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news@tribune-courier.com

01.18.24



VALENTINE'S DAY cards are being collected by Richland County Children Services (RCCS) and the Mansfield United Lions Club for local foster care children. Last year, the 179th Airlift Wing Finance office made cards for the collection.

RCCS, Lions Club collect Valentines

A project to help foster youths in Richland County know they are loved is returning. Richland County Children Services (RCCS) and the Mansfield United Lions Club are showing foster youths love with Valentine's Day cards.

The Mansfield United Lions Club and RCCS will be collecting Valentine's cards for children in foster care ages 0-6, 7-12 and 13-18. Cards can be handmade, or store bought, no sealed valentines and cards may be signed. Cards will be accepted through Feb. 5.

"This is a wonderful collaboration with the Mansfield United Lions Club and the City of Mansfield Parks & Recreation Department. In Ohio there are more than 16,000 youths in foster care and unfortunately many of them do not have the chance to be part of Valentine exchanges. The Valentine's Day Card Project gives the community an opportunity to show children in foster care that they are loved, appreciated and not alone," said Nikki Harless, Richland County Children Services, Executive Director.

"Last year we collected more than 4,700 items including Valentine's Day Cards, books, candy and gift bags. People from all over Richland County and out of state donated cards including families, schools, churches, businesses, public officials, colleges, correctional institutions and more helping to make the community project a success. This year we want to collect more for youths in Richland County and throughout the state of Ohio," said Brigitte Coles, Richland County Children Services, Community Engagement Specialist.

The community is invited to drop off or mail the unsealed Valentine's Day cards to Richland County Children Services, 731 Scholl Rd., Mansfield, OH, 44906 or the Mansfield Parks & Recreation Department, 100 Brinkerhoff Ave., Mansfield, OH, 44906, C/O Valentine's Day Cards.

"This is a fantastic partnership with the Mansfield United Lions Club, Richland County Children Services, and the City of Mansfield Parks Department," said Mansfield Mayor Jodie Perry. "I encourage all our residents to participate in this and make this an extra special Valentine's Day for our foster youth."

"Lions meet the needs of local communities and the world. There are 1.4 million members of the volunteer organization in over 200 countries. The Mansfield United Lions Club meets at 6pm the second Monday of each month at the upper building at Burton Park off of Sunset Blvd. Find us on Facebook, or email mansfieldlionsunited@gmail.com for more information on becoming a member or opportunities to partner on

(Continued on Page 5)

Ontario Board of Education welcomes new members Brett Baxter and Amy Hiner

The Ontario Board of Education met Jan. 9. Mr. Harvey administered the oath of office to newly elected board members Brett Baxter and Amy Hiner.

Todd Friend was elected board president and Heidi Zimmerman was elected board vice president for 2024. Treasurer Randy Harvey administered the Oath of Office for these elected positions.

The meeting dates for meetings were set to be the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Ontario High School Library, unless it is necessary to provide otherwise.

Committee members appointed for 2024 are Jerod Them, Legislative Liaison; Todd Friend and Heidi Zimmerman, Financial and Audit Committee; Brett Baxter and Todd Friend, Ontario Athletic Council; Todd Friend, Enterprise Zone Tax Abatement Committee; Todd Friend, Student Achievement Liaison Representative; Brett Baxter and Heidi Zimmerman, Ontario Substance Abuse Advisory Committee; Brett Baxter and Amy Hiner, Permanent Improvement Committee; and Todd Friend and Amy Hiner, Community Engagement Committee.

Superintendent Keith Strickler recognized the board members for their service and presented them with certificates.

He was authorized to employ personnel between board meetings as needed. Such employments would be presented for approval by the board at the next regular meeting.

Superintendent Strickler was authorized to accept written resignations of personnel between board meetings as needed. Such resignations would be presented for approval by the board at the next regular meeting.

The treasurer was authorized to invest in-

terim and/or inactive funds. The board approved every depository bank, covered by FDIC, for future deposits and adopted the 2024-'25 tax budget.

A service fund for board of education expenses incurred during the performance of duties was established.

The board approved designating treasurer Randy Harvey, as the public records officer for the district. He acknowledges receipt of the public records policy from the board. In addition, the board designated the treasurer to be the representative for the required public records training.

The board approved the resignation of Lisa Schofield, freshman cheer coach, effective Oct. 27.

Employments approved for the 2023-'24 school year include Jonathan King, winter/spring strength coach, \$5,164; Jamee Burke, softball varsity head coach, \$5,418; Scott Kreger, softball varsity assistant, \$4,364; Meredith Remy, softball JV head coach, \$4,364; Rick Remy, softball volunteer JV assistant coach, \$0; Lauren Morehead, winter freshman cheer advisor, \$832; and Hope Miller, OMS seventh grade volunteer girls basketball coach, \$0.


The board approved the softball overnight field trip.

Substitute classified staff hired for the 2023-'24 school year included Tiffany Whitaker, Stingel/high school cook.

Temporary substitute teachers hired for the current school year are Sarah Marhefka, Stingel, middle school, high school; and Anita Adkins, middle school, high school.

The board approved annual membership (January through December 2024) with

(Continued on Page 2)



THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —

Writer/director Cord Jefferson made a terrific film called *American Fiction*. This opened limited in late 2023 to qualify for awards and is now expanding to more theaters. This is one to check out.

Jeffrey Wright plays Thelonius "Monk" Ellison, a college professor and author who is placed on leave from his job and he travels to Boston to see his family.

His mother Agnes (Lesley Uggams) is being placed in a nursing home after a dementia diagnosis, his rebellious, drug addicted brother Cliff (Sterling K. Brown) recently came out and is having his own issues. Meanwhile, Monk's books are not selling. He attends a book seminar by a new author played by Issa Rae. He realizes her book is all about exploiting black stereotypes and has no substance. Her book receives critical acclaim.

Monk decides to try his hand at a book of this type. He writes it under a pseudonym and all of a sudden his book explodes as Monk tries to keep his identity secret while deciding how to balance his family situation with this book that he has no passion for and only wrote as a joke.

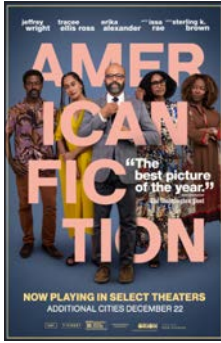
Jeffrey Wright is one of our finest actors and hopefully he will finally get his first Oscar nomination for his performance.

The first time I noticed Wright was in the HBO miniseries of the play *Angels in America* in 2003. He has been in such diverse films as *Casino Royale*, *Syriana*, *The Batman* and the TV series *Boardwalk Empire*.

