



TRIBUNE-COURIER

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10.26.23



Madison students receive perfect achievement test scores as levy vote nears

Madison Local School District Board of Education met Wednesday, Oct. 18, in the Madison Middle School Auditoria.

Students achieving a perfect score on the 2023 Spring Ohio Achievement Test were recognized. They are Chazlyn Zehner, grade 3 ELA; Klayton Hayes, grade 4 ELA; W. O., grade 4 ELA; James Lang, grade 3 math; Jaxon Turner, Grade 3 Math; Lauren Foster, grade 3 Math; Miranda Miller, grade 3 Math; Klayton Hayes, grade 4 Math; Makeylan Jarvis, grade 4 Math; Daniel Jiang, grade 4 Math; Gavin Moore, grade 4 Math; William Owens, grade 4 Math; Eleanor Sidwell, grade 4 Math; Beckham White, grade 4 Math; Liam Barr, grade 5 Math; Abbigale Crist, grade 5 Math; Troy Kegley, grade 5 Math; Kathryn Myers, grade 5 Math; Jack Foster, grade 6 Math; Tyler Batcheller, American Government; Justin Gibson, American Government; and Andrew Liviskie, American Government.

Nathan Stump, Mifflin Elementary Principal, gave a presentation.

A donation of \$1,000 was accepted from Veterans of Foreign Wars of Ohio Charities (VFW Post 3494) to be used for Career Tech's SkillsUSA Chapter. A donation of \$3,756.24 was accepted from Veterans of Foreign Wars of Ohio Charities (VFW Post 3494) to be used for tables and chairs for Liz Hicks' classroom at the high school.

Bradd Stevens, treasurer, presented the September 2023 Financial Report and appropriation modifications for FY24 as submitted. Both were approved.

Steve Zellner was hired as assistant seventh and eighth grade wrestling coach for the current school year.

An unpaid leave of absence was approved for Lois Brammer, bus aide, effective Oct. 17 through Nov. 28, 2023.

Geoff Eckenwiler was hired as the assistant varsity boys' basketball coach for the current school year.

Brian Forbes was hired for the Madison Adult Career Center Blueprint Reading and GD&T position.

Substitute teachers hired on an "on call" basis, as needed for the 2023-24 school year are Grayce Snavelly; Shanna Eith, long-term sub middle school ELA; Hollie Brenner; Kathleen Addlesperger; Rebecca Avery; Aimee Becker; Alex Bise; Amber Boyd; Scott Carrier; Alivia Carsey Goettl; Kathleen Cunningham; Angela Devaney; Sean Fraser; Amanda Jo Henry; Leo Hess; Debra F. Kuhn; Mary Lawrentz; Jessica Long; Andrea Prater; Paige Ray; Ray Stone; Cameron Todd; Lisa Turner; Allie VanHouten; Ashton Wagner; Brooke Wareham; Joseph Williams; and Maria Young.

Mya Wiseman, Kalea Ramsey, Jennifer Swartz, Jessica Miller, Sarah Gillespie, Natalie McCracken, Crystal Shifferly and Hannah Hildebrand-Charles were hired for the Madison Early Childhood Learning Center (MECLC).

Also hired were Shawna Hout, 4-hour cafeteria worker, Mifflin; Dallas Pettet, secretary, Madison Adult Career Center; Daniel Lashley, special education aide, Madison South; Rebecca Richards, bus driver for route 19; Rebecca Richards, on-bus instructor; and Darla Noblet, on-bus instructor.

Rachel Adams has been awarded the special education aide position in support of student at extracurricular events.

Amy Marlow and Holly Beidelschies will fill-in on an as-needed basis for the special education aide position in support of a student at extracurricular events.

Erica Bowman, MECLC, resigned, effective Sept. 20; and Kiona Cover, MECLC, also resigned effective Oct. 6. William Chinn, Jr., high school custodian, will retire, effective Dec. 31, 2023.

Substitute employees hired on an "on call" basis, as needed, for the 2023-24 school year are Pam Jackenheimer, aide; Michelle Enix, aide; and Karla Lyons, bus aide.

(Continued on Page 4)



MRS. CARNEY AND MRS. PAGE'S preschool students at Ontario have been learning about pumpkins. They were able to predict if a pumpkin would sink or float in water. Half of the class was right — they float. The class also cut a pumpkin open and pulled out the seeds. The little pumpkin had 555 seeds. Students learned about the pumpkin's lifecycle and talked about all of the things that can be done with pumpkins. Pictured are Rowen Curtis and Jaxon Bly.

Pioneer accepts donations

At their Oct. 16, meeting, the Pioneer Board of Education approved a contract with Mansfield City Schools for Tutor for Ohio Health Mansfield Hospital Home Instruction.

The board accepted a Carl D. Perkins grant for \$358,988.61 and a Public School Preschool grant for \$102,000.

The board accepted donations from Lisa Heiser, of Crestline, scrubs and clothing items with a value of \$500 for the Pioneer Sharing Closet; Pepperidge Farms, Willard, snacks with a value of \$400 for Pioneer's Sharing Closet for students in need; Village of Crestline, \$400 to be deposited in the Rotary fund for the Performing Arts program and used for educational supplies/activities for the students in the program; and Dawn Wright-Smith, Blackbaud Giving Fund, Charleston, SC, \$30 for the Pioneer Alumni Endowment Fund for annual student scholarships.

The board approved student participation in the FFA National Convention, Nov. 1-4, at Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, IN.

Students will also attend the SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference, Nov. 9-10, at Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, OH.

The board approved Meghan Townley, math instructor, for up to 12 weeks of maternity leave, commencing Jan. 3, 2024.

The board approved Melanie Studer, Family Consumer Science Instructor/Col. Crawford High School Satellite, for eight dock days on Dec. 21-22, 2023 and May 20-24 and 28, 2024.

Conference period pay was approved for certificated personnel.

The board approved a revision to the employment of a Galion career coach. The board also hired a substitute instructor and accepted the resignation of Melinda Owen, payroll clerk, effective Dec. 31, 2023. She will be employed as secretary to the superintendent and board of education, effective Jan. 1, 2024.

(Continued on Page 10)



Photo By Mátiece Thomas

Medicare Part D information session set for Friday, October 27

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. will host a Medicare Part D Information Session on Friday, Oct. 27, at 10 am at 2131 Park Ave West, in Ontario, at the Hawkins Conference Center.

The event will be streaming on Facebook Live, connect through [Facebook.com/aaa5ohio/](https://www.facebook.com/aaa5ohio/).

The agency will provide attendees with accurate, unbiased information about Medicare and the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefits. The Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP) will also be available to answer questions about Medicare, giving attendees a unique opportunity to save money and better understand their Medicare plan.

Open enrollment is through Dec 7, for all current Medicare enrollees wanting to review their current plan and compare 2024 plans. All prescription plans and Medicare Advantage Plans can be compared and changed during open enrollment. All new plan changes will go into effect Jan. 1, 2024.

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THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —

It's always been difficult to answer who my favorite director is. My default has always been Steven Spielberg, though in the last year or so it may be Martin Scorsese.

While Spielberg, I believe, has more rewatchable films (*Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Jaws*, *E.T.*, *Jurassic Park*), it is hard to argue against the fact that Scorsese has the more consistent filmography (*GoodFellas*, *Taxi Driver*, *The Departed*, *The Wolf of Wall Street*, *Cape Fear*, *The Irishman*). That streak continues with the new release *Killers of the Flower Moon*.

Based on the novel that chronicles this case and the beginning of the F.B.I., war veteran Ernest Burkhart (Leonardo DiCaprio) returns home to Oklahoma where his uncle Bill (Robert DeNiro) owns a cattle farm in the early 1920s.

Bill helps and has become a friend to the Osage people who have become very wealthy after discovering oil on their land. Suddenly, the Osage people start getting murdered one after the other and devastation falls across the town. The FBI is asked to move in to investigate.

There is much more to this story that is hard not to spoil. Scorsese makes another terrific film and even at over three hours, there is much to tell here.

Scorsese cast actual members of the Osage community to play them in the film and they turn in great work. Scorsese has an immense respect for these people and the tragedy that happened to them, which is readily apparent throughout the film.

