



Madison has busy meeting before break

Madison Local School District Board of Education met Dec. 19, in the Madison High School Library.

Jordan Nelson, Madison Middle School Principal, and Andrew Kepple, Madison Middle School Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, gave a presentation.

A donation of \$3,115.38 was accepted from The Sons & Daughters of Herman toward negative lunch balances at Eastview Elementary.

The November monthly financial report was approved as submitted. Treasurer Bradd Stevens recommended the board of education enter into a photocopier lease and service agreement with Modern Office Methods for three years, beginning in June, 2024.

Carrie Hughes resigned as a second grade teacher at Madison South Elementary. She will retire April 1, 2024.

Supplemental positions awarded for the 2023-'24 school year include Troy Schulz, Online Academy Teacher, second semester; Jeff Burkholder, winter fitness coordinator; Tommy Hill, boys' tennis coach; Morris Hill, assistant varsity track coach; Egypt Murphy, half assistant varsity softball coach; Mico Castelvetero, half assistant varsity softball coach; Kalen Oslie, assistant varsity baseball coach; Nick Melton, head varsity baseball coach; Tim Niswander, head varsity softball; Brent Sanders, head 7/8 track coach; Kim Boehm, assistant varsity track coach; Bill Roth, assistant varsity track coach; and Mike Anderson, head varsity track coach.

Madison Adult Career Center employments approved were Michelle Barr, middle school office certification testing; and Mike Wagner, customized welding instructor.

Substitute teachers hired on an "on call" basis, as needed for the 2023-'24 school year are Morgan Spitzer, Cameron Todd, Gage Weaver and Kyle Ray.

Kathleen Leeper was approved as a girls' varsity basketball volunteer and Kyle Galco was approved as a baseball volunteer.

Brenda Walker was hired as a 4-hour cafeteria worker at the middle school, effective Nov. 16, 2023.

Resignations were accepted from Mekayla Vassel, MECLC; Twyla DeVito, Special Education Aide - Mifflin; Sarah Gillespie, MECLC; Diana Donahue, bus aide; and Mercedes Ball, PS Special Education Aide - South.

Substitute employees hired on an "on call" basis, as needed, for the 2023-'24 school year: are Philip Mata, custodian; Diana Donahue, bus aide; Debra Cicolani, bus driver; and Olivia Todd, special education aide.

The board of education approved The Visiting Artist Grant in the amount of \$14,000 from the Ohio Arts Council to supplement the high school art courses and staff.

An overnight trip was approved for Dec. 22-23, 2023, for the wrestling team to compete in the North Canton Hoover Holiday Wrestling Tournament in North Canton, OH. An overnight trip was approved for March 8-10, 2023, for the wrestling team to compete in the State Wrestling Tournament at the Schottenstein Center in Columbus, OH.

The board approved a track rejuvenation project in the amount of \$88,990 to be completed by Vasco Sports Contractors in July, 2024. The total project cost will also include track repairs to be done in Spring 2023 for the upcoming track and field season.

The College Credit Plus Agreement was approved with South Central Local School District for the 2024-'25 school year.

A payment of \$500 was approved for Jeremy Thoman for passing the State Pesticide Applicators test and to pay him an additional \$250 each year on or before the third week of July for maintaining the license, including any additional testing as needed.

The next organizational meeting will be held Wednesday, Jan. 10, at 6 pm. The next regular board of education meeting will be announced.



JODIE A. PERRY was sworn in as the new Mayor of the City of Mansfield by Ohio State Representative Marilyn John on Dec. 22.

Jodie Perry takes oath as new Mansfield Mayor

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Jodie Perry became Mansfield's 71st mayor on Friday morning, Dec. 22. The ceremony took place in the packed out Mansfield City Council Chambers where she replaced former Mayor Tim Theaker, who served for three terms.

The road leading up to Jodie Perry's swearing in ceremony has certainly been an emotional one! Her first term will take effect Jan. 1, 2024, launching her into the next chapter of her career.

State Representative, Marilyn John, performed the swearing-in ceremony. John represents the 76th House District, which encompasses all of Richland County. As a former Shelby mayor and Richland County Commissioner, she was excited to share this special moment with Perry. Perry has been the President and CEO of Richland Area Chamber and Economic Development since 2014. She began thinking about running for mayoral office back in 2018.

"It is certainly an exciting time when administrators and elected officials are being sworn into office. This took me back to my first swearing in and all of the things I was feeling that day. I was thinking this morning how exciting it is to be able to share with Jodie as she's beginning her life of public service; but then it struck me, she's really spent her life in public service. This is just moving to a new address and office with a few more responsibilities! I know that we all have full confidence in her abilities to lead the city of Mansfield and I look forward to watching," said Marilyn John.

Perry introduced her niece Nadia and nephews Colin and Drew who stood next to her during her swearing in. Jodie's dad watched proudly in the front row along with Perry's brother and sister-in-law. Perry choked up a bit, announcing she would be using her grandmother's bible for the ceremony.

Perry thanked everyone for coming out and joining her. "It means so much to see so many friendly faces in the room." She went on to say that this journey has been a long time in the making and been a little over a year since she first announced her run. "The time in between feels like a blur." Along the way Perry has met so many amazing people in the city of Mansfield.

(Continued on Page 10)

This Week's Pet Looking for A Forever Home



Velma

Miss Velma is around 6-7 years old. She is very sweet and very laid back.

Velma does worry when she meets some people and does take time to warm up. Her eyes look so sad. She never smiles for pictures, but Velma is incredibly affectionate.

She loves to be pet and talked to. Velma sits for a treat and she walks well on a leash. The shelter thinks she is good with cats and may do well with some (calm) dogs.

When Velma first arrived at

the shelter, she was practically perfect. She is stressed now and has started nipping at the feet of volunteers until she gets outside. Velma never bites, latches on, or hurts anyone. She just tries to get out some of her anxiety after being at the shelter for over 300 days. After she gets outside, Velma is perfect again.

