



TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com

09.28.23



Madison's Ohio National Guard kick-off promotes cooperation

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Madison Comprehensive High School held its Ohio National Guard kick-off Friday, Sept. 22. The morning began at 8 am in the gymnasium with the Junior and Senior SkillsUSA officers presenting the SkillsUSA colors.

The Army National Guard officers worked with the students in various team building activities (Sgt. First Class Delong, Sgt. Cisco, Private Clingman, Staff Sgt. Milenkovic, Specialist Hickman, Specialist Herrera and Specialist Herrera).

Madison Career Tech students from Auto Tech and Welding (Green), Business (Gray), Carpentry (Orange), Cosmetology (Pink), Culinary Arts (Tie Dye), CyberSecurity (Purple), Early Childhood Education (Blue), Electricity (Dark Gray), Health Technologies (Light Pink), Precision Machining and Welding (Black), worked together as individual teams.

Some of the activities and challenges included a driving exercise to show the dangers of texting and driving, pull ups, balancing on wooden beams and moving them as a group, jousting inflatable, Observing an Army Truck, using Enhanced night vision goggles in the field house, racing with a stretcher, racing and dragging heavy objects, and a few other stations.

These activities promote cooperative and communication skills. The overall goal is to help students learn to problem solve and work together with their peers. Among the team building rotations was a station where students learned about the Army National Guard and the different career and educational opportunities available to them, should they decide to enlist. (See More Photos on Page 8)

Domestic Violence Awareness Luncheon spotlights critical issue of violence in Richland County

The Domestic Violence Shelter has announced the upcoming Domestic Violence Awareness Luncheon, scheduled to take place on Thursday, Oct. 5, at 11:30 am at the DLX Kobacker.

The event theme is "We are all connected: Every 1 Knows Some1." This theme serves as a powerful reminder that domestic violence affects individuals from all walks of life, and it is essential for the community to come together to combat this issue.

"In 1978 Richland County opened its arms and hearts to victims of Domestic Violence. 45 years later we continue to stand strong in our commitment to support and empower survivors. Our annual Domestic Violence Awareness Luncheon serves as a testament to our unwavering dedication to raising awareness, promoting prevention, and fostering a community that rejects violence in all its forms," said Colleen Rice, Executive Director.

The luncheon will commence with a significant moment as Sergeant Amber Alfrey, training supervisor at the Richland County Sheriff's Office, delivers a keynote address and Commissioner Tony Vero presents a Proclamation emphasizing the commitment of local authorities and the community to address domestic violence and promote prevention efforts. Commissioner Vero's involvement underscores the importance of this cause and highlights its significance within Richland County.

Each table at the luncheon will feature an empty seat reserved for a victim who tragically lost their life due to domestic violence in Richland County. This visual representation serves as a solemn reminder of the devastating impact that domestic violence has on our community.

The luncheon is an opportunity for community members, local organizations, and law enforcement agencies to unite in support of victims, survivors, and their families. By coming together, we can raise awareness, promote prevention and work towards eradicating domestic violence in our society. Register online at <https://www.thedvshelter.com/awareness-luncheon.html>

Red Cross urgently needs donors

The American Red Cross continues to experience a national blood and platelet shortage and asks the public to book a time to give as soon as possible. Donors of all blood types are urgently needed, especially type O blood donors and those giving platelets. Make an appointment on the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

As a thank-you, those who come to give Oct. 1-20, will receive a \$15 Amazon.com gift card by email. Bloodmobiles are scheduled for:

Wednesday, Sept. 27, 8 am to 1 pm, OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital, 335 Glessner Ave., Mansfield; and 12-6 pm, Richland Mall

Thursday, Sept. 28, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall
Tuesday, Oct. 3, noon to 6 pm, Saint Paul Lutheran Church, 48 Church St., Bellville

Friday, Oct. 4, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall

Wednesday, Oct. 11, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall; and 8 am to 1 pm, Shelby High School, 1 Whippet Way, Shelby

Thursday, Oct. 12, 10 am to 4 pm, Schmidt Security Pro, 241 Mansfield Industrial Parkway

Friday, Oct. 13, 9 am to 2 pm, Richland Mall; and 8 am to 2 pm, Pioneer Career & Tech Center, 27 Ryan Rd., Shelby

Monday, Oct. 16, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall

Wednesday, Oct. 18, 1-6 pm, Planktown Country Market, 1921 Free Rd., Shiloh

Friday, Oct. 20, 11 am to 5 pm, Resurrection Parish, 2600 Lexington Ave., Lexington; and 10 am to 3 pm, YMCA, 750 Scholl Rd., Mansfield

The Last Train to Cedar Point

By Bob Carter

This is a personal bit of history. In 1947, the B&O Railroad was running an excursion train from Newark to Sandusky and Cedar Point.

After World War II, this was a big deal and Lexington B&O Station Master Nelson Lewis told the bartender George Swigart at Swigart's Cafe, that if enough tickets were sold the train would make a stop at Lexington. That was a great idea and the bar stool gang sprung into action.

My father, Robert H. Carter, a village councilman, along with Swigart, Tommy Welch, Boots Garverick, John Newcomer and others, all set out for a ticket sales campaign. Some folks gave in and bought excursion tickets even if they weren't much interested in going. It was a village thing! They had to do it.

The big day came and the double-headed train, one steam engine and a diesel, thundered into old Lex with a large crowd at the usually empty station. It appeared that several had come very early and had spent time at Swigart's or the bar room under the Minear Hotel for "breakfast." A few appeared a little oiled as they boarded the passenger cars.

For me at age 11, it was a thrilling ride for dad, my younger brother Dick and me. Many times I used to go down along the tracks and watch the steam engines switch rail cars by the hours at the Soy Bean plant, Farm Bureau, Lutz Lumber etc. I became a real train nut at an early age.

I don't remember the train stops, but Mansfield, Shelby and Willard were a few that we made on the way to Sandusky. The view out of the train car window left me wondering where the heck we were. The fellow passengers were a mixed bag. I knew a few and just recognized a few from around town but most were strangers to my mind.



THE B&O TRAIN cars stopped at the Cedar Point boat docks.

To my amazement, our car stopped at the waterfront docks in Sandusky and it was just a short walk to the boat terminal. The steam
(Continued on Page 4)



THE STEAM BOAT Boeckling to Cedar Point was a once in a lifetime experience.



THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —

Sylvester Stallone and Jason Statham return in *The Expendables 4*. This fourth entry may be the most forgettable installment of this star-studded franchise which always contains enough explosions and chases for two movies.

Sent in by a government official to complete a mission, Barney Ross (Stallone) and his team are sent in to get the job done. When a tragedy occurs, the team bands together to defend their own and stop a deadly bomb from detonating aboard a huge warship.

The great thing about these *Expendables* movies is that they are filled to the brim with famous action stars throughout history. With this fourth installment, everything is really paired down and not in a good way. The team has certainly shrunk with Randy Couture, Curtis '50 Cent' Jackson, Levy Tran, Dolph Lundgren and Tony Jaa rounding out the crew with Megan Fox as Statham's girlfriend and new team member.

The movie has a couple good set pieces such as a motorbike chase onboard the war ship and a couple good fire fights. The CGI in the film though is just

terrible for a movie released in 2023. The green screen and bad special effects are so apparent it is comparable to a direct to TV movie instead of a theatrical release.