DiCaprio and DeNiro (who both have a long history of

working with Scorsese) give terrific performances in this film.

DiCaprio's Ernest is a man who comes home and while trying to balance his new family life after marrying an Osage woman named Molly (Lily Gladstone) is held under the watchful eye of his uncle who pulls the strings on many events going on in the movie.

DeNiro has done so many bad films and silly comedies and seems to take every project handed to him, so it is hard to remember sometimes that he is one the greatest actors of his generation. This movie provides him with a juicy role to sink his teeth into and he excels.

DiCaprio just gets better and better and as Ernest he displays many levels of emotion and understanding between doing the wrong and right thing throughout the movie. What a great career he has had.

Also, Gladstone should absolutely be up for Oscar consideration. She stands toe to toe with these two great actors and performs some devastatingly emotional scenes that are completely believable. She is the heart of this film.

Killers of the Flower Moon is a well-done crime drama that also describes this terrible tragedy that happened to the Osage people. DiCaprio, Gladstone, DeNiro and Scorsese should all be considered for awards season. Even at three hours, the movie moves along at a good pace and, while certain parts could be shortened, there is certainly enough here to make this one of the year's best.



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News Briefs

First Congregational Church, 640 Millsboro Rd, Mansfield (corner of Marion Ave. and Millsboro) will host a Christmas Church Bazaar on Nov. 6 and 7 from 9 am to 3 pm. All items are half off on Nov. 7.

Items include lightly used, new, vintage Christmas items and much more. The sale is elevator and wheelchair accessible. All donations will go to local charities.

★

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, Oct. 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 November meal will have a special date of Monday, Nov. 13, and will include roast turkey. Sheryl Weber of Oak Hill Cottage will speak. Guests are welcome.

The group will meet for lunch at Golden Corral in Ontario on Nov. 1 at 11 am.

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

★

The Ohio District 5 Corporate Board of Trustees meeting will be held Dec. 12, in the boardroom at 2 pm. For additional information, contact Susie Danuloff at sdanuloff@aaa5ohio.org.

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. is located at 2131 Park Avenue West in Ontario.

★

The Richland County Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings are scheduled for 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.

★

The Lexington Depot's meal schedule has been released. Meals are \$9 and served at the Lexington Senior Civic Center, 67 E. Main St., Lexington, from 11 am to 1 pm. Meals include Oct. 26, beef tips with garlic noodles; and Oct. 31, chicken and dumplings.

For information call 419-884-1676.

★

The next meeting of the Richland County Genealogical Society will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 25 at 7 pm, at The Ohio Genealogical Society Library, 611 St. Rt. 97 West, Bellville. This is a change of

date from the previously scheduled one.

Ronny Echelberger will give an update on his work on Richland County cemeteries that were greatly in need of repair. Election of officers for 2024 will be held. The meeting is free and open to the public.

★

Pastor Paul Oman will paint a larger-than-life sized mural at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 525 W. Cook Rd., Mansfield, on Wednesday, Oct. 25, at 7 pm.

This will be a "Drawn to the Word" worship and artistic experience. This story will unfold artistically, musically, narratively and scripturally during the event. All are welcome.

Holy Trinity is celebrating 75 years of ministry in Mansfield and the theme is "Looking Forward."

★

A free produce distribution to the community is held the second Tuesday of each month, April through November. The distribution is held in First English Lutheran Church's west parking lot at 53 Park Ave. W., at S. Mulberry St. Hours this year are 10:30 am to 12:30 pm and the food is free to anyone. Bring a valid ID or proof of residence.

Drive-through distribution is still being offered. Volunteers will load the produce into vehicle trunks. The fresh produce is provided by the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. For information call 419-522-0662. The last distribution of the year is Nov. 14.

★

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Richland County Children Services Board will be held in the conference room at the Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center on Monday, Nov. 13, at 3 pm.

★

The Downtown Mansfield Trick-or-Treat will return from noon to 1 pm following the Halloween parade on Saturday, Oct. 28.

Participants can dress up and explore the downtown area while trick or treating.

Local businesses will pass out candy and some will have other events. Businesses that would like to participate can call 419-522-0099 or email Rhyann@downtownmansfield.com.

★

A fall church rummage sale will be held at Mansfield 1st EPC, 399 S. Trimble Rd., (corner of Trimble Rd. and Millsboro Rd.) on Friday, Oct. 27, 9 am to 4 pm; and Saturday, Oct. 28, from 9 am to noon.

This is a semi-annual rummage sale with a selection of clothing for children and adults, shoes, books, toys, housewares, furniture, and much more. Proceeds are used for local missions.

For information call 419-756-7066.

★

As the Christmas season approaches, The Downtown Mansfield, Inc. Tiny Tim Shoppe returns in November.

Volunteers are needed to help children shop. Companies, school groups, organizations and individuals can volunteer. Volunteers will

(Continued on Page 5)

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Maddox Memorial Church

•Students receive perfect achievement test scores

(Continued from Front Page)

Carolyn Montgomery was awarded an administrative contract and was placed on the administrative salary schedule as the assistant treasurer for 2023-'25. Montgomery earned a treasurer's license issued by the Ohio Department of Education.

An overnight trip was approved for SkillsUSA students to attend the SkillsUSA Fall Conference Nov. 9-10, 2023 in Columbus, OH.

The board approved the second reading of revised board policies.

The board approved a resolution accepting the 135th General Assembly of the Ohio Legislature passed House Bill 33, which Governor DeWine signed into law on July 4, 2023.

The bill provides that the board may employ a person who does not hold a post-secondary degree as a substitute teacher provided they meet certain requirements and codifies those requirements for a temporary substitute teaching license in newly created Revised Code (R.C.) 3319.102. The board established its own educational requirements to employ substitute teachers for the 2023-'24 school year and subsequent school years.

The individual must meet the minimal educational requirements for the employment for substitute teachers by being a graduate of a high school or have a statement of high school equivalence in accordance with regulations prescribed by the superintendent of public instruction. The individual must be deemed of good moral character and successfully complete a background check as prescribed by R.C. 3319.39.

The individual must also satisfy all other applicable requirements and procedures contained in the Revised Code and the Administrative Code with respect to that individual's qualifications to be a sub-

stitute teacher.

A resolution was also passed determining the intent to consider the termination of the teaching contract of Eva D'Intino. All employment and teaching contracts of Eva D'Intino with the Madison Local School District have been terminated since she has failed to maintain a valid State of Ohio Teacher License.

The next regular board of education meeting will be held Nov. 15, at 6 pm in the Madison Middle School Auditoria.



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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
Interim Pastor Lisa Peterson
9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship
Call about Prayer Groups, Small Groups, Bible Studies, Book Clubs, Pub Theology, Community Meals, Free Produce distribution and Senior Boxes.

Wappner Funeral Home

Mansfield • Ontario • Ashland • 419-522-5211

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

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•News Briefs

(Continued from Page 3)

help children pick out gifts for family and friends as well as help with gift wrapping and tagging. Sign up at <https://www.signupge-nius.com/go/20F0E4FACAE2FA2F49-44821285-2022#/>
Call 419-522-0099 for information.

★

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Rev. Will Humphrey at 10:30 am on Oct. 29. He will speak on "Masks, Identities and Belonging."

For more information visit www.allsoulsuuohio.org.

★

The Fun Center Chordsmen Barbershop Chorus will conduct the annual Veterans Salute on Monday, Nov. 6 at 7 pm at First Congregational Church in Mansfield. The Chordsmen recognize and honor all active and former military veterans. The public is invited and there is no charge. The guest speaker will be retired Lt. Colonel Eric Steward. He served 23 years in the Air Force as a Search and Rescue helicopter pilot and retired from active duty in 2010. He is the pastor Mt. Zion Lutheran Church.



United Way, Graham Chevrolet to hold "Win a Chevy 2023" kick-off

The United Way of Richland County and Graham Chevrolet will host a kick-off and press event for their partnered fundraiser "Win a Chevy 2023" on Monday, Nov. 6, at 9:30 am at Graham Chevrolet, 1515 W. 4th St., Mansfield.

Tickets are one for \$30 or 5 for \$100. This event will feature the official unveiling of this year's car that will be raffled off, a 2024 Chevy Trax.

