



TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com

02.08.24



DIGITAL RENDERINGS show new playground equipment at Sterkel Park, Mansfield.

Richland Newhope granted \$253,464 by DODD's Home and Community Based Services ARPA Grant

In December 2023, Richland Newhope successfully applied and was awarded \$253,464 from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to develop new projects to foster greater inclusion and independence for individuals with developmental disabilities living in Richland County.

"A portion of the grant dollars will be used to install adult-sized changing tables in targeted community locations. These tables will create accessible facilities for individuals with physical disabilities. Having public restrooms or private personal care stations will offer a space where someone can receive personal care assistance while in the community," said Michele Giess, Richland Newhope Superintendent. "Richland Newhope will be partnering with several community organizations to identify key locations throughout the community to install this personal care equipment with an overall effort to improve community accessibility for everyone."

The remaining grant dollars will go towards the large Sterkel Park renovation project, which is currently underway. The project's second phase will begin this spring as soon as the weather breaks, with hopes that the new park will be open to the public before the end of 2024. This funding will undoubtedly impact the lives of those we serve and contribute to building a more inclusive community for all.

With this grant funding, Richland Newhope will continue to enhance our local infrastructure to ensure better accessibility for people with disabilities.

For information about Richland Newhope services visit www.rnewhope.org or contact Troy Smith, manager of community education and special projects, at 419-774-4215 or tsmith@rnewhope.org.



Adult-sized changing tables

New Imagination Library partnership announced

Richland County Commissioner Tony Vero announced Richland Public Health (RPH), Richland County Youth a Family Council (RCY&FC) and Community Health Access Project (CHAP) as the new local programming partnership for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Richland County. Through this collaboration, these organizations will work together to bring awareness to the program, enroll children and build a coalition of community support.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio mails one age-appropriate book to children each month at no cost to families. Any child in Ohio between birth and age five can sign up. The Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading and learning by gifting books, free of charge to families.

Currently, only 4,459 (66%) of Richland County's eligible children (birth to age five) are registered in the program. RPH, RCY&FC, and CHAP are determined to achieve 100% enrollment over the next year. "We are thrilled to spearhead this initiative and provide the children of Richland County the opportunity to read, learn, and grow with their families. Extensive studies have shown that reading with young children is important for kindergarten readiness and improves health literacy" Dr. Julie Chaya, health commissioner, stated.

Each book is \$2.20 for each child every month. The total cost of Richland County's current Imagination Library program is \$117,717.60 each year. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Ohio pays for 50% of program costs. This means that the remaining 50% of programming costs (\$58,858.80 each year) is the responsibility of donors and sponsors in the Richland County community.

To ensure that the Imagination Library program runs smoothly in Richland County in 2024, the Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Ohio will cover 100% of the costs during the first six months of the initiative. During the remaining six months of the year, the Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Ohio will cover 50% of costs and RPH and RCY&FC will take care of the remaining 50%.

"Although our organizations have made this investment to guarantee programming this year, we are in need of local sponsors, donors and volunteers to keep the Richland County Imagination Library alive and thriving in 2025" said Dr. Chaya.

Organizations or individuals wishing to volunteer can contact 419-774-4761 or chps@richlandhealth.org. To enroll a child between the ages of 0-5 visit richlandhealth.org/imagination-library.

Richland SWCD will host volunteer orientation on February 27

The next training and orientation session for Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD) Volunteer Precipitation Monitors will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 2 pm at the Richland County Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Ave., suite 258, Mansfield. Registration is requested by Feb. 26 by emailing Contact@RichlandSWCD or calling Theresa at 419-747-8685.

Those who enjoy keeping track of when it rains or snows will enjoy this volunteer opportunity. As a precipitation monitor, volunteers will measure and record rain and snowfall at a home or business. Data is used to gauge long-term trends in watershed health and land use practices.

Volunteers will be trained and provided with equipment and need access to the internet. Data is shared with the public in real-time on the Richland SWCD Water Data Map at <https://richlandswcd.net/stormwater-drainage/water-data-map/>.

The district has numerous volunteer activities that may be done independently, in the office, at workshops and community events. Citizen-science opportunities include precipitation, lake and stream monitoring in Richland County.

Tribune-Courier Forum

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we begin February, recognized nationally as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, we at The Domestic Violence Shelter invite you to join us in raising awareness and taking action against the prevalent issue of teen dating violence.

Our mission to provide safe haven and support services for individuals affected by domestic violence extends with particular focus this month to the vulnerable demographic of teenagers, who may not always recognize the signs of unhealthy relationships.

Teen dating violence is more than a statistic; it's a detrimental reality affecting the physical, emotional, and psychological health of countless young individuals. It encompasses a spectrum of abusive behaviors used to exert power and control over a dating partner - and it knows no boundaries of race, class, or gender identity.

This year, we are thrilled to announce the launch of Expressions of The Heart: Art and Poetry Contest. This contest invites teens to express their understanding and experiences of healthy versus unhealthy relationships through artistic and literary creativity. We believe that art can be a powerful tool for healing, awareness, and change.

Here's how you can make a difference:

Donate: Your financial contributions enable us to continue offering resources, education, and programs such as our Expressions of the Heart. Every dollar counts in our fight to end teen dating violence.

