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01.05.23



Madison Athletic Booster Club, a vital asset to the community

By Traci Little

Madison's Athletic Booster Club is truly outstanding! The club has done more for the community than most realize. Everyone wants a concessions stand at events, nice uniforms, and new equipment, but this requires dedicated volunteers. Without everyone chipping in and doing their part, the few pulling the weight will most likely get burned out and frustrated.

Madison Superintendent Rob Peterson said, "It's not just about their amazing support of our athletics department. The Booster Club has sustained our district in many different ways that go far above and beyond athletics. They are ready and willing to support the school in any way they can. They have donated funds to the Madison Levy committee, and last spring we brought back the Elementary Olympics, of which they gave a sizable donation towards that."

"The Athletic Booster Club has been and continues to be a vital asset to the Madison district," he continued. "We've been able to do many things and hold various events because of their support. Our students have been able to have nice things because of the booster club's support."

Madison High School Principal Sean Conway has been an administrator with the district since 2010, and in the role of high school principal since 2020. He was also the head coach of the football program from 2010-'14, and can't praise the Madison Athletic Booster Club enough, saying, "I've had the opportunity to work with them in every facet. They have helped out with major projects from the new football field turf, to upgrading locker rooms and other facilities and providing uniforms and countless resources to coaches and students. We are truly blessed to have such a giving group of individuals that volunteer their time to our community!"

"I've never worked with such an amazing group of generous people, who have had such a dramatic impact on the Madison community and student body. The Madison Athletic Booster Club plays a vital role in what our amazing students and community benefit from."

Athletic director Doug Rickert spoke about the many people that volunteer their time and efforts to the program. "Money from the booster club has helped fund so many projects. The members have come and gone over the years, but the stability has always remained intact. They are always helpful with our athletic department whether it's youth events, helping out the swim team, bags for the tennis team, and helping fund the new football field turf. A lot of what they do flies under the radar, and they don't get the recognition they truly deserve."

Many different sporting teams and school events use the football turf as well. When the new field house was built, the money came from the booster club. Rickert continued, "Kerry Henry, who has been in charge of concessions, works her butt off and does an amazing job. Her family has been working so hard and they definitely can use all the support and volunteers they can get! Without everyone donating their time, it places a strain on the booster club to stay going. Everyone wants concessions, equipment and uniforms, but we can't do it without people volunteering."

(Continued on Page 11)

Winter Reading Program returns to all MRCPL branches

The Mansfield/Richland County Public Library (MRCPL) invites the community to participate in the annual Winter Reading Program. The 2023 program theme is "Curl Up with a Good Book," and patrons can participate from January 3-28.

The Winter Reading Program is available for all ages and encourages reading by offering fun prizes for children, teens, and adults. Read a book, complete a ticket, and submit the ticket to be entered into one of many prize drawings. Tickets are available at all nine MRCPL library locations, and at any Bookmobile stop, in addition to an online submission option through the library's website at www.mrcpl.org.

Follow MRCPL on Facebook during the program for additional chances to win.

This winter, MRCPL continues to offer curbside service, an ideal option for picking up library materials that have been put on hold without leaving the warmth of your vehicle.

For 24/7 digital resources, library hours, and information regarding the Winter Reading Program, go to mrcpl.org.

(See Ad page 6)





THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —

Darren Aronofsky's *The Whale* is a film that explores many different themes such as obesity, sexuality, mortality, father/daughter relationships and spirituality in a two-hour film based on a play. Playwright Samuel D. Hunter also wrote the script.

Taking place mainly inside of a second-floor apartment in Idaho, Charlie teaches an online English course. His camera is "broken" so the students cannot see what he looks like.

Charlie is obese and relies on his friend/nurse named Liz (Hong Chau) to take care of him. After he learns of a severe diagnosis, Charlie wants to make sure he makes things right with his daughter Ellie (*Stranger Things* Sadie Sink), who he has not seen since she was eight.

Brendan Fraser makes a stunning comeback as Charlie in a makeup job that is award-worthy. Fraser also deserves recognition for his performance and the film would truly not work if he was not all into this role.

He plays Charlie as someone who knows his diagnosis but has come to terms with his life and a great loss he has endured. He wants to make things right with his rather abrasive daughter but is so optimistic about her, making jokes and trying to be the best person he can be.

Fraser is of course known for big budget Hollywood films through the years like *The Mum* franchise, *George of the Jun*

gle, *Dudley Do Right* and *Blast from the Past*. Though, in films like *The Quiet American* and *Gods and Monsters*, he shows some true acting.

This is Fraser's best performance though. Through all of the intense make-up he must have endured, he makes Charlie a real character.

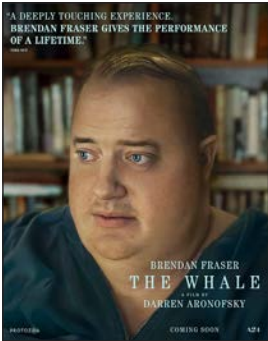
Hong Chau should also be given award recognition for her performance and Samantha Morton makes a nice appearance as Charlie's ex-wife.

Director Aronofsky always makes unique films with interesting lead characters such as *Black Swan*, *The Wrestler* and *Requiem for a Dream*.

There are in fact about five characters in the whole film including a young missionary well played by Ty Simpkins who wants to help Charlie spiritually whether he wants it or not.

This movie has been getting a great deal of criticism for how it portrays obesity and while some of that may be valid, this movie is about showing one man's struggles through this part of his life and the father/daughter relationship takes center stage through the movie.

Fraser gives his best performance in this very well-done film that, in my showing, left very few people without emotion.



"Boots" built his own cars

By Bob Carter

Maurice Garverick was quite a well loved character around Lexington. When he was a kid in school his mother bought him a pair of new boots to wear in the coming winter. He couldn't wait to show them off so he wore them to school one warm fall day. The other kids laughed at him and called him "Boots," a nickname that would follow him the rest of his life.

Boots would run a welding and repair shop in Lexington for 30 years. It was located in the downtown building that's now a meat market. Boots also worked part-time for his brother-in-law, John Newcomer, who ran the Lexington School Bus franchise. Boots repaired or fixed almost anything from farm machinery to lawn mowers.

The first car he built was hot rod style. It started with a '32 Ford frame, a '41 Mercury V8 and the body was of his own creation. An early sedan grill and custom hood and open cockpit was followed by a beautiful rear boat tail deck from a '46 Hudson hood. The engine wasn't souped up but with the light weight body could beat anybody's new Buick. They were big powerful cars back then. He sold it and made a little money.

His next effort was a sports car which started with a well used \$35 Henry J, which was not one of Henry J. Kaiser's greatest creations. It was a rather ugly, early compact with Cadillac frog eye tail lights but lacked the Cadillac quality. Off came the body and Boots shortened the frame to 87 1/2 inches. Next the Kaiser Jeep engine was moved back for better balance.

A 1926 Whippet gas tank was mounted between the frame rails. The front fenders were from a junk yard '51 Chevy which was followed by a custom fabricated grill, hood and doors. The rear deck and fenders came from another junk yard '53 Kaiser sedan. Boots made his own stainless steel windshield frame and rocker panels. He named his creation a "Henry J Custom Roadster."

