cookie decorating, a visit and photos with Santa and breakfast.

Two times slots are available: 8 and 9:30 am. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children ages 3–11. Children two and under are free when accompanied by an adult.

Breakfast includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, fruit cup and beverage. Purchase advance tickets at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/breakfast-with-santa-83>. Seating is limited.

Main Street in Bellville will host its annual family holiday parade on Saturday, Dec. 6, at 11 am.

After the parade, those attending can visit the township building (old fire station) for hot cocoa, cookies, hot dogs, crafts for kids, horse and carriage rides and a visit with Santa.

For parade entry information email tinascristmasparade@gmail.com. All activities and refreshments are free. The event is sponsored by the Clear Fork Valley Chamber of Commerce.

A craft and vendor show will be held Saturday, Dec. 6, from 10 am to 2 pm at the Butler Event Center, 111 W. Elm St, Butler.

Those attending are asked to bring non-perishable food items to help the North Bend Community Produce Distribution.

The event has free admission and lunch will be available.

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 Dec. 17 and will be a Christmas luncheon. Image from Mansfield Christian School will perform and officers will be installed.

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

Herlihy Christmas House open Dec. 11–14

The Herlihy Christmas Open House will be held Thursday through Sunday, Dec. 11–14, from 6–9 pm.

The open house is located at 170 W. Second St., Mansfield, with parking in the Herlihy Funeral Home parking lot

The Christmas house has been a holiday tradition for many years. The family's personal collection is on display and features over 30 Christmas trees, hundreds of Santas, Disney, villages and trains.

This is the 38th year for the display. A minimum \$2 donation is required per person and will be given to local animal shelters and the Miss Ohio Scholarship Program.

For more info or private tours for over 20 people call Terri Herlihy at 419-544-9863 or email terri52270@gmail.com

All Souls Unitarian Universalist of Bellville, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Brian Moore on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 10:30 am. The subject will be "Living Without Rules." For information visit www.allsoulsuuhio.org.

Akron Children's Mansfield Behavioral Health Center will host a community coat distribution event on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 10 am to 1 pm, at 1027 S. Trimble Rd., Mansfield.

The donor-funded event is open to the public and will provide new coats (sizes 3T to adult XXL), hats and gloves at no cost for children and adults while supplies last.

All are welcome to come to the event, and receiving care at the center is not a requirement to obtain a coat and other winter items.

To submit a news brief item send an email with information to news@tribune-courier.com. To advertise in the T-C, email Traci at tribune.courier.traci@gmail.com.



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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
10:30 am Sunday Worship
Office Hours: Tu., W., Th. 9 am to 1 pm
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 Church of the Cross

236 Otterbein Dr., Lexington
419-884-2150 • Churchofthecrosslex.com
Pastor-Rev. Dr. Edna Stahl
Sunday Worship 9:30 am
Junior Church for 10 and under • Wesley Class 10:45
5th Sunday of the month-Do Something Sunday AA, Girl Scouts,
Yoga, Knotty Ladies
and Bible Study.

Lexington Presbyterian Church

35 Church St. West, Lexington
419-884-1330 • 10:30 am Sunday Worship
Pastor Denny Nezrick
<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 School • 11 am Sunday School
Bible Study Mondays 2 pm



Santa will visit library locations

Santa is taking time out of his busy schedule this holiday season to visit all Mansfield/Richland County Public Library (MRCPL) locations. He'll be performing his "Spectacular Holiday Show" at each of the library's nine locations, and setting aside time to chat with children and pose for photos.

During his "Spectacular Holiday Show," Santa will share silly stories about his bustling schedule and his friendship with the quirky reindeer. Adults are encouraged to bring their cameras for this special photo opportunity.

Santa will be available for four sessions at the Main Library to hear each child's wish, review his famous list, and pose for a photo. Adults may take their own pictures and also receive a free 4" x 6" print made in the Learning Lab. In addition, Santa will join the Bookmobile for a special community visit to South Park on Dec. 2 from 4-6 pm at 100 Brinkerhoff Ave., Mansfield.

A festive photo backdrop is available during open hours at the main library now through Dec. 28. This is a perfect spot to bring friends or family to take photos for holiday cards or memory books. Bring your favorite shot to the Learning Lab for a free 4" x 6" print.

All library Santa visits, holiday programs for all ages and more can be found on the library's event calendar. Search "Santa" on the website event calendar to find his special visits.