Those interested in meeting Velma 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 is always in need of bleach, laundry detergent and dog treats.

Kiwanis to host Guardians brunch

The Kiwanis Club of Mansfield will host a Talkin' Cleveland Guardians Baseball Brunch featuring a live auction of baseball items and keynote speakers Bob DiBiasio, Cleveland Guardians Senior Vice-President of Public Affairs; radio broadcaster Jim Rosenhaus and television broadcaster Matt Underwood on Thursday, Feb. 8, at Der Dutchman Restaurant, 720 St. Rt. 97 W., Bellville.

Doors open at 10 am and the program begins at 10:30 am. Tickets are \$25 and include buffet brunch. Tickets are available online now at https://www.thekiwanisclubofmansfield.org/Guardians.

Tickets are also available at Park National Bank's Ontario Office on Lexington-Springmill Rd. Proceeds from the event will benefit The Friendly House.

The Kiwanis International family comprises nearly 600,000 adult and youth members in 80 countries and geographic areas. For information visit www.kiwanis.org.

THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER - By Ian Stumbo -

The studio A24 always releases interesting films that are wholly original and provoke thought and discussion.

The new wrestling drama The Iron Claw is an intense movie spearheaded by a terrific performance by Zac Efron that tells the tragic story of the Von Erich family.

Professional wrestler Fritz Von Erich (Holt McCallany) wants his children to follow in his footsteps and enter the ring.

In the late 1970s his son Kevin (Efron) does just that as the father wants his entire family to follow into getting their name to be the most famous in the sport.

Kevin's brothers Kerry (Jeremy Allen White) and David (Harris Dickinson) also enter and the family become big stars in their own right as their overbearing father watches over them.

Suddenly, tragedy after tragedy occurs as Kevin feels like his family must be cursed, which puts a strain on his marriage to his wife Pam (Lily James) and their two young children.

This movie tells a story over around a 10-year period and writer/director Sean Durkin does a great job creating the look of the time while always letting the audience in on what a tight family unit this is and the love all of the brothers have for each other.

Efron has given his best per-

formance to date. He certainly gained a lot of weight (as do the other actors) to play professional wrestlers. His emotions are fully on the screen as Kevin is really the centerpiece of the movie.

The boxing scenes are well made and look real as Durkin gives everything a gritty feel.

White and the other actors, especially McCallany and Maury Tierney as the mother, really shine.

While I am not a fan of wrestling personally, this movie really hit hard and several people in my showing were emotional in the end.

This may seem like the movie will be a one-time watch though actually it's a very memorable film and one of the year's best. This movie is about these brothers at its core and the story does not shy away from showing the good and bad times.

I highly recommend The Iron Claw as it is an effective sports drama with a great deal more heart and stand out performance than most movies of this kind.

Efron, White and the rest of the cast are terrific in these roles and Durkin not only makes a film for wrestling fans but a film for everyone to enjoy and that is where it shines the most.



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2024 HAPPY NEW YEAR www.storiesidechurch.com

News Briefs

The City of Ontario Planning Commission meeting is canceled for Jan. 10, because there is no new business to discuss.



The Lexington Area Senior Citizens Inc., invites those 55 and older to attend meetings the third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 am at Der Dutchman, Rt. 96, Bellville. Meals are \$15.

The January meal will be held Jan. 17, and will include roast pork and kraut. Douglas Keppler will speak on the history of the bagpipes and give a performance.

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



The Ontario Senior Center reopened on Tuesday, Jan. 2. The center will be closed the week of Jan. 22 for floor and general maintenance.



A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, Jan. 27 and 28. 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.



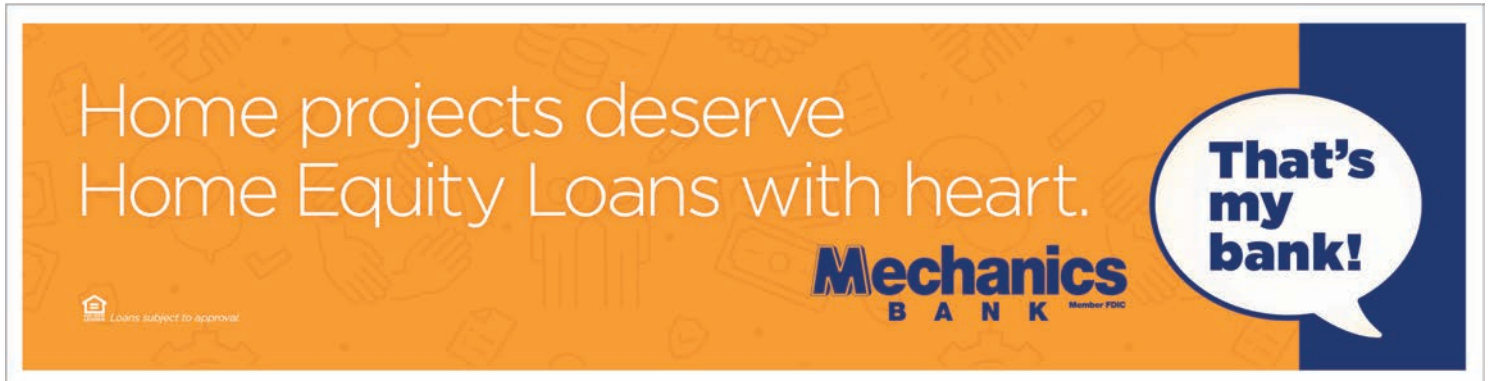
The Richland County Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings are scheduled for Jan. 24, April 24 and July 24 at 3:15 pm at Richland Public Health, 555 Lexington Ave, Mansfield, in the Corley Room. For information contact Richland County EMA 419-774-5686.