Jefferson writes a terrific, hilarious movie. There are certain sequences that are laugh out loud funny and then the movie balances it out with such tender, heartfelt moments regarding his family and a new lady in his life named Coraline (Erika Alexander). One such sequence where Monk decides to re-name the book to a certain choice word plays out beautifully.

Definitely look for *American Fiction* in theaters. It is such a well written, well acted, smart movie that really takes a look into race relations in this country through a different lens and Jefferson really has a great take on it. The ending of the film is very unique and may be divisive to some viewers though I thought it worked in a creative way and was entertaining.

Wright and Sterling K. Brown should be in the Oscar conversation as should the screenplay. Check out this film.



•Board welcomes new members

(Continued from Front Page)


the Ohio School Boards Association and also 2023-'24 membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

The Health Insurance Memorandum of Understanding was also approved.

Donations were accepted from Ohio Federation of Teachers/Local 1703, \$100 for the OHS Student Council; and Joseph and Lynn Wechter, \$250 for the OHS Track team.

Facility requests were approved for Ontario Baseball (Mike Ellis) for use of high school gym for youth baseball clinic; Ontario Community and Family Engagement (Amy Hiner) for use of middle school commons and kitchen for a senior citizen painting and mingle event; and Ontario Community and Family Engagement (Amy Hiner) for use of Stingel multipurpose room for community pickleball.

Regular meeting dates are Feb. 13, March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12 and Dec. 10. Meetings will be held in the Ontario High School Library, 467 Shelby-Ontario Rd., Ontario, at 7 pm.




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Serving Ontario, Lexington, Madison, Bellville and Butler Communities in Madison, Mifflin, Springfield, Troy, Washington and Jefferson Townships

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News Briefs

American Legion Post #535, 77 Bell St., Bellville, will host a pork chop dinner Friday, Jan. 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 Rafield 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.

★
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 next meal will be held Feb. 21, and will include broasted chicken. Strutt Your Stuff Dancers will perform. Those attending are asked to wear red.

The group will also meet Feb. 7, at 11 am at Outback Steakhouse, 820 Lex-Springmill Rd., Ontario.

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

★
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 Box-

es" 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.

★
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 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.

★
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 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.

★
All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Jacquie Zarley to speak about "Finding out at Memaw's Age" at 10:30 am on Jan. 21. For more information visit www.allsoulsuohio.org.

★
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.

★
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

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Photo By Mark Shutt

Sale donations to benefit ACCA

Ashland County Cancer Association will host a rummage sale fundraiser to support Ashland County cancer patients.

The organization is collecting donations Feb. 5 through May 24, at the ACCA office, 1011 E. Main St. suite A, Ashland. Donations are accepted Monday through Thursday Feb. 5 through Macy 14 from 9 am to 3:30 pm. (No large items at this time).

Donations will be accepted at the Ashland Fairgrounds, gold building May 15–18 and May 20–24, from 10 am to 4 pm. Large items will be accepted with prior approval. Those donating large items are asked to text 419-606-0549 with a picture, description and donor's name.

Acceptable donations include purses, newer reads, office, crafts & sewing, electronics, household & home décor, kitchenware, bed & bath, games, jewelry, kid's items, sports & outdoor, tools, pet, furniture, new & pre-loved infant to adult clothes and shoes (broken, stained, torn or outdated items will not be accepted).

The rummage sale will be held at the Ashland County Fairgrounds, Claremont Ave., on Thursday, May 30, 3–8 pm; Friday, May 31, 9 am to 6 pm; and Saturday, June 1, from 9 am to 2 pm. On Saturday, from 2:30–4 pm everything will be free. The sale is held in the green and gold buildings. The sale is held rain or shine. Cash or debit accepted and food will be available. For information call 419-281-1863.

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 Stuftt
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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Library's Black History Celebration returns February 3

The Mansfield/Richland County Public Library invites the community to the annual Black History Celebration. This free, family-friendly event will offer activities, giveaways, music and a free meal. This event will be held at the main library, 43 W. Third St., Mansfield, on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 9:15 am to 2 pm.

This free, family-friendly event will offer activities, games, history, giveaways, music and a free meal. The event will open at 9:15 am in the second floor lobby with music.

Following the opening, Stan Jefferson, superintendent of Mansfield City Schools, will speak about the "Peace on My Block" initiative with Chris May, library director, officially endorsing the initiative.

A free meal made by local caterers The Food Tour will be served from 12-1 pm while supplies last.

Several local community organizations, including NAACP Mans-

field, North End Community Improvement Collaborative (NECIC), Job and Family Services, Richland Public Health, First Call 211, the Princess Endowment Fund, and Third Street Family Health Services, will be participating and offering activities and valuable information.

Jody Odom Jr. will once again entertain customers with his musical talents in the Community Room from 12:30-1:30 pm.

Guests of all ages will have the opportunity to participate in various curated activities throughout the library. When guests arrive at the event, they will be offered an Activity Pass that, once completed, will serve as an entry to win one of four \$30 gift cards.

For more information and a full list of Black History Celebration activities and programs visit mrcpl.org.

•Valentines being collected

(Continued from Front Page)

future projects." said Margaret Lin, Co-President, Mansfield United Lions Club

"The Mansfield United Lions have prioritized supporting the foster children of Richland County for three years. We have pride that the valentine card project has significant outreach with joy as the outcome," said Dr. Debra Weaver, co-President of the Mansfield United Lions.

Richland County Children Services (RCCS) mission is to lead our community in assuring the safety, well-being, and permanency of children at risk of abuse and neglect.

RCCS encourages all individuals to invest in the lives of children and to provide them with unconditional love, support, guidance, and every available resource to ensure their health and well-being.

You can make a difference in a child's life! Those interested in becoming a foster parent can contact Richland County Children Services at 419-774-4100 or go to richlandcountychildrenservices.org.

For more information about the Valentine cards project contact Brigitte Coles, Community Engagement Specialist at 419-774-4168 or brigitte.coles@jfs.ohio.gov.



Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Margaret Rachel McReynolds, January 4

Marilyn S. Twitchell, January 6

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Winter Haven, FL



Luke Trieber joins Newhope

Luke Trieber is the newest member of the Richland Newhope/Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Trieber, appointed by the Richland County Commissioners, took the oath of office at the Commissioner's office on Tuesday, Jan. 2.

"It's an honor to be a part of the Newhope Board and represent those with developmental disabilities. I look forward to working together and being the voice for people similar to me."

Michele Giess, Richland Newhope Superintendent said, "We are thrilled to have Luke join the board representing people who receive services. We believe he will be a tremendous asset and bring a unique perspective to the board."