All Santa events are free and open to everyone; no library card or registration required. Please note that some holiday programs do require advance registration. Customers with questions should call the library location for details. Library hours vary by location and can be found at mrcpl.org.



Shelby Foundation announces scholarship applications are open

The Shelby Foundation is now accepting applications for the Wanda June Humphrey Nursing Scholarship, a \$1,000 award supporting registered nurses in Richland County who are pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree or higher.

Created in 2009, the scholarship honors the legacy of Wanda June Humphrey, a registered nurse who dedicated more than 26 years of service to the Shelby community. Known for her forward-thinking approach to patient care and professional growth, Humphrey believed deeply in the importance of continued education in the nursing field.

"Wanda June Humphrey was truly a visionary," said Carrie Kemerer, executive director of The Shelby Foundation. "Now that the medical field is increasingly requiring four-year degrees or higher, her commitment to supporting nurses is more relevant than ever."

Humphrey established the scholarship herself during her lifetime, grounded in her desire to support the next generation of nurses.

"She wanted to help nurses grow, advance, and continue serving with excellence," Kemerer added. "This fund reflects her lifelong dedication to caregiving and education."

Applicants must hold an active Registered Nurse license in the State of Ohio, be accepted into an accredited program, reside in Richland County, Ohio, provide proof of enrollment for the upcoming academic term, be employed while attending school and submit a complete application by the deadline of Friday, Dec. 5, to be considered for the \$1,000 award.

The scholarship application and submission instructions are available at www.theshelbyfoundation.org. For information call 419-342-3686. The Shelby Foundation connects generosity with community needs. Through strategic grants, scholarships and community investments, the foundation works to uplift residents and strengthen the quality of life in Shelby and surrounding areas.

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Hasan Sharif Holt, November 20
Keith Brian Chaffin, November 23
Norman C. McCracken, November 23
Frances Louise Gonzalez, November 25
Robert "Brad" Bradley Wentz, November 26
Barbara Ann Baich, November 27
Arthur "Art" Boyd Adams, November 27

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DAR offering scholarships

Various local, state and national scholarships are available through the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Each has separate requirements.

The Jared Mansfield Chapter local scholarship is open to all students, both genders, who will be attending OSU-Mansfield, NCSC or the Dwight Schar College of Nursing, Mansfield and pursuing any field of study.

The local Jared Mansfield Chapter Scholarship is open to any student currently enrolled at any of the above schools as well as high school graduating seniors. This scholarship is renewable, and the student may apply each year. Call scholarship chair Joedy Studer at 419-631-1015 for more information.

The completed application must be postmarked by April 15.

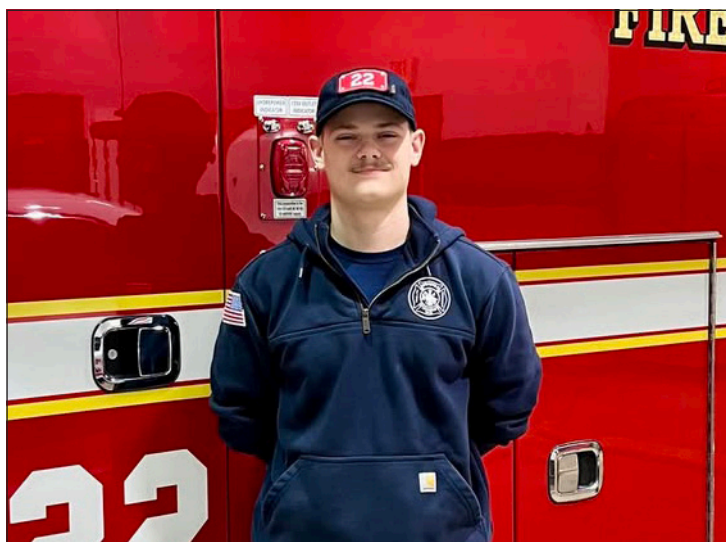
The Ohio Society Daughters of the American Revolution awards the "Wings of Eagles" scholarship to graduating high school seniors including those completing a certified home school program, in the amount of \$1,000 each.

Awards are based on academic excellence and financial need. All applicants must be citizens of the United States and legal residents of the State of Ohio and must attend an accredited college or university in the United States.