The interior was for a man's taste. There was a grease proof plastic seat from a school bus, a floor shift, a canvas top in case of rain and a rear view mirror so he could see who he passed.

A horn and windshield wipers were necessary options. The paint was school bus yellow. It was a man's sports car after all.

Boots claimed the little car could do a blistering 72 miles an hour, got 26 miles to the gallon and cornered like a billiard ball. It cruised nicely at 55 to 60 miles an hour. He could be seen buzzing around area roads wearing a flat English style hat, a big cigar in his mouth and a look of satisfaction on his face. Most trips ended at the parking lot behind a local cafe for a couple of beers. Onlookers often viewed his car with amazement, wondering what make it was, where he bought it and how much it cost. A most expensive new car could not have garnered as much attention.

Boots was also a good citizen serving on the town council and fire department. During World War II, he taught welding at Tappan Company for war materials. He designed an invented several farm implements but was most remembered for the little yellow sports car.



LEXINGTON'S MAURICE "BOOTS" GARVERICK fabricated and built his own amazing little sports car.

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News Briefs

A silent auction and 50/50 cancer benefit will be held for Kevin Wichterman Jan. 21 at the Richland County Fairgrounds Youth Hall.

Doors open at 4 pm and cost is \$15 per person which includes the meal catered by Wicky's Smokin' BBQ and live music by Reckless Highway. All proceeds will go to Kevin and his family to help with health care expenses during his battle with cancer.

For information call Brendon Wichterman at 419-964-3464.

★

The eastbound lane of St. Rt. 309 at the railroad bridge in Ontario will be closed from 10 am to 2 pm on Wednesday, Jan. 4. The railroad will be doing maintenance on the bridge.

★

The Pioneer Career and Technology Center Board of Education will hold its regular January organizational and regular board of education meeting at 7 pm, Wednesday, Jan. 11 in the Pioneer Board of Education Conference Room.

★

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, Jan. 28 and 29. Acceptable items include steel and aluminum cans, crushed milk jugs, detergent bottles, plastic bottles with number 1 or 2 on the bottom, broken down cardboard, all papers included with the newspaper but no other magazines or paper. Please remove caps from bottles and rinse all containers well.

★

The Lexington Area Senior Citizens Inc., invites those 55 and older to attend meetings the third Wednesday of every month at Der Dutchman Restaurant. Lunch begins at 11:30 am, followed by the meeting at 12:30 pm. The meal on Jan. 18, will include roast pork and kraut. Guest speaker is Deb Brown from the Hospice What Goes 'Round Thrift Shop.

Cost is \$15 for the meal. Guests are welcome. For information visit www.lexasc.org. Dues are \$10 per year.

★

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Bellville, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Elaine Tanner, Program Director at Friends For Environmental Justice in Deane, KY on Sunday, Jan. 8, at 10:30 am. She will speak on Appalachian Roots.

For more information visit www.allsoulsuuohio.org.

★

A senior citizen luncheon will be held in Madison Comprehensive High School's Ramble Inn, 600 Esley Ln., on Thursday, Jan. 5, at 12:30 pm. The cost is \$4.25 per lunch. Call the board office at 419-589-2600, ext. 65001, to make a reservation.

★

The Richland County Transit Board is conducting a 10-Year Transit Development Plan (TDP). Their contracted consultant has developed a brief survey about the transportation needs of the local workforce. Employers are encouraged to take the survey which asks about shift times, employee counts and other matters that inform the planning process. A major goal of the TDP is to shape local public transit services to better meet the needs of local busi-

nesses and employees.

The 10-question survey is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RichlandCoEmploymentTransportation>.

For information contact Christy Campoll at ccampoll@rlsandassoc.com or 937-299-5007.

★

City of Ontario Zoning Inspector Michael Morton released the November zoning report.

Permits were issued to Yvonne Marcelonis, Hilltop, addition; Shaffner Enterprises, Deerfield Rd., new duplex; Jenny Swisher (CruClinic), W. Fourth St., change of use; Andrew Kissinger (KIT Chiro.), August Dr., change of use; City of Ontario, Milligan Rd., salt shed; and Shaffner Enterprises, Deerfield Rd., driveway.

Sign permits were issued to Traditional Mama, August Dr.; Everbowl, Walker Lake Rd.; Wingate, Walker Lake Rd.; Menard's, Walker Lake Rd.; and Beltone, W. Fourth St.

★

A survey is available for the reimagining of the current municipal parking lot located at 4th and Main (across from Richland Carrousel Park) in downtown Mansfield. The survey is open to all Richland County residents and will take approximately seven minutes to complete. All respondents will remain anonymous.

The survey is available at www.tinyurl.com/R3MansfieldSurvey

The purpose of the survey is to act as one tool that will help inform Mansfield public and private sector leaders on the needs and desires of the community with the goal of steering downtown development to meet the needs of Mansfield residents and the wider Richland County community.

★

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

Brick Fest Live coming to Columbus

Brick Fest Live is coming to Columbus Jan. 14 and 15.

The event will be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center and will feature over a million bricks on display and ready for play, life-size models and hard-to-find LEGO merchandise.

Special displays and activities will include a glow zone, Minecraft zone, graffiti wall, mosaic gallery, derby races and a floor mural.

The show hours are 9 am to 5 pm Saturday and 10 am to 4 pm on Sunday.

VIP tickets are also available and include an event-exclusive build, VIP badge and collectible event pin. Tickets range from \$16.99 to \$34.99.

For information or to purchase tickets visit <https://www.brickfestlive.com/bfl-2022-2023>



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Photo By Brandon Chambers

Workforce program will benefit high school seniors

OhioHealth is currently accepting applications for the OhioHealth Healthcare Scholars Program, which allows for little-to-no out-of-pocket job training costs to high school seniors who will graduate in 2023. The program provides a pathway to a healthcare career in critical need roles, such as facilities maintenance specialist, medical assistant, medical lab technician, pharmacy technician, radiological technician, respiratory therapist, sterile processing and surgical technologist.

Students selected for the program will be hired as an OhioHealth associate for a part-time, entry-level position. The program will be available to pay for school tuition and fees (up to \$5,250 a calendar year tax free) and help students graduate debt-free from a workforce training program.

The application process includes applying online by Jan. 15, 2023. Applicants may be asked for a resume and letter of recommendation from a high school teacher, coach or administrator. Students will also be interviewed. Students selected for the program will be notified by March 1. For information contact Patti.Wilson@ohiohealth.com.