Trieber has worked at Richland Newhope Industries, Inc. Woodshop for 12 years. He has been active in the Special Olympics program for several years. He is the third individual eligible for services to be appointed to the RCBDD in its 56-year history.

In 2022, Trieber received the Self-Advocate CARE (Compassion, Advocacy, Respect, and Excellence) Award. This award is given to a person with a disability who effectively advocates for himself or herself as well as for others. Efforts could include, but are not limited to, speaking engagements, volunteer service and advocating for change in the community.

Richland Newhope supports more than 1,200 Richland County residents through early intervention, transition services, day services, supported employment, residential, therapy and other family support programs.

MRCPL launches free app

The Mansfield/Richland County Public Library (MRCPL) can now be taken anywhere, anytime. The library has launched the Mansfield/Richland County Library app for free download to iPhone and Android users.

The MRCPL app allows library patrons to navigate through the library's extensive collections, place holds, manage accounts and more.

The app allows for searches in the event calendar to find programs and register on the spot. Patrons can also store a library card on mobile devices, link multiple cards and check branch locations and hours.

When asked why the library launched the app, Chris May, library director stated, "The addition of an app aligns perfectly with our strategic goal of maximizing our reach beyond our physical buildings."

Since Mansfield Richland County Public Library's opening in 1889, the library has been a source for free access to knowledge, information and resources in Mansfield.

Through the interactive website, www.mrcpl.org, the library provides access to resources for library card holders 24/7 in addition to nine traditional locations and Bookmobile.

MRCPL is a center for people of all ages to come together to have fun, learn, grow, craft, seek knowledge and understanding, connect and engage.

Blood drive on February 15 will honor Madison student

A blood drive in honor of London Hamilton will be held by Madison Schools. London is a Madison student who was diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma in December 2022. Her tumor was wrapped around her right eleventh rib.

She went through six rounds of chemo before having resection surgery in May 2023 and began radiation in August 2023.

On top of receiving chemo, she's battled multiple infections and specifically neutropenic.

London is currently on the last phase of therapy with only two more rounds of chemotherapy left. Throughout her journey she has had 48 transfusions. Blood donors are very important in the cancer world.

The blood drive will be held in the Madison Comprehensive High School Gym, 600 Esley Ln., Mansfield, Thursday, Feb. 15, from 7 am to 7 pm.

Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org to schedule an appointment. Streamline the experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete a pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of the appointment. Come give in February for a \$20 Amazon.com gift card by email.

House overrides DeWine's veto

The Ohio House of Representatives voted to override Governor DeWine's recent veto of House Bill 68, announced State Rep. Marilyn John (R-Richland County).

John issued the following statement regarding the vote, "I voted to override the governor's veto of House Bill 68, the Save Adolescents from Experimentation Act (SAFE) and the Save Women's Sports Act. As a legislator and parent, I am committed to always standing up for the best interests of Ohio children and families."

State Rep. Melanie Miller (R-City of Ashland) also issued a statement, "This is a vote to protect women and children. We must protect our children from making life altering decisions at such an early age — decisions that they will never be able to reverse."

"Moms and dads always need to be a part of these critical decisions," said Miller. "When it comes to women's athletics, this vote ensures that females can compete on a level playing field and not against biological males."

The veto override now heads to the Ohio Senate for consideration.

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kimmyscucina

By Kim Sterry

CHICKEN WITH BRIE AND TOMATOES

Ingredients

- 2 chicken breasts (halved and flattened)
- ½ cup to 1 cup flour
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup bread crumbs
- 8 Roma tomatoes
- 1 wheel of brie (scrape off rind)
- 1 cup of olive oil
- Fresh basil leaves, chopped

Instructions

In a saucepan, add olive oil and chopped tomatoes, heat slowly. Add brie and warm over low heat until it has melted, stirring continually. Turn off heat and set aside. Have flour, egg and bread crumbs in three separate dishes. Dip chicken in flour, eggs and bread crumbs. Place on oil-coated baking sheet and cook in 350 degree oven until cooked (20–25 minutes). Remove chicken and cover with Tomato/Brie Sauce.

LIKE Kimmy's Cucina on Facebook & Instagram



By Mátiece Thomas

I want to start today's article out with asking you a question. What does food mean to you? Is it something that you fuel your body with for your goals?

As a personal trainer, I would hope that your answer is yes, because that's how you will see your best results on your fitness journey. You should choose your food as a way to fuel your day the best way possible, for your workouts and your everyday activity.

Unfortunately, the average person does not think of food that way. Some use food as a coping mechanism when they are sad or mad. I have met people that have used food to hide behind due to something traumatic in their life.

Food can be used as a way to show love and that you care. Unfortunately, for some food can even be an addiction.

So I want to ask you, what does food mean to you? How do you use it in your life?

You can have all the good intentions in the world to get healthy, to be well and to get in shape but if you don't understand your relationship with food, this will be an uphill battle!

Today I want you to ask yourself a few questions. 1) Why do I eat what I eat?

2) When do I find myself eating the most?

3) Do I eat out of boredom or am I truly hungry?

4) Do I find myself not eating enough throughout my day?

5) What can I do today to make food my friend, instead of my enemy on this fitness journey.

6) What foods need to go and what needs to stay?

I want to encourage you to start a food journal. On the first page you can write these six questions down. It's OK if you do not know the answers to them yet. As you journal, you will understand your relationship with food better, this will help you answer the questions more honestly.

I encourage you to write down:

- 1) What you eat
- 2) The time that you are eating it
- 3) A smiley face or sad face for how you are feeling when you were eating.
- 4) Did you eat out of hunger or boredom?
- 5) Total calories of what you ate.

This will help you learn what your relationship with food looks like. Not to mention, sometimes you don't even realize how much you eat or how little you eat in your day until you write it down.

So, my trainer girls tip for you today is to figure out what food means to you and how to make it work for you and not against you.

Always remember food can be a tool in your fitness toolbox, that can help you build success or failure it's all in how you use it.

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



Photo by Damon Callis

Day Trippin' With Damon – The historic Cleveland Coast Guard Station on Whiskey Island is a part of Cleveland Metroparks. A \$1 million partial restoration involved clearing out the debris and fixing and tearing down walls. The station is located on the west pier at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River.





The Little Shops of Shelby hosts re-opening ribbon cutting

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Caren Fleck purchased The Little Shops of Shelby in late 2023 fulfilling a lifelong dream of entrepreneurship. In the shop you will find a wide assortment of vendors including clothing boutiques, beauty and self-care products, antiques, primitives, home decor, jewelry, furniture and so much more.

A grand re-opening celebration occurred on Friday, Jan. 12 at 1 pm. Appetizers and refreshments were served as well as fun giveaways, pop-up sales and drawings for gift baskets full of goodies.

