



# TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

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01.25.24



## New Lexington Mayor Bob Jarvis presides over first meeting of 2024

The Village of Lexington Council met Jan. 2, with newly elected Mayor Bob Jarvis presiding.

Council members present were Keith Bacin, Adam Gongwer, Aaron Hoptry, Wynn Kearns, Kim Little, Jeff O'Brien and Todd Wise.

Also attending were attorney John Studenmund, Chief Troy Weaver, village administrator Andrew Smallstey and assistant finance director Peter Them.

Keith Bacin was chosen as council parliamentarian. Adam Gongwer was nominated as council president/pro tempore.

The finance committee met two times last month for the budget. Mr. Comstock asked for clarification on village finances as to CD investments as the money is now in the general fund.

Mayor Jarvis stated the State of Ohio watches closely on all city/village finances. Mr. Them clarified that investments are made at the best rate and many options are being considered.

Finance director Peter Them reported that the pump house located at 42 South had a leak in the pipe manifold. Jackson & Sons made a temporary repair.

Timing came into play since it was the end of year, but without action, residents supplied by Fox and Steam Corners Rd. water towers would have been without water.

Jackson will return to replace the valve and pump and associated piping. The village might want to consider the repair as a capital improvement project replacing the pump by moving it out of the ground and going with new housing unit. The approximate costs would be six-figures.

Councilman Bacin asked, if possible, grant money can be used to assist in paying for the repairs.

Councilman Wise asked if the state audit issue has been resolved. Them confirmed it has.

Wise requested capital budget meetings to be scheduled for February. Them agreed and he will have schedule to review for Jan. 16 meeting. Smallstey pointed out that the budget meetings usually start at the end of February.

Councilman Bacin asked how to report streetlights out. Them reported any resident can advise AEP. Chief Weaver said the patrol also looks for lights that are out.

Mayor Bob Jarvis reported that he has a telephone and computer email address set-up for his office.

The following people who have been a part of the community have passed recently: Frank Foti, previous Chief of Lexington; Oscar Ogg who served on the tree commission; and Marie Bilsing who volunteered at the senior center for many years. It is noted Ms. Bilsing has asked for donations in her honor for the Lexington Senior Depot.

As reported by Parliamentarian Keith Bacin, the next council meeting is moved to Tuesday, Jan 16, in honor of MLK holiday.

A resolution was approved for intent to sell property no longer needed at auction.



Katie Oriti

## Oriti takes career as NASA engineer

By Traci Little

Katie Oriti, a 39 year-old engineer for NASA, grew up in Shelby, OH. Her interest in space began as a little girl in elementary school who was fascinated with space and the planets.

"I remember very distinctly having a book about the solar system that I was just obsessed with. I wanted to memorize the facts about all of the planets," said Oriti.

Her interests took a meandering path where she found herself really interested in biology once getting into high school, but her general attraction for the sciences and math were things that always grabbed her attention.

"In high school, I remember having this far off dream about working for NASA one day. That was always my end state and where I wanted to go but it all started with an underlying thought that space was just really cool. I remember my dad lived out in the country and

(Continued on Page 6)



# BEACH PARTY

PHIL DIRT and THE DOZERS

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2024**

**Doors Open at 6:30 pm**

To reserve a table:  
**Contact Tom Ford**  
**419.566.0068**

**Richland County Fairgrounds**  
**Fairhaven Hall**  
**750 North Home Road**



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**21st Annual Lions Club**

**Awareness Dance**

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THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER — By Ian Stumbo —

Jason Statham is a reliable action star and has been on a roll for a long time. The new release The Beekeeper is a great deal better than expected since January is usually when the studios put out their less than great movies.

Statham plays Adam Cole, a beekeeper staying at an elderly lady's residence tending to the bee hives and visiting with the lady named Eloise (Phylicia Rashad).

One day, Eloise is taken advantage of by a scam computer company who takes away all of her life savings. After a tragedy occurs, the FBI investigates, one of whom is Eloise's granddaughter (Emmy Raver-Lampmann). They discover that Cole is the only one at the scene and that he is a beekeeper, not just in the literal sense but part of a secret organization that goes after a group to get justice all the way to the top (or the queen as it were).

The Beekeeper is really engaging because the movie gives a lot of mystique to who these beekeepers are and to their abilities and identity. The FBI tries to stay one step ahead of Cole but he is on a mission taking down

anyone who gets in his way. A favorite action scene of mine is when Cole is at a gas station and another beekeeper is enlisted to take him out. It is a thrilling scene and provides some great action, as does the entire movie.

The movie also has a great supporting cast including Josh Hutcherson, Minnie Driver, Jeremy Irons and Rashad. Everyone does fine work here.

Hutcherson is great against type in more of a villainous performance. Statham does not bring anything new to his role though the movie around him is a little different.

The Beekeeper is a solid action movie and one of Statham's more memorable ones and certainly makes up for last year's terrible Expendables 4.

With great shoot outs, chase scenes and a particularly good hand to hand combat scene in a tight hallway, The Beekeeper is a better than average action movie, it also teaches a great deal about bees if you are interested in that.



Senior citizen and community service award nominations being accepted

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 the service area.

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.

YOU'RE INVITED! BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION SAT. FEB. 3, 2024 9:15 AM - 2 PM MAIN LIBRARY FREE FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES, MUSIC, A WARM LUNCH, AND MORE! COMPLETE AN ACTIVITY PASSPORT FOR A CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF 4 GRAND PRIZES! ALL AGES! mrcpl.org

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# News Briefs

The Sonshine Band will perform at the 9:30 am worship services at Trinity Grace Fellowship, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield, on Jan. 28, Feb. 25 and April 7. Members of the Sonshine Band are Gary Baumberger, Brian Payne, Wayne Magee and Thom Richards.

★

The City of Ontario will host Summer Concerts at Marshall Park this summer. The concert admission is free and those attending are encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chairs. Concerts are at the Marshall Park Band Shell from 6–8 pm.

The schedule includes June 11, Conne; June 25, Red Ball Jets; July 9, David Perry; July 23, Oolong Gurus; Aug. 13, Soul Town Live; and Aug. 27, Atermath.

★

American Legion Post #535, 77 Bell St., Bellville, will host a swiss steak dinner 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.

★

The Lexington Depot's meal schedule has been released. Meals are \$9 and served at the Lexington Senior Civic Center, 67 E. Main St., Lexington, from 11 am to 1 pm.

For information call 419-884-1676. Meals include Jan. 25, Salisbury steak with mashed potatoes; Jan. 30, chicken potpie; Feb. 1, boneless ribs with seasoned tater tots; Feb. 6, chicken divan with seasoned rice; Feb. 8, marzetti and yummy garlic bread; Feb. 13, pork chops with scalloped potatoes; Feb. 15, beef stroganoff over skinny noodles; Feb. 20, waldo sandwich with white bean soup; Feb. 22, gravied meatballs served over spaghetti; Feb. 27, cabbage rolls with mashed potatoes; and Feb. 29, pepper steak over rice.