The 47th Annual Maple Syrup Festival will be held at Malabar Farm Saturdays and Sundays, March, 2, 3, 9 and 10, from 12-4 pm. The event is free and open to the public. For information visit <https://malabarfarm.org>



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



Richland County Foundation scholarship applications accepted

The Richland County Foundation offers scholarships to graduating high school seniors, current college or career tech students, and non-traditional students. Past recipients of an RCF scholarship are eligible to receive awards again. No scholarships through the foundation are automatically renewable so applicants must apply each year.

New applicants, applying for college scholarships, including high school seniors must have at least a 2.5 grade point average (GPA), and returning applicants must have at least a 2.0 GPA, attend an ac-

credited school and be a resident of Richland County, or a graduate of a Richland County high school. The deadline for college scholarship applications is April 1.

The Foundation Board of Trustees also awards career technical education (CTE) scholarships to individuals who want to obtain certifications and credentials at accredited technical institutions. CTE applicants must demonstrate academic readiness for their program through one of three ways: WorkKeys Skills Assessment, WebXam Test Report, or a relevant academic transcript. The applications will be considered as they are received, and the award determinations will be made within eight weeks.

All awarded scholarships will be sent directly to the school.

Scholarships awarded through Richland County Foundation, are primarily based on the financial need of the applicant. Information used to determine need includes tuition, books, fees, room and board expenses, as well as any institutional scholarships or grants being awarded to the student.

Also considered is the information provided upon completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students completing the college scholarship application must complete their FAFSA; students applying for CTE scholarships should complete the FAFSA if it is a requirement for their program.

Upon completion of the FAFSA form, a Student Aid Index is generated, which is used to help determine a student's need for financial aid. Students should complete the FAFSA application as soon as it becomes available. For more information visit richlandcountyfoundation.org or contact 419-525-3020 or smarth@rcfoundation.org.



Church Directory

Clay Memorial Lutheran Church

1601 Amoy East Rd., Mansfield
419-747-6882
Pastor Carol Kilgore
Sunday School 9:15 am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Clear Fork Alliance Church

1008 State Route 97, Bellville
419-886-4333 • www.clearforkalliance.org
Rev. Matt Merendino
Rev. Mike Stine, Associate Pastor
9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship
Sunday Evening 6 pm Home Groups
Monday Men's Group 7:30 pm
Wednesday evenings: 6:45 pm Prayer Meeting
6:30-8 pm 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 Congregational Church

640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield
419-756-3046 • www.mansfieldfcc.com
Pastor Brad Bunn
8:30 am Chapel • 10:30 am Sanctuary
Sunday School 10:30 am

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.

Hope Lutheran Church

(Formerly St. Paul & St. Timothy)
2010 Park Avenue West, Mansfield
419-529-4351 • www.lutheranhope.org
Pastor Jonathan Stuftt
9:30 am Sunday Worship
10 am Thursday Bible Study
Free Breakfast 2nd Saturdays 9 am
Free Dinner 4th Sundays 5 pm

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
ADA Accessible Nursery
and Children's Programming Available

Mansfield Baptist Temple

752 N. Stewart Rd., Mansfield
419-589-5413 • www.mbt.org
Pastor Rob Kurtz
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am & 5:30 pm Sunday Worship
7 pm Wednesday Service

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

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

Trinity Grace Fellowship

1592 Grace St., Mansfield
419-589-5890 • trinitygracefellowship.org
Pastor Larry Carnes
9:30 am Sunday Worship
11 am Sunday School
Bible Study Mondays 2 pm

G & M Body & Paint Shop

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

Wappner Funeral Home

Mansfield • Ontario • Ashland • 419-522-5211



Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging announces appointments

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging announced new board member, Michaela Wolfe, to the Foundation Board and she will serve as a Wyandot Representative.

Michaela Wolfe is an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Registered Nurse Marion General Hospital. She received her Master of Science in Nursing from Chamberlain University in Chicago, IL in 2023.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Ohio University. Her expertise is in ICU, Palliative Care, Hospice, Geriatric Medicine, and Family Medicine. By serving on the Area Agency on Aging Foundation Board, Wolfe aspires to see that the aging population has equal access to care and opportunities as they age.

The agency also announced the appointment of new member, Glenna Plotts, to its Board of Trustees and will serve as the Morrow County Representative. Plotts retired as the superintendent of the Career Technical School District. She has expertise in education, community involvement, and teamwork. Leadership, and management. She currently serves on the Mid-Ohio Education Services Gov-

ernance Board, the Tri Rivers Career Center Board of Education.

By serving on the Area Agency on Aging Corporate Board, she looks forward to giving back to the community and hopes to make a difference in the lives of aging adults.

The agency on Aging, Inc. announced the appointment of new member, Kristina Butler, to its Board of Trustees and will serve as the Marion County Representative.

Butler is the Director of Career Services at Marion Technical College. She currently serves as a member of the Tomorrow Center Advisory Board, the Harding Music Parents group, and the Women's Club Home organization. She has experience in community engagement and fundraising. By serving on the Area Agency on Aging Corporate Board, she looks forward to learning about the services and resources that will help the aging population in Marion County.

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

- James Russell Contra, December 14
- Priscilla Renee Rowe, December 14
- Rodger Murray, December 15
- Sharon Lee Mottayaw, December 17
- Mark Joseph Sloboda, December 18
- Donna Jean Barker, December 20
- Dennis Beryl Balliett, December 20
- Joseph "Joe" Robert Enderle Sr., December 20
- Jack Rhodes, December 20
- William Lee Workman, December 21
- Beverly J. Washington, December 22
- Jon Patrick Ralph, December 23
- Elizabeth Virginia Albers, December 24
- Charlene Gale Reed, December 24
- Christine Fry, December 27
- Jeannette "Judy" Jewell Hall, December 27
- Gerald Norman McKown, December 28
- Uramea "Pepe" Parau Tarr, December 28
- Joseph "Joe" A. Fanello, December 29

View Full Obituaries at www.dignitymemorial.com



Happy New Year, neighbor!

As we ring in a new year, my team and I hope it is safe and healthy for you and yours.