At the event, Brandon Hall, United Way Campaign chair and also of Charter Next Generation will speak.

There are 1,000 tickets available and the winner will be drawn at the Dash To The Goal event on Friday, March 1, 2024.

United Way of Richland County is a local organization led by local people. Members of the board of directors and allocation members are volunteers. The United Way of Richland County fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in our community.

Area Agency on Aging to host Hawkins Conference Center ribbon cutting

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. will host a ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, Nov. 7, from 9:30-10:30 am at 2131 Park Avenue West, Ontario, at the Hawkins Conference Center in the Magnolia Room.

This event will celebrate the newly renovated space that will accommodate expanded programming for older adults, such as congregate meals, technology classes and wellness classes.

The agency provides leadership, collaboration, coordination and services to older adults, people with disabilities, their caregivers and resource networks that support individual choice, independence and dignity. Contact Susie Danuloff at 419-564-9704 for more information.

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Charles Isaac Adkins, October 5

James Shah, October 13

Mary Rita Pendleton, October 16

Shirley Mae Sorrick, October 16

Barbara Lee Jeffries, October 17

Vito Danna Sparacio Jr., October 20

View Full Obituaries at www.dignitymemorial.com

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Tickets on sale for 42nd Annual OSU Buckeye Bash

The 42nd annual Ohio State University Alumni Club of Richland County's Beat Michigan — Buckeye Bash will be held at the Richland County Fairgrounds, 750 N. Home Rd. (youth hall), Mansfield on Monday, Nov. 13.

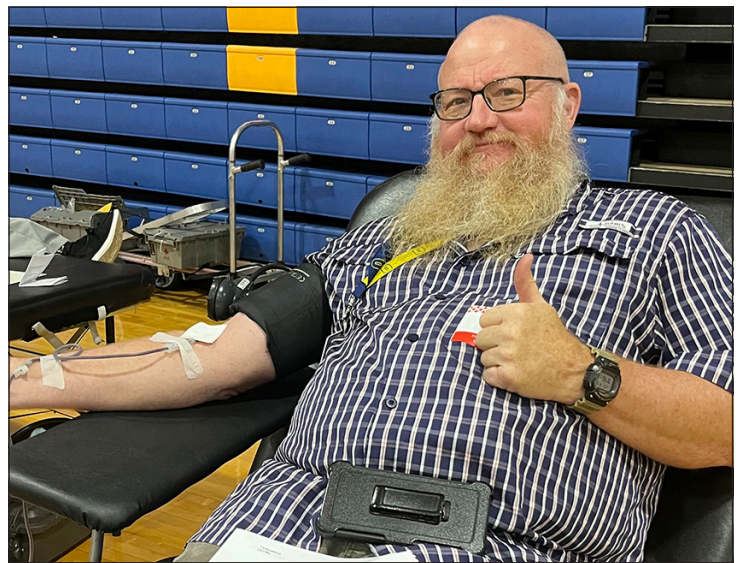
The Buckeye spirit will come alive as the doors open at 5:15 pm. A meal will be served from 5:30–6:30 pm. The featured speaker, former head football coach Jim Tressel, will share memories of Beat Michigan Week and his career as head coach.

The second feature of the Buckeye Bash will be the return of The Ohio State University Marching Band. Other highlights are Buckeye music, live and silent OSU item auctions, \$10/\$15/\$20 goodie bags, Buckeye trivia and a 50:50 drawing.

The cost per ticket is \$30 (includes a homemade meal). For tickets, contact Judy Villard Overocker at the OSU Extension office, 1495 W. Longview Avenue, Suite 206, Mansfield, or by calling 419-747-8755. Tables can be reserved for groups of eight. Seating will be limited so getting tickets early is suggested.

The Buckeye Bash is the major source of income for the OSU Alumni Club's scholarship funds and club outreach. By donating to and/or participating in this fun, community event, Buckeye fans can pay it forward and help support our future "Buckeyes."

Donors at select levels can receive a set amount of complimentary admission tickets and a coordinating amount of meet and greet tickets to meet Coach Tressel.



THE ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL FCCLA held a blood drive Oct. 18, where many Warriors donated blood through the American Red Cross. Pictured are (top photo) Adalyn Muncy and (bottom photo) Paul Tilton.





A Night at the Races

NOVEMBER 4, 2023

The Hub at Village Square | 311 N. Seltzer St. | Crestline, OH

doors open – 5:30 p.m. | dinner – 6 p.m. | racing & games – 7-9 p.m.

Tickets – \$50 per person | Table of 8 – \$500

Plated Dinner by Ron Skelton – Cash Bar

A Night of Fun & Prizes

- 9 Horse Races (chances to win)
- + 1 Auction Race
- Ladies Derby Hat Contest
- Guys Fedora/Bow Tie Contest

- 50/50
- Silent Auctions
- Games of Chance
- Music by DJ James

Be sure to add a Horse Name Ticket to name one of the horses that will be racing that night!

Sponsorships (horse races and horse names) are available for businesses, family or sport teams!

SCAN TO PURCHASE TICKETS



Ontario Boosters planning fundraising dinner and auction

The Ontario Athletic Boosters Fall Fundraiser is hosting "A Night at the Races" Saturday, Nov. 4, at The Hub in Crestline. For \$50, participants can have a fun night out, supporting Ontario Student Athletes.

The event will be a plated dinner with a cash bar with craft cocktails. There will be a Derby Hat Contest for ladies with a prize of a Kate Spade purse and a fedora/bow tie contest for guys with a prize of bourbon and cigars.

A DJ will provide music and there will be a 50/50 and other games of chance.

A reserved table for 8 is \$500 and general admission is \$50 per person. For \$10 participants can name a horse that will be racing that night. This is a way to support the event, even for those who cannot be there in person. Sponsorships are also still available.

Tickets and sponsorships are available at <https://ontarioschools.hometownticketing.com/embed/event/362>

An online auction preview is available at <https://www.32auctions.com/boosternat>

For information visit Misty Miller at 419-545-4507 or miller-md74@gmail.com.

Lexington begins leaf clean-up, continues projects

The Lexington Village Council meeting was held Oct. 2, with Mayor Brian White presiding.

Village Council members attending were Adam Gongwer, Bob Jarvis, Wynn Kearns, Kim Little and Jeff O'Brien. Also in attendance were Attorney John Studenmund, Chief Troy Weaver and Village Administrator Andrew Smallstey.

Amanda Jones of Mohican Trail requested the use of Patriot Park for Lexington School's PTO to put on a Fall Festival Oct. 31, from 5-8 pm. The event will feature food trucks, STEM activities, dunk tanks, trick or treat in the back lot and other activities. The PTO will provide insurance.

Administrator Andrew Smallstey said leaf pickup runs through Nov. 17. Crews tested equipment prior to the start of pickup. Leaves should not be placed in the road. They should be put in the tree lawn between the sidewalk and road. This is for leaves only and no grass clippings or brush should be included. There will be several passes made through the village during the four-week sweep.

Smallstey reported, "All the surface for pickle ball and basketball has been poured at Bicentennial Park. There was an email addressed to council complaining about the saw lines not being perpendicular. Todd Ward and I checked the lines and observed nothing concerning or abnormal. These lines will be chalked and covered by court marking when finished. It should be noted that the complaint came from a non-resident."

"I have received the OPWC reimbursement money from Kleinfelder and it has been deposited into our account. I will contact OP-

WC this week to make sure the payment is made properly."

Water meter replacement continues and, as of the meeting date, 1,074 meters have been replaced. Another notice was attached on the current utility bills to encourage those residents that have not yet scheduled. That deadline was Oct. 20.

Zurich Insurance sent a crash reconstructionist and legal council to view the truck and trailer along with the crash site involving a street department employee. They are compiling evidence to determine whether or not the citation for the crash was warranted. The village has purchased a new trailer for replacement.

The high school requested a bonfire for the post season ceremonial bonfire. They received approval from Troy Fire and Ohio EPA. The request is to burn ten pallets behind the visitor's bleachers in the football practice area Oct. 26, the same night as trick or treat.

Christmas and New Years holidays fall on weekends. It was requested that the village adjust the days closed to be Friday, Dec. 22 and Monday, Dec. 25 for Christmas and the next week to only be closed a half day on Dec. 29, and all day Monday, Jan. 1.

