



TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

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01.11.24



Richland County Bears game serves as RCSO fundraiser

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Sherry Minnig works as a volunteer coordinator for the Richland County Special Olympics. After resigning in July from the Richland County Board of DD after 25 years of service, the RCSO program is currently licensed to Minnig through Special Olympics Ohio. They just received another two-year accreditation, and she will be continuing as the volunteer coordinator of the program.

The Richland County Bears played basketball at Temple Christian on Friday evening, Jan. 5 for a fundraiser game. All proceeds of the game, including food and drinks, ticket sales, Bears apparel and accessories bought at the game went to benefit Richland County Special Olympics (RCSO).

"The fundraiser event at Temple Christian School to benefit the athletes with the Richland County Special Olympics far exceeded my expectations. We were overjoyed with the response from the community who attended the event and all those who graciously donated in-kind and monetary support. The contributions will go far in helping provide needed equipment, transportation, uniforms, and entry fees to regional and state events for the 10 sports we offer. Most important was that this was an inclusive opportunity where the athletes were able to showcase all their special skills. We have many blessings to come in 2024, I'm sure of it," said Minnig.

The mission of Special Olympics Ohio is to provide year-round sports training and competition opportunities for children and adults with intellectual disabilities ages 8 on up.

The Special Olympics contributes to the physical, social, and psychological development of the athletes. Through successful experiences in sports, they gain confidence and build a positive self-image which carries over into the classroom, home, job, and community.

"A special thanks to all our friends at Temple Christian School in Mansfield for your continued support of our athletes and program. You went above and beyond to make it a night to remember! We felt

(Continued on Page 7)

Mayor Randy Hutchinson issues State of the City report

By Mayor Randy E. Hutchinson

In looking back at 2023, the City of Ontario can be very proud of what was accomplished.

2023 was a very busy year in the City. We continued to see great things in Marshall Park with several updates to our facilities. Ontario Youth Sports hosted numerous soccer, baseball and softball tournaments throughout the year. These tournaments brought people from all over the State of Ohio and other states, which benefited our local businesses.

We are very fortunate to have continued business growth in Ontario. Charter Next Generation Films moved into their additional space in Ontario Commerce Park. The city and the Richland Community Development Group continues to work with Industrial Commercial Properties (ICP) to bring more business to Ontario Commerce Park. We will continue to maintain and clean up the property.

Avita completed their remodeling of the former Sears' building, which provides a walk-in clinic, lab, doctor offices and pharmacy. Locally owned company Oxyrase continues to grow and expanded into additional space. Several other businesses opened in the city.

The city continued to focus on infrastructure improvements city wide. We received safety funding from ODOT for the installation of a sidewalk on Shelby Ontario Rd. The sidewalk connects the Ontario Schools to the area of Shelby Ontario Rd. and Park Avenue West.

The sidewalk makes walking in the area safe and it is heavily used by students and adults. A water line was installed to the Shangri La allotment, which provides a loop in the water system, providing better service for our residents.

ODOT installed an updated traffic signal at W. Fourth St. and SR 314, at no cost to the city. The city contracted with a company that did a complete analysis of our roads. This information will be used by council and the administration to decide what roads are paved each year. A much-needed salt storage shed was installed to store our road salt.

In 2023 the Ontario Division of police responded to 16,907 calls for service. 709 of those calls generated incident reports. Officers had 2,233 self-initiated contacts and issued 1,324 traffic citations. There were 305 misdemeanor arrests in 2023. Fortunately, we were able to maintain adequate staffing, despite a nationwide shortage of Law Enforcement Officers. Our officers and dispatchers are working diligently, around the clock to help keep the community safe. The Toy Drive was another huge success this year, the toy drive was started in 2014 helping approximately 1,200 children since we began. We are grateful to all the Toy donors that made this possible.


Patrols in Marshall Park were increased utilizing the department's new ATV which was approved by Ontario City Council and will continue to increase in 2024 as events and amenities continue to grow. Traffic enforcement numbers have increased which has led to a corresponding reduction in traffic crashes.

The city-wide FLOCK program was set in place and it has been an invaluable asset to help solve major crimes and traffic accidents. The Ontario City Council also approved the upgrading of our Ti Training de-escalation and response simulator which has significantly increased our level of professionalism and our officer's abilities to de-escalate calls. The number of calls for service is still trending up and the Division of Police remains dedicated to providing the highest level of service to the Community in 2024.

We were able to have the Miss Ontario Pageant this year and it was a great success. Congratulations to Miss Ontario Jaslyn Lopez. Jaslyn has been doing a great job representing Ontario at events in the city and county wide. This event wouldn't have been possible without the support of our volunteers and sponsors.

The Miss Ontario Pageant Committee added two new competitions

(Continued on Page 10)



THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —

Spain's submission for this year's Best International Feature at the upcoming Oscars is *Society of the Snow*. This is directed by J.A. Bayona who also directed the terrific *The Impossible*, which was also based on a true story.

This film chronicles the events of a flight from Uruguay to Chile carrying a rugby team along with other passengers. The plane crashes over the Andes mountains in the middle of winter and the movie tells about their harrowing 70 day journey to get rescued.

Director Bayona does a terrific job with showing all the lengths these people had to go through in order to survive and find a way out.

The plane crash scene alone is terrifying and one of the most intense I have personally seen. There are casualties along the way and all of the survivors are given equal screen time though there is no main character, which is an interesting dynamic.

The cinematography is beautiful as it shows these mountainous landscapes and the vast

unknown where it really does seem impossible to escape. Bayona also does not shy away from showing some of the drastic and rash decisions to survive these people have made.

The negatives for the film would have to be its length, at almost two and a half hours, there are stretches of the film that seem to go on a little long and I found myself distracted.

Another issue would be that the movie does not bring anything new to this kind of drama or type of film, though it does it all very well.

Society of the Snow is a terrific, true story of survival which by the end, it is a miracle that anyone came out of it alive. Director J.A. Bayona does a steadfast job helping this story and does not shy away from showing the horrors though also the triumphs of the situation. This movie is now streaming on Netflix and is dubbed in English but is also in Spanish with subtitles.



Donors urged to give as nation faces lowest number of donors in decades

The American Red Cross is experiencing an emergency blood shortage as the nation faces the lowest number of people giving blood in 20 years. The Red Cross blood supply has fallen to critically low levels across the country, and blood and platelet donors are urged to make a donation appointment to help alleviate the shortage and help ensure lifesaving medical procedures are not put on hold.

To make an appointment, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

The Red Cross and the National Football League are partnering this January, during National Blood Donor Month, to urge individuals to give blood or platelets. Those who come to give blood, platelets or plasma in January will automatically be entered for a chance to win a trip for two to Super Bowl LVIII in Las Vegas.