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 Brian Gates, Agent
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Monthly used book sale planned by Friends of the MRCP Library

The Mansfield/Richland County Public Library (MRCPL) Evergreen Bookshop will be open for the monthly Friends' Used Book Sale on Friday, Jan. 5, from noon to 4 pm; and Saturday, Jan. 6, from 9 am to 1 pm.

A Preview Sale will be held for Friends of the Library members only on Thursday, Jan. 4, from noon to 4 pm). Memberships may be purchased at Thursday's Preview Sale. Cosy is \$3 per year for individuals.

This sale is sponsored by the Friends of the Mansfield/Richland County Public Library. Materials (adult, teen and juvenile items) are library discards and public donations offered for sale at extremely low prices. The bookshop is stocked with "new to the store" items each month.

Proceeds from the monthly sales sponsor enrichment activities provided by the main library and its eight branches in Richland County throughout the year.

Evergreen Bookshop is located in downtown Mansfield at 37 N. Walnut Street (at the corner of W. Third St. and N. Walnut St., next to the main library). For more information, contact Evergreen Bookshop at 419-526-4652.

RPA to host auditions

Auditions for the Renaissance Performing Arts MY Theatre production of *Cinderella* will be held on Monday, Jan. 15 from 6-8 pm, and on Tuesday, Jan. 16 from 6-8 pm at the Renaissance Theatre in downtown Mansfield.

Appointments are not required for auditions, and it is not necessary to attend both days of auditions. Those auditioning must be between the ages of 12 and 18 years of age (unless still attending high school) during the 2023-'24 school year.

Anyone auditioning should be prepared to sing a 16-32 measure excerpt from a song of their choice and bring sheet music in the proper key. An accompanist will be provided.

Actors may also be asked to read a short scene from the script. Those auditioning should bring a list of schedule conflicts between the dates of auditions and the performances of *Cinderella*. Performance dates are April 12-14. All performances will be held in the Theatre 166 performance space at the Renaissance. Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* will be directed by Dauphne Maloney, with musical direction by Brian K. Nabors.

The production will feature the songs "Ten Minutes Ago," "Do I Love You Because You're Beautiful?" and "Impossible." The original musical was presented on television in 1957 starring Julie Andrews and was the most widely viewed program in the history of the medium. Its re-creation in 1965 starring Lesley Ann Warren was no less successful and so was a second remake in 1997, which starred Brandy as Cinderella and Whitney Houston as her Fairy Godmother.

As adapted for the stage, with great warmth and more than a touch of hilarity, this romantic fairy tale still appeals to children and adults alike. This Enchanted Edition is inspired by the 1997 teleplay.

Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella* was adapted for television by Robert L. Freedman and directed by Robert Iscove, with choreography by Rob Marshall. Produced by Whitney Houston and Debra Martin Chase for Walt Disney Television, the production aired on Nov. 2, 1997. Several songs were added, including "The Sweetest Sounds" from *No Strings*, sung by Cinderella and the Prince, and "There's Music in You", written for the 1953 film "Main Street to Broadway", sung as the finale by the Fairy Godmother. Sixty million viewers watched the broadcast, making it the most-watched television musical in decades, and earning ABC its highest Sunday-night ratings in 10 years.

For additional information regarding auditions contact Dauphne Maloney at dauphne@mansfieldtickets.com or by calling 419-522-2726, ext. 212.

A special thank you to our community for your continued support now and in 2024!

Happy New Year



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419.522.8224 | richlandacademy.com

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HAPPY NEW YEAR



2384 Springmill Rd,
Mansfield, OH 44903



kimmyscucina
By Kim Sterry

SHANE'S CHICKEN TORTELLINI SOUP

Ingredients

- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 Tbsp. chopped garlic
- 3 carrots chopped
- 32 ounces chicken stock
- 2 cups water
- 3 Tbsp. tomato paste
- Salt & pepper
- 2 roma tomatoes
- A couple handfuls of fresh spinach
- 1 package spinach and cheese tortellini
- 1 lb chicken breast cooked and cubed or a rotisserie chicken

Instructions

In a soup pot, heat some olive oil and saute onion and garlic for 3-5 minutes. Add chicken and carrots and continue to sauté for a few more minutes, then add tomatoes and spinach and stir around until spinach is wilted. Add Tomato Paste stir to combine. Next add in the water and the chicken broth. Add the Tortellini about 10-15 minutes before serving.

LIKE Kimmy's Cucina on Facebook & Instagram



Photo by Damon Callis

Day Trippin' With Damon – A significant part of Union County's (Marysville, OH) heritage is known for its covered bridges. Seven covered bridges offer a glimpse into the past and provide a scenic backdrop for exploring the countryside. For information visit <https://www.unioncountyoh.com/things-to-do/covered-bridges/>

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Feb 1 & March 5

Grades 1-6

March 19

Independent Studies



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419-756-5651



North Dakota • Photo By Mark Shutt

Arts and crafts workshops planned by Richland SWCD

Conservation Creation Arts & Crafts Workshops will be hosted by Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD). The evenings are filled with laughter, fun, learning about interesting topics related to nature and conservation and creativity.

Richland SWCD provides the materials and tools needed to make the project. Reservations are requested and the workshops cost \$12 per person.

All participants will also receive a free pair of eclipse glasses at the January and April workshops, while supplies last.

The quarterly workshop schedule is as follows:

January 9: Solar Eclipse Suncatcher at 6 pm at the Longview Center located at 1495 W. Longview Avenue, Mansfield. You will make a beautiful suncatcher and John McClintock, amateur astronomer, will share some of his eclipse experiences.

April 1: Horray for Herbs! at 6 pm at the Longview Center. Participants will plant herbs from recycled alpaca pellets in a container.

July 9: Long Live Leaves at 6 pm at the Longview Center. Participants will make a clay bowl from an impression of a leaf.