Church Directory

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 TeamKID and Youth Group
Wednesday Ladies Bible Study 6:30-8 pm

Community Bible Church

1043 Springmill St., Mansfield
567-560-8011
www.DiscoverCommunity.org
Pastor Sam Belsterling
10:30 am Sunday Worship
Live stream at <https://www.facebook.com/CommunityBibleChurchMansfield>

First English Lutheran Church

53 Park Avenue West, Mansfield
419-522-0662 • www.felc-mansfield.org
Pastor Miguel Acosta
9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship
Tuesday Bible Study 1 pm (East entrance)

Lexington Presbyterian Church

35 Church St. West, Lexington
419-884-1330
Rev. James Randas
10:30 am Sunday Worship
<https://www.facebook.com/Lexington-Presbyterian-Church-117768414915815>

Mansfield 1st EPC

399 Trimble Rd., Mansfield
419-756-7066 • www.mansfield1st.com
Rev. Joseph Yerger
9 am Adult & Youth Sunday School
10 am Sunday Worship

Oakland Lutheran Church

2045 Olivesburg Rd.
419-571-9920
Pastor Paul Lintern
9 am Sunday Worship

Ontario Christian Church

1029 Lewis Rd., Ontario
419-529-5684 • ontariochristian.org
Minister Steve Broughton
9 am Sunday School
10 am Sunday Worship

Ontario United Methodist Church

3540 Park Avenue West., Ontario
419-529-4345 • ontarioumc.com
Pastor Christine Bell
10:15 am Sunday Worship
10:15 am Kingdom Kids

Southside Christian Church Disciples of Christ

2055 Middle-Bellville, Mansfield
Streamed on Paul Lintern Facebook Page
Sunday 10:45 am
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St. Mary of the Snows Catholic Church

1630 Ashland Rd., Mansfield (Madison) 419-589-2114 • www.mansfieldstmarys.org
Father John Miller
Worship: 4 pm Saturday & 11 am Sunday
5:30 pm Tuesday Worship
8 am Friday Worship • Faith Instruction & Bible Study on Sunday Mornings

St. John's United Church of Christ

68 Park Avenue East, Mansfield
419-522-2813 • www.stjohnsmansfield.org
Pastor Faith Prioretti
10 am Sunday Worship

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Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Babette Mullet, Dec. 16
 Nicholas "Nick" Andrew Scharosch, Dec. 17
 Gary Allen Nikolaus Dec. 18
 Bart Skinner-McVay, Dec. 18
 Ruth Ann (Bradshaw) Stillion-Turner, Dec. 18
 Craig "Louie" Louis Martin, Dec. 19
 John Roe, Dec. 19
 Robert Dean Keets, Dec. 21
 Reta B. Kirsh, Dec. 21
 Joyce Ann Hardwick, Dec. 22
 Marilyn Marie (Wagner) Levy, Dec. 22
 Bronson "B-Man" R. Radebaugh, Dec. 22
 Greta Langston, Dec. 23
 George Dennis Haley, Dec. 24
 Joyce Myers, Dec. 24
 Irene Elizabeth Tinkey, Dec. 24
 Kevin A. Scholl, Dec. 25
 Susan Marie Shifflet, Dec. 25
 Shirley Adkins Dec. 26
 Shirley Ann DeLong, Dec. 27
 Kahte "Katie" Schmidt, Dec. 27
 Judith "Judie" K. Washington, Dec. 27
 Sadie Leah Reynolds, Dec. 28
 Michael Eugene Mellick, Dec. 30

View Full Obituaries at www.dignitymemorial.com

Memorial Arrangements

Bryan Michael Flynn of Bellville passed away as a result of an automobile accident on Dec. 21, 2022. He was 30 years old. Bryan was a 2010 graduate of Clear Fork and received a certificate from the Knox County Career Center in welding.

Bryan leaves behind his loving mother Cheryl Flynn. They shared a very special song "Simple Man" by Lynyrd Skynyrd. She will miss his big hugs.

He leaves behind his maternal grandmother Patricia Lehman, aunts Michelle LaCroix, Kimberly Knapp, and Terri (Ted) Catino; uncles: Robert Crupper, Jr. and Don Flynn; cousins Michael (Alea) LaCroix, Nichole (Richard) LaCroix Wheeler, Lindsay Williams, Sara Weeks and McKenzie Eaton; his furdog Smokey, and extended family and friends.

Preceding him in death are his father Michael Flynn, paternal grandparents Cecil and Pat Flynn, maternal grandfather Robert Crupper, Sr. and cousins David Crupper and Kirstin Knapp.

A private graveside service and gathering will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023. Interment will be in Bellville Cemetery.

Donations in memory of Bryan can be made to the Richland County Humane Society.

The Bellville Snyder Funeral Home is honored to serve the Flynn family and messages of support may be made at snyderfuneralhomes.com.



Free program will focus on permits

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District will host a program for residents to learn more about the stormwater permit process, MS4 updates and new electronic permitting.

On Feb. 9, Let's Taco 'bout Stormwater Permitting" will be open to the public, from 5:30-7:30 pm, at the Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Ave., Mansfield. In this free, town-hall style meeting, discussion will include which documents are needed when a stormwater permit is requested in the unincorporated areas of Richland County and the Village of Lexington.

Knowing this information will better assist residents when navigating the stormwater permit process and save time when seeking a stormwater permit. Technicians will answer questions from the audience. Tacos will be served to attendees.

Reservations are needed by Jan. 26 for planning purposes. Questions may be directed to Dan Herrold at 419-747-8077 or via email at MS4@rihclandswcd.net. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lets-taco-bout-stormwater-permitting-tickets-488960854077>

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Winter Reading Program

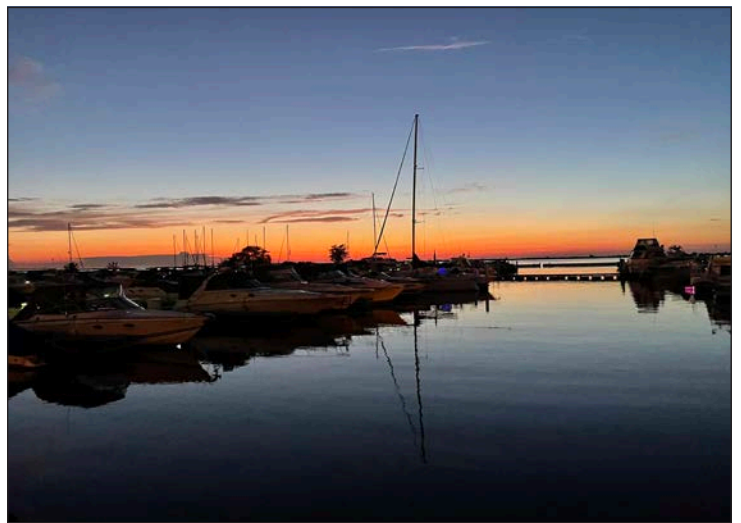
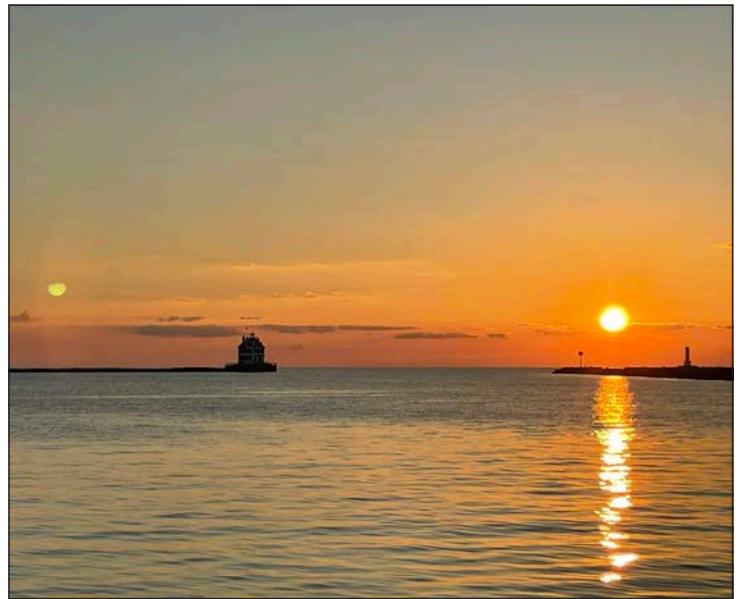
JAN. 3 - JAN. 28