Mayor Brian White thanked council president Bob Jarvis for filling in during his absence. A steering committee meeting regarding the Main Street corridor planning with Edge Group was planned for Oct. 5, for concept presentation.

A planning commission meeting will be held at the Lexington Depot at 6 pm on Wednesday, Oct. 25, to review and comment on the Main Street corridor plan concept.

(Continued on Page 12)

ONTARIO LIONS PANCAKE DAY

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 • 6:30 am to Noon
at Ontario High School



Tickets: \$6 • Age 6 & Under Free

Door Prizes donated by local businesses
(Winners need not be present to win)

Proceeds support local and world-wide Lions projects

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Saskatchewan Prairie House • Photo By Mark Shutt

Women's Fund will announce annual grants during luncheon

The Women's Fund of the Richland County Foundation will announce this year's grant recipients during a luncheon Friday, Nov. 3, at Kingwood Center Gardens.

The Women's Fund also will announce the recipient of the JoAnn Dutton Volunteer Service Award. The award honors women who are leaders and devote a significant amount of time and energy in a meaningful way to local charitable organizations. The award was named in honor of JoAnn Dutton, former executive director of the Mansfield YWCA. Tickets are \$35 each and can be purchased at richlandcountyfoundation.org/events.

The Women's Fund was established in 1996 as permanent endowment to support programs that benefit women and girls in our community. The fund has awarded close to \$524,000 in grants.

Richland County to participate in Drug Take Back Day

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day will be held Saturday, Oct. 28, from 10 am to 2 pm.

Collection programs protect children and the water and food supplies, and decrease prescription drug abuse by making it easier to properly dispose of unused or expired medication.

This is a completely confidential program. No personal information will be collected.

All prescription labels should be removed before arriving.

Items that will be accepted include prescription medicines of any kind, over-the-counter medications, medication samples, pet medications, vitamins, inhalers, medicated ointments and lotions and liquid medications in

leak-proof containers.

Items that cannot be accepted include needles, syringes, lancets, thermometers, aerosol cans, IV bags, hydrogen peroxide, bloody or infectious waste, empty containers and personal products (non-medicated shampoo, etc.).

Richland County drop off locations include the Mansfield Police Department, 1125 National Pkwy., Mansfield; Richland County Sheriff's Office, 597 Park Avenue East, Mansfield; Bellville Police Department, 320 Bell St., Bellville; Lexington Police Department, 44 West Main Street, Lexington; Shelby Police Department, 31 Mack Ave., Shelby; Plymouth Police Department, 48 W. Broadway St., Plymouth.

Local college students earn scholarships at Baldwin Wallace University

Students from our area were among over 680 students who earned scholarships at Baldwin Wallace University this fall. Over 430 named scholarships provide more than \$4.7 million to help students attend, persist and graduate from BW.

Benjamin Miller, a graduate of Mansfield Senior High School majoring in middle childhood education, earned the Jamie Bevier Chamberlain '97 Scholarship; and Ellie Snyder, a graduate of Mansfield Senior High School majoring in communication sciences and disorders, earned the Earl S. Buck Scholarship and the Emma Louise Gerhard Scholarship.

Students from our area were among over 700 first-year students welcomed to the Baldwin Wallace University campus this fall who earned more than \$13.1 million in scholarships for their outstanding high school achievements.

Kesley Crider, a graduate of Mansfield Senior High School majoring in music industry, earned a \$17,000 Deans' Scholarship; Amelia Hoffman, a graduate of Lexington High School majoring in dual primary and primary intervention specialist, earned a \$15,000 Fellows' Scholarship; Alex Rush, a graduate of Mansfield Senior High School majoring in psychology, earned a \$17,000 Deans' Scholarship; and Ellie Snyder, a graduate of Mansfield Senior High School majoring in communication sciences and disorders, earned a \$19,000 Trustees' Scholarship.

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Sutton Bank partners with Kasasa and Charlie Rocket's Dream Machine for Mansfield's Best Day Ever event

Mansfield's Best Day Ever is part of a collective of events taking place across the country to generate 100,000 acts of kindness. This is the first-time community banks and credit unions have come together for a nationwide event, demonstrating their local impact and the scale of their network.

Sutton Bank, in partnership with Kasasa and the Dream Machine, are hosting Mansfield's local Best Day Ever on Nov. 3, from 5-7 pm at the Buckeye Imagination Museum's First Friday event, located at 175 W. Third St., Mansfield.

Kasasa, which offers free reward checking accounts people love exclusively at community banks and credit unions, and the Dream Machine founded by Charlie Rocket, have joined with community financial institutions across the country with the goal of performing 100,000 acts kindness for the Best Day Ever event, which kicks off Nov. 3 and continues throughout the weekend.

Sutton Bank's local event is their contribution to the nationwide effort aimed at showcasing the significance of community banks. It demonstrates how these institutions are integral to the communities they serve and emphasizes their role in preserving the vital human connection that is progressively disappearing from financial institutions. This event also underscores the scale of the Kasasa network of community banks, which represents the fourth largest branch banking network in the country.

"We are excited to be a part of the Best Day Ever to demonstrate how we make a difference in our communities," said Tony Gorrell, CEO. "We believe in the power of community and the importance of human connection in banking. Through this event, we hope to inspire more to join us and in making a meaningful impact in other people's lives."

"Community Financial Institutions may lack the multi-billion-dollar marketing budgets of giants like Bank of America and Chase," said Gabe Krajicek, CEO of Kasasa.

"But they do have incredibly generous hearts and commitment to serve their communities. Showing up for this event to tell people they matter demonstrates the incalculable ways they show up in their communities every single day. Their personal service paired with Kasasa's world class products beat the mega bank offerings and help individuals prosper and local economies stronger."

"A random act of kindness changed my life when I was in a dark moment and diagnosed with a brain tumor," said Rocket. "That's when I learned the power of something so simple: being seen by a stranger. I'm excited for November 3rd because when community financial institutions kick off this event, it will have a ripple effect across the country."

Sutton Bank is a 145-year-old community bank, with headquarters in Attica, OH, and additional branch locations in Willard, New London, Ashland and Tiffin.

Based in Austin, Texas, Kasasa® promotes community banks and credit unions and inspires people to bank locally so they can do more good as an award-winning fintech and marketing services company.

Since 2003, Kasasa financial institutions have given back nearly \$3 billion in rewards to Kasasa account holders. For more information, visit www.kasasa.com, Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, or LinkedIn.

The Charlie Rocket's Dream Machine Foundation founder, Charlie Rocket, is a former music manager who was diagnosed with a brain tumor at the height of his career. He made the choice to return to his childhood dream of being an athlete.

He ended up losing 125 lbs, completing an ironman and reversing his brain tumor. Charlie now dedicates his life to his foundation, the Dream Machine, with the aim of becoming a new type of millionaire: one that makes a million dreams come true. For more information, visit www.dreammachineusa.org and www.instagram.com/dreammachineusa or www.instagram.com/charlie.

Richland County EMA to host solar eclipse informational meetings

The Richland County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) will host an informational meetings for the April 8, 2024 Solar Eclipse. The next meetings will be held Nov. 13, at Madison Middle School and Jan. 23, at Pioneer Career and Technology Center.

Updates will be shared on countywide planning as well as information on how individuals and families can best prepare for the eclipse.

It is estimated Richland County could receive over 200,000 visitors for the eclipse. Many visitors are expected to arrive as early as Friday, April 5 and depart Monday evening, April 8 after the eclipse.

Residents are advised to shop early in the week for groceries, medications, avoid scheduling appointments during this time, and fill up their gas tanks. Hotels and campgrounds are filling up quickly.

Many schools will be closed on April 8. A resource page for locals and visitors has been created on the Richland County website www.richlandcountyoh.gov/departments/eclipse2024. Public viewing sties are included on the eclipse page.

Anyone with questions on the eclipse should reach out to the Richland County EMA office at 419-774-5686.

OHS planning Veterans Day breakfast

Ontario High School will host a Veterans Day Breakfast on Friday, Nov. 10.

A breakfast reception will be held from 8:30 to 9:15 am with a parade following at 9:30 am.