October 8: Buckeye Beauties, 6 pm at Gorman Nature Center located at 2295 Lexington Avenue, Mansfield. Participants will make an ornament from Buckeye tree nuts.

Visit <https://richlandswcd.net/events/> or call 419-747-8685 for more information and to register for the workshops.



Eclipse Suncatcher

Happy new year!

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January 25, 2024 - 5:30 PM

\$10.00 per person (snacks provided)

Register at RichlandSWCD.net or click QR CODE

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www.RICHLANDSWCD.net | 419.747.8686

2024

happy new year

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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



The main library has a "cold weather" book display

Winter Reading Program begins

The Mansfield Richland Public Library's (MRCPL) Winter Reading Program is now underway through Jan. 27.

Library patrons are encouraged to read throughout the month of January and then stop by a branch, the Bookmobile or submit a ticket online for a chance to win a \$10 gift card.

Weekly drawings are for adults, teens and children. Tickets will be drawn every Monday in January from the previous week's pool of tickets. There will be weekly winners in each age group, at each branch location. Drawings will be held on Mondays, Jan. 8, 15, 22 and 29.

Adults will also have the opportunity to submit a ticket and enter the social media contests each week. Adults can engage with the MRCPL on Facebook each Tuesday in January, beginning at 2 pm, for another chance to win.

Each contest should be entered by noon on the following Wednesday. The prize is a \$10 Walmart gift card.

For information on the program visit <https://www.mrcpl.org/explore/winter-reading-program/>



Happy New Year 2024

Wishing you all the best in the year to come!

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Winter Reading Program

Jan. 2 - 27

Nothing is better than snuggling up with a blanket and a good book ...
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mrcpl.org

• Jodie Perry takes oath as new Mansfield Mayor

(Continued from Front Page)

"There is one thing that we all share in common which is the desire to see really great things happen in our future! I'm really excited to take the helm and work with all of you. You've heard me say #TeamMansfield a lot during the campaign and that mantra will continue to be true going forward. All of us will really have to work together to do that," said Perry.

She said that with all that we have going on in the city right now, she thinks it's really important for her to work together with the right people and department heads to carry out the vision going forward.

Perry took a moment to announce who she had chosen to surround her on this journey. "I really took my time in this process because it was a very big decision. These are the people that I'm going to lean on and trust and help me carry the vision that I have set before me."

Current Mansfield Police Chief, Keith Porch, will be assuming the role of safety service director. Porch's final day with the Mansfield Police Department will be Feb. 27, 2024, after which he'll assume the role of safety service director on Feb. 28. This coming February marks Porch's 25th year serving as a city police officer. Prior to joining the Mansfield Police Department, he was a deputy sheriff for five years.

"I'm really excited to work with him and he'll provide a really great voice at the table and is well respected in the community and I know he's going to do a great job in that role," said Perry.

Serving as public works director, Perry announced that Louis Andres will be joining her team. "We have worked together on the Destination Mansfield Board for years, he most recently was at Pleasant Hill Park, ran Malabar State Park and has a strong history in public service. What I love about him is he gets things done!"

Andres has worked in the parks and recreation field for over 40 years, beginning his career in 1978 with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources as a park naturalist. He founded the Malabar Farm Foundation in 1993, serving as the first executive director. Additionally, he serves on the tourism board for Destination Mansfield.

Following the retirement of the current Safety Service Director, Dave Remy, Human Resources Director Sharon May will serve as the department's interim director until Porch assumes his role.

Perry really wants to make everyone proud. "People have invested a lot to vote for me and I'm excited to work with them to turn things forward," she said.



Photos By Traci Little

Richland SWCD workshop will teach about invasive species

Gardeners may be looking forward to spring and ready to order seeds and plants. Before making a purchase, gardeners should consider whether a plant is native or non-native and whether it will become invasive and take over other landscaping. Another key factor may be whether it will help pollinators and wildlife.

To help answer questions about invasive species, Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD) is hosting a workshop Thursday, Jan. 25 at 5:30 pm at the Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Avenue, Mansfield.

Those attending can learn about aquatic invasive plants in backyard ponds and natural areas in Ohio from Mark Warman. Several water weed species are on the move and threaten our recreation, ecosystem and economic interests. Identification, notes from the field and response strategies will be discussed. Notable and rare aquatic plant discoveries in Ohio from the past five years will conclude his presentation.

Mark Warman's job with the Cleveland Metroparks involves working on an aquatic invasive plant Early Detection and Rapid Response project in Ohio's Lake Erie Basin. His responsibilities are to survey macrophytes, assist with management strategies, and coordinate partners to protect Ohio's water resources. Funding comes from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service via the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Program.

What is a weed and what makes a weed an Invasive weed? Janell Baran will teach how to identify and understand several of Ohio's

most common plant invasives and then explore alternative — and sometimes unexpected — ways to combat them without the use of herbicides.

Janell Baran is the owner and operator of Blue Owl Garden Emporium herb farm and Blue Owl Hollow forest farm. After spending 20 years in the computer industry, a series of events inspired her to leave that life and become a farmer full-time in 2006. She now lives a busy, dirty, physically exhausting, but very satisfying life on an old mid-1800s farmstead nestled in the hills and hollows of central Ohio.

The cost for the workshop is \$10 per person and refreshments will be provided. Visit <https://richlandswcd.net/events/> or call 419-747-8685 for more information and to register for the workshop.

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District develops, implements, and assists landowners, government agencies and our partners with a wide range of natural resource conservation programs.

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ONTARIO MIDDLE SCHOOL students had an opportunity to spread some holiday cheer by creating greeting cards for service men and women. Lots of coloring tools were used in the creation of the cards. Teacher Mrs. Ritchey hand delivered the greetings as she visited her son at a military base over the Christmas break.

News Briefs in Education

Capital University has announced its provost's list honorees for the fall 2023 semester.

Local students on the list are Theresa Dzugan of Ontario, Baden Forup of Mansfield and Thomas Secrist of Mansfield.

