



TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com

01.01.26



THE RICHLAND AREA CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT celebrated the 28th Annual Small Business of the Year Awards. The event honored exceptional businesses and nonprofits whose dedication strengthens the economic vitality and quality of life in Richland County. Among the recipients was the Ohio Bird Sanctuary for Large Non-Profit of the Year (pictured). Other recipients included Small Non-Profit of the Year: Ultimate Veteran Adventures; Small Business of the Year – 14 Employees & Under: HerculesWash; and Small Business of the Year – 15 Employees & Over: Pinnacle Building Services.

Madison Board recognizes Tim Wigton for eight years of service

The Madison Local School Board met Dec. 17, in the Madison Middle School Auditoria.

The board opened the meeting by recognizing Tim Wigton's eight years of service to the district as a board member. The Ram Pride Award was presented to Holly North, Career Tech Business Management Technology teacher and Stacy Foote, middle school cafeteria worker.

Madison Middle School Principal Jordan Nelson and assistant principal/athletic director Andrew Kepple gave a presentation followed by a presentation from the Madison Middle School PTO.

Major Metals donated 16 sheets of 16 gauge carbon steel 60" x 120" valued at \$3,000, to be used by the welding technology and manufacturing technology programs. A donation of \$397.15 came from True North Energy as part of the Giving Pump program.



Tim Wigton

Treasurer Bradd Stevens' November monthly financial report was approved as was the petty cash custodian.

The board accepted the Cares for Classrooms grant received from Directions Credit Union in the amount of \$269, to be used by Michael Anderson to purchase classroom supplies.

A resolution was approved declaring the necessity of raising an additional \$6,271,368 annually for school district purposes, specifically, current expenses of the district.

If an additional income tax is approved at the May 5 election, it will be effective for a five-year period and the effective date would be Jan. 1, 2027.

A 2025 Land Auctioneer quote that was received on Dec. 15, was approved and the contract was awarded to RES Auction Services at a buyer's premium of 5 percent.

Supplemental positions filled for the 2025-'26 school year include Troy Schulz, Online Academy teacher, second semester; Brent Sanders, head middle school track coach; Megan Moysi, assistant middle school track coach; Michael Anderson, head varsity track coach; Jeff Burkholder, assistant varsity track coach; Kim Boehm, assistant varsity track coach; and Kalen Oslie, assistant varsity baseball coach.

Pupil activity positions for the 2025-'26 school include Tyler Amos, assistant middle school track coach; Tommy Hill, Varsity boys' tennis coach; Bill Roth, ½ assistant varsity track coach; and Joe Stupka, ½ assistant varsity track coach.

Substitute teachers hired on an "on call" basis, as needed for the current school year were Chloe Emmett, Teresa James, Peter Morris, Destinee Reynolds and Grayson Sasis. David Gilbert will volunteer as an assistant middle school track coach.

A leave of absence was approved for Ryan MacCredie, art teacher at Madison Comprehensive High School, effective Nov. 25 to July 31.

Substitute employees hired on an "on call" basis, as needed, for the current school year include Kelly Swank, bus driver; Dana Hallock, bus driver; and Alexis Osborne, administrative assistant.

A leave of absence was approved for James Ernsberger, 4-hour cafeteria worker at Madison South Elementary, effective Nov. 27 to Dec. 31. Derek Fisher resigned, effective Feb. 19 and Carolyn Stover will retire, effective Jan. 1.

The board amended a staffing agreement between Madison Local Schools, Mansfield Christian Schools and Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center from July 1, 2025 through July 31, 2026.

A student teacher mentor payment from Western Governors University to Erin Schulz in the amount of \$300, at no cost to the board, was approved. A student teacher mentor payment was accepted from Ashland University, at no cost to the board, for Amy Vickers, \$100; Tim Lord, \$40; Megan Studer, \$100; Melinda Tinney, \$100; and John Ihrig, \$100.

A first reading was conducted of revised board policies.

LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review
By Mandy Belczak Gurney



I finally went for it and tried the hyped-up book *The Wedding People* by Alison Espach.

Wow, it was so unexpected. I don't even know that I liked it, but I respect that it was an original story.

It's a wedding story that isn't a wedding story. It's not a rom-com.

It's a dark comedy that will catch you off guard in a good way.

They handle some tough themes in an honest and bold way. If you want a beach read, this is not it.

My rating: ★★☆☆

Follow my blog at [Green Gurneys](https://greengurneys.com) at [GreenGurneys.com](https://greengurneys.com)



Richland SWCD plans workshop

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD) has announced the popular quarterly Conservation Creation Arts and Crafts Workshop series will continue in 2026.

The workshops are free for up to 25 participants per workshop due to the generosity of donors who contributed to the recent Richland County Foundation Richland Gives campaign to cover the cost of supplies.

The workshops are held the second Tuesday in January, April, July, and October at 6 pm at the Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Ave., Mansfield, other than October. The October workshop location will be announced later.

Workshops pair an educational topic connected to the natural world with a craft or art project.

The first workshop, "Get Organized!" is Jan. 13. Participants will re-purpose a tin can into a pretty container and Richland County Solid Waste Management Authority will provide a program about recycling. All workshop materials and tools are provided. Register at <https://richlandswcd.net/event/get-organized-conservation-creation-arts-crafts-workshop/>.

THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —

One of the best films of the year is Josh Safdie's *Marty Supreme*.

This is not based specifically on a real life person, but inspired by a real life person's events.

Timothee Chalamet gives a terrific performance as Marty Mouser, a shoe salesman in 1950s New York who is also a terrific ping pong player.

He is competing in London and wants to win, take the sport to the U.S. and is hoping it becomes just as popular.

After losing to an opponent from Japan, Marty does all he can to get money together to try to win again.

What makes this movie so entertaining is Chalamet's ability to make this extremely unlikely character so driven and watchable.

Marty will do anything to get money. He schemes, cons and lies his way to get ahead. Marty is confident to the point of arrogance and everything that everyone tells him not to do, he does, most times to his own detriment and our entertainment.

The supporting cast is so interesting including Gwyneth Paltrow who stars as an aging film

actress trying to make a comeback. Her husband is played by

Kevin O'Leary from TV's *Shark Tank*. Another standout is Odessa A'zion playing a childhood friend of Marty's who plays a bigger role in his life.

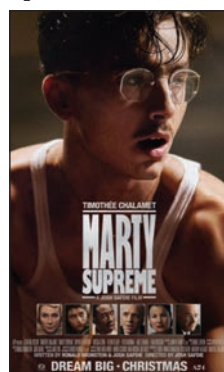
Josh Safdie made the extremely underrated *Uncut Gems* with his brother Benny. He uses some great 80s music for the soundtrack for this movie along with a great score by

Daniel Lopatin.

He shoots at a frantic pace and the dialogue flies off the screen. The actors handle it so well and Chalamet is perfect in this role.

Its amazing watching everything Marty gets away with and the ping pong scenes are very well shot, though this is not necessarily a sports movie like it is advertised.

Marty Supreme is a great film that I look forward to rewatching just to see everything again from a different perspective. Chalamet owns this role and he and Safdie working together are fantastic. This is a great movie.



YOUTHS IN THE CARE OF Richland County Children Services (RCCS) received gifts donated by generous communities across Richland County for the Richland Correctional Institution and Richland County Children Services "Holiday Toy Drive." The warehouse was transformed into Santa's Workshop and families had the opportunity to meet Santa Claus, enjoy Christmas cookies and hot chocolate. This year, hundreds of toys were collected through community partnerships, individuals, and corporate donations. Richland Correctional Institution (RCI), in collaboration with Richland County Children Services (RCCS), hosted a "Holiday Toy Drive" from Oct. 20 to Dec. 1 for youths in the care of RCCS.