- Local bloodmobiles are scheduled for:
- Thursday, Jan. 11, noon to 6 pm, Mosaic at Park Avenue Baptist Church, 296 Park Avenue West, Mansfield; and 10 am to 4 pm, Resurrection Parish, 2600 Lexington Ave., Lexington
 - Friday, Jan. 12, 9 am to 2 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario
 - Tuesday, Jan. 16, 10 am to 4 pm, OSU Mansfield/NC State, Eisenhower Center, 1760 University Dr., Mansfield; and noon to 6 pm, Crossroads Church, 1188 Park Ave West, Mansfield
 - Wednesday, Jan. 17, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario; and 8 am to 1 pm, Shelby YMCA, 111 W. Smiley Rd., Shelby
 - Friday, Jan. 19, 9 am to 2 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario
 - Monday, Jan. 22, 1-6 pm, Madison Adult Career Center, 600 Esley Ln., Mansfield
 - Wednesday, Jan. 24, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario
 - Thursday, Jan. 25, 2-7 pm, Community Building, 21555 Pealer Mill Rd., Butler
 - Friday, Jan. 26, 11 am to 5 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario
 - Monday, Jan. 29, 8 am to 2 pm, Clear Fork High School, 987 St. Rt. 97, Bellville
 - Tuesday, Jan. 30, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario
 - Wednesday, Jan. 31, 11 am to 5 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

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News Briefs

A free Shelby community meal will be held at Awake Church, 3616 St. Rt. 39., Shelby, on the second Thursday of each month, from 6-7 pm.

Dates are Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12.

For information visit www.awakeshelby.com or call 419-342-4636.

American Legion Post #535, 77 Bell St., Bellville, will host a S.A.L. Steak Fry on Friday, Jan. 12, in the dining hall, from 4-7 pm. Project Roundtable (formerly known as Sweet Revenge) will play in the canteen starting at 7 pm.

A pork chop dinner will be held Friday, January 19, in the dining hall, from 4-7 pm. Cost is \$15; \$14 for veterans.

A swiss steak dinner is planned for Friday, Jan. 26, in the dining hall. Cost is \$15; \$14 for veterans.

Local delivery, takeout, curbside pick-up and dine-in are available. Call 419-886-2416 for information.

Orders for a Lifewise Academy Pasta Fundraiser are now being taken. The meal cost is \$15 with half going to Madison's LifeWise Academy program. The menu includes fettucine alfredo or spaghetti with marinara, warm bread and a garden side salad with ranch or Italian dressing.

Orders are required by Friday, Jan. 19 with pickup Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 22 and 23, from 5-7 pm at Open Bible Church, 1150 Raffield Dr., Mansfield,

To order contact Charlie Manges at charliemanges@lifewise.org or 740-815-4320. This is a Matching Fund project in association with Modern Woodmen of America.

There will be two sessions of the senior citizen luncheon at Madison Comprehensive High School's Ramble Inn, 600 Esley Ln., on Thursday, Jan. 18. The first session will be at 11 am and the second will be at 12:30 pm. The cost is \$8 per lunch.

Reservations must be made by noon on Tuesday, Jan. 16. Call the board office at 419-589-2600, ext. 65001, or email rlyons@madisonrams.net to make a reservation.

If there is a two-hour delay or school is cancelled, the luncheon will be held on the next full day of school.

AMVETS Post 43, 76 N. Main St., Bellville, will host a fish fry Saturday, Jan. 27, from 4-7 pm. The dinner includes fish, fries or baked potato, cole slaw and roll. Cost is \$11; \$10 for veterans.

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.

A spaghetti dinner fundraiser is planned for Charles White on Saturday, Feb. 24, at 4 pm at the Eastbrook Center (Madison Athletic Booster Club Bingo Hall), 720 5th Ave., Mansfield.

Cost is \$10 for dinner that includes pasta, salad, bread, dessert and drink. There will be a gun raffle, 50/50, silent auction and live auction.

Charles White recently suffered from a spinal cord injury. He is a husband, father, veteran, retired sheriff officer and a Lexington Youth Coach. For information or to donate call 419-571-4010.

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>

The Ontario Senior 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.

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

Age is a qualification, so those attending should bring a current identification card complete with date of birth and proof of income. Distribution is on the east side of the building between 11:30 am and 1:30 pm to get registered and pick up a box. There is no cost. Call 419-522-0662 for more information. The next distribution date is Jan. 23.

The City of Ontario meeting schedule has been released. Meetings are held at 555 Stumbo Rd., Ontario.

On Wednesday, Jan. 17, the meeting schedule includes 5:45 pm, safety committee; 6:15 pm, caucus; and 7 pm, council.

On Wednesday, Feb. 7, caucus will be at 6:15 pm and council will meet at 7 pm.

On Wednesday, Feb. 14, meetings will include the civil service commission at 1 pm; and planning commission, 4 pm.

On Wednesday, Feb. 21, caucus will be at 6:15 pm and council is at 7 pm.

The clerk of council's office supports the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Those who need special accommodations, can call 48 hours prior to a meeting time at 419-529-6714 for arrangements.

The Pioneer Career and Technology Center Board of Education will hold its January organizational and regular board meeting at 6 pm, Monday, Jan. 22, in the Pioneer Board of Education Conference Room.

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Noa Tobin to speak about "What's In A Name?" at 10:30 am on Jan. 14. For more information visit www.allsoulsuuhio.org.

Nominations accepted for senior citizen and community service awards

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. is now accepting nominations for the Outstanding Senior Citizen and Community Service Awards. The deadline for nominations is March 29, 2024.

Award recipients from a nine-county area (one awardee from each county) will be honored by the Area Agency on Aging. Nominees must be at least 60 years of age, a legal resident of Ohio for at least five years, and have made significant contributions to the community. A husband and wife may receive the award jointly when both have been involved in community service. One Outstanding Senior Citizen Award will be presented for each county in our service area (Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Richland, Seneca and Wyandot).

Community Service Awards are targeted toward an organization, agency, service club, a media outlet, or a business that has made an outstanding contribution to the community on behalf of senior citizens. One award will be presented for the nine-county area.

Additional information, including on-line nomination forms, can be found on the Area Agency on Aging website at www.aaa5ohio.org/events/awards/ or by contacting Sue at 567-247-6458 or smontgomery@aaa5ohio.org.

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.

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 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

200 West Third St., Mansfield
419-524-4813 • mansfield1stcc1833@gmail.com
Rev. Gregory Bibler
Office Hours: Tu., W., Th. 9 am to 1 pm
10:30 am Sunday Worship
Christian Builders, Sunday, 9:30 am
www.FirstChristianChurchMansfield.com
FB: FirstChristianChurch,Mansfield,Ohio

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 Stuft
9:30 am Sunday Worship
10 am Thursday Bible Study
Free Breakfast 2nd Saturdays 9 am
Free Dinner 4th Sundays 5 pm

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
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

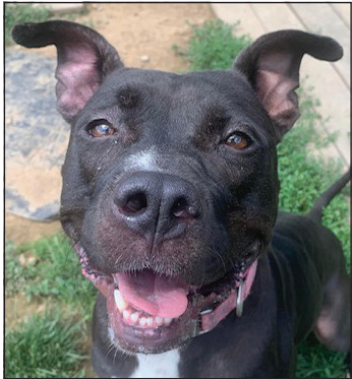
1689 West Fourth St., Ontario
419-529-2747

Wappner Funeral Home

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*This Week's Pet
Looking for
A Forever Home*



Summer

Summer is around three years old. She is a doll baby!

Summer absolutely loves people, but does not like other dogs. According to the shelter, Summer's owners dropped her off in the outside kennels. Their loss, because she is so perfect.

Summer happily allows volunteers to dress her up in fancy dresses for photo shoots. She is a lot of fun. Summer absolutely loves toys, and, more specifically, destroying toys.