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Photos by Damon Callis

Day Trippin' With Damon – Lorain Lighthouse, also known as “Jewel of the Port” is beautiful at sunset. Also pictured is the Oasis Marinas at Port Lorain. The lighthouse is closed for the winter. For information on future opening and special events visit <https://lorain-lighthouse.com>

Laura Copeland of Shelby

shop  seasonalskeins





kimmy's cucina

By Kim Sterry

GOUDA MAC & CHEESE

Let's talk about a great side we can make with our meal. Can you really go wrong with mac and cheese? I made this with gouda thinking of my daughter Hannah who LOVES gouda cheese. As with so many recipes there are NO RULES here, and you can substitute with another cheese if you would like — or use a combination of cheeses. This is always a good dish when you look in the fridge and have some bits and pieces of cheese just throw them all in (well within reason I guess).

Ingredients

1 stick butter (8 Tbsp.)
8 Tbsp. flour
1 cup chicken broth
2 cups milk
2 cups gouda cheese (shredded)
1 lb pasta of your choice
1 cup Italian bread crumbs mixed with 2 Tbsp. melted butter

Instructions

Melt butter in saucepan and slowly whisk in flour. When flour has been well incorporated, add chicken broth and continue to whisk until smooth, then bring to a boil until sauce thickens. Reduce heat and slowly add milk while continuing to whisk. Add cheese and keep stirring until cheese is melted. Take it off the heat. Prepare pasta cooking until just a little "Al Dente" (a bit sticky — I remember my grandmother telling me "until it sticks to your teeth.") In a baking dish, cover bottom with some of the sauce then add pasta and the rest of sauce and combine. Add bread crumbs to top (here I added Panko crumbs, but Italian bread crumbs work really well for a little added flavor). Bake at 350 for 25–30 minutes.

LIKE Kimmy's Cucina on Facebook & Instagram



By Mátiece Thomas

Happy New Year everyone! I hope 2023 is starting off on a positive note. Today, I am going to tell you all about my secret weapon for 2023.

This is my newest and most favorite Trainer Girl's Tip. Let's talk bone broth and all its amazing benefits.

The top 6 benefits of drinking bone broth are:

- It is a great source of collagen
- Helps digestion and gut health
- Promotes sleep (due to the amino acids)
- Helps immune function.
- Gelatine is the most abundant protein in broth

When it comes to women getting enough protein in our day we are usually lacking. You will find 7–9 grams of protein in one cup of bone broth.

You will find that beef usually has a couple more grams of protein than chicken. You can just

drink it straight or use it in your soups or dishes.

I enjoy replacing my water with broth when I cook my rice. It gives it so much more flavor not to mention protein, collagen, vitamins and minerals.

Most bone broth contains B12, magnesium, zinc, sulfur, calcium (for bones), chondroitin sulfate (joints), glucosamine (joints) and an abundance of protein.

I drink one cup sometimes after dinner and one cup to break my fast in the morning.

For 2023, I want to encourage you to incorporate this amazing source of protein, vitamins and minerals to your diet, you will be glad you did! The health benefits might just be the boost your body is needing!

Remember to make changes where they are needed, set goals and never give up on yourself!

Follow me at Instagram-5pts-fitness_trainergirl for nutrition and workout tips.



Saskatchewan, Canada • Photo By Mark Shutt

Happy New Year 2023

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



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Mansfield Symphony Orchestra presents Romance & Rachmaninoff

The Mansfield Symphony Orchestra (MSO) continues its season Saturday, Feb. 4 at 8 pm with "Romance & Rachmaninoff," a Side by Side concert with members of the Mansfield Symphony Youth Orchestra (MSYO) that will be performed onstage at the Renaissance Theatre.

As part of the OhioHealth Symphony Series, the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra presents a concert side by side with members of the Mansfield Symphony Youth Orchestra performing Sergei Rachmaninoff's beautiful Symphony No. 2 and Lud-

wig van Beethoven's masterful "Overture to Egmont".

"The side-by-side concert is one of the most important performances for the MSO", said Octavio Mas-Arocas, MSO Music Director.

"It is a privilege for the professional musicians to share their experiences with the talented students of the MSYO. Whether they decide to pursue a career in music or not, I know this concert will serve as an inspiration to love music for the rest of their lives. For us, the members of the MSO, it is a tremendous respon-

sibility to be part of this important moment in the lives of these human beings. This is one of my personal favorite concerts of the year, and I can't wait to share this incredible music with these incredible young people."

"Our Youth Orchestra students have the opportunity every year to perform, hear, and watch world-class musicians and an outstanding conductor share their expertise in a few days," said Domka, MSYO Director. "Considering the size of Mansfield and the ongoing economic struggles of Richland County,

the Renaissance Performing Arts continues to be a beacon of light promoting and supporting the Arts. I am thankful this opportunity continues locally in our community."

The MSYO is made up of North Central Ohio musicians, primarily in high school, from a 12-county region. It is the only youth orchestra within a 65-mile radius of Mansfield and represents approximately 90 members each season who perform concerts both onstage at the Renaissance and in the community.



Romanchuk secures funding for childcare services

State Senator Mark Romanchuk (R-Ontario) has announced that the Ashland County Women's Childcare Initiative has been allocated funds that will enhance their mission to provide quality childcare service to the families of Ashland County.

Senator Romanchuk secured \$300,000 for the Ashland County Women's Fund Childcare Initiative.

This funding will help the Initiative's goal in the development of a new childcare center for working parents to have access to excellent, affordable and safe childcare.

"I am very pleased that this project received funding in the 134th General Assembly," Senator Romanchuk said. "This project will provide a great service to residents of Ashland County and bolster economic output in the community."

The legislation will go to the governor's desk for signing.

Happy New Year!

BP ELECTRIC

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Hire Foundation approves grant

The Hire Family Foundation, Rocky River, OH, has approved a grant in the amount of \$14,216.00 to fund the construction of a new exterior terrace that will enhance programs and services offered through The Jack and Phyllis Hire Community Bereavement Center at Hospice of North Central Ohio.