The actors are fine in the film and do what they can. Andy Garcia pops up as the government official and he is overacting with some extremely silly dialogue. The twist at the end is almost not welcome because the movie wants the audience to believe so many plot points for so long that it almost brings down the film and makes it feel like everything else made before.

The Expendables 4 is a mediocre action film that could have really been great with a better script, main storyline and fleshed out cast.

With these movies being a who's who of Hollywood action stars, this one feels like nobody would return Stallone's call. It's too bad because the first couple entries were just goofy fun.

This movie is forgettable and substandard compared to what has come before it.



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News Briefs

The Johnny Appleseed Square Dance Club of Mansfield has been teaching Western Style Square Dance to couples, singles and families since 1968. Square dancing is a healthful exercise to make a fitness routine more fun. Many doctors stress that a healthy lifestyle and a positive mental attitude are important factors to a healthy and satisfying life.

Square Dance lessons begin Oct. 5, from 7–9 pm at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 525 W. Cook Rd., Mansfield. For more information contact the Johnny Appleseed Squares, Don Karger, co-president, by texting or calling 419-545-6564. For information visit appleseedsquares.com.

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

Permits were issued to Carolyn Russel, Rudy Rd., shed; Darrell Arnold, Mabee Rd., greenhouse and sales; Bobby Minard, Shangri La E., detached garage; Sunbelt Rentals, Walker Lake Rd., pole sign; Vantage Signs, S. St Rt 202, annual erector's license; and Joel Fernandez, N. Lexington Springmill Rd., house demo permit Roger Hetler, Fairway Crossing, side yard accessory building; and Doug Basham, Park Avenue West, side yard accessory building and rear setback.

Washington Township Fire Department will host a pancake breakfast on Saturday, Oct. 7, from 7 am to 11 am, at 2480 Possum Run Rd. Breakfast will include pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, coffee, milk and orange juice. Admission is by donation.

Proceeds raised will assist the community and the fire department. All are welcome.

The Lexington Depot's meal schedule has been released. Meals are served at the Lexington Senior Civic Center, 67 E. Main St., Lexington, from 11 am to 2 pm. For information call 419-884-1676. Meals include Sept. 28, creamed chicken over mashed potatoes/biscuits.

The Richland Rural Life Center, 969 E. Crall Rd., Mansfield, will host its annual chicken dinner on Saturday, Oct. 7, from 4–6 pm.

The dinner includes chicken slow cooked over an open pit, buttered parsley potatoes or Au gratin potatoes, old fashioned slaw salad or applesauce and dinner roll, beverage and a scoop of homemade vanilla ice cream.

Adult meals are \$12 for half chicken; seniors and children (10 and under) are \$7 for a quarter chicken.

Carry-out meals are available and extra chicken halves are \$5 each. Homemade ice cream quarts are available for \$5.

The entrance is located between Stewart Rd. and Rt. 545, Mad-

ison area. Proceeds go toward facility maintenance for use by Boy Scouts and 4-H.

First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Ave. West, Mansfield, offers senior boxes on the fourth Tuesday of each month, year 'round. The Greater Cleveland Food Bank has a program called "Senior Boxes" whereby anyone 60+ who falls in the "low income" guidelines can register and then pick up a 30 pound box of non-perishables including two pounds of cheese and a 15 pound box of pre-packaged produce.

Age is a qualification, so those attending should bring a current identification card complete with date of birth and proof of income. Distribution is on the east side of the building between 11:30 am and 1:30 pm to get registered and pick up a box. There is no cost. Call 419-522-0662 for more information. The next date for distribution is Tuesday, Sept. 26.

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 Oct. 18 will include roast beef. Josh Dysal of the Crawford County Park District will speak. Guests are welcome.

The group will meet for lunch at 11 am on Oct. 4 at El Campesino, 1593 West 4th St., Ontario.

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

Richland County Republicans will host the First Monday Luncheon on Monday, Oct. 2, from 11:45 am to 1 pm in the Kobacker Room, DLX Events and Catering, 28 N. Main St., Mansfield.

Speaker will be Megan Shanahan, Candidate for the Ohio Supreme Court. RSVP to 419-528-8223 or rcohgop@gmail.com. Optional lunches are \$10.

The Bellville Neighborhood Outreach Center will host its final free distribution of the season on Oct. 23 for produce giveaways. Line-up begins at 8:30 am and the giveaway begins at 10 am at Clear Fork Alliance Church (across from Clear Fork High School). A photo ID is required.

A fall rummage sale will be held Wednesday, Oct. 4, from 9 am to 4 pm; and Thursday, Oct. 5, from 9 am to noon at First Congregational Church, 640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield.

KC Delights food truck will be on the premise.

The Richland County Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings are scheduled for Oct. 25, Jan. 24, April 24 and July 24 at 3:15 pm at Richland Public Health, 555 Lexington Ave, Mansfield, in the Corley Room. For more information contact Richland County EMA 419-774-5686.

I'm their biggest fan. I would shout it from the rooftop.

And we're a fan of yours too, Jake!

Jake Penwell
Owner of Penwell Funeral Home

Mechanics
BANK Member FDIC

THAT'S MY BANK.

•The Last Train to Cedar Point

(Continued from Page 2)

powered side wheeled G.A. Boeckling was at the dock and it was only 25 cents round trip. Once all were aboard, with a hiss of steam, the long stroke pistons started to shove the boat away from the dock. It had an upper pilot cabin on both ends so it didn't have to turn leaving the dock. I was fascinated by the gentle motion of the machinery and the splashing side wheels. Excited, I watched the long engine pistons from the inside railing part way across to Cedar Point.

Off the dock at Cedar Point, I saw an amazing place to my young eyes. A roller coaster, Ferris Wheel, rides and an array of buildings housing all kinds of entertainment and goodies. My main interest was the bumper cars. I rode them twice. I knew I had to learn to drive! I hit everybody I could!

An array of pinball games, fail-type skill games and food stands were fascinating, but short on cash, I mostly watched. The buildings were not freshly painted and although not dingy, I noticed huge cobwebs under the eaves full of dead May flies and other flying insects. Cedar Point had been closed during the war I guessed and that accounted for the slightly run down condition. The wooden roller coaster I rode seemed weathered.

The trip home was interesting. A few of the Lexington passengers appeared to have been drinking when we boarded and must have visited the beer concession quite often. There were three McNaul brothers. John ran a meat market, "Fuzzy" was a barber I think and "Poose" was the biggest and drank. He was well in his cup when someone saw that he was back on board.

Dick and I remember him weaving down the rocking train car and someone reached out and with one finger opened his hip pocket.

et. Then they poured a Dixie cup of beer in and old "Poose" never felt it. He just kept going!

Going home, I watched as we quickly passed the Willard Station and yards. We watched for the Lexington station and dad made sure we got off. What a memorable day it had been.

As a train nut, in 2002 with the help of Alan Wigton, I published a book on the history of the Sandusky, Mansfield and Newark Railroad, which was taken over by the Baltimore and Ohio.

At that time in my memory, I realized I'd been on board the last passenger train to ever stop in Lexington!

The railroad ended all passenger service on its lines in 1961. Two Lexington men, Dr. Riley Frush and John Newcomer, who had the Lexington School Bus franchise, went to Mansfield, and rode the last B&O passenger train to Newark and back. Dr. Frush, at one time, had an elaborate electric train layout in a large empty room over what is now Vidonish Glass studios.

The steamer G. A. Boeckling, built in 1909, made its last trip to Cedar Point on Labor Day in 1951.