★

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](http://www.lexasc.org). Dues are \$10 per year.

★

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

★

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.

★

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.

★

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](http://www.awakeshelby.com) or call 419-342-4636.

★

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Rev. Will Humphrey, Pastor of All Souls, to speak on

“Unitarian Universalism as a World Religion” at 10:30 am on Jan. 28. For more information visit [www.allsoulsuuhio.org](http://www.allsoulsuuhio.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.

★

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

The Board of Control meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 24, has been moved from 8:30 am to 3 pm.

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.

★

Crestview High School, 1575 St. Rt. 96, Ashland, will host the annual Road Apple Run 5K on Saturday, March 2. The race will begin at 10 am and proceeds go to the school's running programs.

The race is an out and back 5K race on a scenic country road in northern Richland County. Bordered by several peaceful Amish farms, the course is mostly flat with some slight upgrades.

For information or to register visit [https://registration.midohiorm.com/events/2024-road-apple-run-5k-road-race-12202023124?fbclid=IwAR1\\_MhGbYTkJxftp1G1Q-1Yk51npySFnU9IORAqgDMX\\_RlAt3sFhCnBbaO8g](https://registration.midohiorm.com/events/2024-road-apple-run-5k-road-race-12202023124?fbclid=IwAR1_MhGbYTkJxftp1G1Q-1Yk51npySFnU9IORAqgDMX_RlAt3sFhCnBbaO8g).

## Voter registration deadline is Feb. 20 for primary election

The deadline to register to vote or change an address or name for the March 19, primary election is Tuesday, Feb. 20. The Richland County Board of Elections office will be open that evening until 9 pm.

The office is located at 1495 W. Longview Ave, Suite 101, in the Longview Center. After 4 pm, visitors must use the entrance at the lower-level back parking area at the southwest corner of the building.

Qualifications for registering to vote include:

- must be either a native U. S. citizen or a naturalized citizen of the U.S.
- must be a resident of Richland County and Ohio 30 days before an Election
- must be a minimum of 18 years of age on or before the date of the General Election on Nov. 5, 2024.

Registered voters who have moved or changed their name must notify the Board office in writing or in person. Voters currently registered in Ohio may change their address online at [VoteOhio.gov](http://VoteOhio.gov) but must do so by the Feb. 20 deadline. Online registration is also now available at [VoteOhio.gov](http://VoteOhio.gov)

In addition to the board of elections office, citizens may register or complete a change of address/name at the following locations in Richland County:

- Any library branch
- All city and village hall offices
- The Bureau of Motor Vehicles office
- The Department of Human Services
- The Richland County Courthouse (recorder or treasurer offices)
- All area high school offices

Registration are available at the board of elections at [www.boe.ohio.gov/richland](http://www.boe.ohio.gov/richland) or requested by mail. Contact the board office at 419-774-5530 to have a form sent by mail. Completed voter registration forms must be postmarked 30 days before election day.

# 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 Mansfield, 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](http://mrcpl.org).

## MRCPL launches new 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. Through the website, [www.mrcpl.org](http://www.mrcpl.org), the library provides access to resources for library card holders 24/7.

# 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.FirstChristianChurchMansfield.com)  
FB: FirstChristianChurch,Mansfield,Ohio

### First Congregational Church

640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield  
419-756-3046 • [www.mansfieldfcc.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.stjohnsmansfield.org)

Pastor Faith Prioretti  
10 am Sunday Worship

### Trinity Grace Fellowship

1592 Grace St., Mansfield  
419-589-5890 • [trinitygracefellowship.org](http://trinitygracefellowship.org)

Pastor Larry Carnes  
9:30 am Sunday Worship  
11 am Sunday School  
Bible Study Mondays 2 pm

### G & M Body & Paint Shop

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

Wappner Funeral Home  
Mansfield • Ontario • Ashland

419-522-5211



## Memorial Arrangements

### Marcia A. Baer

Perrysville, OH — Marcia A. Baer, age 79, of Perrysville, OH, and Ft. Myers, FL, died Friday, Jan. 12, 2024, at her home in Ft. Myers, FL, following a period of declining health.

Marcia was born on July 26, 1944, in Wooster, OH, to the late William B. and Martha C. (Cunningham) Baer. Marcia graduated from Orrville High School in 1962 and earned her bachelor's degree in teaching from Otterbein University in 1966. She worked as a Health and Physical Education teacher for Ontario Local Schools for 30 years. Marcia was very successful coaching volleyball, basketball, softball, cheerleading, gymnastics, drill team, and track & field for Ontario, taking teams to Ohio State regional tournaments in volleyball, basketball and softball.

After retirement in 1996, Marcia began working for Mansfield Ambulance Service as an EMT for 14 years and also served as a bus driver for Ontario Schools for 10 years. She worked with the American Red Cross and American Heart Association as a CPR and WSI instructor for 60 years.

The middle school gym in Ontario was renamed "Marcia Baer Gymnasium" in her honor in 2019. She was a member of Otterbein University and Ontario Coaches Hall of Fame, the American Association of University Women, Ruth Chapter 19 of the Eastern Star, Delta Kappa Gamma (Teachers) and Tau Delta Sorority at Otterbein University.

Marcia spent her summers at her Pleasant Hill Lake cottage in Perrysville, OH. She grew up water skiing and even competed in senior tournaments after her retirement. Always the teacher, she taught hundreds of people to water ski from her cherished boat. She was a big fan of The Ohio State University athletics as well as The Ohio State Marching Band, also known as TBDTTL.

Surviving are her brother, Jim Baer of Melbourne, FL, nephew, Zachary Baer of Orlando, FL, and special friends, Richard (Kathie) Burkepile of Mansfield, OH, Andi (Jay) Sneeringer of Lexington, OH, Jim (Jackie) Walder of Uniontown, OH, Brian (Val) Rogers of Mansfield, OH, Nikki Petrisch of Ft. Myers, FL, Eric Dzegan of Punta Gorda, FL, and Lisa Reichert.

In lieu of a funeral, a memorial service may occur at a later date.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Marcia Baer Scholarship Fund at Ontario Schools or the Richland County Dog Warden and Adoption Center.

Auble Funeral Home in Orrville, OH, will be handling the arrangements. Online registry and expressions of condolence may be made at [www.aublefuneralhome.com](http://www.aublefuneralhome.com).