Ralph Tomassi, HNCO Chief Development Officer stated, "This much-needed enhancement to the Hire Bereavement Center will provide families who have lost a loved one through death a private and uplifting place to grieve and benefit from counseling and other related therapies.

The new terrace will be conveniently located in close proximity to HNCO's extensive Memorial Gardens and Walkway.

Established through a grant from The Hire Family Foundation in 2020, The Jack & Phyllis Hire Community Bereavement Center is located at HNCO's corporate headquarters at 1021 Dauch Drive in Ashland.

The center is one of only a handful of such facilities in north-central Ohio. The Mission of the center is to assist the bereaved as they move through their grief process by providing a multitude of special support groups, education, lectures and training, children's bereavement camp and individual grief support to anyone in Richland-Ashland County.

Headquartered at 1021 Dauch Dr., in Ashland, Hospice of North Central Ohio serves more than 200 patients daily in Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Knox, Morrow, and Richland counties who are living with chronic and terminal illnesses.

Call 800-952-2207 for more information. HNCO is a 501 c3 non-profit organization with years of experience.



Kingwood Center • Photo By Traci Little

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ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY students at Ontario High School learned how to take, measure and interpret an EMG using Vernier hardware and Chromebook software. EMG stands for electromyograph, a measure of a muscle's electrical activity. Students attached probeware to their arms and were able to measure the energy flow during contractions.



KNOX COUNTY CAREER CENTER'S (KCCC) Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps recently held its Raider Awards Dinner. The JROTC Raider Team is a fitness team that combines athletic fitness with rappelling and rope climbing skills. KCCC's JROTC competed against dozens of teams across the Midwest and recently finished up their fall competition. The JROTC Raider Team finished in the top five at every competition they attended. Ellie Salvucci, one of KCCC's JROTC cadets, was the top female competitor at the Erie, PA regional competition. Students recognized at the Raider Awards Dinner were Jared Boucher (Top Male), Mason Huffman (Leadership Award), Arianne Scott (Best Teammate Award) and Hannah Bressi (Top Female).

News Briefs in Education

Capital University has announced that Thomas Sechrist of Mansfield was named to the president's list for the fall 2022 semester.

Capital has three lists denoting academic distinction among full-time, degree-seeking students: the president's list, provost's list and dean's list. The president's list indicates the highest level of academic distinction and students must have achieved a grade point average of at least 3.85 to earn the recognition.

Theresa Dzigan of Ontario and Miles McBride of Mansfield were named to the provost's list. Full-time, degree-seeking students must have achieved a grade point average of 3.70 to 3.849 to be recognized on the list. Capital University is located in Columbus.

Timothy Stahle of Mansfield has been named to the Fall 2022 Academic Merit List at Muskingum University in New Concord, Ohio.

The Academic Merit list contains the names of undergraduate degree-seeking students who started the semester as a part-time student (minimum load of 6 completed hours) and earned a term GPA of 3.60 or above on A-F graded coursework.

Have the news of your college or university student's accomplishments sent to news@tribune-courier.com



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•Madison Athletic Booster Club, a vital asset to the community

(Continued from Front Page)

Since the Booster Club's inception in the 1980s, they have donated millions of dollars. Weekly fundraising events like Booster Bingo on Sundays and Wednesdays help generate a good portion of the funds; but they do need workers to run it.

Opportunities are given to sporting teams, coaches, teachers and parents who are able to volunteer at these events and raise money for their various sporting funds and classroom supplies. Perhaps you have some time and would like to help out this year?

"The Booster Club executive committee has worked so hard, and we really want to acknowledge the time and energy they devote to this club," said Peterson.

Steve Shasky, Madison Athletic Booster Club President said, "We are volunteers doing what we can. We are always looking for helping hands. The number of volunteers we have has dropped dramatically over the years. The club has been able to donate to so many different things across the district. When you help the booster club, you are helping the district and community as a whole!"

The Ram Booster Bingo is every Wednesday and Sunday evening at the Eastbrook Center, 720 Fifth Avenue (Rear) near Route 30 East-bound ramp. On Sundays, doors open at 4 pm and Bingo starts at 6:15 pm. On Wednesdays, doors open at 4 pm and Bingo starts at 6:45 pm.

Since the Bingo fundraiser started in the mid 1980s, over 4 million dollars has been contributed to the Madison district. A few of the contributions that the club has made over the years include:

- Paid off the building loan for the Field House, \$120,000
- Implemented Athletic Scholarship Program, \$200,000
- Youth Football Uniform and Equipment, \$8,000
- Baseball Press Box, \$65,000
- Soccer Complex, \$475,000
- Field House Parking Lot, \$68,000
- Football Field Turf, \$400,000
- Purchase of Eastbrook Center, \$659,000

The boosters have financially aided Student Council, Key Club, junior high and ninth grade, multiple handicapped bussing, elementary schools, music boosters and Ramettes, Academic Boosters Junior Class, pre-school buses, Boy Scouts, the Mid-Ohio Jr. Olympic Program, Sophistication Dance Company, German Club, Summer Baseball/Softball Federation, elementary soccer clubs, SkillsUSA and the Youth Football League.

"Our club loves to be able to help the community and we aren't looking for pats on the back, but we need everyone to do their part," said Shasky.

Current Booster Club members include, secretary, Christina Clevier; business manager, Melissa Brown Bago; vice president/fund raising, Cassandra Hoagland; vice president/concessions, Kerry Henry; and treasurer, Amy Liviskie.

"Melissa has been with the program for twenty years and is hands down responsible for so much of what the Booster Club has been able to do," said Shasky.

"The Athletic Booster Club members are the unsung heroes in the Madison District and the support they provide is truly invaluable! I am very appreciative of all of their efforts and all they put into the booster club and the way they support our students," added Superintendent Peterson.

10 Ways to Help You Achieve Your 2023 Goals

By Traci Little

Stop the negative talk

Negativity breeds more negativity. Our brains can become hoarders of our own hurtful words. Those shelves in our brains become full of negative words we have spoken over us in our lifetime. It is time to dust off the shelves of your mind, throw away all the garbage you are feeding yourself and start a new chapter of positive, life-giving words.

Take Baby Steps

The need for speed is contagious. We want to not only get there, but we impatiently want to get there fast. We might want to avoid the struggle and exchange it for any quick fix to get us there. In doing so, we can become frustrated and burnt out when things don't go our way. It is unrealistic to think we can get to our goals by taking the easy road. Most of the time goals are achieved by careful baby steps day after day. Have patience and endurance; you've got this!

Visualize yourself crossing the finish line

Can you picture yourself crossing the finish line? Perhaps your goal is a degree? Visualize the ribbon saying, Nursing Degree or Business Executive. Now run through that ribbon and celebrate! You can and you will do this if you keep at it and don't give up.

Enjoy the journey

Many times, we forget to enjoy the journey! We so badly want to achieve our goal that we forget to stop and enjoy the view. Perhaps you might miss that beautiful sunset, awesome field of daises, or that long awaited breath of fresh air if you are rushing the journey.