Tribune-Courier

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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 Acasta
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
Pastor Denny Nezrick
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
"A Refuge for Hymn-singers!"

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

To learn how to be added to this listing send an email to advertising@tribune-courier.com

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This Week's Pet Looking for A Forever Home



Orson

This incredibly nice and gentleman is around two years old.

He is pretty good on a leash, but he prefers to be able to run and smell in a fenced in area.

Orson appreciates treats and attention, although he's not sure if he wants to give attention

back to humans. Orson doesn't "show" well when he's introduced to new people. He is never mean, he just ignores. After Orson knows and trusts someone, he will give them some love and attention.

Orson is pretty self sufficient, and he will happily play by himself or sprint around play yards. Orson also loves rolling around in grass. He tolerates baths, although he doesn't love them.

Orson absolutely hates being at the shelter and going back to his kennel. He has been at the shelter for over a year. Orson would love a couch and some toys and some occasional scratches. The shelter thinks Orson is good with female dogs and will probably chase cats. Orson does not seem to like male dogs. He absolutely loves treats.

Orson is available at the Richland County Dog Shelter in Mansfield. Those interested in meeting him or any other dog, can contact or visit the Richland County Dog Warden's Office and Shelter. Hours are 11 am to 4:15 pm Monday-Friday and 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday.

Currently, adoptions are on a schedule, based on the time the dog has been at the shelter. Dogs that have been at the shelter for more than a year are \$50, dogs there more than six months are \$100, dogs at the shelter longer than three months are \$125, and dogs there less than three months are \$150. This fee includes spay/neuter, microchip,

dog license, and some vaccines.

The shelter's current needs are volunteers to walk and play with the dogs as well as fill kongs for the dogs to play with when they are in their kennel, help with laundry or dishes, or clean the yard. The shelter uses a lot of bleach, laundry detergent and dog treats and welcomes donations.

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Charles Eugene Schluter II, September 14

Mark Steven Bray, September 15

Dale Edward Whisler, September 16

Judge Frank Ardis Jr., September 17

Tyrone Coleman, September 18

John Jung, September 18

Denise Ann Szczech, September 18

Christy Lynn Goss, September 19

James C. Gorman, September 21

Betty Ethel Carroll, September 24

View Full Obituaries at www.dignitymemorial.com

Rubies Womens Group will host third annual banquet October 21

Rubies Womens Group will host its 3rd Annual Fall for Rubies Banquet with the theme of "You are the One." The banquet will be held Saturday, Oct. 21, from 5-7 pm at Kindred Kove, 1710 LorKay Dr., Mansfield.

Reservations are available for \$50 per person for the five-course gourmet meal provided by UR Worthy Catering. Guest speakers will be Tyler Amos, Rubies board member; and Lindsey Copley from Richland County Adult Probation and a Rubies graduate's testimony.

There will also be a silent auction featuring gifts from local businesses. Rubies will give a presentation bringing awareness of how addiction and human sex trafficking is in our area and how Rubies is a solution to this problem.

Rubies is a non profit organization that is considered a healing house for women coming out of addiction and/or human sex-trafficking. It has been operating since 2016, starting out as a support group for women in need of housing and assisting women to transition from survival mode to healing.

RSVP to 419-612-6399 or visit www.rubiesoutreach31.com.

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ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION®

Madison Local School Board has busy agenda

The Madison Local School Board regular meeting was held Sept. 20, in the Madison Middle School Auditoria.

Eagle Scout Andrew Parish attended as a guest.

Presentations were given by Sean Conway, Madison Comprehensive High School and athletic director Doug Rickert.

A donation of \$413.25 was accepted from Mifflin PTO for the purchase of Teacher/Parent Communication Folders.

A donation of miscellaneous vehicle accessories valued at \$9,500 was accepted from Tractor Supply Company (TSC) in Ontario for the Career Tech Auto Technology program.

A victory bell with stand and signage was donated by from Adam Faith. It will be placed on the soccer field.

Treasurer Bradd Stevens gave the monthly financial report and approval of the permanent appropriations for FY24 and student activity budgets for FY24 were approved.

Kobi Johnson, assistant varsity boys' basketball coach, resigned.

Resident educator mentors for the 2023-'24 school year are Kristen Agee, Jennifer Branstetter, Joanna Burke, Breanna Crunkilton, Brittany Farley, Liz Hicks, Teri Foley-Kanz, John Foust, Judi Freytag, Craig Green, Patrick McLaughlin, Chris Moody, Holly North, Heather Reynolds, Jen Thoma, Zinda Thomas, Jim Thompson and Karen VonStein.

A stipend in the amount of \$1,800 was approved for Karen VonStein, lead resident edu-

cator mentor for the 2023-'24 school year.

Substitute teachers hired on an "on call" basis, as needed for the 2023-'24 school year are Marlene Brown, EmmaLee Canankamp, Amanda Case, Bethany Cetinich, Laurie Dean, Shanna Eith, Amanda Henry, Chad Hicks, Tyson Hicks, Brianna Korbas, Kylee Mays, Drena Miller, Ronald Seifert, Lillie Shelby, Dennis Snelson, Pamela Taylor, Kimberly Thompson-Barley, Lyndsay Williams, Julie Yetzer, Angel Stantz, Diana Kelly, Susan Deel, Stacy Moore and Karl Schuster.

Rachel Jamieson Knighten was hired as a long-term sub for middle school math (algebra, advanced sixth and seventh grade) and John Neron was hired as a long-term sub for seventh grade

health. Gaven Remy, was hired as a long-term sub for seventh grade health through Sept. 2.

Supplemental positions for the 2023-'24 school year were awarded to Matt Godsil, ½ Art Club Advisor; Ryan MacCredie, ½ Art Club Advisor; Lyle Scott, assistant seventh grade football coach; Teri Foley-Kanz, ½ seventh grade cheerleading advisor; Kobi Johnson, head ninth grade boys' basketball coach; and Troy Schulz, Online Academy Teacher (first semester).

Madison Adult Career Center employments for the current school year are Laurie Dean, Cosmetology instructor; Tim Dean, Industrial Electrical Maintenance instructor; Linda Wagner, Creative Writing for Self-Fulfillment instructor; John Fort, Small Engine Repair & Basic Maintenance instructor; Maryann Moyer, Microsoft Excel instructor; Mike Montry, CPR & First Aid instructor; Andrea Gerich, Quickbooks instructor; Ginny Walters, Cake Decorating instructor; Scheena Freeman, Digital Photography/Beginning Photoshop instructor; Diane Schmidt, Sign Language instructor; Jenna Boliantz, Communicable Disease instructor; Jennifer Taylor, Student Advocate/Community Health Worker; and Angie Botsko, COST instructor/Microsoft Applications.

Derek Zeiter was approved as a volunteer for eighth grade boys' basketball.

Rona Gushard was hired as a 4-hour cook at the high school. Ethan Wilson was hired as a payroll specialist for the board office. Rikki Parker was hired as a 4-hour cook at Madison South. Ana Moco-Nunes was hired as a 4-hour cook at the middle school and Sheena Thompson was hired as a 2-hour cook at Mifflin Elementary.

Lori Hursh has been awarded the head cook position at Madison South, replacing Susan Weikle who accepted another position. Elizabeth Teschler has been awarded the 4-hour cafeteria worker position at Eastview, replacing Janie Wilson who accepted another position. Dustee Miller has been awarded the 4-hour cafeteria worker position at Mifflin, replacing Heidi Weikle who accepted another position.