Photo By Mark Shutt

### Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Robert Richard Au, January 11  
Jane Kenlyn Workman, January 11  
Kimberly G. Shaw, January 12  
Charles Ralph Crawford, January 13  
David Charles Steele, January 14  
Raymond Anthony Castro Mateo, January 15  
Steven Boyd Truax, January 17  
Donna Mae Weymers, January 17  
Charles Eugene Alexander Jr., January 18  
Mary G. Stewart, January 19

View Full Obituaries at [www.dignitymemorial.com](http://www.dignitymemorial.com)

## Donations being collected for sale

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 May 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. To donate a large item, 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.

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Ashland • 308 Claremont Avenue • 419-289-1552

[www.wappner.com](http://www.wappner.com)

# •Oriti's love of science leads to career as NASA engineer

(Continued from Front Page)

saw the Hale-Bopp Comet in the early 90s. Seeing it very clearly in the night sky away from all the lights really piqued my interest further. Dad bought us a telescope for that event, I thought that was really cool!" said Oriti.

It was in high school that she decided to go into engineering. She really didn't know much about it at first, but someone recommended it to her.

"I was like, oh that sounds cool. I also started to piece together that by becoming an engineer, it would connect me to my dream of working for NASA one day. It was always the underlying thing that I was interested in, but I honestly thought that I wasn't qualified or capable of getting to that point."

Oriti applied to a NASA internship program during her junior year of college and didn't get it. She applied again during her senior year and didn't get it. After graduating from Ohio Northern University, she applied to NASA for a third time and finally got accepted as a contractor employee.

"It was probably one of the easiest decisions I ever made. I had other job offers on the table as a production and manufacturing engineer and then I had an offer on the table to go work for NASA, so that was clearly just a slam dunk for me," said Oriti. She worked in that contractor position for about three years and then moved into a civil service position that opened up in 2009.

"It all started with that first contractor position. I didn't have a real engineering job in college so that was where I really got my feet wet. I was fortunate to have some really great mentors. I learned what it takes to design, build and operate something! I was just doing basic engineering, building up test facilities to support research efforts, but it was a really good foundational learning experience!"

To the senior in high school trying to contemplate what they want to do for the rest of their life, Oriti would give this advice, "I like to tell the story of how many times I applied for NASA and how I thought it was this stretch thing that was never going to truly happen. The advice that I give the most is if you have a dream that you know you're really passionate about, go after it and never give up. My desire and interest in space was just always there and it never went away. What began as a simple interest in elementary school, just lingered throughout my childhood into adulthood and never left me. There are times in life where you may get rejected one, two, three, even twenty times, but never give up! Another important thing is, if something doesn't work out exactly how you pictured it, then put your best effort forward in whatever you do. Learn as much as you can from it because you would be surprised how the little things you learn along the way help you immensely down the road! Just keep in mind that no experience is too small or insignificant. The skills you learn every step along the way helps to build your path to where you want to go; it may just take longer than you expected."

She began working for NASA in November of 2006 and is coming up on her 18th year. Katie lives in the Cleveland area and works at the NASA Research Center right outside the airport.

For the Artemis I mission, Oriti was selected as an Artemis I Mission Evaluation Room Manager. During Flight Day 22 of the mission, she remembers working on her last shift. She was in the Mission Control Center at the Johnson Space Center managing a team of Orion experts and providing real-time engineering support to the Flight Control Team.

"It was the last day on console, and I don't think I'll ever forget it. As I was doing the shift handover, I got on the voice loops and gave what was one of my sincere thank yous ever. It wasn't only to The Orion and Artemis team, but to everyone that helped me to get to that point!"

It was one of those things that Oriti dreamed about, but never imagined being able to experience. There are plenty of NASA employees that never get to experience what she did. The missions that NASA works on can take up to a decade or longer to move from an initial concept to a mission. Sometimes they end up getting cancelled because of things like budget constraints or running into other issues, so she was extremely fortunate to end up on a program where she had the privilege to see it from early development stages to being operational.

Being able to see the culmination of this massive effort was truly amazing and a dream come true for Oriti.

"I can't stress enough the immense sense of gratitude for the opportunity to have been a Mission Evaluation Room (MER) Manager."

According to NASA, the uncrewed flight of the Artemis 1 mission provided a foundation for human deep space exploration and demonstrates the commitment and capability to return humans to the Moon and extend beyond. NASA successfully launched Artemis 1 at 01:47 a.m. EST on November 16, 2022, from Launch Complex 39B at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

This uncrewed mission tested the safety of the SLS rocket, and the Orion capsule's ability to reach the moon, perform in lunar orbit and return to Earth for an ocean splashdown. The Orion capsule splashed down the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Baja California on Dec. 11, 2022. This was a successful culmination of NASA's historic Artemis I moon mission after the 1.4 million-mile flight.

The timeline for Artemis II is no earlier than September of 2025 and Artemis III in September of 2026 which will be the first lunar landing with crew. "The objective for the Artemis II mission is essentially to test out all of the crew life support systems. There will also be demonstrations where the Orion will actually come close to another spacecraft and almost dock with it for the purposes of testing proximity operations and docking systems and the handling of the vehicle prior to use on future missions. So many fine-tuned timing things that you have to test and figure out," said Oriti.

One of the other reasons why she was attracted to engineering is due to having a very analytical mind. As an analytical person, Katie has learned how to grow and adapt. As a newly busy mom of a toddler, she's getting better at closing her laptop in order to separate work from her everyday life.

"I've had really good examples from my leadership teams, who have modeled this behavior for me. It's important to take certain hours out of the day when we turn off notifications on our cell phone and close our computers to make sure that we take a break and just let our brains rest!"

How has family and motherhood made her a better employee? "Right now I'm in a management position so I'm responsible for project management and making sure that we're tracking milestones. I'm also a supervisory manager so I'm responsible for my team. I would definitely say that after becoming a mom it has made me a more empathetic person. I now know that having kids is a lot of work and it's easier for me to understand the mental load that comes with being a parent and I'm more sensitive to people's needs. I really try to ensure that my team makes time for their family. It's easy to just go 110% all the time and never slow down. I try to stress the importance of taking time for themselves and for their family. Another thing I'm learning is just everyday problem solving. As a

(Continued on Page 7)



KATIE ORITI became interested in space at a very young age.

# •Oriti's love of science leads to career as NASA engineer

(Continued from Page 6)

parent of a toddler, you run into challenging situations where you need to adapt and be flexible all the time. As with Engineering, the smallest issue can become a big problem for a spacecraft and so when we run into something we typically either have to go fix it or change it. Sometimes fixing it is not possible, so you have to get creative and come up with ways to adapt, as with motherhood.”

Currently, Oriti is still in the same role as the deputy manager of the Orion European Service Module Integration Office. Her role as a Mission Evaluation Room manager is done and was specific to the Artemis I mission.