Vol. 65
No. 12

Tribune-Courier



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

PO Box 127, Ontario, OH 44862 • 419-529-2847
news@tribune-courier.com • www.tribune-courier.com
© All Rights Reserved

The Tribune-Courier is published by Stumbo Publishing Co., Inc. Advertisers should check their ad immediately. The Tribune-Courier is not liable for failure to publish an ad or for a typographical error or errors in publication, except that adjustment for Tribune-Courier errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. Marc A. Stumbo, publisher; Frank A. Stumbo, president/CEO (1961-2018); Betty E. Stumbo, co-publisher (1961-2017); Jenna M. Wolford, managing editor, general manager and feature/travel writer; Teresa Vore, office manager; Traci Little, photojournalist/advertising representative; Kris Leiter, sports writer; John J. Kirschenheiter, editor (1961-2008); Linda Fulmer, columnist (2005-2014). By-lined stories are opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the position of this newspaper.



City of Ontario Mayor Kris Knapp
and "The Best Volunteer" Alex Milli

Alex Milli honored by City of Ontario as "The Best Volunteer"

Alex Milli was honored as "The Best Volunteer" by the City of Ontario for volunteering in the City of Ontario Tax Department from April 24, 2019, through July 25, 2025.

Milli is a retired accountant and offered to volunteer for the City of Ontario one day when he came to pay his water bill.

He calculated that he donated 1,561.5 hours or approximately 39 months of volunteer service.

He stated that he wanted to help with the grunt work so the tax department could focus on technical issues and that he would scan documents, remove staples from papers and purge files.

Tax Clerk Sallie Neal expressed sincere appreciation for his service to the City of Ontario. He was presented a certificate of appreciation from Mayor Kris Knapp.

Milli stated that he never left the city building without feeling good about what he did. The tax department always appreciated that he brought a sense of humor every day he came in.

News Briefs

The Mansfield/Richland County Public Library (MRCPL) Evergreen Bookshop will be open for the monthly Friends' Used Book Sale on Friday, Jan. 9, from noon to 4 pm and Saturday, Jan. 10, from 10 am to 3 pm.

A preview sale will be held for Friends of the Library members only on Thursday, Jan. 8, from noon to 4 pm. Memberships may be purchased at the preview sale (\$3 per year for individuals).

The sale is sponsored by the Friends of the Mansfield/Richland County Public Library. Materials are library discards and donations offered for sale at low prices. The bookshop is stocked with "new to the store" items each month. All proceeds sponsor MRCPL activities.

The bookshop is staffed exclusively by volunteers in downtown Mansfield at 37 N. Walnut St., next to the main library.

For more information call 419-526-4652 or visit <https://www.facebook.com/EvergreenBookshopFOL>.

★

All Souls Unitarian Universalist of Bellville, 25 Church St., Bellville, will have a Lay-led reflection and shared worship on Sunday, Jan. 1, at 10:30 am. For information visit www.allsoulsuohio.org.

★

All locations of the Mansfield/Richland County Public Library (MRCPL) will be closed Thursday, Jan. 1. All locations will close at 5 pm on Dec. 31. The First Call 211 lobby will also be closed. First Call 211 can be reached by dialing 2-1-1 24/7, 365 days per year for non-emergency services. Visit mrcpl.org for more information.

★

A swearing-in ceremony will be held for Springfield Township Trustee Paul Gleisinger, Trustee Anita Kochheiser and Fiscal Officer Amanda Hike on Wednesday, Dec. 31, at 9:30 am at Springfield Twp. Fire Station # 1, 3700 Park Avenue West, Ontario. The public is invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served.



Scan to Subscribe
to the FREE
Weekly Issue

Or Visit <http://eepurl.com/hnS9N9>

Always in your corner. (And right around it.)
Always your bank.

Here's a promise: we're wholeheartedly here for you.
Because Mechanics is always your neighbor, always your
go-to financial expert, and—of course—**always your bank.**

mymechanics.com

Member FDIC

**Mechanics
Bank**

MRCPL expands creative and tech spaces at main library

Mansfield Richland County Public Library (MRCPL) will begin construction on a renovated Learning Lab and a new Creation Lab at the main library.

HBM Architects will start construction on Monday, Jan. 5, on the second floor in the current Learning Lab space.

"We are excited to begin construction on a creative and collaborative space for the community. The staff have been offering more and more Creation Lab technology over time and this gives them the opportunity to do so in a dedicated space," said library director, Chris May. The project is projected to be completed by Spring 2026.

The renovated Learning Lab will feature bold new colors and updated technology, including a new copy machine and will continue to serve as the hub for the library's technology classes.

The new Creation Lab will be a hands-on creative learning center offering innovative tools and technology for customer use, including 3D printers, 3D pens, a Cricut® an embroidery machine and more.

The lab's popular computer classes will continue during construction but will be held in alternate public spaces within the Main Library and, at times, off-site at other MRCPL locations. Customers are encouraged to carefully review location details on the online event calendar when registering for classes.

Public computers will remain available on the second floor in the adult area and a Laptop Kiosk will be available for library cardholders who wish to work in alternate library spaces. Learning Lab staff will continue to provide technology assistance and one-on-one help from the main reference desk.

Customers may call 419-521-3146 or email learning@mrcpl.org to

schedule appointments or reserve use of the current Creation Station equipment (button maker, laminator, label maker, Cricut® Explore 3 and photo printer).

Please note that the library will be unable to control noise levels during construction. However, the main library offers several quiet study spaces, soundproof study pods, and meeting rooms for public use, and the additional library departments should be protected from most construction noise.

The main library, located at 43 W. Third St., Mansfield, is open Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 8 pm; Friday and Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm; and Sunday from 1-5 pm. For more information about this exciting project visit mrcpl.org.



THE LEARNING LAB at the MRCPL main library will be transformed into the Creation Lab. The Learning Lab will move to a space adjacent to the current lab. Learning Lab staff will cover both spaces.

Church Directory

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.

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

Trinity Grace Fellowship

1592 Grace St., Mansfield
419-589-5890 • trinitygracefellowship.org

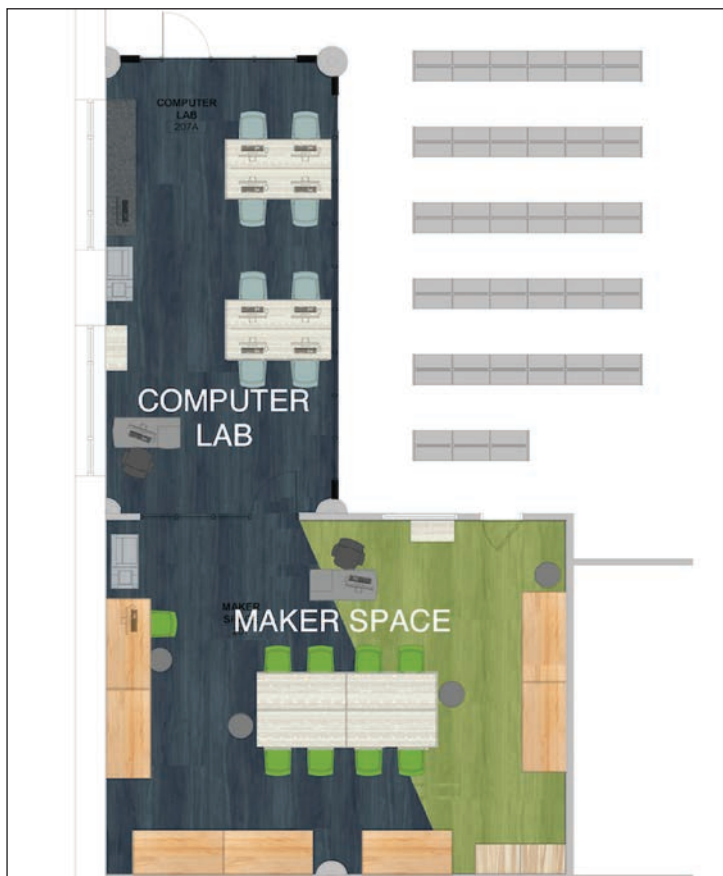
Pastor Larry Carnes
9:30 am Sunday Worship • 11 am Sunday School
Bible Study Mondays 2 pm

G & M Body & Paint Shop

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

Wappner Funeral Home

Mansfield • Ontario • Ashland • 419-522-5211



Lexington Board of Education holds busy final meeting of 2025

Lexington Local Schools Board of Education met Wednesday, Dec. 17. In attendance was student representative Emma Racquet.