Visit OSDAR at ohiodar.org to obtain a scholarship application. All applicants must be sponsored by the local DAR chapter and applications must be submitted to the local chapter by Jan. 31.

The National Daughters of the American Revolution, NSDAR, also offers scholarships in many different majors. This year, DAR has announced that all students will submit their applications using an online process. The online portal can be found on the DAR public website's scholarship page. The direct link to the online application submission portal is <http://dar.academicworks.com>. Emailed or mailed applications will no longer be accepted. The deadline for these is Jan. 31.

Call Joedy Studer at 419-631-1015 for more information.



SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP Firefighter Jonathan Smith recently successfully passed his medic exam and earned the title of Paramedic.

Holiday Pops tradition returns

The Renaissance Performing Arts Association will present the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra's Holiday Pops, on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 7:30 pm at the Renaissance Theatre.

Conducted by Octavio Más-Arocas, this festive concert brings the warmth and magic of the season to life with a vibrant blend of timeless carols, contemporary holiday tunes and new favorites.

Seating is limited. For tickets visit <https://www.eventticketscenter.com/holiday-pops-mansfield-tickets/1212338/e>

ONTARIO COMMUNITY EVENTS

Craft Show

When: Saturday, December 6th

Where: Richland County Fairgrounds

Time: 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Cost: \$2 or a new toy (no stuffed animals)

All proceeds will benefit the Ontario Lions Club and Ontario Community Events. Toys will be donated to the Ontario Police Department.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church partners with The Old Spokes

St. Mark's Episcopal Church partnered with The Old Spokes to support the community on Dec. 1.

The Old Spokes, an ecumenical group of local residents dedicated to repairing and donating bicycles, reached a remarkable milestone by donating over 40 slightly used bicycles to those in need. This contribution was made to the Shelby Christmas Program, providing much-needed transportation to the homeless, children and individuals without access to reliable means of getting around.

Fr. Daniel Orr, Priest at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, expressed his heartfelt appreciation for The Old Spokes' continued commitment to community service. "As followers of Jesus, we are called to reach out to the poor, the hungry, the homeless, those in prison, the widows, the orphans, and children. This initiative aligns perfectly with our mission to serve those in need," he stated.

Established 11 years ago, The Old Spokes has been a lifeline for many, maintaining, repairing, and even replacing bicycles for those who find themselves in difficult situations. Their work epitomizes the spirit of compassion and fellowship that is central to the teachings of Jesus.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, founded in 1892, has a long-standing tradition of outreach and ministry within the Shelby community. Since the early 2000s, the church has committed 10% of its operating budget to address local needs. This dedication has been blessed in unexpected ways, including a recent bequest from a bachelor farmer who, though he never attended St. Mark's, felt a connection through his mother's past involvement with the church. This gift is a testament to how God continues to inspire acts of kindness and generosity.

For more information about St. Mark's Episcopal Church and its ongoing initiatives contact Fr. Daniel Orr at 419-377-2733.

HEAP assistance available

The Ohio Department of Development and the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. has announced that assistance is available to help with home energy bills. The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps Ohioans at or below 175% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of up to eight members and 60% of State Median Income for a household of nine or more members to pay their heating bills.

The benefit is applied directly to the customer's utility or bulk fuel bill. Older Ohioans may go to their local Area Agency on Aging office for help with assembling the required documents and completing the application or visit www.energyhelp.ohio.gov to apply online or to download a copy of the application.

Applications must be received by May 31, 2026. For information call 419-524-4144.

When applying, individuals need to have copies of most recent utility bills, a list of all household members (including birth dates and Social Security numbers, proof of income for the past 30 days for all household members (12 months for certain income types), proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members and proof of disability (if applicable). HEAP benefits are applied to energy bills after Jan. 1.

Dayspring seeking sponsors for Christmas tree drive thru event

The Richland County Home is setting up our first annual drive through event for the holiday season. Starting Dec. 11, the community is encouraged to come out to Dayspring and drive around the scenic property to look at decorated Christmas trees that have been sponsored by local businesses and groups from Richland County.

This is a low-cost advertising opportunity for Richland County's businesses, civic groups and other organizations to provide Christmas joy to not only the residents of Dayspring but also give back to the community as a whole. By either supplying a cut Christmas tree, decorating a tree, or both, your group will be advertised all season long, alongside the tree you have sponsored. The winner of best decorated tree will also be announced at a later date.