“The piece of the vehicle that I’m responsible for is the service module. It is the bottom half of Orion and is the part that provides all of the consumables like water, air, the electrical power and the main propulsion. The module is provided by the European Space Agency and built by Airbus Defense and Space. My team is responsible for working with ESA and Airbus to develop the service module and then integrate it with the rest of the spacecraft.”

She is now leading teams through getting ready for Artemis II. They are in the final stages of building up the Artemis II Orion spacecraft and preparing to make sure that they know how they are going to operate the vehicle when launch happens in September of 2025. They are always looking ahead and preparing for the following missions as well, so they are already building vehicles for Artemis 3, 4, 5 and 6.

“For my team, in addition to getting ready for Artemis II, our major milestone this year will be shipping the service module for Artemis III from Europe to Kennedy Space Center in Florida to begin assembling the Artemis III vehicle.”

Over the last 50 years, space exploration has drastically changed and progressed for the better, in Oriti’s opinion.

“I think one huge difference from when we landed on the moon with Apollo back in the 60s and 70s is that Apollo was a space race, whereas now Artemis is about peaceful international collaboration in the name of exploration. I love that mindset and I love that I get to work with European colleagues. The ultimate goal of space exploration is for the benefit of all humanity. It is not for the benefit of NASA, or even just for the benefit of the United States. I think we saw that after the first landing on the moon to where it became a global achievement!”

“Working on the Orion is a small piece of the Artemis pie. It’s a massive global effort.

“The long term intent of Artemis is to ultimately get to Mars. First, we need to get back to the moon and do it sustainably so that we can stay. Over the past twenty years we’ve had a permanent pres-

ence in space with the International Space Station but that’s just in low earth orbit. If we want to expand and eventually send humans to Mars, we need to expand that permanent presence on the surface of the moon. We’re going to learn how to have people living further away from the earth for extended periods of time and essentially it should at some point be a waypoint, like a gas station almost, where we can stop at the moon to refuel and gather supplies.”

She heads to Europe quarterly. Another surreal moment for Katie was being able to meet the astronauts that will be the crew to go on the Artemis II mission in 2025.

“I had the opportunity to have lunch with them in Europe at one of our quarterly meetings. It was a mind-blowing moment sitting at the table with the Crew swapping stories about our families, careers and passion for space exploration.”

Artemis II crew members are Canadian Space Agency astronaut, Jeremy Hansen, and NASA astronauts Christina Koch, Victor Glover, and Reid Wiseman.

They will venture around the Moon in Orion on Artemis II, the first crewed mission on NASA’s path towards establishing a more long-term presence at the Moon.

Artemis I has opened the door to the future of space exploration, hand in hand with partners across the world. “Our exploration goals are too vast and too important to go at it alone,” said Oriti.

“I think back to everyone throughout my life that impacted me in such a positive and inspiring way! Elementary and High School teachers who believed in me more than I even did, who thought I was capable of more and pushed me. For parents, friends, coaches, and mentors. Growing up in the Shelby community was so great, and the Whippet pride was real.

“I distinctly remember my fifth grade teacher, Dave Spangler, who really sticks out in my mind as someone that first believed I was capable of more than I could imagine. He was so kind and helped push me to grow out of my comfort zone and think bigger. I also had wonderful experiences with athletics, being on the swim team which taught me discipline, consistency and hard work. I was also in the band, which taught me the importance of a good work ethic and putting in the effort to be a part of something bigger than myself.”

All of these individuals played an important role in planting seeds of bravery, boldness and courage into Katie! She hopes to be an inspiration for others, encouraging them to never limit their dreams and to follow that passion that rises to the surface, and never seems to go away. Continue to knock down doors, be persistent, work hard, and never give up!

As the famous phrase puts it so well, “don’t tell me the sky’s the limit, when there are footprints on the moon.”



(Image credit: NASA/James Blair)

**THE ARTEMIS 2 CREW**, including Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen (at left) and NASA astronauts Victor Glover, Reid Wiseman and Christina Koch, pose together in an Orion spacecraft simulator at Johnson Space Center.



## Domestic Violence Shelter launches “Expressions Against Violence” initiative

The Domestic Violence Shelter has announced the launch of “Expressions Against Violence,” an initiative aimed at creating space for teens to address dating violence through their own passion and creativity. The initiative will take place in February, which is nationally recognized as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

“Our goal is to provide a platform for young voices to be heard, spark thoughtful conversations, and inspire change,” said Colleen Rice, executive director at The Domestic Violence Shelter. “Art and literature have always been powerful tools for social commentary and change. We believe our youth have unique perspectives and insights that can help us all understand these issues better.”

One of the key components is the “Expressions of the Heart Art and Poetry Juried Contest,” exclusively for high school students. Submissions for this contest will be open from Feb. 1–20. Teens are encouraged to use their creativity to convey powerful messages that can raise awareness and contribute to the ongoing dialogue about dating violence and abuse. Submissions will be showcased in an art show at The Ohio State University at Mansfield on Feb. 27. For submission details, visit <https://thedvshelter.my.canva.site/expression-sagainstviolence>.

In addition to the art and poetry contest, The Domestic Violence Shelter is collaborating with LeapYear Studios for a short film project in honor of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

The film, *Expressions Against Violence*, will begin filming on Dec. 2. Local teens are participating in the creation of this film both behind and in front of the camera.

This endeavor aims to further amplify the voices of teens by exploring teen dating violence through the lens of visual story telling. The film will be premiered at the Expressions of the Heart Art show on Feb. 27.

Dating violence is a community issue the entire community is encouraged to be a part of this initiative. Local high school students can participate by participating in the art and poetry contest. Details can be found at <https://thedvshelter.my.canva.site/expression-sagainstviolence>. Everyone is invited to attend the Expressions of the Heart: Art Show on Feb. 27 at Bromfield Library at The Ohio State University at Mansfield. Doors will open at 7:30. Advocates are also available to provide education and awareness about Teen Dating Violence for community schools and organizations. Contact AHess@thedvshelter.com to get involved!

The Domestic Violence Shelter provides advocacy to all survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. Trained advocates are always available at our 24/7 Crisis Line: 419-774-5840. To learn more about services and programs, go to [www.thedvshelter.com](http://www.thedvshelter.com).

## Blood drive will honor 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 by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete a pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of the appointment.

## News Briefs in Education

Local students have been named to the dean’s honor list at Cedarville University for fall 2023. This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.75 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Local students on the list are Grace Johnson of Lexington, Brycen Klotzbach of Mansfield, Garet Weaver of Lexington and Ariella Waters of Mansfield.

Cedarville University is located in southwest Ohio.

★

Local students have been named to the fall 2023 dean’s list at Cedarville University. Students receive this recognition for obtaining a 3.5 GPA or higher for the semester and carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours

Local students on the list are Ethan Hunter of Mansfield and Skyler Devaney of Mansfield.