The treasurer presented the monthly financial report for November and the board approved the renewal with Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield for medical, RX, and dental insurance administrative services for Calendar Year 2026. The rates will be medical/Rx/stop loss administrative fees of \$39.82 per employee per month; dental administrative fees of \$5.16 per employee per month; and pharmacy rebate offset of \$42.68 per employee per month.

The board also approved specific stop loss coverage through Anthem for Calendar Year 2026 at a premium of \$290.42 per employee per month.

Mark Hoover Jr. resigned as a high school science teacher, effective May 29, 2026.

Jane Goodall was approved for a continuing contract, effective Dec. 17.

Salary adjustments were approved for the 2025-'26 school year for Kaitlyn Swartzmiller, BA to BA + 10; Cassandra Rigglesman, MSW to MSW + 10; and Bruce Dewey, MA + 20 to MA + 30.

Employment for the 2025-'26 school year was granted to John Murray, educational aide, high school; Christina Hicks, food service, 2-hour general help, Eastern Elementary; Vivian Cockley, food service substitute; Stacey Kinkel, food service substitute; Janice Knox, food service substitute; Suzanne Fackelman, long-term substitute, second semester for elementary music at Central and Western; Jana Rhoad, long-term substitute, high school, tentatively Jan. 22 through March 13; Kayla Jones, junior high substitute; and Ray Cunningham, interim transportation director, remainder of the 2025-'26 school year.

Patrick O'Connell, JV softball; Jamie Masi assistant varsity football; and Mike Schwechheimer, JV baseball, resigned from their coaching positions.

Nick Teglovic will be the weight/strength coach for December and January.

The board moved to rescind and adopt board policies.

An amendment was made to the 2025-'26 high school handbook, changing the old language in the handbook to match the newly adopted policy. In accordance with Ohio House Bill 96 students are not permitted to use any personal communication device during the school day. This includes cell phones, smartwatches, headphones, earbuds, AirPods and any other device capable of communication, messaging, calling, recording, audio playback or accessing the internet during school hours (7:40 am to 2:34 pm).

All personal communication devices must be powered off or silenced and stored out of sight, preferably in a bookbag or locker. Devices may not be used in between classes, during study hall, during lunch or during any part of the school day. Teachers and staff cannot give permission for students to use these devices during school hours for any purpose, including instructional activities (All exceptions must be approved by an administrator).

A Memorandum of Understanding was agreed upon between the Lexington Local School District Board of Education and the Lexington Teachers Association.

A Memorandum of Understanding was reached between the Lexington Local School District Board of Education and the Lexington Support Association.

The ODEW precaution workbook and narrative was approved.

The board approved the final version of the District Tax Policy as developed during previous special meetings with the community and David Conley of Rockmill Financial.

A resolution requesting certification of estimated tax rates for an income tax was approved by the board.

Treasurer Jason Whitesel was chosen as the designee on behalf of Dr. Gottschling, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Schuster, Mr. Stoner, Ms. Whitney, and board-elect Mr. Dover for the Auditor of the State public records training.

The board voted to join the OSBA for calendar year 2026.

2026 board meeting dates and times were set.

The board approved the substitute lists as provided by MOESC dated Dec. 12, 2025-Jan. 9, 2026.

Looking ahead the next few months, the school calendar shows that classes will resume after Christmas break on Monday, Jan. 5. There will be no school on Monday, Jan. 19 for the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday and there will be a one-hour early release for a staff curriculum meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 28.

There will be no school on Monday, Feb. 16 in recognition of Presidents' Day and there will be a one-hour early release on Thursday, Feb. 26 for staff curriculum meetings.

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Michael David Doherty, December 14
Charles Edward Hatfield, December 15
Marianne Zajack, December 15
Judith Kathleen Brendus, December 16
Jennifer Lynn Phillips, December 16
Robin Lorene Clevenger, December 17
Freda Merle Lawhorn, December 17
Jerry Michael Rodgers, December 18
Pauline Ingold, December 19
Bertha Dianna Mounts, December 23
Melissa Sue Snyder, December 24
Mary Louise Froats, December 26

View Full Obituaries at www.dignitymemorial.com

Our Family Serving Your Family for Five Generations Since 1872



WAPPNER
Funeral Directors & Crematory

Three Locations to Serve You

Mansfield • 98 South Diamond St. • 419-522-5211
Ontario • 100 S. Lexington-Springmill Rd. • 419-529-2323
Ashland • 308 Claremont Avenue • 419-289-1552

www.wappner.com

HAPPY
NEW YEAR!



From The Madison Adult Career Center

First group completes MWCD Ranger Cadet Program

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) has announced the early achievements of its Ranger Cadet Program, a workforce development initiative designed to recruit, train and prepare the next generation of MWCD rangers. The Ranger Cadet Program provides a structured pathway for qualified candidates to enter the field of law enforcement in the natural resources environment as MWCD park rangers.

Participants are hired as full-time Ranger Cadets with benefits including health, vision, dental, life insurance and paid leave and begin paying into the Ohio Public Employee Retirement System as cadets. They are enrolled in a MWCD-approved Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) as part of their full-time employment. MWCD pays the tuition up front for OPOTA. Upon successful completion of the academy and passing of the state certification, cadets transition into full-time bargaining unit ranger positions across MWCD parks and lakes.

Since its adoption in February 2025, the program has resulted in the hiring of three Ranger Cadets who have successfully completed the required training and have now joined as full-time rangers.

The first group of Ranger Cadets includes Cameron Ewing, Pleasant Hill Park Ranger; Wyatt Stanfield, Charles Mill Park Ranger; and

Brady Positano, Tappan Park Ranger. Rangers Ewing and Stanfield attended the OPOTA Academy at EHOVE Career Center in Milan, Ohio. Ranger Positano attended at the Buckeye Career Center OPOTA Academy.

"The success of our first three Ranger Cadets is a clear testament to the strength of the program and to the commitment of these individuals," said Mary Burley, Chief of Human Resources. "This initiative not only enhances our ability to build a highly skilled ranger workforce but also strengthens MWCD's long-term capacity to protect our natural resources and ensure an excellent visitor experience."

MWCD's investment in this program reflects a pillar of our 5 Year Strategic Plan "Strengthening our Workforce" specifically in the public safety services area in this case, while creating a sustainable pathway to hire future rangers. The success of the program demonstrates both the need for and the effectiveness of a structured, supportive career-entry model.

"We are committed to building a ranger staff that reflects professionalism, preparedness, and passion for our mission," said Pete Novotny, MWCD Chief of Recreation. "The Ranger Cadet Program equips new hires with the training and real-world experience they need to succeed."

With Rangers Ewing, Stanfield and Positano now successfully hired into full-time roles, MWCD looks forward to continuing the program and welcoming future applicants interested in blending law enforcement, natural resources education and outdoor recreation as a rewarding public service career.



Happy New Year!
From Everyone At




419-526-4747 • schmidtsecurity.com



THE FIRST GROUP to complete the MWCD Ranger Cadet Program include front, Brady Positano, Wyatt Stanfield and Cameron Ewing; middle, Michael Mahaffey and John Lewis; and back, Mary Burley and Craig Butler.