The Little Shops of Shelby is located at 40 E. Main St., Shelby.

Jennifer Wagner from the Richland Area Chamber said, "This is a gem in the com-

munity and we're so grateful you're a part of this!"

Richland County Commissioner, Tony Vero commented, "It's a good time to have a business here in Shelby. I was just here with Jessica Gribben at the downtown improvement. It's a phenomenal time for Shelby, and it's exciting to see the town growing and returning to a positive light."

Shelby's Mayor, Steven Schag, welcomed the guests on behalf of the city of Shelby. "Congrats for your spirit of entrepreneurship and stepping forward!"

The Little Shops of Shelby is a truly historic location! Great things have happened here in the past and are happening once again. Schag thanked Caren and her family for their investment in the community and creating the opportunity for more memories to be made for years and years to come. Caren has a lot of new ideas and design plans to

put into place in 2024!

Miss Ontario, Jaslyn Lopez and Doc Stumbo were a part of the ribbon cutting celebration along with the Richland County Fair Queen, Sarah Smith.

Jessica Gribben with the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development had this to say, "as you can see there's a variety of goods and vendors in here. It's a great space for some of the smaller retail shops that you love to see downtown. I'm super excited to have this dynamic business here in downtown."

Caren Fleck worked in the store before taking ownership of it and has already made her mark! As a Shelby transplant, this community has truly become home for her allowing the Shelby spirit to carry on.

Senator Mark Romanchuck sent a certificate of his commendations and sent his best wishes.



News Briefs in Education

If an Ontario student is interested in enrolling at Ashland University after graduation, they can attend the AU Night event on Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 6 pm in the Ontario High School Library.

Even those who do not have any interest in AU or are undecided are highly encouraged to attend this informational session if help is needed with completing the FAFSA.

Representatives will be able to help submit a FAFSA regardless of where students are planning to attend college.

There will be representatives from AU to discuss the financial aid and admissions processes and answer questions.

★

Miami University students ranked in the top three percent of undergraduate students within each division for the fall 2023 semester have been named to the president's list recognizing academic excellence.

Local students on the list are Ben Pryor, Tucker Schurig, Jenah Calderhead, Shelby

Zimmerman and Joseph Litao.

Miami University students who are ranked in the top twenty percent of undergraduate students within each division for the Fall semester 2023 have been named to the dean's list recognizing academic excellence.

Local students on the list are Will Bennett, Elizabeth Hamler, Sophie Masi, Cole Pauley, Marissa Marquardt, Emma Shaffer, Jenna Hiebel, Nathaniel Ivy and Jake Kmetz.

Miami University is a public university located in Oxford, Ohio.

★

In recognition of academic performance, the Office of Academic Affairs at University of the Cumberlands has announced the students named to the dean's list for the fall 2023 semester.

On the list are local students Abigail Little and Spencer Hall.

The University of the Cumberlands is located in Williamsburg, Kentucky, Cumberlands.

Directly in path of totality, Mansfield welcomes travelers

Thousands of visitors are expected to descend on Mansfield this April 8, as the ultra-rare total eclipse of the sun puts the city and its visitors smack in the middle of the "Path of Totality."

As a result, the north central Ohio city and its surrounding villages will be plunged into darkness at 3:12 pm for three minutes, 16 seconds when the moon passes between the sun and Earth during the first total solar eclipse to cover Ohio in 208 years.

Mansfield and its neighboring Richland County villages have created special events for locals and visitors alike, the largest of which takes place at the Richland County Fairgrounds.

Richland County Fairgrounds will be transformed into a massive OHclipse Mansfield viewing party with seating for 2,500 people, 200 campsites and three days packed with events and activities. A massive marketplace of local vendors and artists, indoor kids play area, souvenir eclipse glasses, food trucks, half a dozen live bands and some of the best viewing in the U.S. will take place on 100 acres with dozens of buildings and shelters, in case of inclement weather.

Admission is \$5 on Friday, \$20 Saturday and Monday and \$10 on Sunday. Parking is \$20. A four-night tent and RV Camping Package is \$500. The two-night package is \$400. Both include parking and access to the festival for up to four people. (Nominal Eventbrite fees apply.) Travelers can purchase passes, parking and camping reservations at eventbrite.com/e/ohclipse-mansfield-tickets.

A Total Eclipse of the Park Viewing Party is slated for 1:30-3:30 pm at Central Park on The Square in downtown Mansfield at no charge. Viewing glasses will be available and Jimi Vincent and Friends will be performing live. Dan Lew Exchange/DLX will feature appetizer, dining and drink specials during this festive party.

Another great viewing location is Malabar Farm State Park, just 10 miles from downtown Mansfield. Malabar's 900 acres of rolling Ohio farmland and wide-open pastures will offer unobscured visibility. Food trucks will be on hand and visitors are encouraged to bring eclipse glasses and blankets to enjoy the view, and to carpool to ease parking and anticipated traffic.

Richland County offers a number of other great spots for a clear view of the total eclipse, including: Bicentennial Park, Lex-Ontario Rd., Lexington; Patriot Park, Plymouth St., Lexington; Stowell Park, Ontario; and others. Travelers are encouraged to check the destinationmansfield.com/ohio-total-solar-eclipse website closer to April 8, to see updates as they're added.

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.

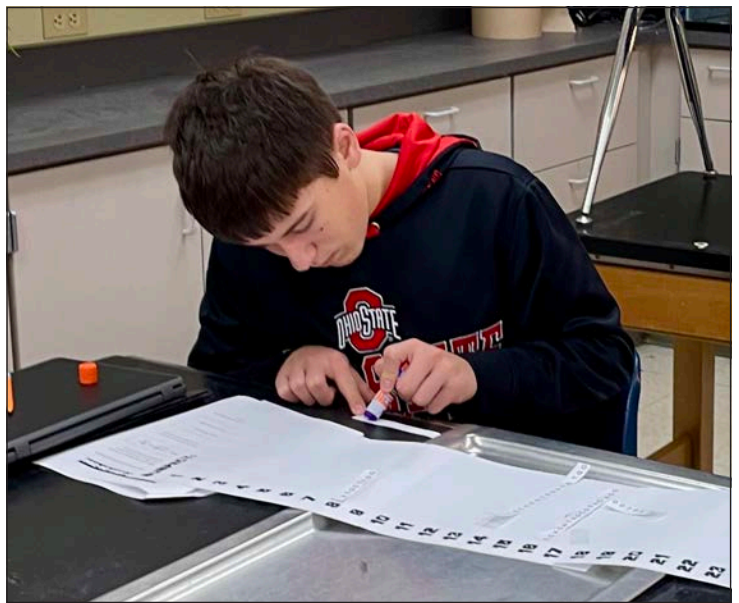
Visit <https://richlandswcd.net/events/> or call 419-747-8685 for more information and to register for the workshops.