★

Abigail Dawson of Lexington was named to the Lincoln Memorial University Dean’s List for the fall 2023 semester. To be placed on the list, the student must be a full-time undergraduate and have a 3.5 or higher grade-point average for the semester. A total of 688 students were recognized for outstanding academic performance.

Lincoln Memorial University is located in Harrogate, Tennessee.

★

Local students have been named to the dean’s list for the fall 2023 semester at the University of Mount Union. On the list are Alex Deperschmidt of Mansfield; Jacob Hathaway of Lexington; Andrew Hathaway of Lexington; and Lucas Starling of Mansfield.

To be eligible for the list, students must have completed at least 12 credit hours of traditionally graded coursework while achieving a grade point average of 3.550 or better with no letter grade below a B. There were 700 students who achieved this in the fall 2023 semester.

The University is located in Alliance, Ohio.

## Sophomore visits and open houses scheduled at Pioneer CTC

Sophomores from Pioneer Career and Technology Center partner schools at Buckeye Central, Bucyrus, Colonel Crawford, Crestline, Crestview, Galion, Lexington, Lucas, Northmor, Ontario, Plymouth, Shelby, Willard and Wynford are scheduled to visit Pioneer Wednesday, Jan. 24 and Thursday, Jan. 25.

An open house is scheduled for Jan. 25, from 6–8 pm, with a second-look open house on Feb. 15, from 6–7:30 pm.

During the sophomore visits, students will have the opportunity to explore three labs from over 35 career-tech programs. This enables them to observe the diverse options available for their junior and senior years of high school. Pioneer’s lab programs empower students to earn industry certifications and college credits while providing hands-on education.

Additionally, Pioneer offers numerous College Credit Plus classes, allowing students to graduate with additional college credits.

Students at Pioneer Career and Technology Center actively participate in clubs, activities, and sports at their home schools, as well as engage in activities and clubs at Pioneer.

These include Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Student Council, National Technical Honor Society (NTHS), Business Professionals of America (BPA), Future Farmers of America (FFA), SkillsUSA and more.

With over 50 years of experience, Pioneer Career and Technology Center has been a leader in delivering high-quality career-technical education to high school juniors and seniors.

Pioneer is dedicated to providing high-quality career-technical education, empowering students to succeed in their future careers.

For more information about the sophomore visits and open houses, visit [www.go2pioneer.com](http://www.go2pioneer.com) or contact Pioneer at 419-347-7744.

**View & Print Past Issues at**  
**[www.tribune-courier.com](http://www.tribune-courier.com)**



## Madison Board of Ed approves new hires

Madison Local School District held its regular meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 17, in the Madison Middle School Auditoria.

Board president Melissa Walker led the Pledge of Allegiance and treasurer Bradd Stevens performed roll call.

School Board Recognition certificates were presented by superintendent Rob Peterson in honor of School Board Appreciation Month.

The Madison High School Academic Challenge Team was recognized by principal Sean Conway. The advisor is Jim Dillon.

Lindi Hoflinger, Madison Early Childhood Learning Center Director; and Jennifer Eckenwiler, Madison South Preschool coordinator, gave presentations.

A donation of \$500 was accepted from Cliff Brown. Courtney Jones donated \$11.45 toward negative lunch balances in the district.

The monthly financial report and Fiscal Year 2025 tax budget were approved.

A resignation was accepted from Nikki Mosiychuk, Key Club advisor, effective Jan. 5. Steve Wareham resigned as a second shift custodian at the high school, effective Jan. 19.

Jeff Burkholder was hired as the spring fitness coordinator

The board hired Madison Adult Education instructors including Doug Wilson, IEM Welding & Precision Machining/CNC Technology Instructor; Antoinette Shaum, Medical Assisting Technologies & Phlebotomy Lab Assistant; and Tim Stahle, Phlebotomy Lab Assistant.

Substitute teachers hired on an on-call basis, as needed for the 2023-'24 school year are Taylor Carrick, Jason Chinn, Erica Eidt, Evan Fairrow, Aundrea Gosch, Chandler Gunther, Michael Scharf, Kassandra Schuster, Lillie Shelby, Ashley Smith and Abbigail Willey. Zac Huff was approved as a baseball volunteer.

Shelly Adams was hired as a substitute secretary on an on-call basis, as needed for the 2023-'24 school year.

New hires included Amanda Oswalt, preschool special education aide at Madison South South, effective Jan. 10; KaLeyha Utt, 2-hour cafeteria worker at Eastview, Jan. 3; and Amanda Henry, 1-1 special education aide at Mifflin, effective Jan. 9.

The board of education approved the cell phone allowance for Steve Crist, Mike King, Joshua Miller, Jeremy Thoman and Mike Yost for January-December 2024.

The board approved the notification to the M.L.E.A. President of the Board of Education's decision to consider a Reduction in Force effective with the 2024-'25 school year. The board also approved the notification to the O.A.P.S.E. President of the Board of Education's decision to consider a Reduction in Force effective with the 2024-'25 school year.

The staffing Agreement between the Madison Local School District, Mansfield Christian School and Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center was approved to provide staffing services for Title I Coordinator, Title I Tutors and Paraprofessional Aides to Mansfield Christian School.

The 2024-'25 school calendar was approved.

The next regular board of education meeting is scheduled for Feb. 21, at 6 pm in the Madison Middle School Auditoria.

## 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 April workshop, 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.



Dakota Durbin



Nick Gesouras

## Mechanics Bank gives promotions

Mechanics Bank has announced the following promotions:

Nick Gesouras has been promoted to Senior Vice President, Chief Banking Officer. Gesouras joined Mechanics in 2011 and has over 35 years of experience in Investment and Trust Services. Nick will expand his duties to include overall bank development in addition to Trust Services. He is a graduate of Bowling Green State University where he also obtained his MBA, a graduate of the ABA National Graduate Trust School, and is an accredited Certified Financial Services Counselor.

Dakota Durbin has been promoted to Senior Vice President, Wealth Management. Durbin joined Mechanics in 2016 and has served as the Private Banking Manager. He is a graduate of The Ohio State University and is a Certified Financial Planner™ professional.

Mechanics Bank is an independent community bank with nine locations in Richland County.

## Dayspring seeking public information to add to its history

In conjunction with the Plymouth Area Historical Society, Dayspring, The Richland County Home, is seeking information in the form of pictures, events or dates in regards to its buildings' history.

In particular the barn that was built in 1938, which still stands on the property today and the original home that was built in 1846 and burned down in 1878. Although, any pictures or details of any of the buildings would be gladly received.