Resignations came from Amanda Oswalt, special education aide at South; Dustee Miller, (Continued on Page 7)

Voter registration deadline for primary is Oct. 10

The deadline to register to vote or change an address or name for the Nov. 7 General Election is Tuesday, Oct. 10.

The Richland County Board of Elections office will be open that evening until 9 pm. This office is located at 1495 W. Longview Ave. Suite 101 in the Longview Center. After 4 pm, visitors must use the entrance at the lower level back parking area at the southwest corner of the building.

Qualifications for registering to vote include must be either a native U. S. citizen or a naturalized citizen of the U.S., must be a resident of The State of Ohio 30

days before an Election and must be a minimum of 18 years of age on or before the date of the General Election on Nov. 7, 2023.

Registered voters who have moved or changed their name must notify the Board office in writing or in person. Voters currently registered in Ohio may change their address online at VoteOhio.gov but must do so by the October 10th deadline. Online registration is also now available at VoteOhio.gov

In addition to the Board of Elections office, citizens may register or complete a change of address/name at any library

branch, all city and village hall offices, The Bureau of Motor Vehicles Office, The Department of Human Services, The Richland County Courthouse (recorder or treasurer offices) and all area high school offices.

Registration forms may also be obtained from the Board of Elections website at www.boe.ohio.gov/richland or requested by mail.

Contact the board office at 419-774-5530 to have a form sent by mail. Completed voter registration forms must be postmarked 30 days before Election Day.

Two (2) Free Square Dance Lessons

Thursdays, Sept. 28, 7-9 pm



Join the Johnny Appleseed Square Dancers to learn something new and fun.

Western-style square dancing has it all!

It's a great way to gently exercise the body & mind.

It's a great opportunity to meet new friends and have fun too!

No dance experience required & dress is casual.

Miss the first one... come to the next.

**JOHNNY APPLESEED
SQUARE DANCERS**

*Singles, Couples &
Families Welcome*

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

525 W. Cook Rd., Mansfield

(SW corner of W. Cook Rd. & Lexington Ave.)

Questions: Call Don Karger at 419.545.6564

or visit appleseedsquares.com

•Madison has busy agenda

(Continued from Page 6)

4-hour cook at Mifflin; and Vicki Maxey, 4-hour cook at South.

Substitute cafeteria employees hired on an "on call" basis, as needed, for the 2023-'24 school year are Lessie Sloan, Rikki Parker, Ana Moco-Nunes, Shawna Hout and Dustee Miller.

An unpaid leave of absence was approved for Michael Arnold, bus driver, effective Oct. 1, 2023 through Sept. 30, 2024.

The Service Agreement with Catalyst Life Services to provide mental health counseling and case management services to students of the Madison Local School District who are in need of such services, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

The board approved the first reading of new and revised board policies.

A resolution was approved for the employment termination of Eva D'Intino and she will be suspended without pay or other fringe benefits during the pendency of termination proceedings.

The next regular board of education meeting will be Oct. 18, in the Madison Middle School Auditoria at 6 pm.

27th Annual Donald Bernhardt Memorial Concert is Oct. 15

The Mansfield Chamber Music Players will present the 27th Annual Donald Bernhardt Memorial Chamber Music Concert Sunday, Oct. 15 at 4 pm in Riedl Hall at The Ohio State University, Mansfield Campus. Music by John Rutter, George Onslow and Muzio Clementi will be performed by a string quintet, a woodwind quintet and finally with the winds and strings combined.

Carol Bernhardt organized the first Memorial Chamber Music Concert in 1997 in memory of her late husband, Donald Bernhardt, who was a violinist and an avid chamber music player. He would often organize marathon chamber music playing weekends at their house and loved going to Montana for a week of chamber music playing each summer. In the last 26 years the Mansfield Chamber Music Players have performed over 100 different chamber works on these Memorial concerts.

Included on this year's varied program is Woodwind Quintet #3 by George Onslow, Suite for Strings based on British folk tunes by John Rutter, and Nonet by Muzio Clementi.

Performing this year will be: violin, Michael Sieberg and Steve Domka; viola, Jim Froelich; cello, Robert Rashid; bass, David Lenigan; flute, Denise Rotavera-Klein; oboe, Carol Bernhardt; clarinet, Pam Ellis; French horn, Keely Krumweide; and bassoon, Jane Price.

The concert is provided by the Donald Bernhardt Memorial Chamber Music Fund at Chase Bank in cooperation with The Ohio State University - Mansfield Campus.



Western New York • Photo By Mark Shutt



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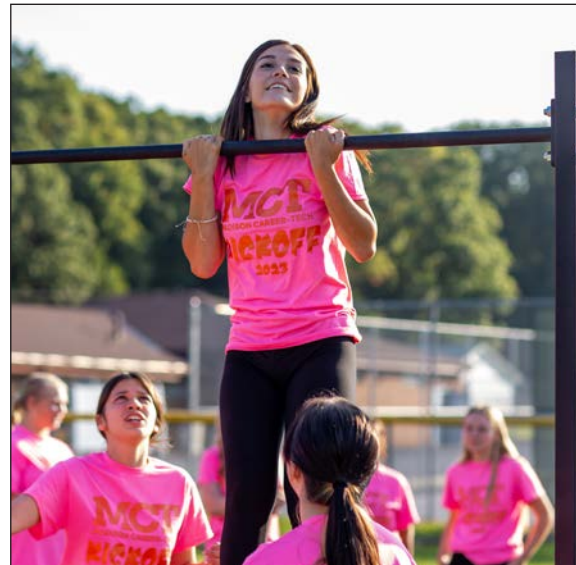


2023 Kick-Off

September 22 • Photos By Traci Little



KEIAYRSAH JONES is a junior at Madison Comprehensive High School. She loves working with children in the Early Childhood Education program. She's has wanted to be a teacher ever since she was a young child. She remembers having her parents set up an imaginary school room so she could pretend she was teaching her stuffed animals.



Lexington Council makes improvements, repairs

The Lexington Village Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Brian White on Sept. 5.

Members attending were Adam Gongwer, Bob Jarvis, Wynn Kearns, Kim Little, Jeff O'Brien and Todd Wise.

Also present were Attorney John Studenmund, Chief Troy Weaver and Village Administrator Andrew Smallstey.

Keith Bacin of Cedarwood complimented the new agency hired for installation of village water meters. Bacin stated that the people were fantastic, courteous and very professional. Bacin thanked council members for selecting this agency.

Administrator Andrew Smallstey reported that all the old fencing has been taken down in preparation for the pickle ball court. The old fencing was turned in for scrap.

He said the existing asphalt for the courts was milled as a donation to the village by Brennstuhl Construction in Bellville. This allows the millings to be used as a temporary parking surface until a future plan is developed. He recommended that a sign be displayed on the fencing acknowledging the work by Brennstuhl. Sportscape crews began their work this week.

Work has started on the replacement roof at the senior depot. Work includes a roof, fascia and downspouts. This project was completely paid for by the NOPEC Energized Community Grant.

The 42 South Water Storage tank has been drained, sandblasted and painted on the interior over the last few weeks. Some of the yard was rutted by crews and the concrete drive was damaged by their equipment. USG will be handling all of the repairs to both areas.

Crosswalks and parking areas, including striping of the depot parking lot, has been in process for the last few weeks. Thermoplastic will be laid in and around the square by the street department.