One of her favorite things to do is to slowly destroy a toy on a walk. In a playroom, if there are

toys available, she ignores humans. When there are no toys, she is affectionate and likes to snuggle. When you put her back in her kennel, Summer enjoys when humans crouch down so she can put her face in between her walker's chest and legs and will snuggle there as long as the human stays. Summer has been at the shelter since June of 2023.

Those interested in meeting Summer 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.



Elk herd on the Canadian Prairie
Photo By Mark Shutt

Scholarship offered by agency

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 more information contact Susie Danuloff by email at sdanuloff@aaa5ohio.org or by calling 567-247-6458.

Winter Reading Program continues

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

**Obituary Listings for
Wappner Funeral Directors**

- Clara Marie England, December 28
- Barbara "Barb" Jean Cunning, December 29
- Carolyn Ann Durand, December 29
- Nicholas John Patrick, December 31
- Fred H. Wolf, January 2
- Donald "Splitbeard" Arthur Yockey, January 2
- Donald Eugene Brewer, January 4
- Peggy Louise Loughman, January 5

View Full Obituaries at www.dignitymemorial.com

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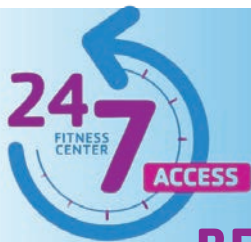
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2024 WILL BE GAME CHANGING AT THE Y



**BEGINS
JANUARY 22**



24 HOUR ACCESS AT THE MANSFIELD BRANCH
750 Scholl Road, Mansfield, OH 44907



NEW ONTARIO CHILDCARE LOCATION
1745 Walker Lake Road, Ontario, OH 44906



**OPEN HOUSE
JANUARY 26, 6-7:30 pm**



SPORTS COMPLEX GROUNDBREAKING IN JUNE
State Route 97 & Interstate 71



Richland County Bears game serves as RCSO fundraiser

(Continued from Front Page)

the love of everyone who attended,” Minnig said.
Principal of Temple Christian, Jessica Day, had this to say about the evening, “What an awesome evening we had at TCS on Friday night! Our basketball fundraiser event with the Richland County Bears was an amazing success. Last year we were able to raise \$1,600. This year, through gate admission, concessions, and t-shirt sales, we were able to help raise \$4,602.14 for Richland County Special Olympics! What a fantastic accomplishment! Thank you to all that were in attendance and to the volunteers who helped to make the night such a memorable one. The money raised is fantastic, but the greatest part of the night was the wonderful sportsmanship and friendships that were demonstrated! Thank you to the TCS and Richland County Bears athletes, coaches, volunteers, and fans for a fabulous event!”

Back years ago when Richland County Special Olympics was known as The Newhope Bears instead, Dean Burger was on the basketball team. He played ball with many of the current athletes and was a big fan of the new program.

The athletes approached Minnig at his funeral in December, asking if they could give his wife Marsha a signed basketball from them as a tribute in memory of Dean. I don’t think there was a dry eye in the gymnasium as the Bears surrounded Marsha in a warm embrace, presenting her with this touching tribute. Dean A. Burger passed away on Dec. 11, 2023. He graduated from Newhope where he met his sweetheart. He loved to do woodwork and loved going to church at Bethel Freewill Baptist and Walker Lake Baptist church. He loved to drink Mountain Dew, play computer games, listen to music, and watch comedies like the Three Stooges. Dean especially loved Christmas time.

Jenessa Jorgensen, teacher at Temple Christian, had this to say about her experience with RCSO,

“This is my first year volunteering as the Head Skills Coach for

the Bears, and I have loved every part of it. My players show up to practice excited and ready to learn. It has been heartwarming seeing them grow and develop their athletic abilities. Their love and excitement is contagious. I go into practice ready to teach my players new skills, but I always come out learning more from them. Anyone who has ever debated volunteering for the Bears should just take the first step. They would not regret it. There are smaller volunteer opportunities and larger ones as well. One of my students has been inspired

(Continued on Page 15)



Photos By Traci Little



Key Realty hosts ribbon cutting in Ontario

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Ontario warmly welcomed Key Realty to Richland County. A grand opening celebration took place at 2230 Village Mall Dr., Suite 600, in Ontario, on the morning of Thursday, Jan. 4. The ribbon-cutting marked a commitment to excellence, fostering community unity.

Joe Albring cut the ribbon at the new Ontario location. He said, "we've opened a lot of offices, and I don't think we have ever had a welcome like this. Thank you for being here and for your support!"

Jennifer Wagner, from the Richland Area Chamber, presented a proclamation on behalf of Senator Mark Romanchuk.

Realtor Melissa Viers is the regional manager for Key realty. Viers said she's super excited to be here and expand their local presence. "We're growing and accepting new agents right now, and we'd love to have you."



MELISSA VIERS holds a proclamation from Senator Mark Romanchuk.

"Key Realty prides itself in education and will be offering Ohio real estate. We have continuing education classes that are open to everyone, no matter what agency you're with. We feel that everyone should have an opportunity at education as we are all working together for the same goal," said Viers.

A special thanks went to Paula Sawitski from United Alliance Mortgage for sponsoring the food for the event.

Richland County Commissioner, Tony Vero, said that a good real estate agency is the key to property sales. "It's always good to see new businesses and companies here in Richland County."

Key was established in 2008, but this is the first office in Richland County. Viers, along with four other agents, Adam Gongwer, Julie Roth, Amanda Sheets

and Chris Trease, are ready to serve the community.

Key Realty has listings across Richland, Ashland and Crawford counties. Sheets is so excited to open Key and bring all the great benefits to the local agents.

Having 15 years of experience as a licensed realtor, and also being the past president of the Mansfield Association of Realtors, Viers is excited to be back in the Mansfield area.

The location hopes to have close to 20 agents by 2025. Anyone interested in joining the Key team can call Viers at 419-348-4375.

High school tech internship program now open for students

Ohio Lt. Governor Jon Husted, who serves as Director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, recently announced that the High School Tech Internship program is now open for Ohio students to enroll. The goal of the program is to provide Ohio businesses with the tech talent they need while providing students with valuable work experience at an early age.

Interns will perform duties similar to what is expected of an entry-level employee in technology roles that focus on software development, data, cloud, and IT infrastructure, cybersecurity, broadband/5G, advanced mobility and other tech-focused roles. Ohio employers hosting interns will be reimbursed up to 100 percent of the wages paid to interns (up to \$5,000 per intern). Employers are also eligible to earn bonuses for each student who earns certain industry-recognized credentials.

Interested businesses who would like to partner with the Knox County Career Center (KCCC) can reach out to Beth Marhefka, KCCC's Work-Based Learning & Career Development Coordinator, by email at bmarhefka@knoxcc.org or at 740-397-5820 ext. 2706.

KCCC's tech-related programs include CollegeU-Business, Computer Network Technology, Digital Media & Software Development and Precision Machining.

Nate Greene, KCCC's Computer Network Technology instructor, said, "This program was instrumental in getting six of my students internships last year. These internships gave the students valuable hands-on experience in the IT field. Many of those students were promoted to full-time positions or are pursuing higher education."

KCCC would like to thank the following businesses and schools for partnering and hosting 11 High School Tech Internship students in 2023: Ariel Corporation, Danville Local Schools, FT Precision, Groshong Software Services, LLC and Schafer Driveline.