Remove comparison

There will always be someone prettier, fitter, more organized, and more suited for the job. But remember, they are not you! You were made for excellence, and no one in this entire world can do the things God has planned for you. It sounds cliché, but – just do you! Don't worry about what others are achieving, you are the only one on your playing field!

Find contentment

Gratitude + Humility = Contentment! C.S. Lewis said, "humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less." Stop wishing for more and realize all that you do have. Celebrate the people and the things in your life that could never be replaced. Remember to cherish the fleeting snapshots of today.

Know and solidify your purpose

Many times, we have a goal, but don't know why! If we don't know why, we will be driven by the slightest breeze that pushes against us. Know and solidify your purpose behind your goal. If you need to write it out and post it somewhere, do it! Once we have this nailed down, we can plant our feet firmly where not even the force of a hurricane can cause us to falter!

Grasp the big picture

Understand the big picture. What has prepared you for striving for your goal? Where are you today? Where do you want to go? Why do you want to go there? Your past, your present, and your future are the big picture. Grasp the vision for seeing your goal full circle.

Develop your cheer squad

Do you have people in your life that are causing you to stumble? Some may say they are cheering for you but are actually doing the opposite! You might need to just cut them from your cheer squad. This isn't saying you necessarily have to cut them from your life but pick your core cheer squad carefully! Do you all share the same vision and purpose? Do they have your best interest at heart? Do they want to see you succeed and not fail? Perhaps you need to make some cuts, or start recruiting?

Spread your purpose

As a Christian, the gospel is everything to me. What I do for the kingdom of heaven, is my sole purpose. Colossians 3:23 says, "work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people." Perhaps your focus is different, but ask yourself, will accomplishing my goal bring others to that purpose? For me, will accomplishing my goal bring Jesus' name honor and praise? Will your focus and purpose encourage and uplift others to do the same?

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Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Three-ball, Badertscher push Generals past Lexington in back-and-forth nail biter

By Cal Rickert

LEXINGTON — In a matchup where the Lady Minutemen looked to take advantage of an obvious height advantage in the post, few might have expected for the three-ball to play such a pivotal role in Lexington's shootout against the Generals.

While fans got a glimpse into the future of Lexington hoops with a stellar, breakout performance from freshman forward Ava Brown, Lady Lex failed to keep up offensively, running out of fuel to hang on against Wooster's high-octane offense in their 53-47 loss.

From the tip, Lady Lex looked to pound the ball inside. While working the ball around the perimeter, Lexington's forwards rotated between the high and low post, looking for an opening in Wooster's defense. Ava Brown quickly established herself as a post presence, finding openings in the paint and finishing around the rim and getting to the free-throw line.

The Lady Generals looked to push the ball on the offensive end, looking to beat Lexington's taller forwards down the floor for easy buckets. A pair of back-to-back threes kept the first quarter close, however, turnovers held the Generals in check, trailing 17-9 at the end of the first.

Wooster's offense quickly shifted in the second quarter, spurred by senior guard Eily Badertscher who knocked in three deep three-pointers in the quarter to cut into Lexington's diminishing lead. The Generals pushed the ball in transition, opening up passing lanes and open shots after beating Lexington's taller forwards down the court.

"[Eily] is one of our senior leaders... She made sixty threes last year and she's just a tough guard being six-foot and she can shoot it," said Wooster coach Alex Karece. "It was really cool to see her break out tonight because teams have really been trying to keep her from scoring... to have one of those twenty-pieces, that's going to feel really good for her."

The Lady Generals relied heavily on the deep-ball as they battled their way back in the first half, scoring 18 of their 29 points from behind the line. After pushing the ball in transition, instead of taking the ball to the rim, Wooster looked for pull-up shot opportunities, avoiding Lexington's height advantage in the post. Lady Lex was not afraid to challenge Wooster from deep either, connecting on 50 percent of their attempts from deep in the first half, however, it was not enough to keep pace as Wooster edged out a two point lead at the halftime break.

"This year we have struggled to hit threes, but it's been an everyday thing. We run them until exhaustion and then we shoot. That's the M.O. of practice," said Karece. "I was yelling at our [girls] to run and it's really hard to guard the transition three. So when you're hitting them in transition everything looks and feels better."

Coming out of the halftime break, Lady Lex adjusted their defense to slow down Badertscher, implementing a face-guard while the rest of the defense was in normal man-to-man offense. Lexington Coach Daryl Udhe called upon and challenged his freshman Ava Brown, who had been having a notable evening in the post so far. Brown, face-guarding Badertscher, quickly took away Wooster's best offensive weapon, not allowing her to find an opening on the offensive end. With Wooster's best guard essentially sidelined, the Lady Generals struggled to finish possessions. Even while face-guarding, Brown still managed to collect 14 rebounds.

"[Face-guarding] did wonders. Ava is a freshman and she's gotten so much better from the first day we practiced to now. So she's definitely one of the keys for our team now," said Udhe. "She has a real knack for being in the right place at the right time for rebounds. I don't know how she does it, but she gets a lot of rebounds and she had a great game."

Behind Brown, Lady Lex outrebounded Wooster on the night 41

to 37. Playing to their advantage, Lexington made the most of their second-chance opportunities, scoring 20 points after offensive rebounds on the night. The Lady Generals, although only grabbing 18 to Lexington's 26 offensive boards, kept pace and scored 20 put-back points of their own.

Wooster installed a two-three zone in the second half, looking to limit Lexington's penetration and dominant post play. Forced to shoot from the outside, Lady Lex struggled to galvanize their offense as Wooster quickly began to pull away, fueled by up-tempo offense and pushing the ball in transition. This seemed to pay dividends on the defensive end as an exhausted Lady Lex offense struggled to knock down shots, shooting just 23 percent in the second half and falling behind 44-38 at the end of the third quarter.

"We pride ourselves on our conditioning, too, we always want to be the most conditioned team on the court," said Karece. "They punched us straight in the mouth... for us it was to remember there's four quarters, we don't get tired... and when the game gets to the end that's when you can force turnover and attack the ball."

Trailing heading into the final quarter, Lexington made a defensive change of their own, implementing a full court press. Senior guard Madi Basilone stepped up for Lady Lex, pressuring the ball defensively and forcing turnovers to keep Wooster from extending their lead.

Coach Udhe complimented Basilone's effort on the defensive end saying, "she's a hard-nosed, tough kid... she gets going one-hundred miles an hour, and sometimes I say to slow it down to eighty. She's a hustler and plays hard."

With Badertscher taken away from Wooster's offense while being face-guarded, Lady Lex cut their deficit to just six points. Forward Kaleigh Leadbetter worked to get position in the post and scored from the free-throw line when she was fouled around the rim. However, Wooster point guard Nora Levy used her speed and ball handling ability to penetrate into the paint and score to hold Lexington at bay to hang on for a 53-47 victory.

Karece complimented Levy's ability to step up late in the game after Badertscher was heavily guarded saying, "we just put Eily in the corner and if [Ava Brown] ... doesn't guard in the paint then let's see if they can guard us four on four. Luckily for us we have some really talented guards who if there is not any resistance in the paint, are most likely going to finish."