Local students named to the president's list for the fall 2023 semester are Ryan Brophy of Ontario, Elizabeth Corn of Ontario and Kylie Ransom of Mansfield.

Dean's list honorees for the fall 2023 semester are Jayden Dechert of Mansfield and Liam Paxton of Mansfield.

Capital University is located in the Columbus, OH, neighborhood of Bexley.

Republicans host First Monday Luncheon Jan. 8

The Richland County Republicans will host its First Monday Luncheon on Monday, Jan. 8, from 11:45 am to 1 pm.

The speaker at the luncheon will be Matt Dolan, candidate for the US Senate.

The luncheon will be held in The Kobarck Room at DLX Events and Catering, 28 N. Main St., in downtown Mansfield.

RSVPs are requested to give DLX an accurate count for lunch. RSVP to 419-528-8223 or rcohgop@gmail.com and report how many seats and optional lunches (\$10) will be needed.

Upcoming First Monday Luncheons are scheduled for Feb. 5 and March 4.

Find more information on events at <https://www.facebook.com/RichlandCountyOhioRepublicanParty/>

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Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS CLYDE GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 19
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS CLYDE GIRLS JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 19
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS MARION PLEASANT VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 21 PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS MARION PLEASANT JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 21
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Young Lucas ladies fall to Loudonville Redbirds

By Kris Leiter

Lucas Head Girls Coach Kathy Grover and the Lucas girls basketball team deserves big kudos. Sometimes, in any given sport, it's not always about the outcome. Sometimes it's about the team work, practices, loyalty and dedication.

And in any given year, a team can be down in numbers, so in that sense, it's not such a rarity as one would think.

This year, the girls varsity basketball team has mostly underclassmen and one junior. There are only eight players on the Lucas roster, making it even more challenging.

I had a chance to chat with Head Coach Kathy Grover, who has coached the girls program for the past 10 years.

"We have a dedicated group this year," she said. "The girls work hard, even in the summer."

"Tyler Bates, who has been monumental with Loudonville Basketball for years, has also been a huge facilitator of organizing open gyms in the summer. He has facilitated 3-on-3 leagues at area high schools, such as Madison, Wynford and Buckeye Central."

I asked Grover about their opponents, the Loudonville Lady Redbirds.

"They are one of the largest Division IV schools in the state," said. "They are fast and have some good 3-point shooters."

Kathy Grover is no stranger to the game of basketball, as she was a part of the St. Peter's Basketball team back in the years when Jeff Strang was heading up the Lady Spartans in the mid 90s, taking them to the State Final 4!

And who could forget the previous St. Peter's Gymnasium, a classic venue in itself with a balcony. I remember the "encouraging" students that would hang out up there. There weren't too many gyms as unique as that.

I still remember officiating in that venue. Good times and great memories of both boys and girls teams.

As for the game with Loudonville, it was with great effort by the Lady Cubs that the final score ended 78-5 in favor of Loudonville on Dec. 21.

You would think the Lady Cubs would have a somber mindset, however, every player seemed chipper and there was laughter among the team. Let's give another big shout out to Lucas for their loyal fans! The crowd was good in numbers and supportive! Hats off to the Lucas peeps!

As the game progressed, there was not one girl who gave less than 100%! There were many jump balls, which indicates aggressive and a give-it-all-you-have-attitude defense.

Lucas was rebounding and playing attentively and always being assertive on defense.

In the scoring column for the Lady Cubs were Keara Ammons and Katie Griffey with 2 points each and Olivia Brown with 1 point.

Team members are listed alphabetically: Allyson Arnold, Keara Ammons, Emma Brown, Olivia Brown, Katie Griffey, Keylee Jenkins, Arbor Lybarger and Devyn McGugin.



Photos By Tami Griffey

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Lady Whippets defeat Clear Fork in conference game

By Kris Leiter

It had been a few weeks since I was down in Bellville at the Colt Corral at Clear Fork High School.

Two conference rivals of the Mid-Ohio Athletic Conference came together Dec. 19. The Shelby Lady Whippets (6-1), with Head Coach Natalie Lantz at the helm, came to tangle with the Clear Fork Lady Colts, manned by Head Coach Scott Sellers, (7-1). This was a must see!

For the past few weeks, since Dec. 2, the Lady Colts have won three out of the last four games, with wins over Ontario, Pleasant and Marion Harding.

Clear Fork's only loss, on Dec. 5, came from the Mansfield Senior Lady TYgers,

Coach Natalie Lance and the Lady Whippets came in at 6-1, with their only loss from Bellevue on Dec. 5. Bellevue is a member of the very tough Sandusky Bay Conference.

On this night, however, Shelby was coming into Clear Fork's "Corral", and it's never easy winning on the road, and with Clear Fork's home crowd, I anticipated a good ball game!

Shelby coach Natalie Lantz is no stranger to the game of basketball, being a graduate of Shelby High School and playing under Ellen Lawrence back in the 90s. She also played collegiate basketball at Ohio University for the Lady Bobcats.

Lance started as a sophomore and they won the Mid-American Conference that year. She was also scouted by the WNBA! Unfortunately, she suffered a career-ending injury and rehab that would last for months. Nonetheless, hats off, that's quite a résumé!

I asked her about preparation against the Lady Colts. "We have a plan going into any given game, but can adjust our offense, depending on the opposing teams defense."

"We typically are a fast paced offense, but if we see something in the opponents' defense, we will adjust accordingly."



Photo By Tami Griffey

LUCAS COACH KATHY GROVER speaks with her team during the game Dec. 21.

"Our girls play hard and focused. We have some girls that can shoot 2-pointers as well as some from the 3-point land."

Forty five seconds after the tip-off commenced, Shelby was not wasting any time and started off with a big 3-pointer by Shelby senior Alexis Booker, making in 3-0 Shelby.

Following in her footsteps, and within the next minute, junior Sophia Long poured another two points in, bringing the tally to 5-0.