Veterans are asked to RSVP to the high school office at 419-529-3969 or by email to Principal Chris Smith at smith.chris@olsohio.org.



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•Pioneer accepts donations

(Continued from Front Page)

The board approved stipend contracts for classified personnel for a \$25/month cell phone reimbursement for on-call. The board also approved employment of Adult Education personnel.

Resolution 18-23 was adopted to establish a community partner and a community-based mental health provider for Student Wellness and Success funds.

Resolution 19-23 was approved concerning a reduction in force.

A Memorandum of Understanding was reached for a Career Coach program at Galion City Schools.

The board approved tax abatement agreements with the City of Ontario.

The student liaison report included the announcement that Alex Liles and Evan Hendrickson were named the September 2023 Students of the Month.

Alex is enrolled in the cosmetology program. She was nominated by Kristin Snider, cosmetology instructor. Alex is a junior from Crestview High School, and is the daughter of Misty and Brandon Stricklin.

At Crestview, Alex stays active and is involved in the Drama Club, pep band and marching band. In the future, Alex plans to be a make-up artist for actors.

Evan Hendrickson is enrolled in the Early Childhood Education program at Pioneer. He was nominated by Lindi Meisse, ECE instructor. Evan is a junior from Shelby High School, and is the son of Shawn and Laura.

He volunteers his time at the Shelby YMCA, in the Shelby Mentors program. In his free time, he enjoys playing soccer (outside of school) and also plays the bass guitar in a band created with his friends.

In the future, Evan plans to become an early childhood teacher.

Lucas FFA updates included that officers have been selected for the 23-'24 school year, and several members participated in the Richland County Fair and the Bellville Street Fair, showing animals and entering vegetables for judging.

Shelby FCCLA is working with the City of Shelby to declare October Breast Cancer Awareness Month along with holding a "Pink Out" with Ontario FCCLA. In all, the group effort has raised over \$1,000 to date.

Performing Arts students have been busy creating original masks for each of the animals on the Richland Carrousel. The masks will remain on until Halloween. They are also preparing a show for the Blood Prison at the Ohio State Reformatory.



THIS YEAR, the Shelby and Ontario FCCLA organizations challenged each other to see who could raise the most money by selling "Pink Out" apparel. Representing each school on the field are FCCLA members and advisors from each chapter. Between the two schools they raised over \$1,286 for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The school who raised the most money was Shelby High School with a total of 377 pieces sold and a total of \$754 raised. Ontario sold 266 pieces and raised a total of \$532.



KNOX COUNTY CAREER CENTER'S (KCCC) Building Trades program held its annual Dog Days of Summer event at KCCC on Friday, Oct. 6. Juniors and seniors in Building Trades had the opportunity to meet and talk with contractors throughout the three-hour event. There were 30 business representatives from various construction companies who attended. Students had lunch with the contractors, asked them questions and got acquainted with them. Laborers Local 1216 sponsored the Dog Days of Summer event and provided all of the food. "Dog Days is a great opportunity for our students to speak to potential employers and learn the importance of shaking hands, eye contact, and how to handle an informal interview. We are grateful for the contractors who took time to be with Mr. Clippinger and his students," said Kathy Greenich, KCCC Superintendent.

Representative McClain stresses the importance of School Bus Safety Week

National School Bus Safety Week was Oct. 16–20. State Rep. Riordan McClain, chair of the House Transportation Committee, reminds motorists to familiarize themselves with school bus laws.

"To protect students, bus drivers, and motorists, it is crucial that school bus laws are followed," said McClain. "Students should be sure to look both ways when getting off the bus, and motorists should adhere to traffic laws. It's a team effort to ensure everyone gets to and from school safely."

Since 2018, there have been 6,298 school bus-related traffic crashes in Ohio, resulting in eight fatalities, in which one was a school bus occupant, and 1,982 injuries, according to the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

School Bus Safety Reminders



- If a bus is stopped on a street with four or more lanes, only traffic going in the same direction as the bus must stop.
- Motorists must stop no less than 10 feet behind a school bus.
- When the red light flashes, your vehicle must be fully stopped, even if the stop sign arm is not extended on the side of the bus.
- Do not pass a school bus unless the driver signals you to do so.

Research shows link between volunteerism and brain health

By Pamela Myers, MAOM, BSN, RN, Program Director
Alzheimer's Association Northwest and Central Ohio

There are currently 220,000 Ohioans living with Alzheimer's or another dementia — and by 2025, that number is expected to hit 250,000.

Almost 500,000 Ohioans are providing care to people living with the disease in our communities across the state; two out of three of these caregivers are women. We also know that one in three seniors die from this disease and that dementia is one of the costliest conditions to society.

The Alzheimer's Association is a worldwide voluntary health organization dedicated to advancing Alzheimer's care support and research. A large part of our mission is to provide care and support to all those who are facing this disease.

We do that through our 24/7 Helpline, a variety of online interactive tools, and in person awareness presentations, education programs, and support groups. We also have staff who provide care consultations and referrals at the local chapter.

As we try and navigate this public health crisis, we know that we need to bring awareness, education, and support to our local communities. In order to do that effectively, we need an army of volunteers in communities across the state to ensure that no family goes without the care and support they need.

In fact, at the 2023 Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC), research was presented that found that volunteering in later life was associated with better baseline scores on tests of executive function and verbal episodic memory.

Volunteering was also associated with a trend toward less cognitive decline over the follow up time of 1–2 years, and those that volunteered several times per week had the highest levels of executive functioning.

More research is needed, but these findings suggest that volunteering is good for your brain health! Age is the greatest risk factor for developing dementia — and so one of the ways we can reduce our risk is to stay cognitively active —using our brains!

At our Northwest Ohio Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, volunteers can participate in a wide variety of roles including delivering presentations/programs, facilitating a support group, or attending community events representing the Association. There are also opportunities to work on our fundraising and advocacy efforts.

"We will match your passion to our opportunities" says Myers.

Here are some reasons why our current volunteers have joined the fight:

"It is a blessing to see people in need of support be grateful to be heard and leave a meeting feeling they have some tools to work with in this world of Alzheimer's disease and its devastation. They can leave with a smile and hope despite the disease" Joyce, caregiver support group facilitator/community educator

"I cared for my mother for many years before she passed. I wish I had known then what I know now about dementia. I want to share that knowledge with as many family caregivers as possible hoping to make their journey easier." Paula, community educator

"Why I volunteer is to help support people living with Dementia, either directly or in-directly. To give them tips on how to have a more successful outcome and better understanding of and for their loved ones". Amy, Caregiver Support Group Facilitator

Volunteers are the key to the success of many nonprofit organizations, including the Alzheimer's Association.

"We hope this new information will encourage individuals of all ages to get involved in volunteering, not only to benefit their community but potentially one's own brain health," says Myers.

"We want to make sure people know that when faced with this diagnosis and then the journey of this disease, that they are not alone — there is Hope and Help available! Please join us in the fight against Alzheimer's and all other dementia."

To receive more information about volunteering, contact Jennifer Miller, program manager, at 567-302-3610.



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL juniors and seniors in the Warrior Leadership Council went to downtown Mansfield to serve lunch at People Helping People.

Ontario begins leaf pick-up

The City of Ontario is providing fall leaf pick-up service now through Friday, Nov. 17, weather permitting.

There is not a specific schedule for each neighborhood. Workers will try to make a second round throughout the city, but this is not guaranteed, so leaves should be placed at the edge of the roadway (not in the roadway) as soon as possible.

This service is for leaf pick-up only. Sticks, tree limbs or other yard debris should not be placed among the leaves. Pick-up service for sticks, tree limbs or other yard debris is provided in the spring.

For information call Kris Knapp at 419-529-2495.



THE ONTARIO MIDDLE SCHOOL choir concert was held Tuesday, Oct. 17.

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•Lexington begins leaf clean-up, continues projects

(Continued from Page 7)

The ODOT Safety Project included, in part, a mid-block crosswalk for East Main Street but there are still issues outstanding. Another meeting with the engineers will be planned investigating this issue.

A "Meet The Candidate" night was held Oct. 12, at Lexington High School, hosted by Lexington Kiwanis.