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. The event is weather dependent.



MRS. WELCH'S biology classes at Ontario solved a mock theft case using DNA evidence.



Plymouth FFA hosts world renown speaker Chris Koch

By Nicole Beverage, Plymouth FFA Reporter

On Friday, Dec. 8, Plymouth FFA sponsored a “Self Improvement Day.” Students participated in many different breakout rooms where they learned about ways to cope with issues they may be facing, how to meditate and relax, and many other practices to better themselves and their habits.

After all the rotations, students headed to the gym to be introduced to Canadian Farmer, Chris Koch. But Chris isn’t your typical farmer, He was born without arms and legs. However, this didn’t stop him from following his dreams. Growing up he played baseball and hockey with other kids and helped on his grandpa’s farm whenever he could.

After graduating high school, he moved to Calgary to pursue his secondary education.

Today, when Chris isn’t farming he’s traveling the world sharing his story. He carries the message “If I Can.” He chooses to not let his disadvantages get in the way of sharing his story and changing lives all over the globe. During his message Chris stated and asked students, “Happiness, positivity and love are all contagious. Hatred, negativity and fear are also contagious. Which of these do you want to spread?”

Chris hopes that “whatever situation you find yourself in, you’ll always get out and make the most of life.” No matter what happens in life, figure out what you can do to fix the situation and make

things better. Place the responsibility on your shoulders. It might seem easier to place the blame on others or on extraneous factors and make it seem like life happens to you. That just prolongs the situation and you’ll only feel like you’re stuck, spinning your wheels.

He also challenged students, sharing the quote “Fear kills more dreams than failure ever will.”

He stated, “You can play it safe or you can play the game.” Chris is a huge advocate of pushing yourself out of your comfort zone and doing the things that scare you and challenge you. He says, “When you voluntarily take yourself out of your comfort zone, you’re getting yourself comfortable with being uncomfortable” and that’s a good thing.

Chris also presented to South Central High School and between his presentations at South Central High School and Plymouth-Shiloh High School, he got to jump in the combine and harvest some field corn with Jason Putt, of Putt Farms in Greenwich, Ohio. Ohio becomes the fifth state Chris has been lucky enough to farm in, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and California being the others.

Chris even took the time to have lunch with teachers, presenters, and FFA members followed by supper with the Plymouth-Shiloh FFA Alumni members. Plymouth FFA and students and staff of Plymouth High School and Shiloh Middle School would like to thank the Plymouth-Shiloh FFA Alumni for financially sponsoring our guest speaker so our students could hear his inspiring message. Thank you to everyone who supports their fundraisers as well, making this guest speaker possible, you are so appreciated.

Learn more about Chris and his message at <https://www.ifican.ca/about>



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 at www.aaa5ohio.org/events/awards/ or by contacting Sue at 567-247-6458 or smontgomery@aaa5ohio.org.

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.



Photo by Traci Little

MISS OHIO'S TEEN, Paisley French of Wheelersburg, won first runner up on Saturday night at the Miss America's Teen competition in Orlando, FL. (Photo) French was crowned with the Miss Ohio's Teen title in June.

ONTARIO STINGEL ELEMENTARY students competed in the fourth and fifth grade Academic Challenge meets at Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center on Jan. 10 and 11. Mrs. Winningham is the coach. Ontario Academic Boosters supplied all four teams with t-shirts this year.

This Week's Pet Looking for A Forever Home



Trevor

This guy is an absolute favorite of the volunteers at the shelter. Trevor was found as a stray Aug. 26, 2022 as an 8 month old, potty trained puppy.

It was assumed he would be quickly adopted. And yet, he's still at the shelter.

Trevor is so incredibly sweet. He doesn't walk well on a leash, but that's mostly, because he wraps his legs around the dog walkers legs and hugs as he is walked. He is super friendly with everyone he meets. He loves playing and running.

Trevor likes snuggling as long as it is on his terms. He has never shown any aggression at all, and, if he gets a person's hand or arm while playing he imme-

diately drops it.

Trevor is so much fun to just hang out with. He is also so soft! Anytime he is introduced to someone, they absolutely love Trevor. He has been the second choice for so many families.

Trevor is really hoping he is soon someone's first choice. The shelter thinks is Trevor is good with dogs and cats. Trevor is currently at the MANCI program being trained to be better on a leash and on basic commands. Please call to schedule a meeting.

Those interested in meeting Trevor 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.



LEXINGTON EASTERN Elementary's fifth grade Academic Challenge Teams took first and third out of 26 teams at at recent meet at the Mid Ohio Educational Service Center in Mansfield. (Top photo) First place team members are Archer T., Ben M., Monte C., and Conner D. with coach Jennifer Berry. (Bottom photo) Third place team members are Xander M., Ina G., Quinn G., Weston P. and Emily S.



THE STUDENTS IN MRS. SECRIST'S THIRD GRADE CLASS at Ontario are trying to get a head start on some spring plants. The students enjoyed getting their hands dirty and showing off their gardening skills while they dug in the dirt and assembled their own terrariums. The students applied their knowledge of soil layers and what living things need in order to survive as they created a man-made habitat to duplicate Mother Nature's plant life cycle. They also were able to recycle pop bottles into something beautiful. They will begin collecting observations and data in their lab books.



Plymouth FFA officer team chosen for 2023-'24

In the spring of 2023, the Plymouth FFA elected the 2023-'24 officer team. Candidates went through a series of requirements in order to be put on the ballot.

First, they had to fill out an application that explained how they would make the chapter and community better. Then, they must complete an in-person interview with alumni members.

During the interview, the alumni members graded their responses, confidence, and how well they thought the candidate would assist in running the chapter. Finally, the candidates must explain to their classmates why they aspire to become an officer. After explaining, the chapter members cast their vote on who the new officers will be.

The 2023-2024 Plymouth FFA Officer Team is president, Braden Montgomery; vice president, Katelyn Swingle; secretary, Ava Stine; treasurer, Kansas Huston; reporter, Nicole Beverage; sentinel, Kristen Swingle; student advisor, Zach Miller; and historian, Aaliyah Grose.

Throughout the year, the chapter officer team spends time planning and setting up chapter meetings. Each officer puts in a lot of work and time into the FFA chapter. The members wrote biographies for others to get to know them better.

President: "I'm Braden Montgomery, I am a senior and this is my fifth year in FFA. I am currently Plymouth FFA president. I would like to thank the community for all of the support and thank those who helped with the recent Richland County Fair."