The Lady Colt's Brinley Barnett, only a sophomore, would answer the call and put the first two points on the board for the Colts! It was now 5-2, Shelby still leading.

Adding to the tally for Shelby was junior 5' 7" Eve Schwemely who would continue the fireworks with another big 3-pointer! And so the score was 8-2 Shelby.

As the next few minutes would proceed, The Lady Whippets were not stopping quite yet, as they would score another six points from junior 5' 2" Alyssa Booker with 2 points, junior 5' 7" Sophia Long with 2 points and another 2 points by Schwemely, totaling 4 points for her thus far! Shelby now held a comfortable lead of 14-4 at 3:45 remaining in the first quarter. With the clock winding down early in the game, what would Clear Fork counter with?

Clear Fork fought back with a contribution from Lillian Weikle, hitting both foul shots, adding 2 points. Shelby would contribute another five points; another two points by Booker and a big 3-pointer by junior Charlie Neise,

With :20 seconds left in the first quarter, a Big Kudos goes to Lady Colt junior Mel Blubaugh for hitting both of her foul shots.

As the first quarter would close out, Clear Fork would close the gap, making it 19-11, Shelby still leading.

As the second quarter opened, the Whippets would go on a 14-3 scoring run, to with two minutes remaining in the second quarter, bringing the score to 32-14. Shelby was holding their own!

The Colts would get into foul trouble with the second quarter winding down, as the Whippets would capitalize by adding another four points to the halftime total of 36-18.

The Lady Whippets were relentless on this night and were continuing another run of 17-10 for the next five minutes of the third quarter. Shelby leading 53-28.

Shelby would continue to spread the wealth in the third quarter with points by Schwemely, adding four points, as well as 5' 11" junior Sophia Long with six points. Clear Fork would also add six points from senior Kylie Belcher.

Shelby would round out the third quarter with a commanding lead of 59-31.

The fourth quarter consisted of a myriad of fouls on both teams and two big steals by Shelby, but as the clock continued to tick, so did Shelby's points and the Lady Whippets never looked back.

The Lady Whippets would end the contest 70-38.

Scoring leaders in double figures for the Lady Whippets were Eve Schwemely with 12 points, including a 3-pointer, as well as Alexis Booker with 10 points and a 3-pointer, and junior 5' 11" Serena Ramsey with 10 points.

Clear Fork's scoring contributors were Mel Blubaugh in double figures for the Lady Colts with 10 points. Also in the scoring mix was Brinley Barnett with 7 points, including a 3-pointer, as well as Kylie Belcher with 7 points.

Even after this game, it looks like both Shelby and Clear Fork are still in the hunt for a close finish in the Mid-Ohio Athletic Conference. Let's see how the MOAC race stacks up after since we are about halfway through the basketball season:

Shelby, overall 9-2, conference 6-0

Clear Fork, overall 9-2, conference 5-1

Marion Pleasant, overall 11-1, conference 5-1

River Valley, overall 4-6, conference 3-3

Highland, overall 3-6, conference 2-4

Ontario, overall 5-6, conference 2-4

Marion Harding, overall 1-8, conference 1-5

Galion, overall 1-9, conference 0-6

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Crestview tames New London Wildcats with 85-46 win

By Kris Leiter

As like in the Johnny Cash song, "I hear the train a coming, it's coming down the tracks..." the "train" of the Crestview boys basketball team keeps running down the tracks!

When the undefeated 6-0 Cougars rolled into New London, some wondered if the contest would be when the train would be derailed.

New London and Coach Tom Howell came into the ball game ready to battle the Cougars, still not yet winning a game this season, but as in sports, you just never know.

Over the past weeks, I've seen Crestview pull out some real nail biters, and I'm sure many others have as well, watching the Cougars battle it out in recent weeks with Ontario, scoring 104-95 in a "track meet" style of a game.

And how could we forget the exhilarating down-to-the-wire game victory of 40-39 over the Colonel Crawford Eagles in the "Nest" of North Robinson? A last second nail biter as well!

So, rolling into New London, with the target on their back, could this be the game?

Strap your seatbelts on for another exciting ride with the "Kurtz-Caravan!"

As the first quarter commenced, both teams started out with good half-court ball control and not one point was scored until 6:45 on the clock.

New London sophomore 5'10" Brody Sword drew first blood with a big 3-pointer to start the fireworks. With 3-0 on the scoreboard, the Wildcats were off and running!

Within seconds, another two points drop came from New London by junior Aiden Ruggles bringing the score to 5-0. Then, it was Cougar time! At 5:30 in the game, Crestview junior Justice Thompson shined through with the first points for the Cougars.

Both teams traded baskets and at 4:20, it was tied 7-7! New London was holding strong.

But it was time to Crestview to "flip-the-script." At 4 minutes left in the first quarter, the first lead change of the game came as Crestview senior Jarek Ringler dropped two points, giving Crestview a lead of 10-9.

And you can't have a high school Basketball game without a dunk, right? At 2:54, Ringler was in the house again, bringing down the house with a slam dunk. At 13-9, the Cougars were surging!

New London would not lay low though, dropping a 3-pointer by Ruggles again, bringing the score within one point, Cougars leading 13-12.

New London was not sitting back tonight, especially in their house. Was John Kurtz getting a tad nervous? I don't know, but it was exciting thus far and we weren't even out of the first quarter!

There is nothing like watching a player launch a 3-point shot and watching and waiting..and it seems like forever to see if it will drop. And so, begin the 3-point shooting frenzy for both teams, trading 3-pointer's like they were stocks at the New York Stock Exchange.

At 2:30, New London's Ruggles would drop a 3-bomb, but Crestview's Ringler and teammate junior Justice Thompson would one-up the Wildcats with two big 3-bombs themselves. Another 3-pointer came from New London 5' 9" sophomore Grady Heiliman. Did you all catch your breath?

So, at 1:25 on the first quarter clock, it was 19-15, Cougars were finally back on top, but New London was right on their heels! This was another great game thus far! Let's see how the second quarter goes if you can endure it.