On Aug. 23, street department employee, Tyler Yarger, was involved in a crash with a motorcycle at W. Main and Steam Corners. The motorcycle struck the trailer being pulled by Tyler in a village pickup. The two occupants of the motorcycle received fairly minor injuries and were transported to Avita. All information has been turned over to both insurance companies for review and finalization.

Councilman Kearns noted about the well-done water break repair job on Plymouth St. He noted the county helped with traffic signals.

Councilman Little asked if Smallstey has reviewed the village's ordinances regarding sheds. Mr. Smallstey stated he sent an email to Mr. Little regarding this matter. Little will look for the email.

Councilman O'Brien asked if the easement for Complete Access has been completed. Attorney Studenmund stated the easement is good but the village will need an authorized signature; not the local manager due to the actual ownership rights as held for the property.

Mayor Brian White spoke with other mayors and decided to hold trick or treat the Thursday before Halloween, Oct. 26th from 5:30 to 7 pm. The Halloween walk has been put on the back burner.

A Proclamation was read for National Preparedness Month.

Mayor White joined the Lemon family for overdose awareness on Aug. 31, held at Lexington Community Park.

He gave congratulations to the Blueberry Festival for the largest parade attendance. The Sorelle Sisters brought in a huge crowd. The

festival was moved to one week earlier than previously held.

The litigation involving the square is over. The zoning denial stays in place. Council tried to agree on a price with the owner but were not successful. The owner has been sent a letter to mow the lot and fill in the hole according to village zoning and ordinance requirements.

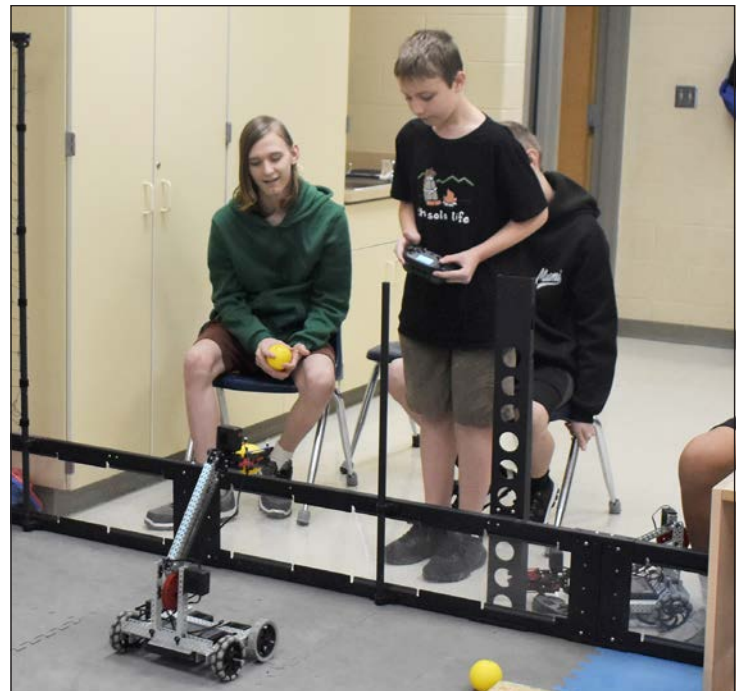
Chief Weaver thanked Andy Smallstey, parks employees and water department employees for their assistance during the Blueberry Festival. He said this helped a lot with the manpower issue.

He reported that hiring is at slow process. "We thought we had one officer but he did not want to work nights. We have another interview slotted."

Officer Anderson is working half days at the school and the other time on education.

Mayor White noted that Officer Glennon was recognized as Lexington's SRO by the large number of people greeting him when in public.

Mayor White requested Attorney Studenmund and Administrator Smallstey to also attend the executive session.



THE EIGHTH GRADE ROBOTICS class at Ontario Middle School competed in an individual tournament using claw robots to pick up balls and drop them in their safe zone to get points. The final was Zack "The Shadow" Jones edging out Jackson "The Ghost" Dean by a 10-5 margin to claim the championship.

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Pioneer CTC accepts donations and revises job descriptions

At the Sept. 18, meeting the Pioneer Board of Education adopted a Resolution for Student Activity Fund Purposes and Budgets and approved the activity reimbursement schedule and travel allowance for club advisors for 2023-'24.

Revisions were made to job descriptions for the superintendent, treasurer, director of business affairs, high school assistant director, school nurse, maintenance coordinator, distribution center coordinator, assistant treasurer, receptionist/secretary/administrative center, administrative secretary/career/technical secondary school, adult education instructor and adult education coordinator/instructor.

A resolution was adopted for red ribbon week and a strategic plan agreement for FY24 was approved.

Larry Reynolds, Plymouth Class of 1973, donated \$185 to the Graphic Arts lab. Ryan Tanner, Mansfield, donated clothing for the Pioneer Sharing Closet with a value of \$150. This donation will be used for students in need at Pioneer CTC.

A donation of a 2013 Chrysler Town & Country mini van was given by Steven Court. An adaptable motorized patient hospital bed was donated from OhioHealth Shelby Hospital for the Medical Assisting Career Technical Program.

The Dawn Wright-Smith, Blackbaud Giving Fund, Charleston, SC, donated \$30 for the Alumni Endowment fund. This donation will be put towards annual student scholarships.

The board approved student participation in FCCLA Leadership Camp at Heartland Conference & Retreat Center in Marengo, OH, Oct. 9 and 10 for Lucas High School students and chaperone Maleesa Warner, FCS instructor/FCCLA advisor. Students attending are Isabel Iceman and Alyssa Shay.

A retirement resignation was accepted from Shelly Ackley, language arts instructor, effective June 1, 2024.

Salary Adjustments were approved for Kevin Vargas, Rene Burtscher, Stephanie Eichorn, Jay Follett, Adam Galley, Daniel George, Kelly Jung, Melissa Myers, Carey Ransom and Kip Stevens.

Continuing contracts were approved for Melinda Meisse and Maleesa Warner.

Paternity leave was approved for John Yohe, commencing Sept. 11, 2023 and the board approved supplemental contracts for certificated staff.

The board approved stipend contracts for certificated staff and employment of classified staff for Heath Robinson, custodial/security worker and Brenda Taylor, P/T Adult Education Secretary.

The board approved employment of substitute classified staff. Brooke Kaufmann, Adult Education STA Instructor, resigned and the board approved employment of adult education instructors.

The board approved employment of student workers for the Early Childhood Education program.

A Memorandum of Understanding was reached for Career Coaches at Shelby City Schools and Lexington Local Schools.



THE ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) baked over 75 homemade, pumpkin flavored dog treats for the Humane Society. The FCCLA leader is Brittany Rhodes.



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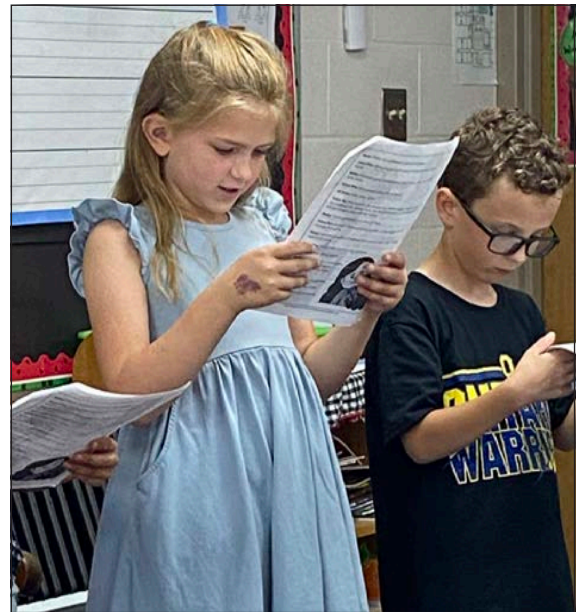
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STUDENTS IN TONYA WINNINGHAM'S second grade class at Ontario have been working hard on fluency in reading. Students recently showed off their skills by doing a readers theater called *Maisy's Piggy Bank*. It was about how a little girl worked hard to save money to buy herself a new basketball. Students then wrote about what they would save money for and shared it with their classmates.