Vice President: "My name is Katelyn Swingle and I am the daughter of George and Sherri Lewis. I am a junior at Plymouth High School. I am currently the vice president of the Plymouth FFA chapter. This is my second year as an officer as I was the chapter's secretary last year. I have been in FFA since eighth grade which makes four years in FFA. I absolutely love being an officer and being in FFA. Being an officer is an amazing opportunity. I love to be able to push our members of our chapter to be involved and to get out of their comfort zone as past officers have done for me. I strive to make our chapter better. My favorite thing to do in FFA is CDEs like food science and poultry. I also love being able to show animals at the Richland County Fair for my SAE. I have learned so many skills from FFA and continue to learn more."

Secretary: "Hi, my name's Ava Stine, I'm a junior and I'm serving as the secretary. This is my fourth year in FFA and I served last year as our treasurer. FFA has definitely shaped me into the person I am today, getting to take on leadership roles, getting opportunities I thought I would've never had, and stepping out of my comfort zone. One thing I have learned through FFA and will continue to carry on throughout my life is, take risks and chances because you never know how much you wish you would've done until that opportunity is gone."

Treasurer: "Hi! I'm Kansas Huston, a junior this year and our treasurer. This will be my fourth year in FFA and second year as an officer, as I was previously our reporter. One piece of advice I would give to fellow FFA and community members is to not be afraid to

try new things. Life is too short to not take opportunities. However, it is also too short to worry about things outside of your control. Try everything you can and stick with what you love. As for me, I love FFA!"

Reporter: "Hello! I'm Nicole Beverage, a sophomore and serving as the current reporter. This is my third year in FFA and my second year holding an office. I've spent a lot of time doing FFA involved activities and I have learned so much from them. I have learned valuable life lessons that I will need in the future including job interview skills, time management, how to do a proper handshake, and even how to weld. Joining FFA has opened a whole new door of opportunities for me that have allowed me to learn and grow!"

Sentinel: "Hi I'm Kristen Swingle I'm currently serving as the sentinel for the current Plymouth FFA officer team, I have been in FFA for currently four years, I also I'm currently a junior at Plymouth high school and taking college credit plus classes at The Ohio State University Branch campus in Mansfield, FFA is a great place for kids to grow and it pushes them to the limits, it has helped me so much get out of my comfort sound and speak in front of people, it gives people great opportunities to meet new people and try different things and develop new skills."

Student Advisor: "Hi I am Zachary Miller. I am currently holding the position of student advisor. I have been in FFA for four years now. I am a junior at Plymouth High School attending Pioneer Tech in which I am taking a lab to learn home remodeling. FFA is a great thing for young men and women to get involved in so that they can learn more about agriculture and gain skills to teach in public as well as networking to get to know more people."

Historian: "Hello, my name is Aaliyah Grose and I am the chapter historian and this is my second year of FFA! I have found many joys of being an officer including making new friends and learning new skills. I've learned public speaking skills, how to prepare food and so much more!"

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.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS HIGHLAND SEVENTH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL · JAN. 10
LADY COLTS WIN 17-2 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**CLEAR FORK VS HIGHLAND EIGHTH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL · JAN. 10
LADY COLTS WIN 24-12 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER**



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS ONTARIO SEVENTH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL · JAN. 15 PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS ONTARIO EIGHTH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL · JAN. 15 PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS ONTARIO VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL · JAN. 13
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS ONTARIO JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL · JAN. 13
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Lexington retains undefeated season after nailbiting 61-57 win against Whippets

Article By Kris Leiter

It was the game of the year, the hype, the packed gymnasium! Lexington took on the Whippets of Shelby, with both teams have a great season thus far and Dec. 30 would be another test for the undefeated Lexington Minutemen.

As I have been following both teams since the beginning of the season, I anticipated a great game as did many others, based on the packed house this night in Lexington! When your'e undefeated in any sport, there's a target on your back.

Could Shelby unseat the Minutemen? Would Lexington maintain their unblemished record? If there was any game that would tell the tale, this would be the test.

Within the first minute, Lexington was not wasting any time as they struck first with a bucket by none other than Braden Fogle, making it 2-0, Big Lex.

As the first quarter began, so would the fireworks as Brayden Devito stole the ball and effectively got the home crowd pumped up with the game's first slam dunk by Lexington's Elijah Hudson with :32 left!

Both teams went through a couple of lead changes as the nip-and-tuck game continued, and as the first quarter ceased. Big Lex led 14-11 with Shelby only three points off the pace.

When the second quarter commenced, Devito again had a 3-point bomb to lock things up at 14-14, the first tie of the night.

Continuing with Lexington leading by only two points, Shelby was not laying down and would flip the script by the man, the household name in Shelby, Alex Bruskotter.

Bruskotter put the Whippets back on top 27-25 as the second

quarter ended. What a great first half thus far!

Opening up the third quarter, the fun had just begun and within 30 seconds, Joe Caudill was in the house to tie the score once again 27-27.

But then, within seconds came two fouls, one on Lex and one on Shelby. Caudill stole his 3-point play and top things off 30-27 for the Whippets.

Lexington fouled Shelby's Bruskotter and he dropped both ends of his foul shots to bring Shelby within one point, 30-29.

As the minutes ticked by, a big dunk by Shelby's Casy Lantz added to Shelby's tally.

With under four minutes left in the third quarter, Caudill wasn't finished and another beautiful 3-point shot would drop, spreading the lead by Lexington to 38-33 at the 3:55 mark. Shelby was not going away easily.

At the end of three exciting quarters, it was Big Lex holding a narrow 3-point lead of 42-39.

How about another quarter of excitement? Sometimes, they say you just have to be there and this was the case as both sides of the gym were cheering and clapping! It was electric!!

Quarter number 4 — would we see Shelby put the first loss in Lexington's record? Let's find out... At 7:20, mere seconds, it was Devito again with a big field goal, bringing Shelby within one point, 42-41, Lex leading but by an eyelash!

The next few minutes would bring a blocked shot by Fogle and then Devito dropped another two, tying the score at 44-44! The Whippets weren't going home without a fight!

(Continued on Page 21)



Photos By Troy Magers

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MCS hosts Wayne J. Roller Tournament

Article By Kris Leiter

During the holiday break, some of our local high school basketball teams participated in Holiday Basketball Showcases — some out of town in Columbus and the like.

The Wayne J. Roller Tournament has been hosted by Mansfield Christian for a number of years. This year's game was held Friday, Dec. 29 with Independence coming to MCS.

This was my first time attending this tournament, so I was able to get a little history about this extraordinary individual, Wayne J. Roller. There are usually multiple teams invited and some teams aren't usually from our surrounding area. It's a great way to watch some good quality basketball and root your team onto victory.