Although Lexington has a tendency to struggle late in game's, Udhe noted his team's improvement saying, "our record doesn't show how much we've improved. We just lost three games where we were ahead in the fourth quarter so that's tough."

Posting a double-double on the night, Brown led the way with 16 points and 14 rebounds. Leadbetter followed behind with 11 points and five rebounds. Guards Cora Palmer and Madi Basilone also contributed seven and six points respectively.

Eily Badertscher scored 17 points for Wooster, leading her team with four three-pointers. Shooting guard Grace Kostohryz also contributed 11 points with nine coming from behind the three-point line. Nora Levy reached double-digits, too, scoring 10. Forward Grace Grey had a notable night in the post, scoring seven points and snatching 12 rebounds.

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Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

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LADY COLTS WIN 61-56 • PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Madison holds off fourth quarter rally in 72-63 non-conference win over Ontario

By Cal Rickert

MADISON — In Ontario coach Tim Mergel's first game back at Madison since his prior coaching tenure with the Rams, Madison (5-4) looked as if they were going to force a blowout early against the Warriors (5-2). However, a late push from Ontario closed the gap, but the Rams ultimately prevailed in a 72-63 non-conference victory.

Madison's shifty ball handlers and solid work in the post quickly set the Rams off to a hot start. Freshman point guard Seven Allen used his speed to easily work through Ontario's man-to-man defense, penetrating into the paint and finishing around the rim.

"Every game Seven is just getting better. We challenged him tonight; he loves to shoot the three off the ball screen so we said let's come off that ball screen and attack," said Madison coach Chris Armstrong. "Let's get into the paint and collapse their defense. I thought he did a great job of that."

The Warriors struggled to get their offense moving, scoring just seven points in the first quarter. While Ontario was able to patiently work the ball around the perimeter and find a solid look in the paint, senior forward Tatum Turcott played strong defense around the rim, forcing a number of missed shots around the basket.

Allen capped off the quarter dribbling coast-to-coast and connected on a tough layup just before time expired to push Madison to a 13-7 lead.

In the second quarter, turnover began to catch up with Ontario. The Rams quickly took advantage of the Warriors' poor ball-handling, jumping out to a 12-3 run.

"We have got to be tougher and we weren't. We didn't finish through contact in the first half and we were quick to turn it over uncharacteristically and you have a recipe for bad basketball," said Mergel.

Another notable aspect of Madison's game, the Rams executed well on dead balls. Inbounding the ball underneath the basket, Allen found senior Jayden Jeffries twice in the quarter in the post. Jeffries wasted no time using his height and post moves to create an open shot and connect.

The Warriors finally were able to kick-start their offense, scoring in transition off of steals. Junior Brady Zehe connected on a deep three after intercepting one of Madison's passes. Junior Carter Weaver quickly followed suit, stealing the ball and laying it in on a fast break.

However, Turcott helped to extend the Rams' lead heading into the break, scoring around the rim and also getting to the free throw line. Turcott continued to play strong around the rim, shoring up Madison's 32-21 lead at the break.

"I thought Tatum played maybe the best

game of his life. We said we weren't going to help off of shooters and kind of left him on an island one-on-one with Weaver," said Armstrong. "We have to figure out who we can help off of... so maybe we can do a better job of keeping guys off the right hand and coming in and supporting him a little better."

Coming out of the halftime break, the Rams mixed in a full-court man press, looking to force more turnovers. On the other end of the ball, Allen continued to work, blowing past Ontario's defenders and finding his way into the paint for short range looks.

Allen credited his team's execution on their sets to find open opportunities saying, "we were executing and running through our plays; it really started in practice this week. We were coming off of a three day break and we just set the tone early from the jump."

Allen was also successful drawing fouls and getting to the line. Shooting 75 percent from the line on the night, he added nine of his points from foul shots.

The Rams gelled well in the quarter, sharing the ball well and getting quality minutes from their bench players and underclassmen. Sophomores Owen Wigton and Cameron Kuhn each connected from behind the three point line in the quarter, helping push Madison's lead to 50-29 heading into the fourth.

Allen complemented his team's ability to get others involved in scoring and find open shooters. He emphasized Madison's work in practice to get more players involved in scoring when defenses key in on himself and Jeffries.

"In practice that's what we have to score and we use that to our best ability. We find Cameron and Owen when we need them to shoot and Tatum for his playmaking," said Allen.

Heading into the fourth, the Warriors seemed to finally find their rhythm. Pressuring the ball and implementing a run-and-jump defense in the half-court, the Warriors began to wear Madison down, resulting in points on the offensive end.

Senior Gage Weaver came alive for Ontario, penetrating into the paint and going up strong, getting fouled and finishing the layup for an and-one. However, Weaver did not stop there, twice more in the quarter Weaver finished around the rim after getting fouled, connecting on all three of his and-one free throw chances. He also showed his range, nailing a three point ball to cut Madison's lead to 11.

In a great display of senior leadership, Jeffries stepped up for the Rams, scoring eight straight points to give Madison the edge they

desperately needed to hold off Ontario. A pair of threes from junior Grady Schroeder cut Madison's lead to just ten with over a minute to go, but Ontario was forced to foul to stop the clock. Jeffries connected on two foul shots, giving the Rams some cushion in the remaining seconds of the game. The Warriors worked their way to the foul line late, but after missing two shots, their rally was over as they fell 72-63.

"At some point you have two choices: you get tougher or you quit. It took us too long to make the right choice," said Mergel. "We got to the line which was good but we didn't make them. I think we missed ten free throws and probably five front-ends."

On the night, Allen led the Rams in scoring with 24 points. Jeffries followed close behind with 23. Turcott also contributed 13 with five coming from the free throw line. Wigton pitched in six points, both coming off of the three-ball.

The Warriors had an impressive night sharing the ball with four players scoring in double-digits. Senior guard Braxton Hall posted a team high with 19 points. Weaver followed behind with 16, scoring 11 in the fourth quarter alone. Schroeder contributed 12 points and Carter Weaver followed right behind with 11.

Conservation Creation Arts and Crafts Workshops continue

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD) has announced that due to their overwhelming popularity, the Conservation Creation Arts and Crafts Workshop series will continue in 2023.

Richland SWCD will host the workshops at the Ohio Bird Sanctuary Education Center, 3774 Orweiler Rd., Mansfield, the second Tuesday in January, April, July and October from 6-8 pm. The series includes an art and/or craft project with a guest speaker related to the workshop's theme.

The first workshop, "For the Birds!" is Jan. 10, 2023. Attendees will make a gourd birdhouse and create a nesting ball from a suet cage. Gail Laux, executive director at the Ohio Bird Sanctuary, will provide a program on birds and the sanctuary. Parking is limited so carpooling is encouraged.

Richland SWCD will provide the materials and tools needed to make the projects. Reservations are requested and the workshop costs \$12 per person.

Visit <https://richlandswcd.net/get-involved/calendar> or call 419-747-8685 for more information and to register for the workshop.