Bill blocking the ban of gas-powered vehicles passes

Congressman Troy Balderson (R-OH) voted in support of the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act, which would prevent the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from allowing states to ban the sale of vehicles with internal combustion engines.

Balderson is an original co-sponsor on the bill, which was introduced in response to California's decision to effectively eliminate the sale of new internal combustion vehicles by 2035. The bill would restrict the EPA from issuing any waivers allowing this ban or similar bans.

Balderson spoke on the House floor in support of the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act.

"Lawmakers in California want to outright ban the sale of new vehicles with an internal combustion engine," said Balderson. "They are fed up

with the pace of the free market, and they want to force consumers to switch to more expensive electric vehicles."

"This bill would prevent President Biden's EPA from granting California the waiver needed to approve this ban. If the California waiver is approved, over a dozen other states could adopt identical standards to ban the internal combustion engine. House Republicans believe that Americans should be able to purchase the vehicle that meets their needs."

The Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act passed the House 222-190 with both Republican and Democrat support.



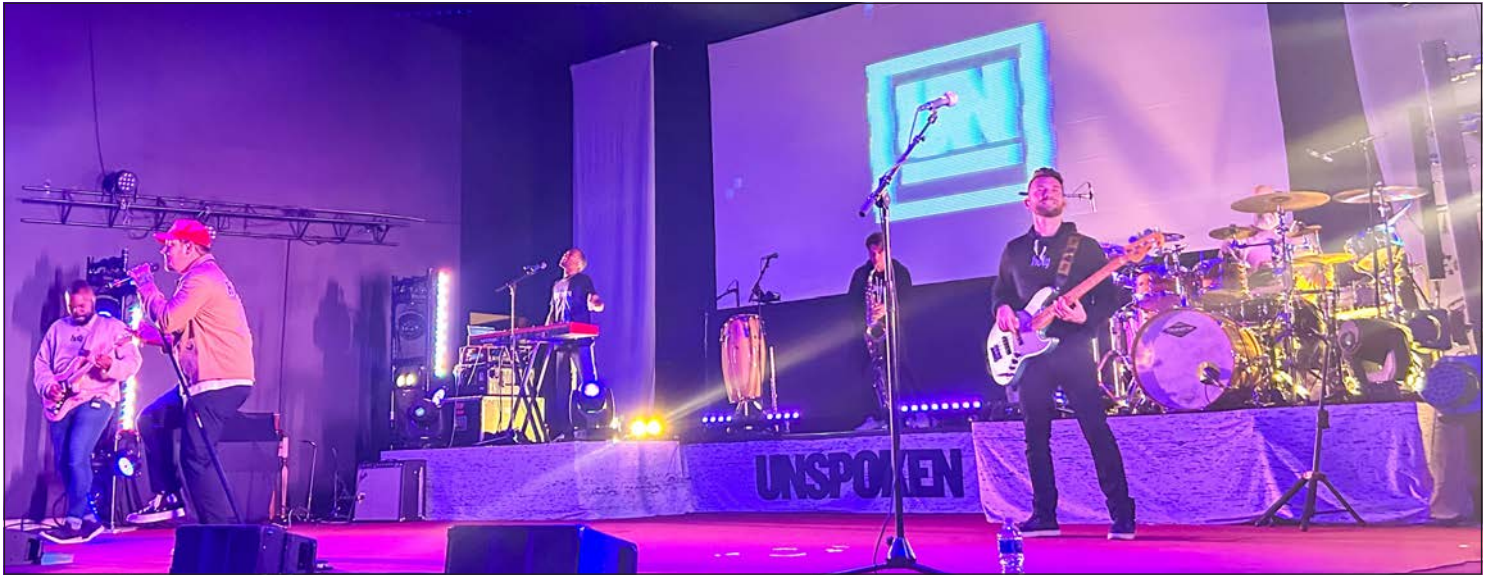
Photo By Eric Marshall

CLEAR FORK HIGH SCHOOL'S HOMECOMING COURT includes seniors Cooper George, Luke Schlosser, Kasey Swank, Kylie Belcher, Christina Carroll and Emma McCoy; juniors Segno Ault and Bailey McKee; sophomores Tristan Cromer and Ashtyn Wine; and freshmen Davis Hoefflich and Asia Bechtel. The court will be honored before the homecoming football game on Friday, Sept. 29 at Clear Fork High School versus Marion Harding. The king and queen will be crowned at that time.

PHOTOGRAPHY
Traci Michele

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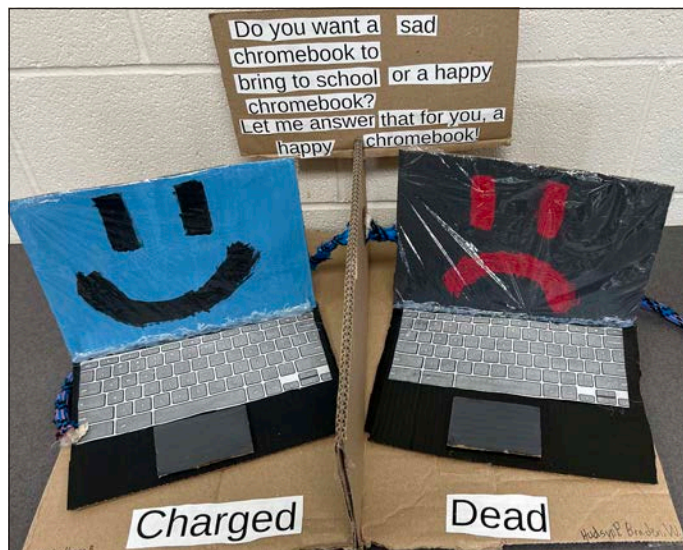
UNSPOKEN came to Avenue Church in Ontario for the God Help Me Tour on Sunday, Sept. 24. Sponsored by RISE FM 90.7 in Mansfield, Unspoken performed popular songs including the debut single, "Who You Are" and "Start a Fire." Special guest was Cade Thompson. For information visit <https://www.unspokenmusic.com>.



TONYA WINNINGHAM'S second grade class at Ontario checked out the big kids playground on a sunny September day when they met a class learning goal. They especially enjoyed the new activities that were painted on by Allison Pence Art recently.



THE SECOND GRADE STUDENTS in Mrs. Lindsey's class at Discovery School kicked-off their year studying how living things share the environment by making a worm farm. Students saved materials from their lunches to try composting by feeding the worms fruit and vegetable scraps. They hope to keep their farm alive through the year and see how the worms grow. (Right photo) ,Miah, Ellie, Teddy, and Tylan are showing Assistant Head of School Alyssa Nugent their worm farm after feeding.



STUDENTS IN MR. CANFIELD'S SIXTH GRADE social studies class at Ontario Middle School have been investigating what it means to be a citizen at OMS. Their final products answer the guiding question "How Can I Promote Strong Citizenship at OMS?"