The 179th officially became a Cyberspace Wing on Sept. 8. Mayor White attended the redesignation ceremony. All transitions should be completed by 2027.

The high school will be putting on Haunted Hallways on Oct. 30. Chief Weaver reported that Officer Phillip Sherman was sworn in Sept. 20 and will start with the village on Sept. 25. The village is currently interviewing another candidate.

There has been a recent rash of automobile break-ins. The last one includes a catalytic converter that was stolen.

The Fall Take Back Program will be Oct. 28, from 10 am to 2 pm.

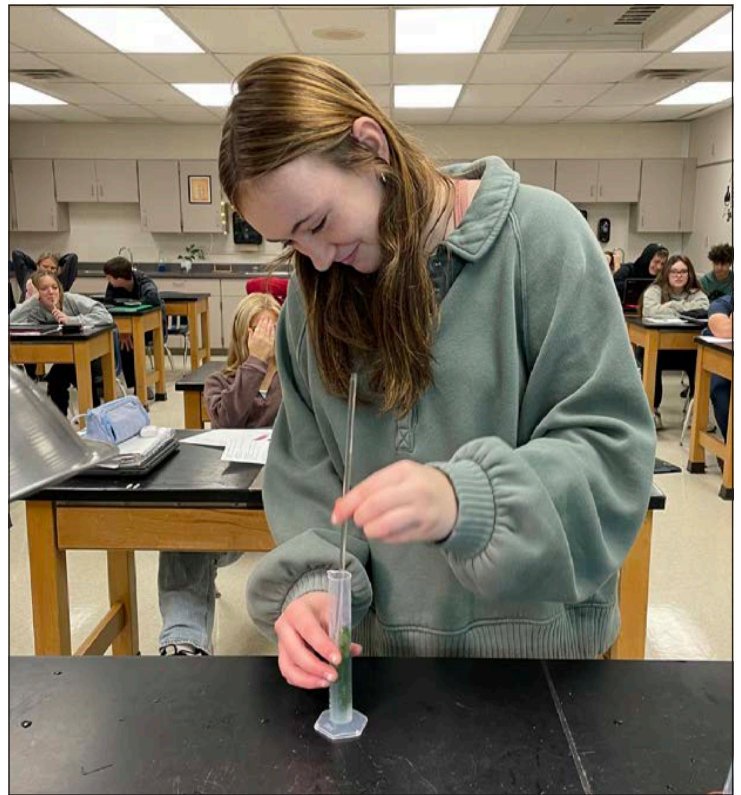
Monies were moved for water/sewer OPWC. Mr. Jarvis questioned the projected office supplies value of \$84,000. Mr. Smallstey confirmed \$600 was used for office supplies, the \$84,000 per handout is incorrect, and it should be \$8,400.

An Ordinance clarifying and amending prior village water and sanitary sewer rate legislation, and declaring an emergency was approved.

The auditor discovered the minimum billing was correct, however the language in the ordinance was incorrect if used by line item for calculation. The utility office was billing the correct method per 3,000 gal minimum. The auditor caught this by reviewing the Ordinance billing rate placed three years ago.



OCEANUS is a college class taught at Ontario High School by Roger Nikiforow. The class took a field trip to Old Woman's Creek in Huron, OH.



THE ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL biology photosynthesis lab used Elodea, an aquatic plant, for experiments.

KCCC Landscape program finishes in third place at OGIA's Ohio High School Landscape Olympics

Knox County Career Center's (KCCC) Landscape Design & Management program won third place (bronze) at the 8th Annual 2023 Ohio Green Industry Association's (OGIA) Ohio High School Landscape Olympics (OHLO) at the Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster, Ohio.

OGIA's Ohio High School Landscape Olympics tests students' skills through hands-on, competitive events designed by industry professionals. OHLO broadens the High School education experience and introduces students to the many opportunities offered by a career in the green industry.

KCCC's Landscape Design & Management program competed in 17 events against 15 other schools, most of them being career tech schools. KCCC had three students, Tristin Hankinson, Nick Jackson, and Oliver Ruprecht, who finished in the Top 10.

OHLO is open to all Ohio High Schools and Career Centers with horticulture programs. Single teams from all participating schools may compete in all events, or just a few. Competitive events test the student's abilities to interact in a hands-on environment. Events are planned, implemented, and scored by industry sponsors using guidelines generated by ONLA.

Award Winners were: Compact Excavator, Tristin Hankinson, 1st Place; Hardscape Installation, Aaron White and Jesse Rings, 4th Place; Irrigation, Oliver Ruprecht and Jesse Rings, 3rd Place; Herbaceous Plant Id, John Manning, 8th Place; Landscape Maintenance, Tristin Hankinson and Nick Jackson, 6th Place; Plant Installation, Kennedy Aufer, Nick Jackson and Oliver Ruprecht, 3rd Place; Skid Steer, Oliver Ruprecht, 6th Place; Lighting, Aaron White, 3rd Place; Sales, Kennedy Aufer, 7th Place; Sod Installation, Tristin Hankinson and Nick Jackson, 4th Place; Surveying, Tristin Hankinson and Nick Jackson, 5th Place; Truck & Trailer, Oliver Ruprecht and Aaron White, 2nd Place; Woody Plant Id, John Manning, 5th Place; Tree Climbing, Charley Beheler and Jesse Rings, 6th Place; Turfgrass, John Manning and Logan Richmond, 3rd Place.



MRS. JOLIN'S THIRD GRADE class at Ontario is finishing up Chick Quest. Students worked through the engineering process to build egg catchers. Each group was only given eight sheets of paper, and 50 cm of masking tape. After testing the first day, no eggs survived. The next day groups redesigned their egg catchers, and almost all survived. The class also looked at the marketing process of egg companies, and what's on their carton to make you want to buy their eggs. Students worked on a jingle and advertisement for their egg carton. Some advertisements included free coffee with egg purchase, if you're a teacher. The chickens hatched recently. Out of 13 eggs, eight chickens hatched. Many hatched throughout the day, and students got to witness it in class. The class then spent time taking care of the chicks. They left the classroom to go to Mr. Johnson's (retired Ontario teacher) farm.



DAV, RecruitMilitary to host virtual veterans career fair

DAV (Disabled American Veterans) and RecruitMilitary® will co-host the National Logistics Virtual Veterans Career Fair Oct. 31 from 11 am to 3 pm CST.

The event is free to veterans, their spouses, active-duty military personnel and members of the National Guard and Reserve.

More than 20 employers actively seeking the unique talents of America's veterans will be on-site representing a range of industries, from construction to medical to administrative and logistics, with career opportunities from entry level to senior management. In addition to employment assistance, the veterans expected to attend can utilize career counseling and resume assistance, network with fellow veterans and military personnel, and get support with their Department of Veterans Affairs benefits and claims assistance — all at no cost.

This year, DAV will sponsor more than 90 in-person and virtual job fairs. Since the inception of its employment initiative in 2014,

there have been nearly 274,000 attendees and more than 167,000 job offers.

Last year, to support employers, dispel myths and demonstrate the business case for employing America's nearly 4 million veterans with a service-connected disability, DAV developed The Veteran Advantage: DAV Guide to Hiring and Retaining Veterans with Disabilities. This guide offers best practices and helpful tools for employers and strives to inspire more organizations to consider the veteran talent pool.

DAV's National Employment Director Ryan Burgos, an Army veteran of the Iraq War, is available to discuss trends in veteran and military spouse hiring, valuable employment-related resources, and job opportunities nationwide. To arrange an interview, contact Ryan Burgos at 859-442-2063.

To register for the career fair and access additional no-cost resources for veterans and their families, visit jobs.dav.org.