Starting the second quarter, three was the lucky number again, as in another 3-point shootout at the O.K. Corral!

A couple of 2-point buckets came from Crestview 6'3" senior Grayson Burgess and New London's Ruggles and then the 3-point frenzy began by both teams with two lead changes within seconds, bringing the tally to 25-20, Cougars leading.

We haven't seen a blocked shot...until now, and so it was New London senior Gage Carroll with a blocked shot as well as 2 points at 4:27 in the second quarter.

It was now 25-22 Cougars, the Wildcats within just three points! What a game! And we aren't even to halftime yet!

(Continued on Page 19)



Photos By Troy Magers

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

•Crestview tames New London Wildcats with 85-46 win

(Continued from Page 18)

Remember New London’s Gage Carroll from a minute ago? Yep, he’s becoming a household name in this game adding two more points to bring the score to 25-24.

In the next “John Kurtz” breath, at 3:50, Jarek Ringler would drop another two points for the Cougars and Ringler would get fouled in the act of shooting, by none other than Gage Carroll. Ringler would capitalize on the foul shot and the Cougars were up by three points once again!

The Cougars kept the ball rolling as senior Malachi Spoerr started the antics with a steal, and then the Crestview clan would go on a 9-6 scoring run. By halftime, the Cougars started to pull away to close the second quarter with a 37-30 lead with the help of Spoerr with two points.

New London came to play and were not letting off the gas anytime soon. What halftime “Words of wisdom” would John Kurtz instill into his troops? I would have loved to have been a fly on the wall in that locker room. Does the name Justice Thompson’s name ring a bell from the first half?

As the third quarter began, it would be the Justice Thompson’s time to make a statement for the Cougars and that he did!

The Wildcats would get into foul trouble and the Cougars would take advantage and go on an incredible 28-8 scoring run, with Thompson contributing 13 points!

By the time the third quarter would end, Crestview would have a comfortable 65-38 lead.

Entering the fourth quarter, Thompson merited another eight points as well as another Cougar 20-8 scoring run, with New London sprinkling in a few more points.

As the final buzzer sounded, the Cougars would tame the Wildcats with a 85-46 win!

Leading scorers, all in double figures for Crestview were junior

Justice Thompson with an incredible 31 points, with four 3-point buckets!

He was also in good company with teammates senior Jarek Ringler with 23 tallies, three 3-pointers, and let’s not forget senior Dylan Bruner with 10 points with two 3 pointers as well!

So, as the story goes, The “Kurtz Caravan” keeps on rolling with another victory!



Photos By Troy Magers

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS MADISON VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL · DEC. 27

PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS MADISON JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL · DEC. 27
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS ONTARIO VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL · DEC. 23
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS ONTARIO JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL · DEC. 23
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS ASHLAND BOYS VARIETY BASKETBALL · DEC. 29
PHOTOS BY LINDA REMY · ASHLAND 44-33



Third annual KCCC Tim Hall Food for the Hungry Service Awards presented

Knox County Career Center announced its third annual Tim Hall Food for the Hungry Service Awards. Kaleb Randall (Pre-Professional Mentorship), Gage Buzzard (Collision Repair), Bailey Thayer (Cosmetology) and Abram Ball (Automotive Technology).

The Tim Hall Food for the Hungry Service Award was established to honor the efforts of Tim Hall and KCCC students and recognizes students with a servant's heart who went above and beyond to help with the Food for the Hungry drive.

Tim Hall, a longtime Collision Repair instructor at KCCC, has made it his mission to help serve Knox County since 1995. Years ago, Mr. Hall wanted to buy lab tools for the Collision Repair program. He had a conversation with Ray Richardson, KCCC Superintendent at the time, about purchasing the tools. Mr. Richardson obliged, but wanted to take things one step further. He asked Mr. Hall to work to instill a sense of giving in his students and find a way to give back to the community.

Out of that conversation came a vision to restore vehicles by Mr. Hall. Since 1995 countless vehicles, mostly trucks, have been restored and sold with the profits going to those in need. Several trucks sold for \$15,000-\$20,000. One of the first vehicles to be auctioned for charity was a 1994 Z28 Camaro. In addition to restoring vehicles, Collision Repair students would also do car washes and collect food items.

For several years, the money

raised was donated to Make-A-Wish Foundation. Food for the Hungry then became a favorite for Collision Repair. To this day, former students still talk about

their experience working on vehicles for the Food for the Hungry drive. Students sometimes spent part of their Thanksgiving Break and worked many hours

to get the vehicles ready in time for the Food for the Hungry vehicle auction. Students took pride in the project and were proud to give of their time and efforts.



KNOX COUNTY CAREER CENTER TIM HALL FOR THE HUNGRY SERVICE AWARD winners are students (top photos) Abram Ball and Bailey Thayer; and (bottom photos) Kaleb Randall and Gage Buzzard.

Area Agency offering scholarship

The Area Agency on Aging Foundation Board announced the launch of its 2024 scholarship program, aimed at supporting individuals pursuing higher education in the field of aging or disability services.

This year, the Foundation Board will award three scholarships to deserving individuals who demonstrate a commitment to making a positive impact in the lives of seniors and those with disabilities through their educational pursuits.

The scholarship award amount as determined by the Area Agency on Aging Foundation Board for Academic Year 2024-'25:

- One \$2,000 for a student attending a 4-year university
- One \$1,000 for a student attending a 2-year college, technical school, center of education, or is pursuing a certification
- One \$1,000 for a student attending any type of higher institute of learning or certification and a retiree or staff member of the Area Agency on Aging or is a child (step), or grandchild (step) of an actively employed (full-time or part-time) Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. staff member.

The application deadline will be March 15, 2024.

Applicants are encouraged to visit aaa5ohio.org for detailed eligibility criteria and application instructions. For information contact Susie Danuloff at sdanuloff@aaa5ohio.org.

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