"We are grateful for the local businesses that hire our students each year. This is a great offer from the State of Ohio for some of our partners to benefit financially by hiring career technical trained students in the specific areas outlined by the State," shared Superintendent Kathy Greenwich.

For more information on the High School Tech Internship program visit <https://workforce.ohio.gov/initiatives/initiatives/hstechinternshipprogram>

MSO, MSYO concert is February 10

The Mansfield Symphony Orchestra (MSO) continues its season Saturday, Feb. 10, at 7:30 pm with "Massive Classics," a side-by-side concert, with members of the Mansfield Symphony Youth Orchestra (MSYO) that will be performed onstage at the Renaissance Theatre.

The Mansfield Symphony Orchestra, along with members of the Mansfield Symphony Youth Orchestra, will be conducted by MSO Music Director and Conductor, Octavio Más-Arocas.

The Renaissance is a performing arts theater located at 138 Park Avenue West, Mansfield. For information visit rentickets.org or contact renaissance@mansfieldtickets.com.

News Briefs in Education



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL students in anatomy and biology built muscle and DNA models out of candy and craft material. Modeling is a great way for students to conceptualize the anatomy of difficult science subjects. The students then had to label and explain their models.

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 DiBasio, 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.

For information visit www.kiwanis.org.

Local students have been named to the dean's list for the fall 2023 semester at Baldwin Wallace University, according to Provost Stephen D. Stahl. The list recognizes students who earn a grade point average of 3.8 or higher while enrolled in 12 or more graded hours during the semester.

On the list are Matthew Midkiff, a graduate of Lexington High School majoring in sport management; Benjamin Miller, a graduate of Mansfield Senior High School majoring in middle childhood education; and Caleb Tate, a graduate of Saint Peter's High School majoring in arts management and entrepreneurship.

Baldwin Wallace University is located in Berea, 12 miles from downtown Cleveland.

★

Ohio Wesleyan University has announced its dean's list for fall semester 2023. To qualify for OWU Dean's List recognition, students must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale in all applicable classes.

Local students on the list are Cooper Christie, Olivia Humphries, Ashley Krumlaw, Arianna Morris, Ava Swanson and Zoe Swanson, all of Mansfield.

Ohio Wesleyan University is located in Delaware, OH.

★

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) named students to the fall 2023 president's list. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.7 and above for the reporting term are named to the president's list. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

On the list are local students Ka'Mari Johnson of Mansfield; Michael Hetrick of Mansfield; Cody Festge of Mansfield; and Max Basye of Ontario.

★

Bowling Green State University undergraduate students who achieved grade point averages of 3.5 or higher have been named to the fall 2023 semester dean's list.

Local students on the list are Mackenzie Evans, College of Technology, Architecture and Applied Engineering; Grace Sarbach, Education & Human Development; Alexander Phillips, Allen W. and Carol M. Schmidthorst College of Business; Kari Eckenwiler, Allen W. and Carol M. Schmidthorst College of Business; Jordan Rader, College of Technology, Architecture and Applied Engineering; Ethan Duffner, College of Technology, Architecture and Applied Engineering; Kami Baker, Education & Human Development; Chloe Dean, Education & Human Development; Sydney Franklin Health and Human Services; Madalyn Huvler, Allen W. and Carol M. Schmidthorst College of Business; Brody Phillips, College of Arts and Sciences; Madison Carns, College of Technology, Architecture and Applied Engineering; and Avery Chambers, College of Musical Arts.

Richland SWCD plans workshops

Conservation Creation Arts & Crafts Workshops will be hosted by Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD).

Richland SWCD provides the materials and tools needed to make each project. Reservations are requested and the workshops cost \$12 per person. All participants will receive a free pair of eclipse glasses at the January and April workshops, while supplies last.

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.

•Mayor Randy Hutchinson issues State of the City report

(Continued from Front Page)

to the pageant. Little Miss Ontario was won by Breckelle Miller, a Stingel Elementary 2nd grader. Junior Miss Ontario was won by Rylee Schoonover, a Stingel Elementary fourth grader. Rylee and Breckelle attended numerous events, which were coordinated with committee member and chaperone, Miss Ontario 2018 Gianna Gallo.

We were very excited of the success of the Fourth of July Festival. Ontario Community Events, with the help of the Festival Committee worked together to put on a fantastic festival. We had great weather, which contributed to a very large crowd. The parade continues to grow each year with participants and spectators. The updated schedule of events helped in keeping the festival very active all day. The Niss family once again sponsored our excellent fireworks show. With the extra space we were able to have more vendors and activities. The raffle was a huge success and once again the top prize was a car that was donated by New Haven Auto Sales. The Festival wouldn't be possible without the help of volunteers, community sponsors and Ontario Community Events. We added more lighting and extra power pedestals, which will allow the festival to be even bigger in 2024. If anyone wishes to volunteer for the Fourth of July Committee, please e-mail kspencer.oys@gmail.com.

The Ontario Recreation Department had a very busy year. Unfortunately, Director Heather Hendrix decided to step down from the position to spend more time with her family. She worked as the Recreation Director from Jan. 1, 2017 to June 16, 2023. Heather's last event was Summer Recreation, which had a great turnout.

Heather was an excellent Recreation Director and will be deeply missed. The Recreation Department activities are now being handled by Ontario Youth Sports/Community Events. All the activities that Heather Hendrix conducted have continued. Ontario Youth Sports Director Kenn Spencer and his team continued conducting events, such as the Haunted Trail and Ontario Craft Show. Additional activities were added to the Haunted Trail, such as Pumpkin Chunkin. Unfortunately, the weather didn't cooperate, so it had to be rescheduled. This event wouldn't be possible without the help of school groups and local citizens. The Ontario Craft show had an excellent turnout.

Concerts in the Park were held again and enjoyed by everyone

that attended. The partnership with Ontario Youth Sports will continue in 2024. We will continue to provide a wide variety of music. With the new spray park and playgrounds, more families attended the free concerts. I want to thank all the community sponsors. Without the community sponsors, Ontario Youth Sports, and Director Kenn Spencer, these free concerts wouldn't be possible.

We were able to hold our annual Litter Clean Up Day in April in cooperation with the Ontario Schools. high school students, school staff and city workers did litter pick up on Lexington Springmill Rd., N. of Rt. 30. This is done every year in cooperation with the Richland County Earth Stewardship Steering Committee.

We once again held our annual Christmas Tree lighting at Marshall Park. The children were very excited that Santa Claus made an appearance. Entertainment was provided by the Ontario High School Jazz Band, Show Choir and Band Auxiliary groups, along with Little Miss Ontario Breckelle Miller. Additional lights were added in the area of the band-shell and pavilion.

Our 2024 Christmas Tree Lighting will be much brighter. I'm very excited that the City was able to purchase the Haggerman Light display from Beal Road. We will use the lights to line Cal Miller Lane and other areas of Marshall Park for a free drive through display.

It is hard to believe that I have been Mayor for 10 years. Since taking office in 2014 I've had the pleasure of having community minded Council Members to work with. We work as a team in doing what is best for our Citizens. This shows with all the improvements to our Parks.

Marshall Park has become a destination, due to our splash pad, playgrounds, disc golf course, dog park, soccer and baseball/softball tournaments. Dunlap Drive along with the baseball/softball complex parking lots were paved in 2023.