Happy New Year



75 N. Walnut St, Mansfield
419.522.8224
richlandacademy.com

Calvary Baptist Church shares the gift of Christmas through music

Photos and Article By Traci Little

ASHLAND — Families and friends gathered at Calvary Baptist Church for a special evening of worship and music as Calvary Worship presented “Heaven’s Greatest Gift,” a multi-generational Christmas choir program celebrating the hope and joy of Christ’s birth.

The evening opened with a reflective prelude by accompanist Rebecca Cehulik, followed by a video presentation titled “Why We Gather,” inviting attendees to pause and reflect on the deeper meaning of the Christmas season.

The Calvary Orchestra then led the congregation in the familiar hymn “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear,” setting the tone for the night. A video-centered selection, “One Sacred Night,” followed, underscoring the wonder of the Nativity, before all choirs joined together for “Gloria” and “Angels (Glory to God),” filling the sanctuary with joyful praise.

One of the evening’s highlights came during The Bells, featuring soloists Kelly Rector, Teanna Elliott and Anna Ramirez, whose performances added emotion and depth to the stirring arrangement. The adult choir later presented the program’s title piece, Heaven’s Greatest Gift, which included a duet by Alicia Cable and Jackson Hodges.

As the program continued, the adult choir shared “Fear Not” and “Welcome, Jesus, Our Redeemer,” offering powerful reminders of the peace and hope found in the Christmas story. A special spotlight was also given to ACCESS, a local faith-based nonprofit ministry, with attendees invited to support the organization through a love offering.

All choirs returned to the platform for “Holy Forever (Come Let Us Adore Him),” featuring soloists Lily Keller and Abby Keller, creating a moving moment of collective worship. Pastor Harry Strachan offered closing remarks before the congregation rose to join in a spirited rendition of “Joy to the World,” bringing the evening to a joyful conclusion.

The program was led by choir directors Andrea Strachan, Amber Bishop and Josh Cehulik, with orchestra direction by Amy Keller and narration by Pastor Strachan. Audio and visual support was provided by Matt Lamborn and Tony Boscia. Participating ensembles included the Calvary Worship Choir, Calvary Teens Worship Choir, Calvary Kids Worship Choir and the Calvary Orchestra.

Heaven’s Greatest Gift reflected Calvary Baptist Church’s commitment to worship, community, and sharing the message of Christ’s love across generations — a meaningful celebration of Christmas for all who attended.

For more information about ACCESS and how to support its mission of providing emergency and transitional shelter for women and families in Ashland County, visit facebook.com/ashlandaccess419.



TCS celebrates the season with annual Christmas concert

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Families, friends and supporters gathered to celebrate the Christmas season during Temple Christian School's annual Christmas Concert — an evening filled with joyful music, meaningful moments, and reminders of the hope and peace found in the Christmas story.

The night opened with a festive prelude by the junior high and senior high chimes, directed by Madison Knepshield, setting the tone for the celebration. The junior high and senior high choirs followed with a mix of beloved Christmas favorites and contemporary selections, including "Christmas Day," "Noel, Noel," "O Come All Ye Faithful (His Name Shall Be)," and "Away in a Manger." Student soloists and narration added special touches throughout the performance, making each song feel personal and heartfelt.

Younger students brought plenty of smiles to the audience as the K3-K5 choir, led by Danielle Ash, took the stage. Their performance included "Come On," "Ring Those Bells," "I'll Give My Love," and a sweet poem titled "What Can I Give Him," capturing the joy and wonder of Christmas through young voices.

The elementary choir, under the direction of Alicia Porter, presented a creative and fun musical program featuring songs such as "Countdown," "What Sense Does a Census Make," "Treigonometry,"

"He Can Count on Me" and "It All Adds Up." The performance included several student soloists and a drama element that helped tell the Christmas story in a memorable and engaging way.

A dramatic presentation directed by Jillian Hannan tied the elementary program together, with students portraying a variety of characters who helped bring the story to life. The evening concluded with a powerful performance of "Carol of the Bells" by the senior high chimes.

In closing remarks, Pastor Kurtz reminded those in attendance of the true meaning of Christmas — that even in the busyness of life, the birth of Christ brings lasting hope, peace, and joy. School leaders also thanked families for their continued support of Temple Christian School and invited guests to enjoy student projects displayed throughout the building.

WE WISH YOU HAPPINESS AND A
**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**

Advantage
Credit Union, Inc. 700 Stumbo Rd., Ontario

**Happy New Year
2026**

*Wishing you all the best
in the year to come!*

B-Dry 419-756-5368
800-686-4585
www.bdryohio.com

*"When only the permanent
solution will do!"*



**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

2026

MANSFIELD BAPTIST



Photos By Traci Little



OSU-M helped change student's perspective on college and life

College didn't start quite the way Tay Kramer had hoped, but when she graduated from The Ohio State University with a degree in social work, she put the finishing touches on an experience that changed her life for the best.

Kramer came to Ohio State Mansfield in the fall of 2022, just two weeks after starting at another college that was not for her. In tears and unsure of what to do, she called her father to come and get her.

"He picked me up and walked me into the doors of Ohio State" she said. "I was greeted with open arms, something I've never experienced in my life. The admissions staff sat me down, talked me through the process and got me enrolled in literally an hour."

Although she was interested in criminal justice, Kramer decided to enroll in social work, a field that gave her broad exposure to social issues, and one of 12 degrees students can complete at Ohio State Mansfield.



Tay Kramer and Professor Howard-I

But her challenges were not over. She started with a low GPA, low enough that she faced being dismissed if her grades didn't improve. And then in 2023, her house burned down, destroying nearly everything, including her laptop and school supplies.

Fortunately, no one was hurt, and thanks to the Student Emergency Fund at campus, she was able to buy the essential items she needed for class.

"It was finals week and I had no computer, no laptop, no nothing and they gave me \$800 for a laptop, a book bag, pens and so forth," she said.

With all the support she received at Mansfield, Kramer quickly improved her classroom performance and today she has a perfect 4.0 GPA.

At the spring 2025 student awards ceremony, she received the Social Work Book Award. Thanks to all her hard work, she also was accepted into the Accelerated Master's program and will begin her master's in social work in 2026.

Kramer credits the staff and faculty at Ohio State for helping her get her foot in the door.

"Ohio State Mansfield changed my entire life," she said. "If they wouldn't have taken me in like they did three years ago, I don't know where I would be."

One of the people she worked with most closely was academic advisor Jessica Luttrell. According to Luttrell, Kramer brought "remarkable dedication" to her academic and professional pursuits.

"Tay consistently demonstrates focus, perseverance, and an unwavering commitment to excellence," said Luttrell. "In my time working with her, I've seen her tackle challenges with maturity, ask thoughtful questions, and seek out opportunities to grow — qualities that set her apart as a truly exceptional student."

Kramer completed an internship with the Richland County Juvenile Court and is currently interviewing for full-time employment in her field.

If she had college do over, there is one thing she would have done differently. She would have started at Ohio State Mansfield.

"I recommend Mansfield to all of my friends and my little sister and her friends," said Kramer. "I am a first-generation college student, and thanks to this campus, I found where I was meant to be."

Kramer is a graduate of Mapleton High School.

WE WISH YOU JOY AND A

2026 HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Allure
STUDIOS
salon & spa

491 Lexington Ave, Mansfield
(419) 774-9600

Scan to Subscribe FREE

TRIBUNE-COURIER
RICHLAND COUNTY'S ONLY LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER (SINCE 1961)

Lexington BOE busy during organizational meeting

Or Visit <http://eepurl.com/hnS9N9>

Happy New Year!

Wishing you a happy and healthy new year from all of us at Ohio State Mansfield

O
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
MANSFIELD

2026 HAPPY NEW YEAR

BlueScope Recycling

2384 Springmill Rd,
Mansfield, OH 44903

News Briefs in Education

Bowling Green State University undergraduate students who achieved grade point averages of 3.5 or higher during the fall 2025 semester have been named to their respective college's dean's list.