All trees will need to be decorated by Dec. 10. To provide a tree, decorate a tree or both contact Heather Knipp, Dayspring office manager at 419-774-5894 or email hknipp@richlandcountyoh.gov.



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CHAP **Commission on
Minority Health**



Photos By Traci Little



Christmas at Kingwood underway

Christmas at Kingwood Center Gardens takes visitors on a festive stroll through the glowing trail of lights and Community Tree Walk.

Inside the 99-year-old Kingwood Hall mansion, guests can see holiday décor winding through every room.

A Display Greenhouse and Garden Gateway include shopping, dining and refreshment options. There are also festive displays in Roost Hall and the Carriage House.

Special events will include photos with Santa on Dec. 6 and 7, from 4–8 pm; Ashland Model Railroaders and Railfans Train Display Dec. 11–14, from 3–9 pm; a reindeer visit on Dec. 18 and 19, from 5–8 pm; and the St. Peter's Handbell Choir on Dec. 19, from 4–6 pm.

All guests, including Kingwood members and children of all ages, must reserve timed entry tickets online or by phone. Admission is \$10 for non-members ages 19+, \$5 for ages 7–18 and free for children six and under. Complimentary admission is included as a membership benefit for members only if timed entry ticket reservation is made. Members and non-members who do not reserve timed entry tickets in advance will be subject to walk-up ticket prices.

When selecting a timed entry ticket, choose a half-hour arrival window during which you must arrive. For example, a 6 pm ticket allows for arrival between 6 and 6:30 pm. Please allow ample time for parking and check-in at the welcome desk. Entry outside of the reserved window may be delayed or denied based on ticket availability. Timed entry ticket allows for a better guest experience and parking availability.

Departure times are not scheduled, so everyone is welcome to explore the display at their own pace once checked in.

If needed, timed entry ticket may be rescheduled, based on availability. For assistance call 419-522-0211. Christmas at Kingwood is an all-weather event with no refunds. Walk-up tickets are limited and may be available on a first-come, first-served basis each night. Pricing is \$12 for ages 19+, \$7 for ages 7–18 and free for children six and under. Tickets are available at kingwoodcenter.org/christmas-at-kingwood/.

Gift shopping can help foundation

The Doughboy Foundation has Christmas gift ideas on its website <https://doughboy.shop>

Items available on the website include commemorative coins, apparel, jewelry, wall decor, blankets and more.

Every purchase supports the Doughboy Foundation's education and outreach programs.

The foundation's mission is to Keep Faith With The American Doughboy. Since its inception in 2013, working in partnership with the U.S. WWI Centennial Commission, it has played a key role in envisioning, building and now enhancing the nation's new World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The foundation does this through the soundings of Daily Taps at the National World War I Memorial, by expanding access to the Memorial via mobile apps, by organizing signature events and by presenting stories of service that encourage learning about America's pivotal role in the "War that Changed the World."

Mansfield to host Christmas Time in the City

Christmas Time in the City will be held Friday, Dec. 5, from 5–9 pm in downtown Mansfield.

The highlight of the evening is the Christmas tree lighting ceremony which will take place at 6 pm.

Additionally, Richland Carrousel Park will be at the center of the celebration with carriage rides, live reindeer, photos with Santa and more. Carriage rides are available exclusively through online reservations available at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-time-in-the-city-carriage-rides-tickets-1967752982140?aff=ebdssshcopyurl&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=>

WOSU exec tells Mansfield Rotary and Kiwanis that he's committed to telling stories that matter to communities

Public media is a “community company” that is committed to “community relations,” according to Anthony Padgett, general manager of WOSU in central Ohio.

Padgett was the featured speaker at a joint meeting of the Mansfield Rotary and Kiwanis Nov. 25, where he discussed the challenges and opportunities in public media over the past several years.

Federal and state funding cuts this year have cost the company about \$2.5 million, but through resilience and a strong commitment to the public, WOSU has maintained most of its programming and forged new relationships to carry it forward.

“About a year and a half ago, we started talking about how we could prepare this organization to continue to tell stories into the future,” Padgett said. “That’s what we do — we’re storytellers and we want to tell our central Ohio stories in a meaningful way that can be accessed throughout the state, in a voice that is authentic.”

One solution is the “Storytellers Trust,” a new initiative funded by community members who believe in the power of stories, local voices and masterful storytelling.