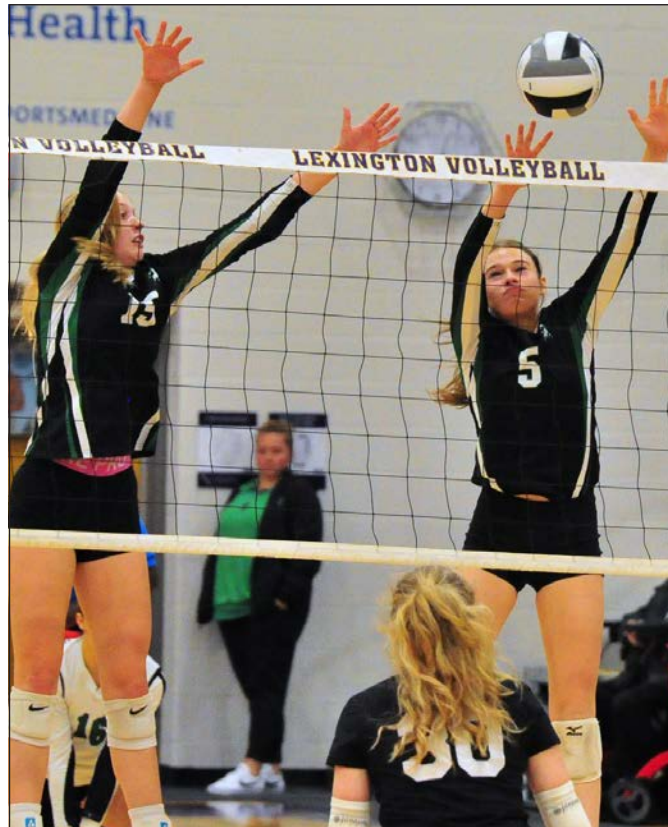
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS ONTARIO BOYS DIVISION II DISTRICT VARSITY SOCCER
OCT. 23 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER · MINUTEMEN WIN 1-0



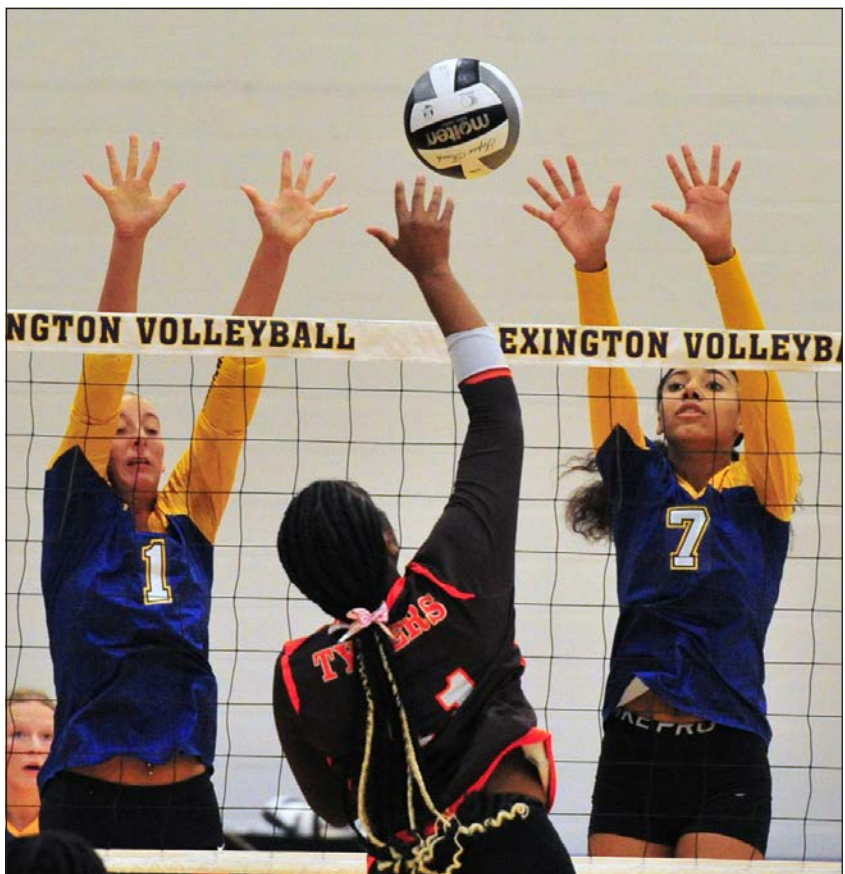
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS CLEAR FORK VOLLEYBALL · OCT. 19 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS MANSFIELD SENIOR · OCT. 19 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS VERMILION GIRLS SOCCER SECTIONALS · OCT. 17
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER · 4-0



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Pickleball, a fast growing sport for all ages

Photos and Article By Kris Leiter

Before we dive into this week's column, I would like to take a brief "commercial break," if you will. As I write this column, I am so grateful for the opportunity. You will notice a common thread of encouraging words and positive vibes throughout. A virtual "fist bump," if you will. I do this with great intention.

Why, you ask? As in life and sports, there are ups and downs, good and bad, highs and lows. I love analogies. A quarterback gets knocked down, but with the help of his teammate, he wipes off the "kneecaps" of his tragedy and gets back in the game of life. Words are powerful. Trust me.

There are many times in my life where people have helped me along the way, hence; I try to pay it forward whenever I can. I believe giving kudos. It reaps huge benefits to both giver and recipient. One simple encouraging word. One simple smile can have life changing results. Hopefully through the words on these pages, it can help someone have a brighter day who may not have started their day as such.

I always try to give a "thank you" an "attaboy" or a "Big K" kudos (my name starts with "K"). So, to kick-off this week's column, I want to give a "Big K" Kudos to the *Tribune* for celebrating 62 years of providing positive news to the Richland County area.

The *T-C* was started by Frank and Betty Stumbo and family in 1961, just a few short years before I was born (I'm 59... I'll let you do the math) and way before the digital world and cell phones were even a thought. It is truly a blessing to able to share my passion of writing sports with you all, and a great staff to work with.

This week I get to combine my two passions in life...food and sports. This week, I will cover the Lakewood Raquet Club in Lexington and "PICKLE"ball, which I had never heard of until a few short years ago. I couldn't turn down an offer to watch the Lakewood Racquet Center transform from a mere tennis facility into a pickleball tournament.

I started reminiscing from years gone by, circa 1981, when I would don the courts of Lakewood when we would play Lexington in my

late teenage years as an Ontario High School alumni.

Remembering when I wielded the mighty tennis racket for the Warrior tennis team in 1981 and 1982, even I was curious as to what the transformation would look like.

My observation Friday evening was that the game brought a nice crowd of participants and spectators. It was really enjoyable watching adults and teenagers of all ages and demographics enjoying this unique and fast-growing sport.

I found tournament host, Gui Alvarez (pronounced "Gee" as in Gee whiz), and got the scoop. Alvarez, who is originally from the Boston area, recently migrated to the Buckeye State and set up shop here in Richland County.

As I watched, I was listening to people networking with other participants and the compliments they were giving to the staff at the club. Alvarez himself was also participating, and just had finished a match successfully with a medal. After Sunday's finals had concluded, Gui had placed second in all his matches.

"I'm so happy for the great response and turnout here in Lexington," Alvarez said. "There were over 130 people who were in attendance at the three-day event, and we will be back again!"

The entry fee for the tournament is \$40 per person and singles and doubles were both among the masses. And in case you're wondering if this level of sports is beyond your skill level, Alvarez informed me that, "Pickleball is one of those sports that any person, young or old can learn very quickly with virtually no experience."

"Anybody could walk onto a pickleball court as a novice; never even played the game, and immediately start to enjoy some good camaraderie with fellow friends."

There were people participating from all over the country. One of the teams, Paris Fealy of Massachusetts and Kathryn Groves of Florida are regular pickleball partners.

"We noticed that Lakewood was hosting a tournament this past weekend," said Fealy. "We were already planning a trip to Mansfield to visit friends for the Ohio State vs Penn State football game."

(Continued on Page 19)



PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT HOST Gui Alvarez and his pickleball partner Jan Chorich from Dublin OH.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

•Pickleball, a fast growing sport for all ages

(Continued from Page 18)

"We thought we would join in the fun and take in the tournament," added Groves.

Pickleball takes the simplistic form of ping pong and tennis and blends them together and can be played on any tennis court.

A pickleball court is basically about half the length of a tennis court, which by observing the layout during the tournament, you can basically envelope two pickleball courts on the One tennis court comfortably. I had the pleasure to expand my knowledge of pickleball even more by chatting with Jansen Webster, Lakewood's Tennis Club professional and Lexington varsity girls tennis coach.

"Pickleball has been a nice added dimension to the club's weekly leagues," said Webster, who has played tennis at the collegiate level.