I would like to recognize all the employees that work for the city. We have a quality work force, which keeps our city running smoothly, safe and clean. I would like to recognize Kris Knapp, my Service Safety Director, for everything he did all year.

Kris Knapp, and I look forward to working with council in 2024. As I say each year, Ontario has a Strong Past and a Bright Future.

Respectfully,
Mayor Randy E. Hutchinson



ON SATURDAY, JAN. 6, the Ontario Power of the Pen team traveled to Ashland Middle School to compete in the Northeast District I tournament. Power of the Pen is an Ohio interscholastic writing competition. Ontario's teams, coached by Wendy Wilging and Kellie Ritchey, had a very good day. The eighth grade team placed fourth with Leeah Ziegler earning 11th place honors and Kihanna Clark placing ninth. The seventh grade team brought home the first place plaque with Ella Manns placing seventh, Jackson Buttill placing third, Olivia Sandwall placing second, and Zahrana Woods bringing home first place honors. Rylee Vandenberg, Mason Wilkerson, Adelina Hines and Stella Durbin wrote for the eighth grade team as well, and Alexa Conrad and Maddy Hocker wrote for the seventh grade team. These placers automatically qualify for the regional tournament in March at Kent State University. The rest of the writers will learn their fate in the next few weeks. Ontario's teams were joined by ghost writer Kendyll Mullins and runners Aiden Armstrong and Aven Knapp. The teams would also like to thank Mrs. Hocker for volunteering in the tab room and Mrs. Hines for helping with supervision.



Highland Grove delighting audiences with musical mix

Photo and Article By Traci Little

Musical duo, Emma Kruman and Nate Dean perform a beautiful mix of country, folk and a touch of classic rock.

I first saw Emma and Nate perform during the intermission at Sorelle's Holiday Bash event in Ashland.

Emma performed a touching rendition of "Landslide" and Nate mentioned to the crowd, "you might cry listening to her sing this."

"You can remember us by thinking of highland like the cow, and grove like the grove," said Nate Dean.

How did they pick the name, Highland Grove?

"We were brainstorming one evening over snapchat. Emma loves the fluffy Highland cows."

What an amazing gift these two have! Their voices meld together and gives off an immediate calming effect.

Nate previously played in a rock band before Highland Grove came to be. Recently the Hard Hat Band in Wooster invited Highland Grove to come perform at the Rialto Theatre in Akron.

On Thursday, Feb. 8, Highland Grove will be performing at the Rialto Theatre. The theatre is run by musicians for musicians and music fans. Their tagline on facebook says it best, "Colors we share paint the world more brightly...music we celebrate show the heart more clearly."

Music has been in Emma's bloodline since she was a young girl. Her dad is part of a four-man band called Tom's Kitchen Table. "There's nothing quite like sitting around the table making music with friends just for the sake of making music," is something they are proud of. They play at Uniontown Brewing Co. in Ashland quite often.

Since last summer, Highland Grove has performed at various outdoor venues, restaurants and wineries.

They have big dreams and aspirations for 2024. They'd love to add a drummer and bass player to their band. Right now they contact different places, and their fame is growing through word of mouth.

Nate is a senior at Ashland High School and will probably take a gap year to pursue music full time after graduating. He wants to travel and do some things before heading off to college. Emma graduated last year and is currently in her own gap year.

"The band director at Ashland thought we'd be a good fit for the halftime show at Sorelle's Holiday Bash this past December," said Nate.

"We've been writing some stuff and trying to record some songs," said the duo.

Growing up, Nate took guitar lessons for about six years. He would love to play more rock, and Emma brings the country and folk vibe to their music. Some of Nate and Emma's musical inspira-

tions are Jason Isbell and Tyler Childers. Jason combines that rock element into his music and that's the genre that Nate would really love to go after with their band.

"It's really hard to grab people's attention performing more of the low key folk and county music at a bar or restaurant. Wineries are more of a relatable vibe."

Emma grew up singing with her dad and brothers. Her sister plays the guitar.

"I go to Emma's house for a birthday party, and Emma and her family break out into a four part harmony of 'Happy Birthday,'" said Nate.

Emma and Nate are very comfortable performing. "It's what we want to do for the rest of our lives if we can," said Nate.

How do Nate and Emma prepare before a performance? "We listen to hype music which is totally different than what we perform. We just enjoy laughing and being silly together, which brings a light heartedness before we head on stage."

"It's so much fun to be able to do this. We're really lucky to be able to be doing what we truly love," said Nate.



Highland Grove (Emma Kruman and Nate Dean)



EMMA SCHAEFER of Lexington has been named to the 2023 fall semester dean's list at Ohio Wesleyan University. To earn recognition, students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale in all applicable classes.

Hikes planned for Fridays in February

Mohican State Park will host hikes on Fridays, Feb. 2, 9, 16 and 23 from 3-5 pm.

Participants can join a Mohican Naturalist on a 2-mile moderate hike to experience some of our iconic Mohican must sees.

The hike will wind through the hemlock forest, showing hikers the beauty of the Little and Big Lyons Falls and the covered bridge.

Hikers will have the option of breaking off and hiking up the dam back to their vehicles at the end, or riding with the naturalist in the education van back to the top.

Those attending can follow signs to meet at the Pleasant Hill Dam. Bring water, boots and trekking poles. The event is weather dependent.



MRS. MCCAULEY'S at Ontario class read the book, "Squirrel's New Year Resolution" by Pat Miller. After reading, students wrote directions how to make squirrel's acorn snack. Then student made the snack from Hersey Kisses, mini vanilla wafers, mini chocolate chips and frosting. The students learned about New Year resolutions and direction writing. The enjoyed the yummy acorn snack.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS WOOSTER VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL · JAN. 6 PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS WOOSTER JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL · JAN. 6 PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS ONTARIO EIGHTH GRADE BOYS BASKETBALL · JAN. 6
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

•Richland County Bears game serves as RCSO fundraiser

(Continued from Page 7)

because of the fundraiser to help volunteer at our 1 day regional event. That is a great first step. Being able to participate in the fundraiser event was really special for me as a coach for the Bears and as a teacher from the school. Seeing the energy and excitement of the crowd made such an impact on my players. They couldn't stop talking about it the next day at practice. Both my players and students made me so proud. It was amazing seeing our community come together to support the Bears. I don't think anyone could have left the game discouraged. It was such a beautiful and uplifting night. I am so thankful to work at a school that is willing to partner with and support our local Special Olympics Teams. It is because of this fundraiser last year that I decided to volunteer for the Bears. It has been a privilege to coach this season, and I hope to continue volunteering for as long as I can."

The YMCA of North Central Ohio was last year's recipient of Richland Newhope's 2023 Care Awards-Community Partner Award.

The Richland County Special Olympics coordinator, Sherry Mining, nominated the Y. "Over the past several years, the YMCA of North Central Ohio and Richland Newhope have created a strong and significant partnership that benefits those enrolled in our services. The YMCA promotes inclusion by providing Richland County Special Olympics athletes a free membership, a facility to train in,

Warrior swimmers have successful winter break meets

The Ontario Warrior Swim Teams have been very busy these past few weeks. Over Winter Break over half of the team completed the 10 Mile Challenge. That is 17,600 yards in less than 6 hours. Seven swimmers completed over the 10 miles. All that on top of a grueling two weeks of high yardage practices.