Teams play Friday night and Saturday. It's usually a one game format, where teams play one team and then are done for the weekend. The format is more of a showcase as opposed to elimination style. Teams of various divisions are invited.

For a number of years, Mansfield Christian School hosted the Wayne Roller Holiday Girls Basketball Tournament. There were 12 teams that participated.

On Friday, it was Plymouth versus Northmor, Mansfield Senior versus Strasburg and Mansfield Christian versus Independence (from just outside of Cleveland).

The Saturday matchups were Crestline versus Gilead Christian, East Knox versus Mapleton and Crestview versus Ontario.

I was able to take in the Mansfield Christian Lady Flames game.

Mansfield Christian came into the contest at 4-2 and The Independence Lady Blue Devils came 3-5.

The Lady Flames have had a very successful campaign this year, considering they are made up of mostly three seniors and three juniors.

As the beginning minutes commenced, the Lady Flames didn't take long to jump in front 5-2 at the 5:45 mark, including a 2-pointer by freshman, Bailee Nelson.

Independence started off with good half-court ball control and began their scoring by the Flames committing a foul at 3:20, allowing Independence to add another point, making it 5-4 for the Flames.

Both teams continued to tally back and forth, and by the end of the first quarter, the score had the Lady Flames holding a narrow lead of 10-7.

Independence started getting into foul trouble at 6:20 in the sec-

•Lexington retains undefeated season after win against Shelby

(Continued from Page 20)

Through five more lead changes and two more ties, with 1:38 left in regulation, Fogle fouled and the ball dropped. It was 55-54, Shelby leading by one point.

Fogle's basket counted and he made the foul shot to put Lex back on top by three points, 57-55! Wow!

With just over a minute left, who would be the victor? Time was running down.

At 1:05, Lexington's Dantrell Hughes fouled Bruskotter and he dropped both free throws to tie again, 57-57!

As the clock was ticking, so was the possibility of overtime. At a mere :45 on the clock, it was Hughes in the house for a BIG 2-pointer, bringing the Minutemen back on top, 59-57!

With :09 seconds left, Joe Caudill decided it was time to seal the deal and that is what he did, by dropping another two for Big Lex as the horn sounded. The Minutemen's record continues to remain unblemished by a final score of 61-57!

In double figures for Shelby was Alex Bruskotter with an amazing 32 points! Big Lex had Brayden Fogle ringing in the tallies as well with 21 points! A job well done by both teams!

ond quarter and the Flames capitalized and continued on a 12-6 scoring run. Contributing to the mix was senior Kyleah Jones and sophomore Riley Patrick with a couple of big steals.

By halftime, the Flames held a nice 9-point lead at 24-13.

The third quarter would again favor the Flames as Independence continued the foul frenzy and the Flames continued to drop the foul shots and field goals, stretching the lead at 2:45 to 31-19 and another steal by Riley Patrick, back at again!

At 1:00 on the clock, the Lady Blue Devils brought the horns and started to rally two steals and poured in the points for a 14-5 run to close the gap 35-32!

Within the next :30, Independence dropped another three points, tying the score 35-35. Things were getting hot in the Furnace! Could the Flames turn it around with Independence strong on their heels?

At 6:39, Lady Flame Zy Davis was fouled and went to the foul line to help the cause by dropping her first of two foul shots to edge the Flames back on top 36-35!

But, just when you thought it was safe, seconds later, at 6:10, Independence dropped another field goal, topping the lead once again 37-36.

With :24 left in the game, the Lady Blue Devils spread the lead to five points, 41-36.

As the clock ticked the final seconds, the Flames missed four out of five free throws and fell short of the victory, but a well fought battle ended with a final of 41-37. The Lady Flames definitely held their own and I'm sure will do well this season with the talent in the Roster.



Shelby and Lexington game on Dec. 30 • Photo By Troy Magers

LOOKING BACK • THIS WEEK IN TRIBUNE-COURIER HISTORY

Jan. 16, '81

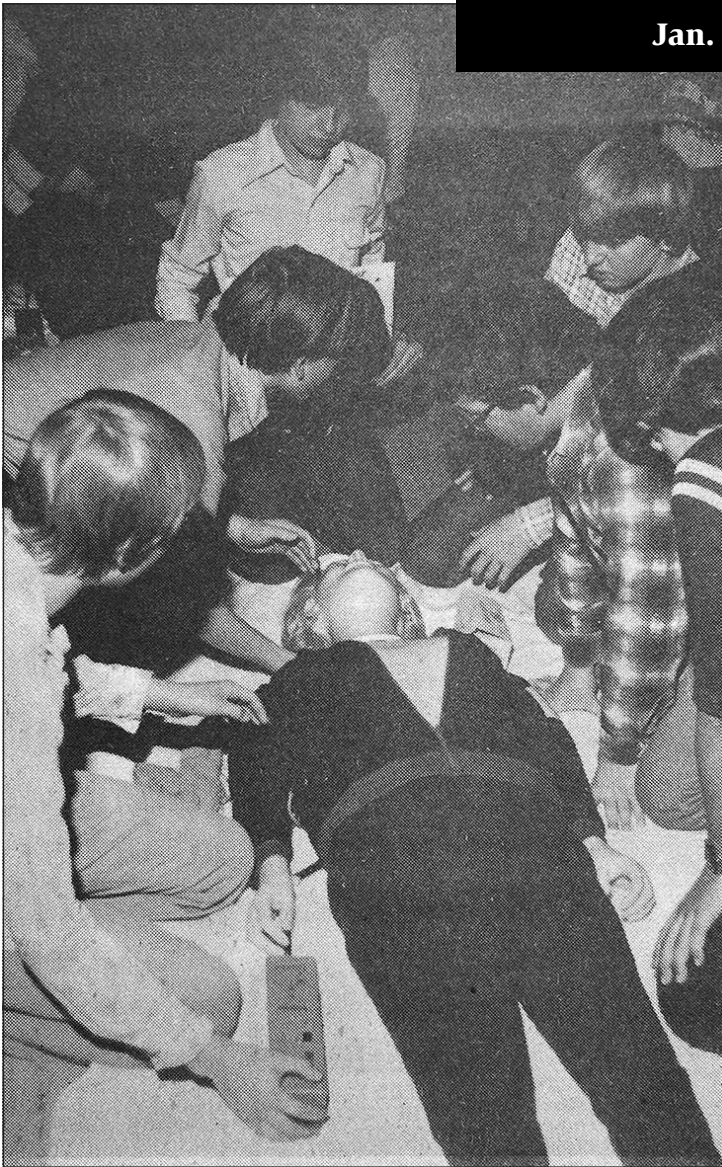


Photo by Marc Stumbo
 THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHTYY-THREE SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS in the Madison Schools will be receiving training in Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) during the next few months. Taught by certified CPR Instructors Herb Hart and Glenna Boyer, assisted by Bobbie Dintaman, the instructors were trained by Louise Simmers of the Diversified health occupations class at Madison Comprehensive High School and Everett Miller of the Red Cross. CPR training is a result of legislation passed by the 113th Ohio General Assembly requiring that CPR life saving be taught in each of Ohio's public schools. Implementation of the mandate required an expenditure of \$2800 for models and supplies from Madison's general fund since the state required the teaching but did not find the expenses for implementation. Pictured above are: Stan Rush, Phil Tackett, Jeff Whitlatch, Mark Litten, Jim Blevins and Tim Shade. All are seventh graders at Madison North Junior High School.