"We now have three pickleball leagues throughout the week. It has filled the days of the week that were a little slower for the tennis leagues. It's a nice mix of both tennis and pickleball under one roof."

The participants were very cordial and courteous and people were even encouraging me to pick up a paddle to try a few volleys. The skill level of tennis can take some time and maybe a few lessons to really feel comfortable in terms of competition. So as I continued watch, I noticed some very intense volleys. It seems much quicker than the game of tennis.

As I roamed through the club, chatting with some of the participants, they were willing to show me the consistency of the paddle and different styles. In comparison to tennis, the sport of pickleball is really maybe a step or two easier and wouldn't appear to require the amount of skill level of tennis.

The paddles are pretty much regulated by the Pickleball Association and yes, there is even a Professional Pickleball Association, which again, continued to add to my knowledge of this fun sport.

So, again the question: What exactly is the sport of pickleball?

Actually, from the players who are avid pickleball players, it is a blend of tennis and the old school, slang term of "ping-pong."

As the legend goes, the sport of pickleball was formed around the year of 1965, in Bainbridge Island, Washington (just outside of Seattle. I can say I've never been there, so maybe that's for the bucket list.) So, in the summer of 1965, three dads: Joel Pritchard, Bill Bell and Barney McCallum decided to invent the unique sport.

The name you say?...it depends on who you ask.



PARIS FEALY of Massachusetts and **KATHRYN GROVES** of Florida are regular pickleball partners. They participated in the pickleball tournament held at the Lakewood Raquet Club in Lexington this past weekend.



COURTNEY AND IAN HART, who are twins, competed in their first pickleball tournament during the Ohio Adult Sports League Pickleball Tournament held in Lexington.

Legend 1: Claims that the Pritchard family had a dog named Pickles and he chased the whiffle ball around.

Legend 2: In watersports, a pickle boat is the last to reach the finish line in a sailing competition.

There are numerous other spins on the name. Hence, I'll let you form your own opinion.

If you want to try a new sport and meet some new friends, this is a great sport to add to your resumé.

Feel free to go by any sporting good store or take a spin down to Lakewood and Webster will be glad to educate you on maybe joining this fun, easy and friendly sport.



PICKLEBALL players came from various parts of the Buckeye State.

OHSAA Football First-Round Playoff Pairings

Compiled By Kris Leiter

Pairings shown with regional seed. All games on Friday, October 27, at 7 p.m., unless indicated otherwise.

Division III • Region 10

- 16 Bowling Green (5-5) at 1 Toledo Central Catholic (10-0)
- 15 Richfield Revere (5-5) at 2 Norton (10-0)
- 14 Ashland (5-5) at 3 Tiffin Columbian (8-2)
- 13 Lexington (5-5) at 4 Mansfield Senior (8-2)
- 12 Clyde (5-5) at 5 Rocky River (9-1)
- 11 Rocky River Lutheran West (7-3) at 6 Ontario (9-1)
- 10 Sandusky (6-4) at 7 Medina Buckeye (8-2)
- 9 Defiance (7-3) at 8 Bay Village Bay (8-2)

Division IV • Region 14

- 16 Vermilion (3-7) at 1 Sandusky Perkins (9-0)
- 15 Lima Bath (4-6) at 2 Cleveland Glenville (7-2)
- 14 Cleveland Central Catholic (4-6) at 3 Shelby (8-2)
- 13 Bryan (5-5) at 4 Millersburg West Holmes (8-2)
- 12 Oberlin Firelands (6-4) at 5 Galion (7-3)
- 11 Caledonia River Valley (4-6) at 6 Van Wert (7-3)
- 10 Napoleon (5-5) at 7 Bellevue (5-5)
- 9 Wauseon (6-4) at 8 St. Marys Memorial (6-4)

Division VII • Region 25

- 16 Bowerston Conotton Valley (4-6) at 1 Dalton (8-1)
- 15 McDonald (5-5) at 2 Danville (10-0)
- 14 Lisbon David Anderson (7-3) at 3 Berlin Center Western Reserve (8-2)
- 13 Norwalk St. Paul (6-4) at 4 Toronto (9-1)
- 12 Salineville Southern (8-2) at 5 Malvern (9-1)
- 11 Steubenville Central Catholic (9-1) at 6 Lowellville (9-1)
- 10 Monroeville (7-3) at 7 New Middletown Springfield (7-3)
- 9 Lucas (7-3) at 8 Jeromesville Hillsdale (8-2)

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights



THE ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL girls soccer team went up against Shelby in Sectional play on Oct. 21. The Warriors won 12-0.



MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL junior Ally Shoemaker (18) on celebrated her 1,000th assist in volleyball recently.

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The Ontario Board of Education has completed its fiscal year 2023 financial reports according to Generally Accepted Accounting Procedures and are available at the Board of Education Office, 457 Shelby-Ontario Road, Ontario, Ohio 44906, (419) 747-4311.

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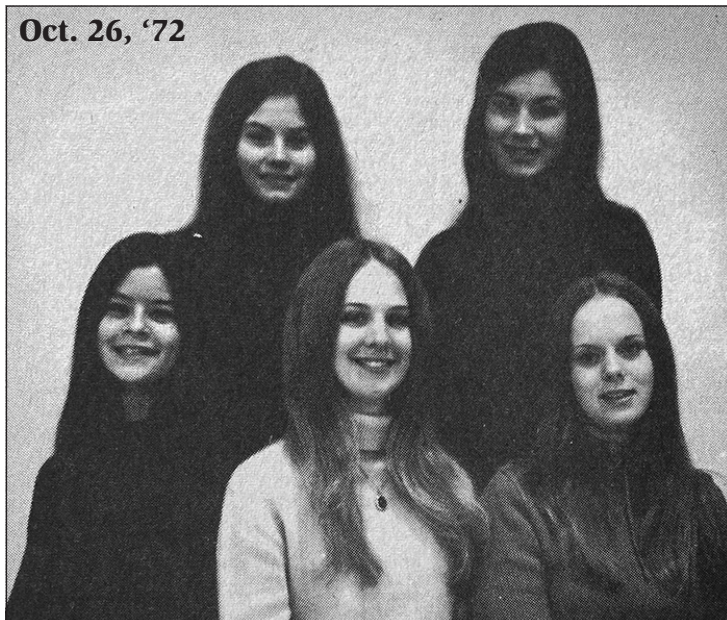


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LOOKING BACK • THIS WEEK IN TRIBUNE-COURIER HISTORY

Oct. 26, '72



ONTARIO HOMECOMING QUEEN — The 1972-73 Ontario Homecoming Queen is Sandy Myers, center. Sandy and her court will reign over the Fredericktown game and the dance this weekend. Her court is made up of Kim Mason, left, and Anita Smith, on either side of Sandy, and standing, Ann Hellinger and Tracy Schluter.

This Day in History — On Oct. 26, 2001, President George W. Bush signs the Patriot Act, an anti-terrorism law drawn up in response to the attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. The USA PATRIOT Act, as it is officially known, is an acronym for "Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism." Bush hoped the bipartisan legislation would empower law enforcement and intelligence agencies to prevent future terrorist attacks on American soil. The law was intended, in Bush's words, to "enhance the penalties that will fall on terrorists or anyone who helps them." The act increased intelligence agencies' ability to share information and lifted restrictions on communications surveillance. Law enforcement officials were given broader mandates to fight financial counterfeiting, smuggling and money laundering schemes that funded terrorists. *History.com*

Oct. 26, '72



FIRST SCORE — Yogi Durbin (41) rambles through the line in the game with Plymouth last Saturday afternoon at Lexington. Durbin scored the first Lexington touchdown en route to a 24-0 romp. Number 63 in the photo for Lexington is Frank Chillemi.

Oct. 26, '72



ONTARIO 1972 CROSS COUNTRY TEAM — The Ontario 1972 Cross Country Team is made up of, front row, from left, Fred Scheffler, Greg Konves, Jim McGathey, Ed Cowell, Martin Schaffranek, Dave Cronebaugh, and Jerry Frey. Back row, Dave Kaper, Dennis Robey, Dan Williamson, Chris Lucic, Brad Bryan, Steve Dearth, Grant Gages, Alan Oswalt, and Doug Litt.

Photo by John Watkins