To be selected for the list, students must carry no fewer than 12 letter-graded credit hours per semester.

On the list are Grace Sarbach, Bellville; Devin Darr, Ashland; Nate Lind, Bellville; Coleman Miller, Bellville; Evan Picchioni, Bellville; Jaxon Brown, Bellville; Cameron Wuchich, Shelby; Isabelle Pohlbel, Shelby; Caleb Baker, Shelby; Alexis Mohn, Shelby; Luke Lesseuer, Shelby; Katherine Cole, Shelby; Alyssa Booker, Shelby; Kendall Lantz, Shelby; Maryn Lantz, Shelby; Ava Bowman, Shelby; Allegra Ruhl, Mansfield; Aspen Payne, Mansfield; Kennedy Weiler, Ontario; Alexander Phillips, Ontario; Brooklinn Tanner, Mansfield; Isabelle Thoman, Mansfield; Jiselle Martinez, Mansfield; Jordan Rader, Mansfield; Noah Poole, Mansfield; Landon Sowards, Mansfield; Jayla Hall, Ontario; Chloe Dean, Mansfield; Ariyah White, Mansfield; Max Montgomery, Mansfield; Brandon Walker, Mansfield; Nevaeh Chastain, Mansfield; Lily Feasel, Mansfield; Madalyn Huvler, Lexington; Chance Boggs, Mansfield; Olivia Barley, Mansfield; Alivia Ash, Mansfield; Kendyll Kershner, Mansfield; Brody Phillips, Ontario; Sophie Henderson, Mansfield; Andrew Stephens, Mansfield; Madison Carns, Mansfield; Macy Chambers, Mansfield; Sydney Phillips, Mansfield; Francis Duncan, Mansfield and Emma Kline, Mansfield.

★

Hannah Smith of Lexington was named to PennWest University's fall 2025 dean's list.

Smith, a PennWest Clarion student who is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders, was among nearly 3,000 outstanding PennWest students recognized for superior academic performance during the fall semester.

To be eligible for the list, degree-seeking undergraduate students must earn a minimum semester GPA of 3.4 while taking at least 12 graded credits.

★

Caleb Hupp of Mansfield, was named to the dean's honor list at Cedarville University for fall 2025. This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.75 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

★

Presley Davis of Mansfield was among over half of Belmont University's undergraduate students named to the fall 2025 semester

dean's list. Approximately 55% of the University's 6,934 undergraduate students qualified this semester.

Dean's list eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

★

Students at Cedarville University have been named to the dean's list for the fall 2025 semester. This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.50 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

On the list are Ian Barnes of Ontario and Emma Caldwell of Lexington.

Cedarville University is located in southwest Ohio.



Mansfield Club to host Talkin' Cleveland Baseball event

The Kiwanis Club of Mansfield will host a "Talkin' Cleveland Baseball" luncheon featuring a live auction of baseball items. Keynote speakers are Bob DiBasio, Cleveland Guardians Senior Vice-President of Public Affairs, radio broadcaster Jim Rosenhaus and television broadcaster Matt Underwood. The event takes place on Thursday, Feb. 12, at Der Dutchman Restaurant, 720 St. Rt. 97 W., Bellville.

Doors open at 10:45 am and the program begins at 11:30 am. Tickets are \$25 and include lunch buffet. Tickets are available at the Park National Bank Ontario office on Lexington-Springmill Rd. and from any Kiwanis Club of Mansfield member. Tickets may also be purchased online at <https://thekiwanisclubofmansfield.org/>. Click on the "event" tab to purchase. Net proceeds from the event will benefit The Friendly House Afterschool Program. Sponsorship is provided by Richland County Agricultural Society, Park National Bank, Ritter's Office Outfitters, Mechanics Bank and Warren-Rupp.

The Kiwanis Club of Mansfield was chartered in June 1920. It's partnership with the Friendly House dates to 1924. Founded in 1915, Kiwanis International is a global organization of clubs and members dedicated to serving the children of the world. Kiwanis and its family of clubs, including Circle K International for university students, Key Club for students ages 14-18, Builders Club for students ages 11-14, Kiwanis Kids for students ages 6-12 and Aktion Club for adults living with disabilities, dedicate annually more than 18 million service hours to strengthen communities and serve children.



Area Agency on Aging presents awards at annual meeting

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. held its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 9, at the Mid-Ohio Conference Center in Mansfield. More than 220 guests attended, including service providers, Corporate and Foundation Board members, Advisory Council members, community partners, staff, and dignitaries.

Platinum Sponsors for the event were Mechanics Bank and ES Consulting. Proceeds from the Annual Meeting will support scholarships for students pursuing fields of study, certification programs, or degrees that advance aging services and the field of aging.

Chief Executive Officer Duana Patton and President of the Board of Trustees Jason Painley presided over the meeting, which highlighted the Agency's accomplishments throughout 2025.

During the event, the Area Agency on Aging presented its 2025 Annual Awards:

Project Collaboration Award – Mayor Bill Collins, City of Marion

Mayor Collins demonstrated exceptional leadership in uniting resources to support older adults in Marion. In May 2024, he convened the Marion Senior Task Force, bringing county partners, agencies, and community leaders together with one shared mission: enhancing support for older adults. The Agency recognized his vision, collaboration, and commitment to community progress.

Community Partnership Award – Clint Knight

As Workforce Development Director at the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development, Clint Knight identified a need to strengthen behavioral health supports for older adults and successfully engaged key partners to make it happen. His leadership has contributed to a more responsive and supportive system for older residents.

Advocate of the Year Award – Phil DeVoe

A dedicated Shriner, Phil DeVoe has transformed compassion into action through his steadfast efforts to ensure medical equipment reaches those who need it most. His reliability, generosity, and commitment to service have made him an invaluable community partner — so much so that AAA5 proudly includes him in its Resource Guide. His work embodies the true essence of advocacy.

Award of Excellence – Commander William Myers, VFW Post 9943

Commander Myers and VFW Post 9943 have become strong partners to the Agency, creating meaningful improvements in the lives of local veterans and their spouses. Through his leadership, the Agency has been able to expand support for home safety, essential needs, and independence. His efforts have also inspired other VFW posts to join this growing network of support.

Award of Excellence – Tina Groves-Pine

As Social Services Director at Good Shepherd Home, Tina Groves-Pine is known for her professionalism, compassion, and steady leadership. Her responsiveness and dedication ensure that individuals maintain the supports they rely on, making her a trusted and respected partner in care.

Hall of Fame Inductee – Diane Ramey

The Agency honored Diane Ramey for her 31-year career, during which she helped build the foundation of the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging. Beginning as a case manager in 1994 and later serving as Assistant Director, Diane led with integrity, fairness, and unwavering commitment. Her contributions are reflected both in the programs she developed and the guidance she generously provided to others.

For more information about Area Agency on Aging programs and services, call 419-524-4144 or 800-560-5799.

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc., located in Ontario, provides leadership, collaboration, coordination and services to older adults, people with disabilities, caregivers and resource networks.



TRINITY
GRACE
FELLOWSHIP
A GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Larry Carnes
Sunday Service 9:30 AM
1592 Grace ST, Mansfield



JOIN US FOR A PREVIEW NIGHT

Sessions available at 5:30 or 7:00 pm

JANUARY 15

Grades 7-12

JANUARY 29

PreK - Kindergarten

JANUARY 20

Grades 1-6

JANUARY 15 & 20

Independent Studies



MANSFIELD
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE

**Priority Applications Accepted For
The 26-27 School Year Until January 31**



KCCC STUDENTS Bowman, Schrienk, Payne and Parrish received the Tim Hall Food for the Hungry Service Award

KCCC students receive Tim Hall Food for the Hungry Service Award

Knox County Career Center (KCCC) announced its fifth annual Tim Hall Food for the Hungry Service Award winners. Kailyn Bowman (Cosmetology), Hunter Schrienk (Automotive Technology), Tyson Payne (HVAC) and Gracelynn Parrish (Collision Repair) all received the award.