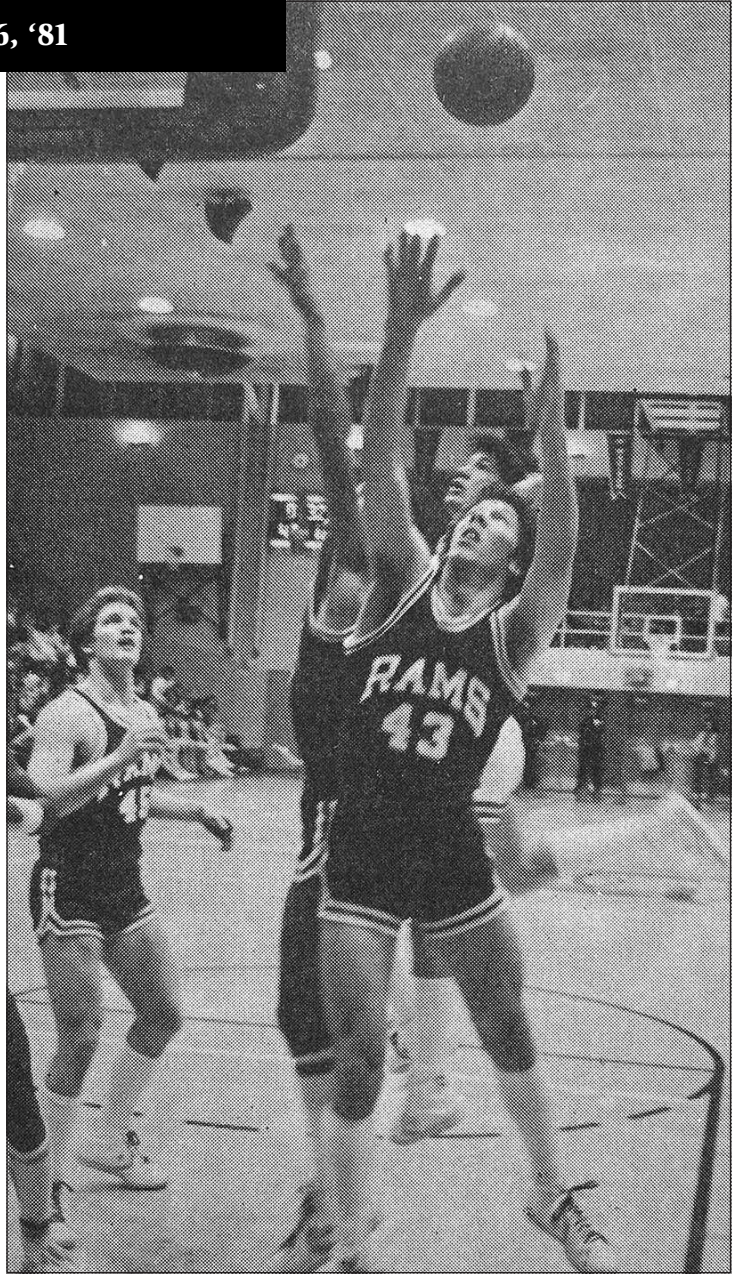


Photo by Ken Hubert
 THIS REBOUND WAS ALL MADISON'S as three Ram cagers move in for the ball. Dave Keller (43) and John Bryant (behind Keller) have the inside position while Brian Johnson (45) waits to grab the ball should his two teammates miss it. Madison kept the Tornadoes winless on the season by grabbing a 67-50 triumph in conference action.

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CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Annual Financial Report for Springfield Township, Richland County, Ohio, for the year 2023 is available upon request at the office of the fiscal officer. Springfield Township Hall, 3700 Park Avenue West, Ontario, Ohio.

Anita L. Kochheiser
Springfield Township, Fiscal Officer
City of Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 1-18-'24) 10L

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Columbia Gas gives tips for cold winter months

As temperatures continue to dip into the single digits Columbia Gas has provided tips to help customers stay safe and warm.

Inside your home

•Space heaters can provide comfort, but should be used with caution. When using, ensure they are placed on a hard, non-flammable surface away from furniture and flammable materials/products.

•Ensure appliances and heating equipment – such as a furnace, water heater and stove – are inspected and operating properly. All equipment should be used according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

•Never use a stove or oven as a heat source in your home; ovens are designed to heat food and should only be operated with the door closed.

•Don’t burn charcoal or run a generator indoors or in enclosed

spaces.

•Clean your chimney and check for blockage at least once a year before using your fireplace.

Outside your home

•Remember to clear snow and ice from the intake and exhaust vents. This can help avoid carbon monoxide buildup and operational issues with appliances.

•Keep the meter visible at all times so it is accessible for maintenance or in an emergency.

•Don’t use a shovel or hammer to break up snow or ice on your meter. Use a broom instead.

•Be careful using a snow blower or plow near the meter.

Concerned there may be a gas leak or carbon monoxide danger?

•If a “rotten egg” odor is noticed or if there may be a gas leak, LEAVE the area immedi-

ately and CALL 911 and Columbia Gas at 800-344-4077.

•If there are concerns of CO build-up or if anyone is experiencing CO poisoning symptoms (including headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, irregular breathing or feeling ill or tired at home but fine when away), get outside IMMEDIATELY and call 911.

Remember, CO is an odorless, tasteless, non-corrosive gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, natural gas, propane or oil) burn incompletely.

For more winter weather and gas safety tips, visit <https://www.columbiagasohio.com/safety/weather-safety/winter-weather-safety>.

Those struggling to pay a Columbia Gas bill call 800-344-4077, Monday through Friday, 7 am to 7 pm, to learn about our payment plan options.

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>

Donors urged to give at bloodmobiles

The American Red Cross is experiencing an emergency blood shortage as the nation faces the lowest number of people giving blood in 20 years. To make an appointment, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-733-2767.

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.

- 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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