This past week, the teams hosted and beat a very strong team from Colonel Crawford. Then on Saturday, the teams traveled to Malabar for a 13-team Tyger Invite where they dominated again, winning both girls and boys parts of the meet.

Medaling for the Warriors were:

Haley Damron, 200 free and 100 fly, third
Grace Them, 200 IM and 100 breaststroke, first
Katie Bolin, 200 IM 2nd and 100 free, third
Lily Secrist, 200 IM 3rd and 500 free, second
Joie Simmering, 50 free, first
Tessa Crum, 100 free 1st and 50 free, second
Tatum Mottayaw, 100 back, third
Evan Ruhe, 200 free 1st and 100 fly, third
Jackson Swiatek, 200 free, second
Grantham Trumpower, 200 IM and 100 free, first
Owen Walter, 200 IM and 100 free, third
Carson Smith, 500 free, second
Canaan Wentz, 500 free, third
Logan Bernat, 100 back, first
200 medley relay, Jordan Yeager, Kaylee Lynch, Angel Tan, Rowan McManes, third
200 and 400 free relays, Them, Simmering, Damron, Crum, first
200 and 400 free relays, Bolin, Mottayaw, Secrist, Maddie Hendricks, third
200 medley and free relays, Trumpower, Bernat, Ruhe, Walter, first
200 free relay-Smith, Richard Ye, Swiatek, Wentz, third
400 free relay-Bernat, Smith, Wentz, Swiatek, second

While all the great swimming is going on, the team is also selling raffle tickets for \$10 each for a chance to win a \$500 X Box. Money raised will go towards swim equipment. Tickets can be purchased from any swim team member or coach. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Ontario Invite on Jan. 27.

and employment opportunities, making it a welcoming space for anyone with disabilities. The YMCA continuously welcomes people with disabilities to work out at their gym and includes support staff to join people served who need support working out. Our partnership with the YMCA has been invaluable in furthering our mission to empower people with developmental disabilities."

If anyone is interested in volunteering, coaching, becoming an athlete, or sponsoring one of the RCSO programs they can contact me at sminnig98@gmail.com and follow us on our Richland County Special Olympics Facebook page.

Ontario's Mirielle Trumpower competes in championship

Freshman Ontario High School swimmer Mirielle Trumpower recently participated in the Mid States All-Star Swim Championship as a member of Team Ohio. in Indianapolis, IN.

The two day meet, which is hosted by Indiana Swimming at the historic Indiana Natatorium, consists of swim teams representing Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Each state team selects their top four male and female individual swimmers in each contested event across the 10 and under, 11-12, and 13-14 age groups. Medals are awarded to the top three finishers.

For Mirielle, a 10-time Mid States medalist, this year represented her fourth and final year to compete for Team Ohio. She was selected to swim in four individual events and two relays. This final meet would also be extra special because her club and varsity Ontario coach was chosen as part of the Ohio coaching staff.

The first day of competition began with two strong performances in the 100 freestyle (53.01 -7th) and the 200 backstroke (2:07.85 - 11th) and culminated with a bronze medal performance in the 100 butterfly (57:01 -3rd) and gold in the 200 medley relay (1:45.22 - 1st).

The gold medal relay team of Mirielle, Catherine Dorsey, Brooke Nagy, and Katie Drummond set a new meet record, breaking the old record of 1:45.56 set in 2023 by Team Wisconsin.

On the final day of the competition, Mirielle anchored the Ohio B team 200 freestyle relay (1:37.65 - 3rd) to a bronze medal with an incredible sub 24 second final leg. Her final individual event, the 100 backstroke, is one of her specialties. After battling to the finish she earned the silver medal (56.59 - 2nd).

For Team Ohio it was a huge momentum changer with four swimmers earning four of the top five spots and scoring 66 points to Team Indiana's 21. The lead over host Team Indiana was beginning to become insurmountable.

In the end, Team Ohio did something that many teams before them were unable to do, a victory over Team Indiana! Finally the 20 year win streak has been broken and a Warrior swimmer and coach were a part of it.

MH&RS meeting scheduled for January 6

The Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Richland County will hold its monthly Board meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at 5:30 pm at 87 E. First St., Mansfield. For information call 419-774-5811.



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS SANDUSKY VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL · JAN. 4 PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



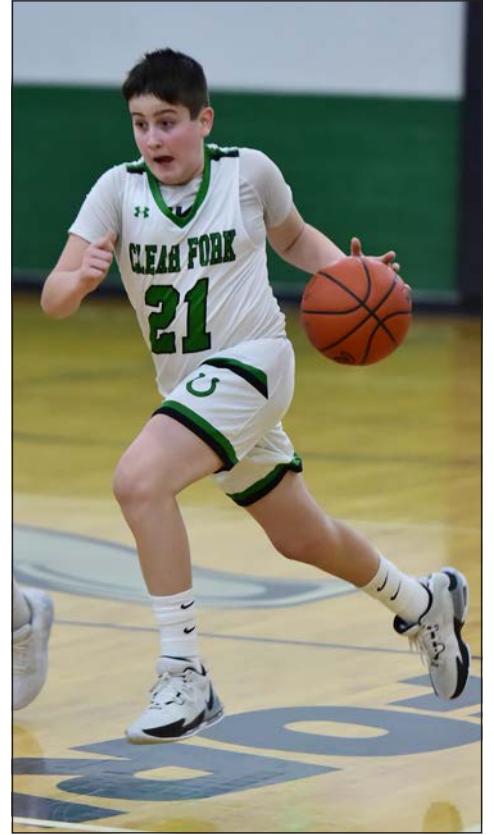
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS SANDUSKY JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL · JAN. 4 PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS SHELBY SEVENTH GRADE BOYS BASKETBALL · JAN. 8
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS SHELBY EIGHTH GRADE BOYS BASKETBALL · JAN. 8
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Galion overtakes Lucas to squelch undefeated season

By Kris Leiter

As the Lucas Cubs, manned by head coach Taylor Iceman, rolled into Galion, they had a target on their back with an undefeated record. Iceman and the Cubs have had many good seasons in the past, along with deep runs into the post season tournament for many years. Would the Galion Tigers be ready to answer?

The lineups were similar: Lucas with a wealth of stealth with six-seniors and three juniors. Senior Zach Diehl rings in at 6' 0" and junior Zac Winters towers at 6' 4".

Galion definitely brought some height to the table as well with seven seniors and five juniors under head coach Tyler Sanders.

The "Tall Timbers" for Galion are two seniors, Coen Fuson and Elijah Chaffins, both at 6' 0" along with junior Jaxon Manley at a towering 6' 6".

As the first quarter would commence, both teams were patient in the front court, looking for the open shot.

At 7:30, Galion would strike first blood with junior, 6' 3" Cooper Kent hitting a 3-pointer! And shortly thereafter, at 6:50, another two points came from Kent again with the hot iron making it, 5-0 Galion.

But the Cubs weren't laying low and would strike back at 6:10, with two points by senior 6' 0" Zach Diehl.

Good teams do things well and the Lucas Cubs and Taylor Iceman weren't bringing in an undefeated record by happenstance. The Cubs reputation was starting to hold true.

Galion added another two points, but then the Cubs unleashed the "Bear" and at 4:30, Zac Winters lit up the scoreboard with a big 3-pointer! And within the next two minutes, senior, 6' 3" Aiden Culler bombed another basket from the 3-point arc, bringing the score 8-8, tying the game!