The award was established to honor the efforts of Tim Hall and KCCC students and recognizes students with a servant's heart who went above and beyond to help with the Food for the Hungry drive. Tim Hall, a longtime Collision Repair instructor at KCCC, has made it his mission to help serve Knox County since 1995.

Years ago, Hall wanted to buy lab tools for the Collision Repair program. He had a conversation with Ray Richardson, KCCC Superintendent at the time, about purchasing the tools. Richardson obliged, but wanted to take things one step further.

He asked Hall to work to instill a sense of giving in his students and find a way to give back to the community. Out of that conversation came a vision to restore vehicles by Hall.

Since 1995 countless vehicles, mostly trucks, have been restored and sold with the profits going to those in need. Several trucks sold for \$15,000-\$20,000. One of the first vehicles to be auctioned for charity was a 1994 Z28 Camaro.

In addition to restoring vehicles, Collision Repair students would also do car washes and collect food items. For several years, the money raised was donated to Make-A-Wish Foundation. Food for the Hungry then became a favorite for Collision Repair. To this day, former students still talk about their experience working on vehicles for the drive. Students sometimes spent part of their Thanksgiving Break and worked many hours to get the vehicles ready in time for the Food for the Hungry vehicle auction. Students took pride in the project and were proud to give of their time and efforts.

Knight to serve at Institute for Organization Management

Institute for Organization Management, the professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, has chosen Clint Knight, Workforce Development Director of the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development and Area 10 Workforce Development Board Director, to serve as a faculty member. Institute is an intensive week-long nonprofit leadership training program held across four sites annually.

Since its commencement in 1921, the Institute program has been educating tens of thousands of association, chamber and other nonprofit leaders on how to build stronger organizations, better serve their members and become strong business advocates.

Institute's faculty members come from varied backgrounds within the nonprofit industry, all with a commitment to providing the best education for chamber and association professionals. The faculty plays a pivotal role throughout the week, providing instruction and sharing resources in targeted courses. Many Institute faculty members continue to offer their guidance to students and their organizations throughout the year.

"Institute's faculty members are truly the experts in their respective fields," said Raymond P. Towle, IOM, CAE, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's vice president of Institute for Organization Management. "These individuals each bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Institute classroom that is unparalleled in nonprofit management."

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.

Wishing you a year filled
with love, joy and success.
May each day bring you closer
to your goals and dreams.

2026

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

SuttonBank  
Old-fashioned Innovation

863 North Lexington-Springmill Rd. | (419) 747-7712

HAPPY
NEW YEAR!

2026

*From The Staff at
St. Mary of the Snows*

2026

Happy New Year

BP ELECTRIC

419-884-2261 INDUSTRIAL | RESIDENTIAL | COMMERCIAL

Free tuition can be a game changer for future OSU-M students

Earning a degree from The Ohio State University became much more obtainable in the fall of 2025, when university president Walter "Ted" Carter Jr. announced a program that allows qualifying students to attend for free.

Known as the Regional Campus Commitment, students from families that have an adjusted gross income of \$100,000 or less can be guaranteed a free tuition as long as they are Ohio residents, submit their FAFSA by Feb. 1, 2026, and complete their first year at one of Ohio State's regional campuses, beginning with the fall of 2026.

"This is an opportunity that helps make college education more doable and manageable," said Diane Kanney, director of regional campus recruitment strategies and initiatives for Ohio State. "Tuition can sometimes be a barrier to families who want to send their son or daughter to college, and the university has worked very hard to remove that barrier."

In addition to the Feb. 1 FAFSA deadline, students also must continue to meet Ohio State's basic guidelines for full-time enrollment. Federal funding and scholarships will apply first, and the remainder of tuition will be covered by the Regional Campus Commitment.

"It's pretty much a guarantee that if students are interested in college and they meet the basic requirements, they can get here and not have to worry about paying for tuition," said Rosie Driver, admissions recruitment coordinator at Ohio State Mansfield and Alumna ('21).

At Mansfield, students can begin any of Ohio State's 200-plus degrees and they can complete 12 on campus. Students can campus change to Columbus after the first year, or they can remain at Mansfield. Either way, their tuition will be covered.

"This is a major investment in the students and the regional campuses," said Kendra Boggs, financial aid advisor at Ohio State Mansfield. "This opens up pathways for students who maybe thought they wouldn't be able to go."

By saving on tuition, students can focus on other life expenses like transportation, housing, food and books.

"This can open up opportunities where they can get a superior education – for little or no debt," said Boggs.

Ohio State also continues to offer the Buckeye Opportunity Program for families who are Pell-eligible. Altogether, Mansfield students received nearly 1.1 million in scholarship funds for 2025. This grant serves as a tuition gap-filler, covering remaining tuition costs after other aid, excluding loans, has been applied.

It's difficult to say how many students may qualify for the Regional Campus program, but Ohio State Mansfield wants to reach as many Ohioans as possible. This is part of the land-grant mission, and part of being a flagship public university.

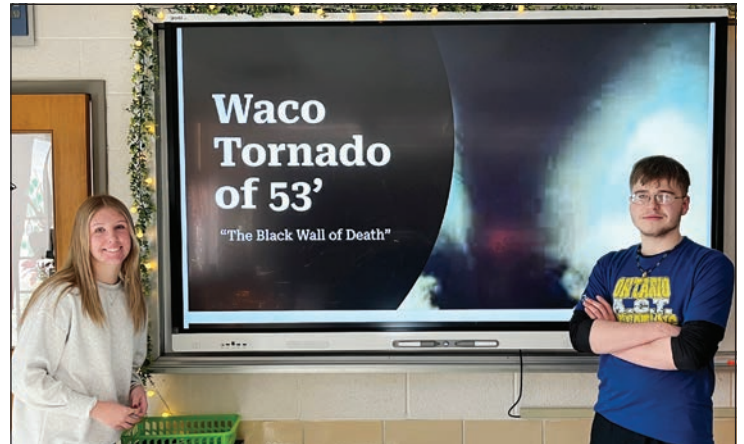
While career readiness is the primary reason students attend Ohio State – they also gain skills and resources that will last a lifetime.

"A college education opens students up to more opportunities, not only with securing jobs, but also access to community resources and knowledge," said Driver. "A degree makes you a more resilient person and gives you a great foundation for giving back to your community later in life."

President Carter announced the program during his State of the University address Sept. 17 – a key element of his "Education for Citizenship 2035" strategic framework. The program enhances affordability and accessibility for more low- to middle-income students to attain an Ohio State degree, while supporting economic development and advancing the university's mission to serve Ohio and its communities.

To learn more about Ohio State Mansfield and the Regional Campus Commitment, reach out to our admissions staff at mansfield-askabuckeye@osu.edu or call 419-755-4300.

The campus is also hosting Buckeye Preview Days, where future students can visit and interact with faculty and staff. Upcoming preview days will be held Jan. 23, Feb. 16, March 28 and April 24. Advance registration is encouraged at go.osu.edu/visitMansfield



TONYA WELCH'S Environmental Students selected a natural disaster event to research and present to the class.



New study shows Alzheimer's Disease can be reversed in animal models to achieve full neurological recovery

For over a century, Alzheimer's disease (AD) has been considered irreversible. Consequently, research has focused on disease prevention or slowing, rather than recovery. Despite billions of dollars spent on decades of research, there has never been a clinical trial of a drug for AD with an outcome goal of reversing disease and recovering function.

Now, a research team from University Hospitals, Case Western Reserve University and the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center has challenged this long-held dogma in the field. They tested whether brains already badly afflicted with advanced AD could recover.