ONTARIO MIDDLE SCHOOL students were treated to a live performance of the rock group Attaboy on Sept. 14. Insights into the lead singer's background in music were featured and he offered some inspirational words for students who may be facing difficulties of their own.



BRITTANY RHODES' CULINARY FUNDAMENTALS CLASS at Ontario High School practiced knife skills with a chef's knife and play dough. Students were taught and practiced the following cuts: french fry, batonnet, julienne, small/ medium/ large dices, rondelle, chopping and mincing. They wrapped up their knife skills by cutting and baking homemade french fries.



AS PART OF HOMECOMING WEEK festivities, Ontario High School hosted a Blue & Gold Day.

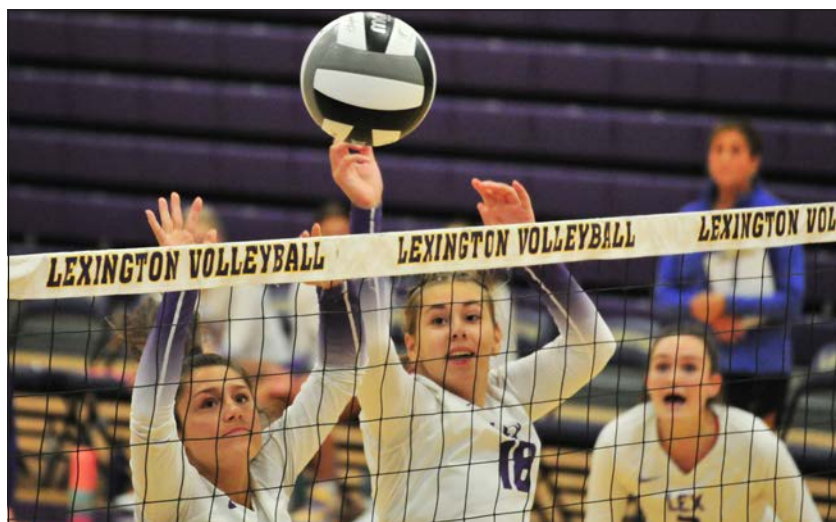


MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL has announced its 2023 Homecoming Court. This year's court includes (Top left) freshmen Dawson Loose and Michelle Hope; sophomores Aidan Johnson and Kendall Wushinske; juniors Jeiel Phillips and Noel Cline; and seniors, Caleb Hupp, Claire Robinson, Josh Gregory, Brooklynn Petersen, Zach Dumbeck and Raegan Standridge. The court was honored at the soccer games on Friday, Sept. 22 at Mansfield Christian School as the Flames hosted Tree of Life Christian School. (Top Right) Caleb Hupp and Claire Robinson were crowned King and Queen. Other festivities included a parade and dance at Malabar State Farm Park.



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON, SHELBY, NORWALK VARSITY VOLLEYBALL · SEPTEMBER 16
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS NORWALK JUNIOR VARSITY VOLLEYBALL · SEPTEMBER 16
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER

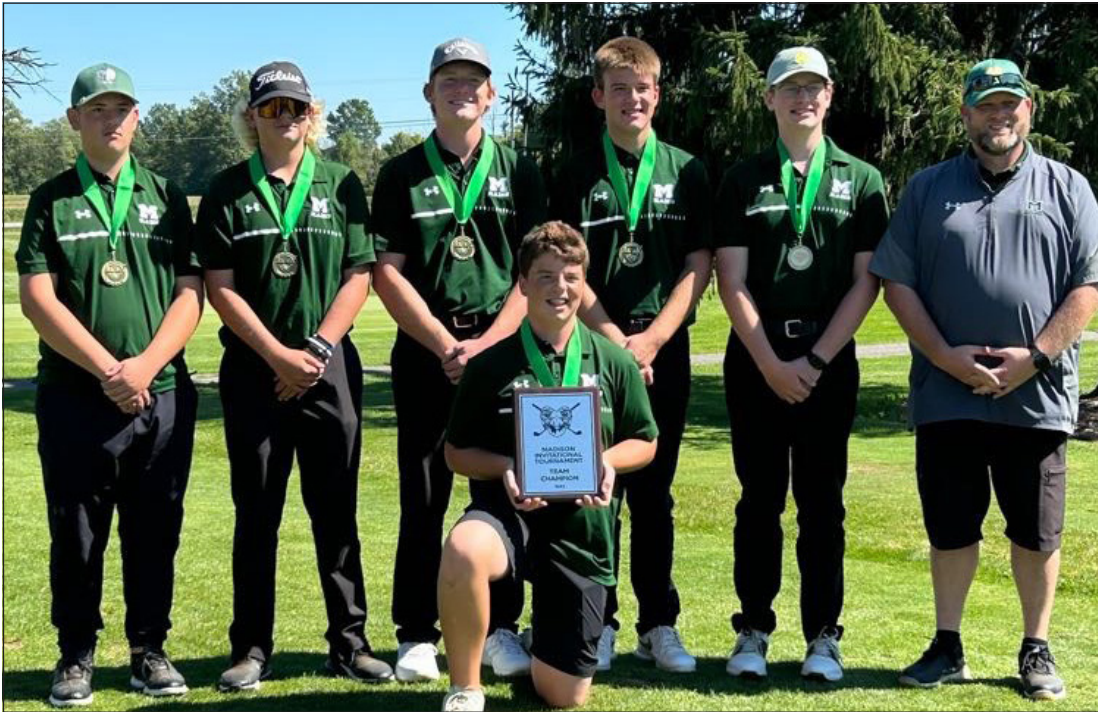


Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS. MARION HARDING BOYS VARSITY SOCCER · SEPT. 19
SENIOR NIGHT · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights



THE MADISON COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL GOLF TEAM was named the champion of the Madison Invitational Tournament held Friday, Sept. 15 at Valley View Golf Club. Team members are front, Josh Maglott; and Landon Goad, Liam Stone, Josh Atwell, Nick Maglott, Brodin Flury and Coach Steve Farley. The Rams are tied with Wooster for third in the Ohio Cardinal Conference.

Registration open for adult sports leagues

Ohio Social Sports, home of adult recreational sports in Mansfield, is currently accepting registrations for the upcoming adult co-ed dodgeball and volleyball league.

The co-ed league meets at the Mansfield Salvation Army, 47 S. Main St., Mansfield. All skill levels are welcome.

Dodgeball meets every Tuesday in October and November starting Oct. 3 and volleyball meets every Thursday in October and November starting Oct. 5. Games start between 6-9 pm.

Register as an individual, small group or entire business team. The registration deadline is Sept. 30.

Visit www.OhioSocialSports.com and follow the registration process.

For more information call 954-803-8655, or email gui.cr.alves@gmail.com.