Throughout the few next minutes, both teams would merit a myriad of fouls. As the clock showed 1:32, Lucas was not to be forgotten and, following up from his 3-pointer just minutes ago, Culler would dump in another two points for the first lead change of the game!

The Cubs were on top 10-8. As the clock wound down, the Cubs fell foe to a few more fouls and, before the quarter would end, Logan Toms tallied another two points for a first quarter ending at 12-9, with the Cubs holding strong.

As the second quarter would commence, the Cubs would continue adding points to their side of the scoreboard by Culler. Culler would contribute the next seven points, but as Galion would still be in the hunt to keep the fire burning as well, and one-up the Cubs by dumping in 10 points of their own

At 2:25 remaining, the 10-7 scoring run by the Tigers put them within one point, bringing the score to 20-19, the Cubs still leading, but Galion was on their heels by one point!

Hang onto your seats peeps, and at 1:53, Galion's Elijah Chafin would hit a BIG 3-pointer, to push the Tigers into the lead! With 22-20, Galion was back on top!

As the second quarter would wind down, it was nip and tuck by both teams and at the buzzer, Galion still held the lead, 27-23.

As the third quarter started, Galion dropped a couple of 3-pointers and opened the lead a bit more to 32-27. Both teams tossed a few in from the free throw line and the tug-of-war continued.

By the time the third quarter buzzer sounded, Galion was leading 38-31, but the Cubs were not far behind.

Galion went on a 20-9 scoring frenzy, opening the lead to 56-40 at the 2:25 mark. At the end of the fourth quarter, the Tigers would prevail 61-41.

Leading scorers for Lucas were Aiden Culler and Logan Toms in double figures with 17 and 10 points respectively.

Lucas middle school girls teams return defeated from Waynedale

By Kris Leiter

The seventh grade Lucas Lady Cubs were defeated by the Waynedale Lady Golden Bears 37-17 on Dec. 28.

The Cub's first points of the game came at 5:05 in the first quarter by C. Sweet dropping the first bucket for the Lady Cubs. Waynedale's defense would hold the Cubs throughout the first quarter, rounding out the score 14-2 for Waynedale.

As the second quarter, neither team would score, as both defenses would hold their own. Then, at 2:15 on the clock, a BIG 3-pointer would drop by A. Morris for the Lady Cubs! And then another 2 points came from M. Wallace, adding to the tally for the Lady Cubs, 14-7.

Waynedale would then go on a 14-2 scoring run, and by the end of the second quarter, the Golden Bears would have the lead at 18-9.

In the third quarter, Waynedale dominated the scoring and after three quarters, it was Waynedale leading 28-9.

The fourth quarter would shine brightly on the Cubs by C. Sweet adding four more points as well as B. Francis adding two points as well. As the clock continued, Waynedale added 9 more and Lucas added 8 points to the final tally, as Waynedale would be the victor at 37-17.

The eighth grade Lady Cubs of Lucas also fell to defeat by Waynedale with a final score of 28-18 on Dec. 28.

Waynedale started the scoring by 6-0 lead, but the Cubs were not far behind with two points at 1:50, bringing the score to 6-2.

Twenty seconds later, The Lady Cubs would get fouled while shooting, and would merit a 3-point play to a 6-5 total.

Waynedale put another four points on the scoreboard, by ending the second quarter at 16-6, Waynedale.

As the third quarter would roll, Waynedale held their own by allowing the Cubs only two more points and adding eight more points of their own, with a third quarter total of 24-8.

As the fourth quarter continued, Lucas added 10 more buckets, as Waynedale added four more points, to the final score of 28-18 for a Waynedale victory.

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Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Clear Fork defeats Northmor 66-41 in the Corral

By Kris Leiter

As we dive into another local basketball game, I wanted to explain why some of my coverage is lagging by a week or so.

With the holiday and all it includes, I was covering a good amount of basketball during the break and between having time to write and the *Tribune* having a week off, some of the articles have been pushed to this week.

So with that, here we go...“Over the hills and through the woods, from Morrow County they come.”

As the Northmor Boys basketball and head coach Blade Tackett rolled into the valley of Clear Fork High School, they prepared to tangle with Tim Brafford and the Colts on Dec. 23.

It's never easy going on the road, especially going into the “Colt Corral.” Northmor was coming in with a three-game winning streak, so the Colts would definitely have a challenge on their hands.

As the first quarter clock commenced and with two steals for the Golden Knights, the Colts started to kick up some dirt and senior, 6' 0" Adam Vanausdle dropped the first 3-pointer within the first minute of the game, making it 3-0 for the Colts.

With 5:42 on the clock, another two points came from — guess who? Vanausdle! The iron was hot! 5-0 Colts! The two teams traded baskets as 1:18 was showing, The Colts were surging with a 13-8 lead. It was time for senior, 6' 1", Grant Spencer to show drop a bucket himself and two more, making the score 15-8.

As the second quarter began and within minutes, Northmor would not take things lightly, dropping a 3-bomb, bringing the score to 15-11.

Within the next minute of play, Northmor had the number three on their mind and dropped three, 3-pointers, tying the score at 17-17

halfway through the second quarter.

Adding to the mix would be senior, 6' 3" Logan Richmond, senior, 6' 0" Garrett Hotz and senior 6' 2", Beau Dornbirer all with two points each. As both teams continued swapping baskets more than merchants at a flea market, there was 2:00 on the clock, with the Colts leading 24-19. And just when you thought it was safe to go back into the water, Golden Knights Trevor Brubaker dropped a big 3, knotting the game again at 22-22!

As the third quarter clock continued to wind down, Northmor got into foul trouble, allowing the Colts to capitalize in the scoring column, opening up the lead even more by the Colts.

Clear Fork continued to slowly stretch the lead and at 2:50 and 1:34 showing, Logan Richmond once again hit two more 3-pointers, bringing the Colts lead to comfortable lead of 45-29.

In the third quarter alone, the Colts would stomp the dirt in the Corral once more for an incredible 27-7 scoring run! At the end of three quarters, there was no looking back as the Colts were sitting on the mountain top at 51-29.

In the fourth quarter, the man of the hour, Garrett Hotz, was kicking up his boots and droppied seven points himself throughout the fourth quarter.

The Colts would cash in at the final buzzer with a 66-41 victory!

Clear Fork tallied four players in double figures: Vanausdle with 16, Richmond with 15, Spencer with 12 and Hotz with 11.

The win keeps the Colts in the middle of the pack in the Mid-Ohio Conference, Red Division.

Shelby 7-2 (6-0), Marion Harding 9-2 (5-1), River Valley 7-3 (4-2), Galion 5-4 (4-2), Clear Fork 5-5 (2-3), Pleasant 6-5 (2-4), Ontario 2-8 (0-5), Highland 1-9 (0-6)

Madison Lady Rams defeat Marion Harding 48-39

Photos and Article By Kris Leiter

It's always nice to get a win on the road, and I'm sure head coach Mike Leeper would agree, as the Madison Lady Rams came into Marion and handed the Marion Harding Lady Prexies a defeat on Dec. 27.

The Lady Rams' defense was a monumental key in their success. Within the first minute, junior Brynn Kiley got things rolling with two points. The Lady Rams were off to a good start as Chloe Ebling contributed two points at the 5:50 mark.