This effort has already led to the creation of the “INSIDE: Caregiving,” a multi-series/platform project uncovering the journey of caregiving, “New Perspectives: From Bach to Biggie,” which brings a new perspective to classical music on the radio program Classical 101, and “Hopewell Earthworks – Stories Written on the Land,” a six-part digital docuseries exploring the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks, which premiered earlier this month as WOSU’s first digital property produce exclusively for YouTube.

Rural upbringing

Padgett joined WOSU as general manager in 2023, following a productive career in public media in South Carolina and Georgia. He recounted his rural upbringing in North Carolina, and how he watched PBS at his grandparents’ home after school.

“Through my access to public media, it kind of opened my eyes to a different world,” he said. “It exposed me to things that I didn’t see in my day to day ... it allowed me to see lot at things with a different perspective.”

In addition to funding cuts, WOSU is also adapting to the changing media landscape – with a growing population of people who watch TV over the internet. WOSU is available online, via cable and satellite and through antenna.

Padgett said the funding cuts are still being felt, but his staff is committed to telling stories that matter, finding new ways to work with communities, build trust and remain resilient.

“We really do believe that this is a time of partnership like we have never seen before, borne out of necessity but also out of potential for relationships,” he said. “It’s our relationship to the community that

ties us and binds us to the places where we are, to the people we know and to the things that we can have an impact on.”

Public service

Padgett was invited to speak by Rotarian Cindy Wood, the director of development and community events at Ohio State Mansfield.

“Annually, rotary and Kiwanis join together as a mutual spirit of service to others in advancing service above self,” said Wood. “Both organizations focus on service to the community, which fits well with Anthony’s message.”

Jason Opal, dean and director at Ohio State Mansfield, said Padgett is very aware and respectful of the challenges and opportunities of public media in today’s world.

“I enjoyed hearing Anthony talk about the importance of quality public media in his own childhood, in rural North Carolina,” said Opal. “He wants to bring that same resource — adapted, of course, to current and emerging technologies — to everyone in central Ohio. All of this makes him the right person for a big job.”



Photo by The Shelby Foundation

THE CITY OF SHELBY hosted its first-ever tree lighting ceremony on Sunday, Nov. 30 during the Shelby Christmas in the City event. The special night included a parade and lighting of a 24-foot Christmas tree in Black Fork Commons Plaza complete with fireworks over downtown. This year’s plaza decorations were donated by the Curry and Armstrong families.



ANTHONY PADGETT, the general manager for WOSU in Columbus, spoke about the challenges and opportunities facing public media at a joint meeting of the Mansfield Rotary and Mansfield Kiwanis.



Photo by Lexington Elementary PTO

THE VILLAGE OF LEXINGTON hosted Light Up Lex on Dec. 1. The Lexington PTO passed out candy canes and glow sticks.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS LEXINGTON VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL · NOV. 25
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS WILLARD JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL · NOV. 25
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Shelby routs Cincinnati Indian Hills 42-7 to advance to first trip to state finals in 131-year history

By Kris Leiter

What a year for the Shelby Whippets! They are headed to Canton for the state championship game after a 42-7 rout of Cincinnati Indian Hills in the Division IV state semifinals. The Whippets will make their first trip to the state championship in the 131-year storied history of Shelby football.

At last week's game Brayden DeVito was at it again with numerous record-breaking accolades.

The Mr. Football nominee is a vital part of the defensive side of the ball. He picked off two passes, including a 43-yard pick six near the end of the first half that swung the momentum completely in the Whippets' favor.

DeVito is primarily known for airing it out, but can also put feet to the pavement. He ran 12-for-85 yards, which is a feat of its own, a TD and threw for 115 yards and two touchdowns.

Let's not forget one of DeVito's favorite targets, Brady Bowman. He contributed a mere six receptions for 83 yards and a score.

Another weapon on the radar is Carter Kessler. He added a six-yard TD catch and Travis Slone contributed three runs for 38 yards, including a nine-yard TD run.

If you don't know by now, Shelby's defense is a vital piece of success to this year's dynasty. Hats off to Gavin Baker, who blocked an Indian Hill's punt.

The road trip last Friday was a 2-hour bus ride to Sidney, Ohio. This could have been the deal-breaker. Surely. Long travel can tire

even the most resilient athlete. Their opponent, Cincinnati Indian Hills, was not just another opponent that the Whippets were going to rout. Indian Hills had an unblemished 13-0 record.