It is the hope with the information received to fill in the gaps of knowledge regarding these unique historical buildings. Our goal is to create a visual timeline, complete with dates, pictures and facts that would be on display for all to enjoy. Those with any information can contact Doug Dickson of the Plymouth Area Historical Society at [doug\\_jean@frontier.com](mailto:doug_jean@frontier.com) or Michelle Swank, Dayspring Executive Director, at [mswank@richlandcountyooh.gov](mailto:mswank@richlandcountyooh.gov).

Dayspring, The Richland County Home, is a non-profit, residential facility for economically disadvantaged citizens of Richland County.

Owned and operated by Richland County since 1845, it is located on 226 acres, six miles north of Mansfield.

Many of its residents have some type of disability that prevents them from living independently. Dayspring provides its residents an affordable, home-like environment where abilities and quality of life are enhanced in a secure and respectful manner.



# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

## CLEAR FORK VS GALION BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL · JAN. 18 PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

## CLEAR FORK VS GALION BOYS JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL · JAN. 18 PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**CLEAR FORK VS LEXINGTON SEVENTH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL · JAN. 20**  
**PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER**



# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

## CLEAR FORK VS LEXINGTON EIGHTH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL · JAN. 20 PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS WOOSTER SEVENTH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL · JAN. 22  
WOOSTER WINS 35-15 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS WOOSTER EIGHTH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL · JAN. 22  
WOOSTER WINS 19-23 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

## Norwalk upsets Lady Lex with narrow win

Photos and Article By Kris Leiter

As the Norwalk Lady Truckers came rolling into Lexington Jan. 3, it didn't take long for Lady Lex to put some digits on the scoreboard. Cora Palmer dropped the first two points just 10 seconds into the contest.

It was Norwalk's turn to return the favor as Lex would foul and send Lady Trucker Abby Koenig to the charity stripe to sink the second shot of her two foul shots, putting the score at 2-1 with Lady Lex leading at 6:57.

Norwalk was just getting warmed up as Kenzie Smith joined the fun and dropped two points to put The Lady Truckers on top, 3-2, the first lead change of the game.

Lexington said enough and claimed their turf by reclaiming the lead again within seconds.

Bella Temple added two points to the mix and flipped the script by taking the lead back 4-3.

With Lex leading, they added eight more points at the 3:07 mark and continued the lead at 8-5.

At 2:45, Lexington got into foul trouble as Norwalk capitalized and stayed right on their heels. At 2:18, the score was 12-9, Lex holding a narrow three point lead.

As the quarter wound down to 45 seconds left in the first quarter, a big 3-pointer came from familiar name Cora Palmer and kept the Lex lead at 15-13!

As they entered quarter number two, with Norwalk knocking on the door, Lex maintained the lead to the 5:55 mark with a narrow 19-18 lead and some exciting basketball!

Lexington fouled Lady Trucker Emmie Leber in the act of shooting at the 4:30 mark, sending Norwalk's Emmie Leber to the line for a 3-point play.

Leber sunk the foul shot and another lead change, putting Norwalk back on top 21-19.

As the second quarter would expire, Norwalk would add 3 more and lead at halftime 24-19, but Lexington was not far behind!

As the third quarter continued, Lady Lex stayed close. Remaining within two points at 3:59, the Lady Truckers narrowly held the lead 27-25.

The third quarter would not be Lexington's friend as Norwalk hit a couple of 3-pointers at 2:59 and 1:35 to stretch the lead to 9 points 36-25.

It was time for Lexington's Ava Brown to shine again as she dropped six points in rapid fire fashion including making the foul shot from the 3-point play at 5:29, putting Lex within 3-points at 36-32 and gaining!

Enter Lexington's Makaree Chapman to drop both foul shots and another two points, bringing Lex within two points at 36-34 at 3:52.

Could Lady Lex flip the script again and gain the lead? It was sure looking good!

As the next few minutes ticked on the fourth quarter clock, Lexington found foul trouble and Norwalk took advantage of more free throws.

Within the next few minutes, Norwalk dropped an incredible 7 out of 8 free throws, to a six point lead and sealed the deal at the final buzzer 47-39. Hats off to Lady Lex and a well played game!



Lexington's Bella Temple (35)



Lexington's Cora Palmer (3)



## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

### Clear Fork Colts sink RedBirds with 70–57 final tally

Photo and Article By Kris Leiter

I was back in the Valley of the Colts on Jan. 2, to watch the Redbirds of Loudonville (3–5) fly into Bellville to tangle with the Colts (2–5).

Clear Fork is manned by head coach Tim Brafford with a healthy class of upperclassmen of seven seniors and two juniors, ranging from 5' 9" to 6' 3."

Loudonville came into the contest with head coach Jim Bates in his third season with the Redbirds.

The Redbirds are a little leaner in the lineup, with two seniors and seven juniors. They sprinkle in a few freshman and sophmores who see some varsity action occasionally.

The Redbirds came in with two wins in the last two weeks, taking down New London and Danville. With similar records, anything can happen.

As the first minute ticked away, both offenses were patient, working the ball and looking for the good shot.

Then, after trading baskets, at 7:00, Clear Fork took the lead 3–2.

Within 30 seconds, the Redbirds made their mark as sophomore, Lane Mack fired up a big 3-pointer for the first lead change, 5–3, with the Redbirds on top!

Then at 6:10, the Colts kicked up some dirt in the Corral and went on an 11–5 scoring run to a 15–10 lead at 3:10 on the clock.

The Colts were just getting warmed up with 1:55 left in the first quarter, it was time for senior, 6' 2" Beau Dombirer to show his stuff by dropping a 2-pointer and a 3-bomb as well as teammate, senior 6' 1" Grant Spencer, who contributed two points himself as the Colts spread the lead by 10 points.

At the end of the first quarter, the Colts held a nice 23–13 lead in the Corral.

Opening up the second quarter of play, the Colts heels were kicking in again, and it was time for Clear Fork's Adam Vanausdle to join in the fun by hitting two BIG 3-pointers at 7:15 and 6:42 and

another 2-pointer!

At 5:40, it was now a commanding lead by the Colts, 33–19, keeping the Redbirds at bay.

You say enough? Contraire' says the Colts adding another two points by junior, 6' 3" Garrett Hotz, making the score 35–19, the Colts were in command!

As the quarter continued, so did the scoring frenzy by the Colts, never letting the Redbirds get within 10 points the entire third quarter.

As the fourth quarter would embark in the Corral, the Colts were relentless and so was the beast, Adam Vanausdle again!

Within 10 seconds of the fourth quarter clock ticking, he would pour in another 12 points to the 5:09 mark, maintaining a hefty lead of 64–47, leaving the Redbirds fading slowly.

At 3:40 remaining in the game, does the name Garret Hotz ring a bell? He would add to the tally with another two points along with freshman, 6' 0" Davis Hoeflich getting some minutes and two points as well, with a Colt lead of 68–51.