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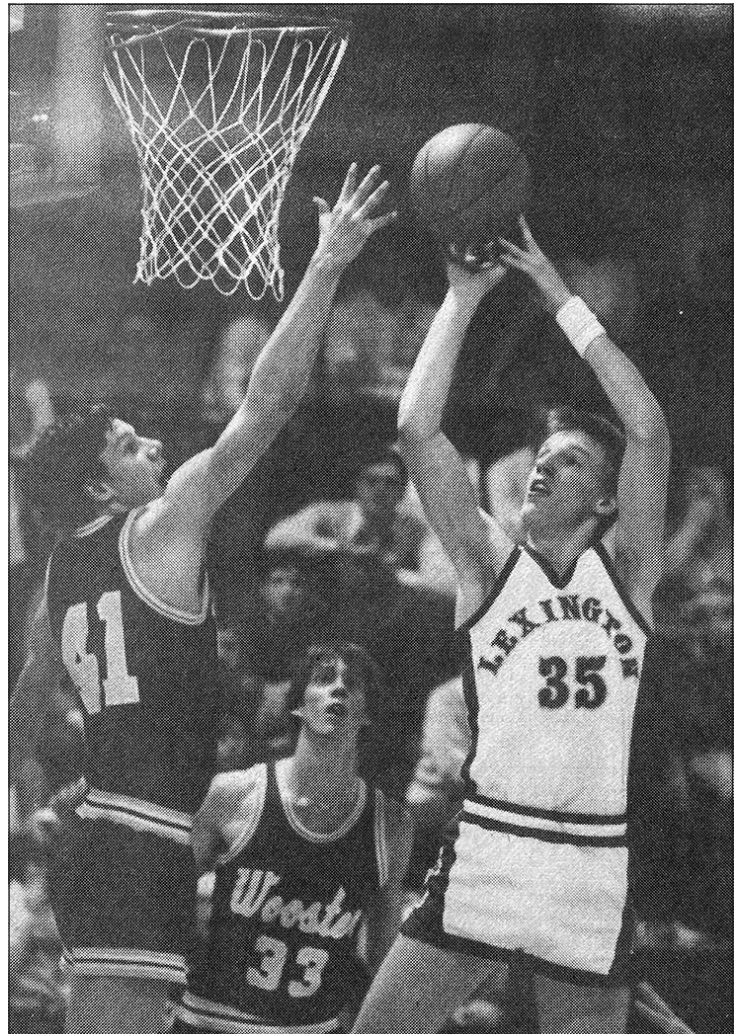
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Trumpet
Daughter of
Richard & Sally Rohm



Stacy Brumenshenkel
Clarinet
Daughter of
Phil & Ann Brumenshenkel



Trent Riley
Sax, Alto
Son of
Larry & Mahala Riley



JAN. 6, 1983 — Senior forward Terry Smith (35) of Lexington puts up a shot over Wooster forward Mike McCreary in last Thursday's game between the Minutemen and the Generals. Smith was the high scorer in the game for Lex with 17 as the Minutemen blew a big first half lead and lost 60-52. Watching is Graham Keever (33) of the Generals.

This Day in History — On Jan. 5, 1933, construction begins on the Golden Gate Bridge, as workers began excavating 3.25 million cubic feet of dirt for the structure's huge anchorages. Following the Gold Rush boom that began in 1849, speculators realized the land north of San Francisco Bay would increase in value in direct proportion to its accessibility to the city. Soon, a plan was hatched to build a bridge that would span the Golden Gate, a narrow, 400-foot deep strait that serves as the mouth of the San Francisco Bay, connecting the San Francisco Peninsula with the southern end of Marin County. Although the idea went back as far as 1869, the proposal took root in 1916. A former engineering student, James Wilkins, working as a journalist with the San Francisco Bulletin, called for a suspension bridge with a center span of 3,000 feet, nearly twice the length of any in existence. San Francisco's city engineer, Michael M. O'Shaughnessy worked with engineer and poet Joseph Strauss, a 5-foot tall Cincinnati-born Chicagoan. The Golden Gate Bridge officially opened on May 27, 1937, the longest bridge span in the world at the time. The first public crossing had taken place the day before, when 200,000 people walked, ran and even roller skated over the new bridge.

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CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

The following is a succinct summary of the legislation adopted by the Council of the City of Ontario, at their special meeting held on December 19, 2022.

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.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-16 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS FOR MISCELLANEOUS ENGINEERING, SURVEYING AND DRAFTING SERVICES FOR THE YEARS 2023 THROUGH 2027, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 22-24 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH DYNEGY ENERGY SERVICES (EAST), LLC D/B/A DYNEGY ENERGY SERVICES, LLC FOR THE ELECTRIC AGGREGATION PROGRAM, AT A RATE NOT TO EXCEED \$0.0814 kwh, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 22-57 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 22-17 KNOWN AS THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR 2022.

Cathy VanAuer
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 1-5, 12 '23) 38L

Richland County Youth and Family Council meets to discuss newly vacant positions

The Richland County Youth and Family Council met Dec. 1 at the Richland County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, 87 E. First St., Suite L, Mansfield.

Meeting attendees included Joe Trolan, Lori Bedson, Joe Devany, Nikki Harless, Darrell Banks, Mark Abrams, Stan Jefferson, Wendy Thompson, Julie Chaya, Dan Varn, Meghan Wheeler and Elizabeth Warner.

Guests included Anne Vermilion, Laura Montgomery, Terry Carter, Jamie Klear, Ashley Leadingham, Sierra Marth-May, Julie Litt and Ike Hickman.

Vice-president Joe Trolan called the meeting to order.

Julie Chaya provided the Early Intervention report. There were 327 duplicated Early Intervention referrals and 116 children enrolled in services. To date, 32 children have exited the program with an average length of stay of 375 days.

Chaya expressed concern about the status of program compliance due to the absence of a grant manager. Lori Bedson informed the board members she has asked for guidance from the OJFS Directors' Association and the Department of Developmental Disabilities Financial Manager regarding the issue.

Joe Trolan informed board members and guests that executive director Teresa Alt and Richland County Job and Family Services Business Administrator Carmen Torrence were no longer employed in their positions.

Additionally, he advised the members and guests that Alt was let go with just cause. He explained this was based on a decision rendered by the Office of the Attorney General through the Richland County Prosecutor's Office per a request for clarification by the council.

Trolan enlisted the help of board members (volunteers) to convene a "search committee" to seek candidates for the position of executive director.

Darrell Banks explained the Board of Commissioners would like the assistance of the Board to post the position, interview candidates and make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. Trolan added that the board would use the county process for hiring since Richland County Job and Family Services is the fiscal agent

for the council. He emphasized it would be important to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the next executive director prior to placement.

Trolan reassured council members that services to families will continue. The Finance Committee will be meeting to develop a process to ensure services are not interrupted during the transition.

Terry Carter asked if the position would continue to be a shared position between the council and the Workforce Development Board.

Banks explained that is the intention but the Workforce Development Board and the Crawford County Commissioners will need to be involved in the discussion.

Trolan reiterated the importance of the council being able to pool funds to support programming and families as it has in the past.

Agency representatives shared current information regarding upcoming events with the council members and guests present.

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