Marion Harding got into foul trouble, and the Lady Rams took advantage and let the scoring frenzy begin. With 3:55, the Prexies scored their first basket, but the Rams had already put 10 points on the board themselves. With 10-2, Madison was rolling.

By the time the first quarter ended, the Lady Rams were holding a nice 15-4 lead. The Rams went on an 11-6 scoring run for the duration of the second quarter, boosting the totals to 26-13.

As the third quarter started, Madison's good half court offense continued; patient and steady.

Remember Natalee Back? She was back like a thief with a big steal and would capitalize with a big 3-pointer. At 5:00, the Lady Rams were holding nicely 32-13. The stingy Madison defense had a myriad of blocked shots, especially when Marion was in the paint.

As the third quarter would progress, the Rams kept the Prexies at bay, only allowing them 12 points the entire third quarter!

At the end of three quarters, the tally was 34-25.

As the fourth quarter started, the good ol' Madison defense was at it again and caused the Prexies a number of turnovers. Marion dropped a few more buckets, but could only get within 10 points.

It was time for another big 3-pointer by the Lady Rams. At 6:01, Madison's Mike Leeper called timeout and regrouped. Whatever Coach Leeper said in that huddle, Jada Neal took those words of wisdom by dropping a 3-bomb, opening the lead to 41-27!

As the fourth quarter clock continued, Marion's points were minimal by their own demise, only making three out of 10 free throws.

Madison added seven more points to round out their totals for a

handedly defeat of the Prexies 48-39! Go Lady Rams!

From the first quarter through the fourth quarter, there were nine steals, with senior Natalee Back and sophomore Madison Berry being in the mix. In double figures for the Lady Rams was Brynn Kiely with 16 points, as well as Jada Neal with 10.



Madison's Chloe Ebling

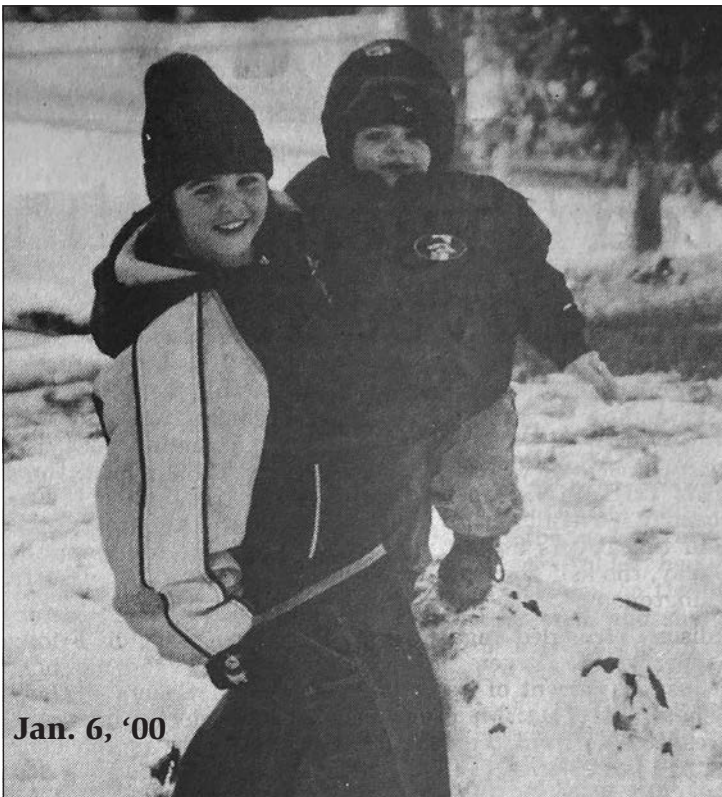
LOOKING BACK • THIS WEEK IN TRIBUNE-COURIER HISTORY

Jan. 6, '83



Photo by Gerald Hudson

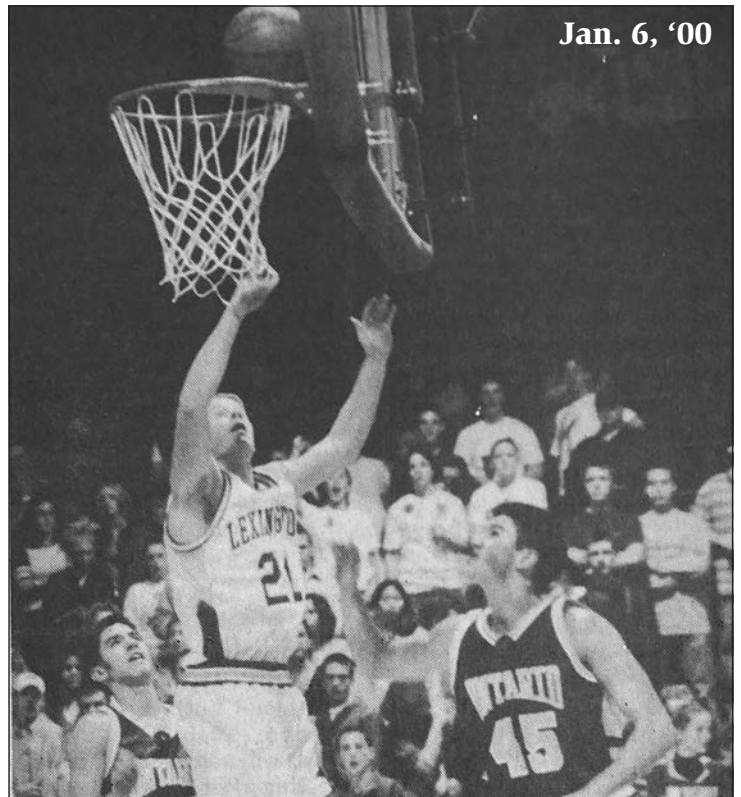
LEADING THE CHEERS for the Ontario junior varsity basketball team is this group of six young ladies. From the left are Dana Baynton, Sheri Studer, Natalie Wolfinger, Stacy Leach, Kelly Sponseller and Margaret Estep.



Jan. 6, '00

George Billman

VANESSA JONES AND Styler Bister, children of Mary Bister, made a snowman as an activity on New Year's Eve. They were photographed in the middle of their work at the corner of Middle-Bellville and Logan Rds. in the Lexington area.



Jan. 6, '00

George Billman

DAVID GOODE (21) popped in this field goal for two of his 13 points in the game with Ontario Saturday night at Ontario, won by the Warriors, 69-62, in overtime. Ontario defenders are Brandon Doan (34) and Jason Smith (45).

KCCC's Building Trades Program puts in sidewalk

Knox County Career Center's Building Trades program put in a new sidewalk next to Mount Vernon's Energy Fieldhouse.

Juniors and seniors in the Building Trades program excavated, graded and poured the sidewalk. The entire process took about two and a half weeks to complete.

Colby Clippinger, KCCC's Building Trades instructor, commented, "It's great to do a project that will benefit so many people in the community."

Rick Shaffer, Director of Maintenance and Safety at Mount Vernon City Schools, added, "It's really all about the kids! They (KCCC's Building Trades students) needed experience and we needed a sidewalk for the safety of our kids who are walking to and from the Energy Fieldhouse. The Building Trades program did a very professional job and we can't wait to use them again."

"This project is another great example of the collaboration between schools and community partners, and KCCC students making a difference with their community service.

Having a project near the KCCC campus is always a plus to maximize career technical lab time," said Kathy Greenwich, KCCC Superintendent.

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