The study, led by Kalyani Chaubey, PhD, from the Pieper Laboratory, published in *Cell Reports Medicine*. Through studying diverse preclinical mouse models and human AD brains, the team showed that the brain's failure to maintain normal levels of a central cellular energy molecule, NAD⁺, is a major driver of AD, and that maintaining proper NAD⁺ balance can prevent and even reverse the disease.

NAD⁺ levels decline naturally across the body, including the brain, as people age. Without proper NAD⁺ balance, cells eventually become unable to execute critical processes required for proper functioning and survival. In this study, the team showed that the decline in NAD⁺ is even more severe in the brains of people with AD, and that this also occurs in mouse models of the disease.

While AD is a uniquely human condition, it can be studied in the laboratory with mice that have been engineered to express genetic mutations that cause AD in people. The researchers used two of these models. One line of mice carried multiple human mutations in amyloid processing, and the other mouse line carried a human mutation in the tau protein. Amyloid and tau pathology are two of the major early events in AD, and both lines of mice develop brain pathology resembling AD, including blood-brain barrier deterioration, axonal degeneration, neuroinflammation, impaired hippocampal neurogenesis, reduced synaptic transmission, and widespread accumulation of oxidative damage. These mice also develop severe cognitive impairments that resemble what is seen in people with AD.

After finding that NAD⁺ levels in the brain declined precipitously in both human and mouse AD, the research team tested whether preventing the loss of brain NAD⁺ balance before disease onset, or restoring brain NAD⁺ balance after significant disease progression, could prevent or reverse AD, respectively. The study was based on their previous work, published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA*, showing that restoring the brain's NAD⁺ balance achieved pathological and functional recovery after severe, long-lasting traumatic brain injury. They restored NAD⁺ balance by administering a now well-characterized pharmacologic agent known as P7C3-A20, developed in the Pieper lab.

Remarkably, not only did preserving NAD⁺ balance protect mice from developing AD, but delayed treatment in mice with advanced disease also enabled the brain to fix the major pathological events caused by the genetic mutations. Moreover, both lines of mice fully recovered cognitive function. This was accompanied by normalized

blood levels of phosphorylated tau 217, a recently approved clinical biomarker of AD in people, providing confirmation of disease reversal and highlighting a potential biomarker for future clinical trials.

"We were very excited and encouraged by our results," said Andrew A. Pieper, MD, PhD, senior author of the study and Director of the Brain Health Medicines Center, Harrington Discovery Institute at UH. "Restoring the brain's energy balance achieved pathological and functional recovery in both lines of mice with advanced Alzheimer's. Seeing this effect in two very different animal models, each driven by different genetic causes, strengthens the idea that restoring the brain's NAD⁺ balance might help patients recover from Alzheimer's."

Dr. Pieper also holds the Morley-Mather Chair in Neuropsychiatry at UH and the CWRU Rebecca E. Barchas, MD, DLFAPA, University Professorship in Translational Psychiatry. He serves as Psychiatrist and Investigator in the Louis Stokes VA Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC).

Dr. Chaubey further explained, "Through our study, we demonstrated one drug-based way to accomplish this in animal models, and also identified candidate proteins in the human AD brain that may relate to the ability to reverse AD."

Dr. Pieper emphasized that currently available over the counter NAD⁺-precursors have been shown in animal models to raise cellular NAD⁺ to dangerously high levels that promote cancer. The approach in this study, however, uses a pharmacologic agent (P7C3-A20) that enables cells to maintain their proper balance of NAD⁺ under conditions of otherwise overwhelming stress, without elevating NAD⁺ to supraphysiologic levels.

This work also encourages new research into complementary approaches and eventual testing in patients, and the technology is being commercialized by Cleveland-based company Glengary Brain Health, co-founded by Dr. Pieper.



**Recycling Today
to Improve Tomorrow**

Formerly Milliron Recycling

BUYERS OF:
aluminum . stainless steel . brass . all scrap iron
commercial & industrial pick-up

2384 St. Rt. 39 | Monday - Friday 8 - 5 | Sat. 8 - 12
419 - 747 - 6522 | 800 - 921 - 0054

The good neighbor for small business

Call or stop in today



State Farm®

Michelle Gates
Michelle Gates, Agent

2021 Park Avenue West, Suite 100
Ontario, OH 44906

Bus: 419-756-5010
michelle@michellegates.com
www.michellegates.com

State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL
State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL
State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX



MECHANICS BANK celebrated the retirement of Jeanne Peters, a 47-year employee of the bank. She was most recently a mortgage lender at the Madison branch.

Blessing closet and food pantry open

The Taylortown Community Church Blessing Closet & Food Pantry recently opened and is offering free clothing and food for those in need. Open Mondays, 9 am to noon and 4-6 pm, as well as every third Saturday from 9 am to 3 pm, the closet is located at the church, 2656 Taylortown Rd., Shelby. Church volunteers also serve a free hot meal every third Thursday from 5:30-6:30 pm.

There are no income or residency requirements. All are welcome. Those wishing to donate to the closet can drop-off items during the open hours or call or text Lyndi Oakley 419-814-0372 or Tonja Barnett 419-571-3846 to set up a time outside of normal hours.

The biggest needs are non perishable food, coats, hats, gloves and kids clothing. Food is distributed quickly and will probably always be the greatest need. 100% of all donations go to filling the closet and pantry. Follow on Facebook at Taylortown Community Church Blessing Closet.



Photos By Jeff Hoffer

SANTA AND MRS. CLAUS visited Elzy Milling & Trade LTD in Bellville on Dec. 20.



THE ONTARIO LIONS CLUB'S 2025 peace poster winner was Zoey, an eighth grade student at Ontario Local Schools. She is pictured with Ontario Lion Randy Hanlon and Ontario Superintendent Keith Strickler.

HEAP assistance now 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).

To be connected to a local energy assistance provider, call 800-282-0880 (hearing impaired clients may dial 711 for assistance) or visit www.energyhelp.ohio.gov.



Maligne Lake, Jasper National Park • Photo By Mark Shutt



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL hosted winter and holiday band and choir performances before releasing for Christmas break.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MANSFIELD SENIOR VS MADISON VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 23
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MANSFIELD SENIOR VS MADISON JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 23
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS MANSFIELD SENIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 16
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS MANSFIELD SENIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 16 PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER

Big Lex slips past Mansfield Senior 63-61

By Kris Leiter

I've said it before and will say it again, we have a wealth of great sports teams here in Richland County!

On Dec. 16, two great teams and Ohio Cardinal Conference rivals, Mansfield Senior (6-2, 4-3, fourth in OCC) and the Lexington Minutemen (4-3, 2-1 third in OCC), battled it out on Lex's home court.

This game did not disappoint! It brought everything any sports fan would want!

When you have a good rivalry who are also conference foes, it's usually a nail biter! A close score or a big play, it never disappoints and this game was no different!

It's amazing how two unique styles of play can merit a 2-point difference in the score, but as "crazy is as crazy does," sports can be so dynamic and that's why we play the games!

Lexington had won three of the past four games coming into the contest and Mansfield was coming into the game ringing in with four wins.

Let's unpack this nip-and-tuck of a game. You know you're in for a good game when you have seven lead changes and seven ties!

The first quarter had Lexington nipping the Tygers' tails as they started the first eight minutes, leading 22-20 at the end of the first quarter.

The second quarter would have Lex putting 15-points on the scoreboard and with the TYgers in their rear-view mirror with 13-points. As both teams would break for halftime, the Minutemen would hold the lead 37-33.

The third quarter saw both teams locking horns with 15-points apiece. At the end of three quarters, Lex was still edging the contest 52-48.

With only a 4-point lead, anything could happen in just a matter of seconds. What would the final round hold for these no-holds barred teams?

As the fourth and final quarter would round out to end this epic contest, the Tygers would score 13 and Lex would score 11.

Lexington held the edge as they would claim the game as victors, 63-61! Hats off to both teams!

The scoring distribution for each team showed great contrast. Mansfield utilized just a few good men, actually just two players in double-digits.