As teams get deeper in the tournament run, the competition gets more challenging. Going into last Friday's game with Cincinnati Indian Hills, someone's season was coming to an end. The heartbreak of sports, the agony of defeat.

All season, as well as the entire post-season, the Braves had not allowed ANY opponent to score beyond 19 points during any given game. Shelby was averaging around 40 points per game and Indian Hills was stopping teams in their tracks.

The Whippet's defense allowed just 97 total yards and the score was after a Whippet fumble that was recovered and returned to the Shelby one-yard line.

Carter Kessler had the Indian Hills quarterback number on his radar. Kessler was in Indian Hills backfield most of the night, hounding Daniels for four sacks on the night.

The Whippets will now play Cleveland Glenville in the Division IV state championship game, Friday morning at 10:30 am at Canton's Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium.

So how good are the Whippets looking? Even being on the road hasn't seemed to phase them. In recent games, Galion's defense probably gave Shelby the closest run for their money, with Tiger defense keeping Shelby on their toes.

The Tiger's were able to trip up the Whippets offensive line, somewhat, but Shelby prevailed. Against Galion, Shelby was the winner of a statistic that most teams dislike — penalties.

Shelby racked up over 100-yards of penalties and Galion had minimal yardage in the penalty category. Most of the time, the winner of the game doesn't lead the game in the penalty column. Not so with Shelby.

Cleveland Glenville is no stranger to OHSAA post-season play, as they have claimed two state titles in 2022 and 2023.

The game will be broadcast on Spectrum.

Good luck Whippets!

Shelby's Brayden DeVito is an Ohio Mr. Football finalist

The Ohio Prep Sports Media Association has announced the finalists for the 2025 Ohio Mr. Football Award. The winner will be announced Thursday, Dec. 5, at 5 pm in Canton prior to the start of the OHSAA football state championships. The prestigious honor has been awarded since 1987.

The OPSMA district chairpersons and officers have selected the finalists. The voting process is nearly identical to that used to determine the Heisman Trophy winner in college football. The 220 registered OPSMA members each get one vote.

Ohio's Mr. Football was selected by the Associated Press from 1987-2016. Since 2017 it has been presented by the Ohio Prep Sports Media Association.

The OPSMA All-Ohio teams will begin being released on Monday, Dec. 8.

Senior Brayden DeVito, Shelby, 5-11, 175, QB

The United States Air Force Academy commit led the Whippets to back-to-back undefeated regular seasons and the No. 1 ranking in the final Associated Press poll in 2025.

In 12 games, DeVito entered the regional championship on Nov. 21 with 2,783 yards and 35 touchdowns to just three interceptions on 165-of-221 pass attempts (75 percent completion rate). He had also run 106 times for 1,009 yards and 24 TDs on the ground. DeVito had 54 total TDs in just 31 quarters of action.

Shelby also entered the regional final having scored 30-plus points in 12 straight games, the longest active streak in Ohio. For his career, entering Week 14, DeVito is 700-of-1,060 passing (66 percent) for 12,440 yards (unofficially No. 4 in OHSAA history) with 120 TDs (13th in OHSAA history) and has rushed 516 times for 4,294 yards and 71 TDs with a career total of 196 TDs.

On track to become a three-time All-Ohio first team selection, DeVito was also All-Ohio first team in basketball and was a state placer in track as the first three-sport all-state player in school history.

Registration open for Renaissance Youth Opera Theatre Workshop

The Renaissance Performing Arts Association invites students in grades 2-12 to participate in the 2026 Renaissance Youth Opera Theatre (RYOT) Workshop Showcase, directed by Lori Turner. This engaging educational program, part of the Mechanics Bank Education Series, begins Jan. 6, 2026, with sessions leading up to a public showcase performance in February at Theatre 166.

The RYOT Workshop is designed to nurture creativity and performance skills in young artists through personalized instruction and ensemble collaboration. Participants will work one-on-one and in small groups with guest professionals, refining their vocal techniques, developing acting abilities, and building confidence on stage.

"RYOT provides a wonderful opportunity for young performers to grow their skills in a supportive, professional environment," said RYOT Director Lori Turner. "Every student has the chance to shine while discovering the joy of theatre."