By the time the final horn sounded, the Colts ended the evening with a phenomenal score of 70–57!

Top scorers for the "Colt Clan," all in the double figures, were Garret Hotz with 24 points, along with Adam Vanausdle with 21 buckets and Beau Dornbirer with 10 tallies! Great job Colts!

### Warrior swimmers bring home two championship trophies

This past weekend, Marion hosted the MOAC championship swim meet. The Ontario Warriors swam their way to both girl's and boy's victories.

The boys placed first in every event, easily outdistancing second place River Valley.

The girls lost this meet by three points last year to Shelby. That was the first time in Ontario history with the MOAC that the girls lost. Revenge was sweet this year. The girls not only won 8 of 11 events, they did it with two meet records and a school record. Top three finishers were:

- 1st, Tessa Crum, 200 free, 100 back, 200 and 400 free relays
- 1st, Mirielle Trumpower, 200 IM (meet record), 100 fly (meet record), 200 and 400 free relay
- 1st, Joie Simmering, 100 free, 100 breastroke, 200 and 400 free relays
- 1st, Haley Damron, 200 free relay
- 1st, Lily Secrist, 400 free relay
- 1st, Grantham Trumpower, 200 free 100 free, 200 and 400 free relays
- 1st, Carson Smith, 200 IM, 100 breastroke, 200 medley relay
- 1st, Evan Ruhe, 50 free, 100 fly, 200 and 400 free relays
- 1st, Jackson Swiatek, 500 free, 200 medley relay
- 1st, Logan Bernat, 100 back, 200 and 400 free relays
- 1st, Canaan Wentz, 200 medley relay
- 1st, Richard Ye, 200 medley elay
- 1st, Owen Walter, 200 and 400 free relays
- 2nd, Katie Bolin-200 free, 100 fly, 200 medley relay
- 2nd, Maddie Hedrick, 200 medley relay
- 2nd, Lily Secrist, 200 medley relay
- 2nd, Haley Damron, 200 medley relay
- 2nd, Jackson Swiatek, 200 free
- 2nd, Owen Walter, 200 IM, 100 back
- 2nd, Logan Bernat, 100 fly
- 2nd, Richard Ye, 100 breastroke
- 3rd, Lily Secrist, 200 IM, 500 free
- 3rd, Haley Damron, 50 free, 100 free
- 3rd, Maddie Hedrick, 100 back
- 3rd, Canaan Wentz, 100 free

The Warriors host Madison (senior night) this week before their invite this Saturday.



Clear Fork's Adam Vanausdle (12)

## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

## Lady Redbirds fly into Clear Fork to hand Colts loss

Photos and Article By Kris Leiter

Tyler Bates and the Loudonville Lady Redbirds aren't undefeated at 11-0 by happenstance. Scott Sellers and the Lady Colts aren't 9-2 by mere coincidence either.

The Colts' only two losses came from a very quick Mansfield Senior Girls squad, and the Shelby's Lady Whippets and Coach Natlie Lantz — two very talented girls hoops programs.

The Redbirds went on the road again, heading the Colt Corral on Jan. 2. Would the Colts send the Redbirds flying back to Loudonville with a wounded wing and a blemish on their record?

I have watched the Lady Colts at various times this year, and the skill of these young ladies. I was amazed as I was watching warm-ups one particular game.

As I carefully watched with curiosity, they were dropping 3-pointers with ease. With no exaggeration, they made at least 20 in a row by various players.

One thing about it, we are so blessed to have great basketball here in Richland County.

So, as the first quarter began, Loudonville started to do what they do best, playing great basketball, but the Colts are no pushover either, especially in their house.

The Colts started off with their great half-court offense and were very patient, looking for the open shot. With just under a minute expired at 7:05, the Lady Redbirds Corri Vermily started the festivities by dropping the first two points of the game, and within seconds, another two points. At 4:45, she topped the previous hoop with a

3-bagger!

You want more? Loudonville was just beginning with another 3-pointer by teammate Jenna Guilliams!

Throw in a steal along the way and only half way through the first quarter, the Lady Redbirds were holding a 10 point lead at 10-0.

It was Clear Fork's turn as Loudonville committed their first foul and sent Melodie Belcher to the charity stripe to notch in their first point.

As the clock was ticking, Clear Fork dropped a big 3-pointer by Barnett to bring the score to 10-4. By the time the first quarter horn sounded, it was 13-4, Loudonville.

In the second quarter, Loudonville continued the scoring frenzy with a 20-4 scoring run and at the end of two quarters, the Lady Redbirds held a commanding lead at 33-8.

As the third quarter commenced, and within a minute, it was reminiscent of the first quarter with Vermily dropping another 4 points.

But the Colts would say ney! It was their turn to start kicking up some dirt in the Corral!

At 6:30, Lady Colt Barnett contributed to the cause with two points and Kylie Belcher dropped two points as well at the 6:00 minute mark. Blubaugh added six points, with 2 BIG 3-pointers. Annika Labacki threw in two big treys as well!

As the third quarter expired, the Redbirds scored 25 points, leading 58-31. Hats off to the Colts for a big third quarter, totaling 23 points!

In the fourth quarter, it was primarily Loudonville again, and as the clock ran out, they defeated the Colts handedly 64-40.

Hats off to the Lady Colts for giving their all and in double figures with 11 points was Blubaugh. Also adding to the mix was Brinley Barnett with 9 points along with Belcher and Labacki with 7 points as well.

Keeping the mindset of good sportsmanship, we commend Clear Fork High for taking a few minutes to honor the visiting Redbirds for a big announcement during this game. This was a special night for Loudonville Lady Red Bird Corri Vermily who scored her monumental 2,000th point.



Clear Fork's Melodie Blubaugh (3) and Kylie Belcher (15)



Clear Fork Coach Scott Sellers



# CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

The City of Ontario Civil Service Commission will hold a hearing for amending the Rules and Regulations at their meeting on February 14, 2024, at 1:00 p.m., at the Ontario Municipal Building, 555 Stumbo Road. The rule for consideration is 3.05 Meetings of the Commission, Section E.

James Boyer, Chairman  
Civil Service Commission  
City of Ontario, Ohio  
(T-C 1-25-'24) 12L

NOTICE OF INTENT TO SELL UNNEEDED, OBSOLETE OR UNFIT MUNICIPAL PERSONAL PROPERTY BY INTERNET SALE/AUCTION DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2024.