SHELBY HIGH SCHOOL'S HOMECOMING COURT members are front Maggie Bogner, Sadie Howarth, Cadence Fairchild, Maryn Lantz and Kelsey Snyder; and back, Bryson Baker, Marshall Moore, Casey Lantz, Issaiah Ramsey and Eli Schwemley. The king and queen will be crowned on Friday, Oct. 6, before the football game against Clear Fork. Highlights of the week include Sunday, Oct. 1, kick-off of Homecoming Week with a powder puff game at 6 pm; Wednesday, Oct. 4, assembly to meet and get to know the homecoming court; Thursday, Oct. 5, student body votes for king and queen; and Friday, Oct. 6, pep rally.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS CLEAR FORK FOOTBALL · SEPT. 16 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS CLEAR FORK FOOTBALL · SEPT. 16 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS RIVER VALLEY HOMECOMING GAME · SEPT. 8 · WARRIORS WIN 56-21



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS RIVER VALLEY HOMECOMING GAME · SEPT. 8 · WARRIORS WIN 56-21



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CRESTVIEW CROSS COUNTRY INVITATIONAL- SEPT. 12 • MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL



Photos By Jenna Wolford

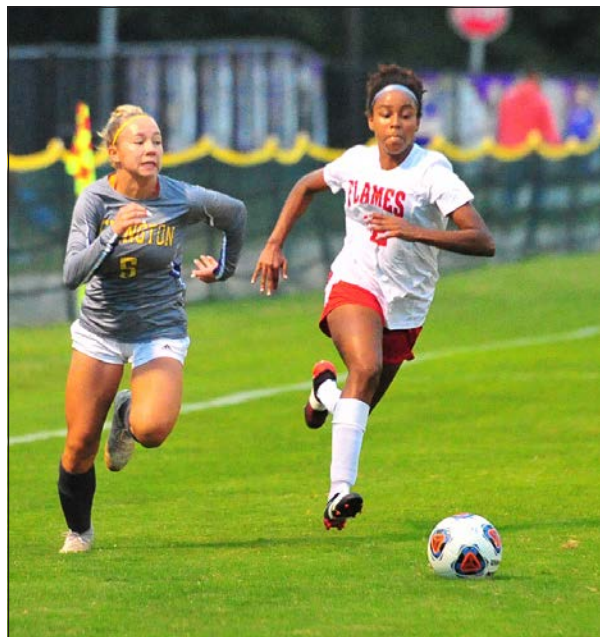
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS MADISON SOCCER · SEPT. 21 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN · SEPT. 25 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held before Council of the City of Ontario, during the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at the Ontario Municipal Building, upon a proposal to rezone vacant property on Walker Lake Road from R-2 Medium Density Residential to R-3 High Density Residential, Parcel Number: 038-60-500-61-000.

Cathy VanAuker, MMC
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 9-28, 10-5 '23) 15L

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Separate sealed bids for the Lexington Springmill Road South Waterline Replacement in the City of Ontario, Ohio will be received by Kris Knapp, Service-Safety Director, at 555 Stumbo Road, Ontario, Ohio 44906 until 10:00 AM, local time Thursday October 26, 2023, and then, at said office, publicly opened and read aloud.

The Information for Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Plans, Specifications, and other contract documents may be examined at KE McCartney & Associates, 52 North Diamond Street, Mansfield, Ohio 44902 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

In order to be a plan holder of record and eligible to submit a bid, bidders will be required to purchase and download an electronic set of plans and bid documents via the KEM Web Site by visiting <https://kemccartney.com/project-bids/>. All documents become the property of the prospective bidder, with no portion of the payment being refunded.

The project includes the installation of 2,210 LF of 8 & 12-Inch water main along with service lines. The estimated cost of construction is **\$907,000**.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any irregularity which does not affect the competitive nature of the bidding process or to reject any or all bids. Contract will be awarded based on the lowest and best bid. The City of Ontario may reject any or all bids on any basis and without disclosure of reason. The failure to make such disclosure shall not result in accrual of any right, claim or cause of action by any unsuccessful bidder against the City of Ontario.

Each bid must be accompanied by either an Ohio Revised Code Section 153.571 Bid and Performance Payment Bond in an amount equal to 100% of the bid; or, a cashier's check, bid bond, letter of credit to be duly executed by the bidder as principal and having as surety thereon, a surety company approved by the Owner in the amount of 10% of the bid.

Each bid must contain the full name of the party or parties submitting the proposal and all persons interested therein. All contractors and subcontractors involved with the project will, to the extent practicable use Ohio

Products, materials, services, and labor in the implementation of their project. Additionally, contractor compliance with the equal employment opportunity requirements of the Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 123, the Governor's Executive Order of 1972, and the Governor's Executive Order 84-9 shall be required.

The Owner intends and requires that this project be completed by June 7, 2024.

Bidders must comply with the prevailing wage rates on Public Improvements in Richland County and City of Ontario, Ohio as determined by the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, Wage and Hour Division, 614-644-2239.

**First Bid Advertisement:
September 21, 2023**

**Second Bid Advertisement:
September 28, 2023**

Bid Opening: October 26, 2023

Cathy VanAuker, MMC
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 9-21, 28 '23) 87L

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 September 20, 2023.

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. 23-16 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 23-02 KNOWN AS THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR 2023 BY MAKING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND, SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND, AND THE ENTERPRISE FUND.

Cathy VanAuker, MMC
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 9-28, 10-5 '23) 23L

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held before the Council of the City of Ontario during a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at the Ontario Municipal Building, 555 Stumbo Road, Ontario, Ohio, upon a proposal to add Section 1145.39 Construction Hours to the City Zoning Ordinance.

The City of Ontario Planning Commission has recommended in favor of this change.

All persons interested in these issues are invited to attend and express their views.

Cathy VanAuker, MMC
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 9-28, 10-5 '23) 16L

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Rail Safety Week reminds Ohioans to be alert at rail crossings

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) and the Ohio Department of Transportation participated in Rail Safety Week, Sept. 18–24. The week was dedicated as a reminder to Ohioans to practice safety around all rail crossings.

Every three hours, a person or vehicle is hit by a train in the United States. Crashes at rail crossings can be more severe than other collisions and are more likely to result in death and injury. This year's awareness campaign focuses on the safety of pedestrians, joggers and bicyclists.

"The only thing that belongs on a railroad track is a train," stated PUCO Chair Jenifer French. "Pedestrians and motorists alike should stay alert around crossings and make safe choices around trains."

"Rail Safety Week is an important reminder to all about the potential dangers of railroad grade crossings. We are grateful to Governor DeWine for prioritizing rail safety with the recent announcement of the Grade Crossing Elimination Program, which provides us even more resources to address grade crossing safety. Together with our state partners, the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, as well as Operation Lifesaver, we strongly encourage Ohioans to always expect a train when approaching tracks and help us to #STOPTrackTragedies. Stay alert, stay safe, and stay alive," said Scott Corbitt, Chair of the Ohio Rail Development Commission.

Drivers should always expect a train and never pass flashing lights or go around lowered gates.

Ohioans should remember that walking on or beside railroad tracks is illegal and the only safe place to cross tracks is at designated public crossings with a crossbuck, flashing red lights or a gate. Crossing anywhere else is illegal.

With 36 freight railroads operating approximately 5,300 miles of track and over 5,600 public grade crossings, Ohio is the fifth leading state in terms of goods transported by rail. The PUCO, in conjunction with the Ohio Rail Development Commission, is responsible for ensuring the safety of motorists and pedestrians at highway-rail grade crossings in Ohio. PUCO rail inspectors inspect the warning devices that are essential for everyone's safety.

In 2022, there were 61 train-vehicle collisions at public railroad crossings in Ohio, including 4 fatalities. More information about rail crossing crashes and safety is available in the PUCO's 2022 Rail Statistics Report.

The Ohio Rail Hotline, at (866) 814-RAIL (7245), provides Ohioans with a toll-free resource for all railroad crossing questions. For more information on rail crossing safety, visit www.PUCO.ohio.gov.



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