The program features two age groups — one for students in grades 2-6 and another for grades 7-12 — allowing each participant to receive tailored coaching appropriate to their experience level. The workshop culminates in a fully staged showcase performance, featuring scenes and musical numbers from a variety of classic and contemporary works.

Registration is now open. To register contact Lori Turner at lori@mansfieldtickets.com. Space is limited.

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE

The following is a succinct summary of the legislation adopted by the Council of the City of Ontario, at their regular meeting held on November 19, 2025.

The complete text of this Ordinance may be viewed and copies obtained at the Office of the Clerk of Council, Ontario Municipal Building, 555 Stumbo Road, Ontario, Ohio, during regular business hours.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-26 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A DEED ON BEHALF OF THE CITY TO DONATE REAL ESTATE TO THE ONTARIO COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION THAT IS UNNEEDED AND HOLDS NO ECONOMIC VALUE TO THE CITY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Cathy VanAuker
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, OH
(T-C 11-27, 12-4 '25) 24L

PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids for Real Estate Auctioneering services will be received at the office of the Treasurer, Madison Local School District, 1379 Grace Street, Mansfield, Ohio 44905 until 9:00 a.m. on Monday, December 15, 2025, and will be publicly opened and read aloud immediately thereafter for the furnishing of all materials and performing all labor necessary for the **Madison Local Schools Real Property Disposal Auction**, in accordance with the specifications prepared and included on the following pages.

Specifications, bid instructions and documents may be obtained from the Madison Local Schools website at <https://www.ml原因sd.net/page/bids> and clicking on Real Property Disposal Auction Link.

Questions regarding the Sale or Bid Documents are to be submitted to the School District, attention Bradd Stevens, Treasurer. Phone: 419-589-2600 extension 765009, Email: bsteven@madisonrams.net.

Bids are to be sealed and addressed to Bradd Stevens, Treasurer, Madison Local School District – Board of Education, 1379 Grace Street, Mansfield, Ohio 44905, and plainly marked on the outside "Bid" for the work involved. No bidder shall change or withdraw their bid for 60 days after the date of the bid opening.

Each bidder shall ensure that all employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of age, sex, race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, or handicap. All bidding shall be in strict accordance with the Revised Code of Ohio. The Board of Education of the Madison Local School District reserves the right to accept or reject any, or part of any, or all said bids and waive any informalities.

By order of the Board of Education of the Madison Local School District.

Bradd Stevens, Treasurer
Board of Education of the
Madison Local School District
(T-C 12-4, 11 '25) 53L

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Real-time holiday mail counter goes live as USPS underscores readiness for mailing and shipping

The United States Postal Service's busiest holiday season is in full swing as its real-time Holiday Mail Counter goes live online, and Postal Service leaders say they are ready to deliver for every American's holiday mailing and shipping needs.

The Postal Service has made continued investments in network transformation and modernization, boosting the strong and reliable service customers have come to expect throughout the organization's 250 years of service to the nation. As it expands its role as the nation's end-to-end carrier of choice, the Postal Service's improvements in infrastructure, technology, and shipping standards are core components of holiday readiness in Ohio and across the nation.

The holiday season is the busiest time of year for the Postal Service and one of the most critical opportunities to serve communities in Ohio. Throughout its 250 years of service, the organization has evolved from horseback and steamships to the Next Generation Delivery Vehicles serving communities today. Thanks to investments made in Ohio and across the country, and the dedication of the USPS workforce, the Postal Service is prepared to deliver this holiday season reliably, quickly, and affordably.

The Postal Service has opened hundreds of expanded facilities with new state-of-the-art sorting machines, bringing the Postal Service total to 614 packaging sorting machines across the country. These investments have resulted in a daily processing capacity of approximately 88 million packages — up from 60 million last holiday season. The Postal Service also plans to hire 14,000 temporary employees to support the holiday season, complement the full-time workforce, and ensure the Postal Service can handle the extra holiday volume across the country.

The Postal Service remains the most affordable way to send mail and packages. This holiday season, customers can expect their mail and packages to be delivered, on average, in less than three days. For shipping within the same regional service areas, holiday customers can expect a 2-3-day turnaround.

Local hours at all post offices are available at usps.com.

The Postal Service has also launched a live holiday counter, keeping tally of how many mailpieces and packages have been accepted into the network this holiday season.

For holiday related information, including how to order free Postal Service shipping supplies, visit usps.com/holidaynews.

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