Kayleen Brooks dropped an earth-shattering 28-points, including 4-points from the charity stripe for the Tygers! Ringing in second was Andrew Brooks with 13 points from the field.

For Lexington, they divided the scoring pie a bit more evenly.

The Minutemen had five players in double-figures. Leading the scoring was none other than Dontrell Hughes with double-double, 16-tallies, including one free throw. He also had an incredible 14-rebounds, with only one of those an offensive, and the remaining 13 were defensive.

Rounding out the remaining four horsemen for Big Lex was Jayden Perkins with 13 points and five boards off the glass.

Elijah White and Seven Allen notched 11 points for Lex, as White would also grab five rebounds. Daniel Hudson also entered double-figures with 10 points.

Big Lex will be on the road to West Holmes next to battle it out with the Knights (3-5, 1-3 seventh in OCC).

Mansfield will battle it out in their first game of 2026 heading east into Wayne County to take on the Wooster Generals (3-4, 2-2 fifth OCC).



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS MANSFIELD SENIOR JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 16
TYGERS WIN 54-38 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Arlin Field – The House That Harold Built

By Kris Leiter

Part 1: Arlin's Early Adult Years

Back in the early 1920s, before cell phones, fast food restaurants and super-highways, there was a man named Harold W. Arlin. If his name doesn't ring a bell, don't feel bad, you're not alone.

Arlin wasn't originally from this area, or even Ohio for that matter so how did his name come to grace the name of a football stadium in Mansfield, Ohio?

The more I dug to find an answer to this question, the more I discovered about Arlin.

The title "A man of many trades, master of them all" would fit him well. Arlin was one of those people that gained popularity easily and his accolades would literally fill a notebook page. It seems wherever he went, good things would happen.

Arlin had a remarkable international presence in his younger adult life. He was born the son of a farmer in December 1895 in La Harpe, Illinois.

His family, which included an older sister, packed-up and moved to Missouri where Arlin lived his youth and graduated from Carthage High School. In 1917, he graduated with a degree in engineering from the University of Kansas.

With his diploma in hand, he landed his first engineering job with the Westinghouse Company in Pittsburgh as an electrical engineer and plant foreman.

So far, he seemed to have the life of any typical male, pursuing a career in a given field. All was normal, except Arlin had one amazing character trait. He had a gift — his voice.

His forte was sports announcing and special events. As time would go on, his announcing would be his claim to fame.

In 1920, during his tenure at Westinghouse in Pittsburgh, Arlin was invited to a wooden shack on the ninth floor of one of the buildings. This wasn't necessarily a polished set-up as one would envision a radio station in this present day, but crude at best.

That November, KDKA 1020 in Pittsburgh received its broadcast license, making the station the first commercially licensed radio station in the world.

Arlin wasn't necessarily the shy type, his wheels started turning. He had a thought, "What if he would become the "voice" behind the microphone?"

Long-story short, he landed the gig. Those in charge asked him to announce the results of the night of the election when Harding would become president of the United States. It was the inaugural broadcast for the station. Little did Arlin know, this event would reach national notoriety and he would soon gain popularity.

Arlin was hired as a full-time announcer, making him the first radio announcer in the world. Not bad for a youthful man at only 24-years old.

Coined as the world's first regular radio announcer, he would blaze a trail in Pittsburgh for the nation's very first radio station. KDKA is still a household name in the "Burgh" as Pittsburgh's renowned television station.

It is no surprise that when an individual has talent such as his, word spreads and people start calling you. Arlin was becoming a trendsetter.

In today's broadcasting world, you can find dozens of sports announcers on every media platform. Isn't it wild to know that Arlin was the founding father of broadcasting?

In 1921, Arlin would call the very first broadcast for a Major League Baseball game — the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Philadelphia Phillies from the historic Forbes Field in Pittsburgh.

He was soon becoming a big deal on worldwide-platform as well! His talent would reach international accolades!

In 1923, he made his mark in places such as London, Great Britain and South Africa.

The London Times would coin him as the world's most popular

radio announcer.

He would start rubbing elbows with famous notable announcers such as Lowell Thomas and voices of major television stations CBS and NBC. It was apparent that Arlin's reputation would precede him.

Arlin once rescued Babe Ruth as he was about to go on-air to deliver a speech. Ruth froze and couldn't utter a word. Arlin stepped in to assimilate Ruth's voice and saved the day.

Ironically, Arlin's radio accolades didn't stand out to him as anything significant, even though his announcement of events would span the globe with national awards. After five years in the industry and working full-time for KDKA in Pittsburgh, he wanted a change a pace.

In Part 2 of this series, we will explore Arlin's move from Pittsburgh to Mansfield.



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL'S varsity basketball team won 67-50 against Upper Sandusky in a content played at Ontario on Dec. 16. Pictured is sophomore Cardae Brown.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS ONTARIO VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 27
WARRIORS WIN 70-56 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS ONTARIO JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 27

PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MANSFIELD SENIOR VS LEXINGTON GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 17
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



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 December 17, 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. 25-27 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO, OHIO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026 AND EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2026.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-28 – AN ORDINANCE REZONING SIX (6) PARCELS ON SOUTH LEXINGTON-SPRINGMILL ROAD FROM R1- LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO OS- OFFICE SERVICE DISTRICT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-13 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-29 – AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY'S CYBER SECURITY POLICY, ALLOWING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS SETTING UP THAT POLICY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-30 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 25-04 KNOWN AS THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR 2025 BY MAKING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND, SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, AND THE ENTERPRISE FUND.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-31 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR NON-COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT CITY EMPLOYEES, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026, REPEALING ORDINANCE 24-15, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-32 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING WAGES AND SALARIES FOR NON-COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT EMPLOYEES OF THIS CITY, REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 25-17, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-33 – AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITION AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF

ONTARIO, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Cathy VanAuker
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, OH
(T-C 1-1, 8, 2026) 81L

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing on a rezone request will be held before the Council of the City of Ontario, at a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 7:00 p.m., at the Ontario Municipal Building, 555 North Stumbo Road, Ontario, Ohio, upon an application submitted by Redwood USA to rezone property located on Walker Lake Road, parcel #038-60-500-61-000, from R-2 Medium Density Residential to PUD (Planned Unit Development).

The City Planning Commission has recommended in favor of this rezone.

Cathy VanAuker
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, OH
(T-C 1-1, 8, 2026) 18L

Kerrie Bohach promoted by Lind Media

Lind Media has announced the promotion of Kerrie Bohach to vice president of administration, recognizing her exceptional leadership, operational expertise, and lasting contributions to the company's growth and stability.

In her new role, Bohach will oversee administration, production, human resources, marketing and real estate.

While she has already been successfully leading the administration and production departments, this expanded scope reflects the trust and confidence Lind Media places in her strategic vision and ability to lead cross-functional teams.

"Kerrie's guidance has been instrumental in positioning Lind Media for continued growth while maintaining a strong operational foundation," said Maura Siegenthaler, Lind Media's President and CEO. "Her thoughtful leadership and commitment to continuous improvement have positively impacted teams across the entire organization."

Throughout her tenure, Bohach has led meaningful process improvements that have strengthened efficiency, collaboration, and consistency company-wide. Her steady, people-focused approach has played a key role in shaping how Lind Media operates today.



ONTARIO'S KINDNESS CLUB visited the nursing home for a Christmas craft. The fifth graders in Kindness Club helped the residents make wreaths for their door. The club also adopted four seniors so that on Christmas morning they would have gifts to open.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

First Federal Bank of Ohio

THE RIGHT LOAN. THE RIGHT BANK.

1728 W. Fourth Street
Mansfield, Ohio 44906
Phone: 419-529-4687
Fax: 419-529-4154

landerson@firstfederalbankofohio.bank



Lisa Anderson
NMLS 618735

Branch Manager - Loan Officer