Notice is hereby given that the City of Ontario intends to sell unneeded, obsolete or unfit municipal personal property by internet sale/auction during 2024. All sales shall be for cash, shipping or delivery shall be the responsibility of the purchaser, and the sales shall be made through websites as determined to be most effective and efficient in obtaining the best price. The representative of the City for the purpose of internet sales is:

Kris Knapp  
Service-Safety Director  
555 Stumbo Road  
Ontario, Ohio 44906  
419-529-2495  
servicesafetydirector@ontarioohio.org  
(T-C 1-25, 2-8-'24) 23L

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## Veterans Day ceremony has surprise ending

By Nicole Beverage, Plymouth FFA Reporter

On Friday, Nov. 10, the Plymouth FFA held a breakfast and assembly to show their appreciation for the local veterans. Students spent many weeks preparing for this special event. Students participated in essay contests with various different topics surrounding veterans day, coloring contests, singing and performances by the band.

Veterans were invited to eat a small breakfast with students in the district and were welcome to stay for the ceremony following at 9:30. Every veteran in attendance at breakfast was given a goodie bag full of gifts from the Plymouth American Legion, Plymouth-Shiloh FFA Alumni, and the Plymouth Branch of the Mansfield Richland County Public Library.

The Plymouth FFA and Plymouth Legion Post #447 worked together to surprise a local veteran. Mr. Jim Enderby and Mr. Cliff Stumbo are local veterans who have received the Purple Heart. The purple Heart is an earnest distinction and it means a service member has greatly sacrificed themselves or paid the ultimate price while in the line of duty. It is awarded to those wounded or killed while serving.

Mr. Stumbo brought his in to show to students however, Mr. Enderby lost his along with his other medals in a tornado many years ago. But, the FFA and Plymouth Legion Post #447 were able to work some magic and get all of his medals replaced, including his purple heart. During the ceremony with both Mr. Stumbo and Mr. Enderby's families present, Mr. Enderby was presented with a case full of all of his service medals, including his purple heart. Thank you to

Arden Kessler and Rick Dropsey for all of their work in helping to replace medals.

During the ceremony students across the district were recognized for their hard work in the coloring and essay contest. Students in grades pre-k through 8th competed alongside classmates for class winners and then an overall grade winner. Students in grades 9-12 competed for an overall grade winner with an essay contest. Students had many different prompts to choose from including the history of Veteran's Day, why is it important for us to set aside time to honor those that served, and they even had the option to interview a veteran and hear their service story.

The winners for the coloring contest for Pre-K are Isabella, Colden, and Brooklyn Grove all from Mrs. Stines class, and their overall class winner was Isabell. Kindergarten winners are Abel Dawson in Mrs. Balas class, River Jackson in Mrs. Bays class, and Hayden Gallic from Mrs Bails class. And the Overall Winner for the Kindergarten class was River Jackson. For first grade, the winners are Avery from Mrs. Garrett's class, Sophie from Mrs. Maldinger's class and Gabe from Miss. Shifley's Class. The first grade overall winner was Avery. The winners for the second grade coloring contest are Issac Martin, from Mrs. Shaffer's Class, Jes, from Ms. Crevling's Class, and Gracie Foster from Mrs. Aumend's class. The overall winner for second grade was Issac Martin. The winners of the third grade coloring contest are Winter Long, from Mrs. Johnson's Class, Emma Gerrell, from Mrs. Terry's Class and Remi Hall from Mr. Garrett's class. The overall third grade winner is Emma Gerrell. The

fourth grade winners are Ariez Grose, from Mrs. Roll's Class, Lily, from Mrs. Yetter's Class and Alexis Cunningham from Mrs. Keefe's class. The overall fourth grade winner was Alexis Cunningham. High school essay contest winners sharing their essay during the assembly were Jeric Tackett, Chiyo Harris, Cailynn Bailey, and Aurora Marano.

Students also listened to two guest speakers. We were honored to hear the different war stories from Mr. Jerry Harrington, and Technical Sergeant Joshua Gorman from the 179th Cyberspace Wing Ohio Air National Guard. Jerry Harrington spoke about his time in the Navy from 1968-'72 and Sergeant Joshua Gorman talked about the duties of the brave men and women in the 179th Cyberspace Wing Ohio Air National Guard. Kristi Yeager also shared the story of "Table for One". Along with the script is a small table set for only one. It symbolizes the isolation of the absent service member.

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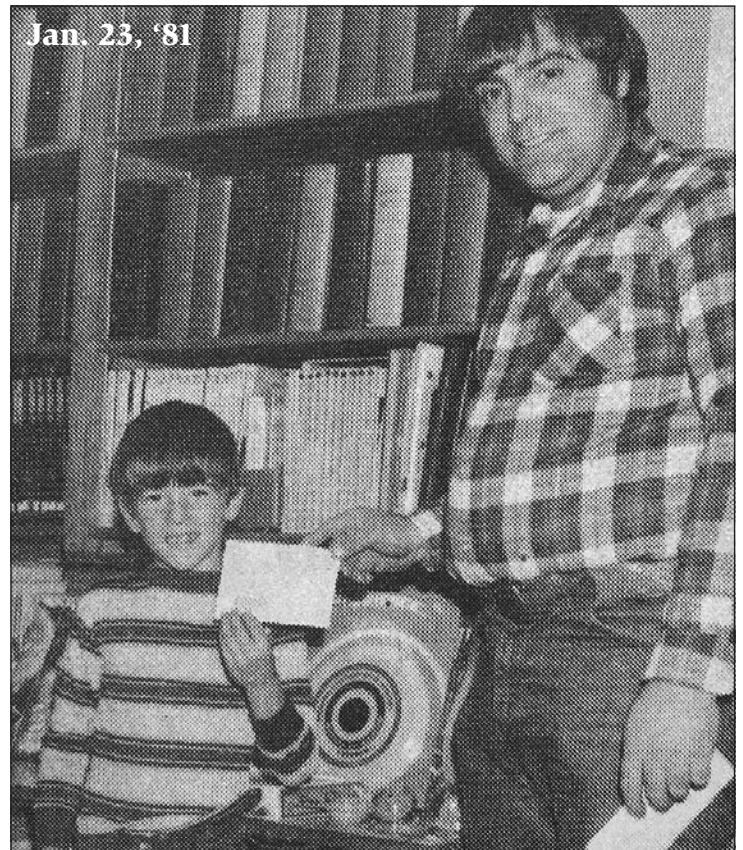
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LOOKING BACK • THIS WEEK IN TRIBUNE-COURIER HISTORY



Photo By Marc Stumbo  
MRS. VIOLA LUEDY, LINCOLN HEIGHTS SCHOOL LIBRARIAN is shown with Sam Garzaniti, left; Krickett McNeil and Erwin Webel, surrounded by some of the books that the children have read.



ARNOLD LEACH, PRESIDENT of the Lincoln Heights PTA presents a gift certificate to Jamie Collins, second year student at Lincoln Heights. Jamie was this years first place winner in a PTA fund raising project.

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