Volunteer: If you have time to give, your skills and dedication are invaluable to us. Volunteering opportunities include mentoring, event planning, community outreach, and more.

Please mark your calendars and spread the word about our upcoming event. The power of community involvement is critical in shaping a future where all teens have the education, resources, and support they need to enjoy healthy, respectful, and loving relationships.

We look forward to your participation and support in recognizing Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Together, we can shed light on the dark corners of teen dating violence and create a culture of respect and safety for all.

To learn more about donating, volunteering or the Art and Poetry Contest details, visit www.thedvshelter.com or contact directly at 419-774-5840.

Warm regards,
Colleen Rice, Executive Director
The Domestic Violence Shelter

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THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —

Writer/director Matthew Vaughn's new spy film *Argylle* is certainly a mixed bag of plot twists and outlandish performances.

The movie opens with a spy named Argylle (Henry Cavill) and his sidekick (John Cena) trying to gain information about an ongoing spy plot.

The story completely changes and Argylle is actually a character in a series of spy novels being written by Elly Conway (Bryce Dallas Howard).

While traveling home to see her mother (Catherine O'Hara) after a Q&A, she encounters a man on a train named Aiden (Sam Rockwell).

Aiden turns out to be a real spy and takes Elly (with her cat Alfie in tow) on a roller coaster ride as her books are getting too close to what is happening in real life.

Argylle has a big cast including Bryan Cranston, Samuel L. Jackson and Arian De Bose.

The movie really suffers from too many plot lines. A spy movie with Henry Cavill by Matthew Vaughn, a great action director who has helmed the *Kingsman* movies, *X-Men: First Class*, and *Kick-Ass* and knows his way around a great action sequence, would have been great fun.

The movie also incorporates this other plot involving Ely and Aiden trying to escape from bad

guys while she is trying to finish a series of novels. There is too much going on here.

One of the most annoying scenes in the movie is a well-executed fight scene in a train involving Aiden, though Elly keeps seeing him as her fictional Henry Cavill spy. One second, it's Rockwell, the next it's Cavill. It becomes distracting and annoying.

There are other scenes later on that are just too much.

A shootout between Elly and Aiden in a hallway involving lots of colorful smoke and almost a dance between them is much too silly and eye rolling. Some may be entertained by it; however, at this point the movie was well over two hours and about 20 minutes past when it should have ended.

Argylle has some interesting ideas such as an author seeing her fictional novels mirroring real life events, though this is nothing new and has been done before much better than this.

Matthew Vaughn gets a great deal of credit for knowing his way around a story and action scene, though this movie just does not work. It's too much, too long, overacted and not memorable.



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.

Award recipients from a nine-county area (one from each county) will be honored by agency. Nominees must be at least 60 years old, a legal Ohio resident for at least five years and have made significant contributions to the community. A husband and wife may receive the award jointly. 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 and nomination forms are available at www.aaa5ohio.org/events/awards/ or by contacting Sue at 567-247-6458 or smontgomery@aaa5ohio.org.

News Briefs

Six Global Methodist churches in Richland and Ashland counties will hold a joint Ash Wednesday community service Feb. 14 at 7 pm at Faith Church, 1574 Rt. 96 in Ashland (across from Crestview Schools).

★

An Empty Bowl fundraising event will be held Saturday, Feb. 24, from 4-7 pm at Mansfield 1st EPC, 399 S. Trimble Rd., Mansfield.

Cost is \$10 for bottomless soup. Those attending will receive a decorative bowl made by local students free with dinner purchase.

This event is a fundraiser for and in partnership with Discovery School, Mansfield Christian School, the Lexington School District and My Village Ministries. Students from each school will be creating or decorating a variety of bowls. The soups served will be made by SC Event Center. Soups will include chicken noodle, beef vegetable and tomato. Crackers, bread and a variety of drinks will also be served. For more information call 419-756-7066.

★

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

★

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 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 broast-

ed chicken. Strutt Your Stuff Dancers will perform. Those attending are asked to wear red.

For information visit 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.

★

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 Wendy Bartlett to speak on "What's Love Got to Do with It?" at 10:30 am on Sunday Feb. 11.

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.

★

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.

★

Richland County Farm Bureau will celebrate agriculture, local farmers and our rural community with its Farmers Share Breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 24. Serving is from 7-10 am in the Shelby High School Cafeteria, 1 Whippet Way, Shelby.

The free-will donation meal includes pancakes, fresh whole hog sausage, eggs, orange juice, milk and coffee. Money donated at the breakfast goes to food pantries in Richland County, in honor of FFA chapters. The breakfast has donated nearly \$19,000 to area food banks and the Harmony House in the past 16 years.

★

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

★

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_MhGbYtKJxfp1G1Q-1Yk51npySFnU9IORAqgDMX_RlAt3sFhCnBba08g.

★

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, Feb. 24 and 25. 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.

★

Community Action for Capable Youth (CACY) offers the Store it Safe Richland Program's lock boxes for households struggling with mental health and self harming concerns.

Safe storage of lethal means (firearms, sharp objects, medications) protects and reduces risk of injury and can save lives. Contact the CACY office at
(Continued on Page 5)

Forget-Me-Not Flower Shop

Valentine's Day is Wednesday, Feb. 14

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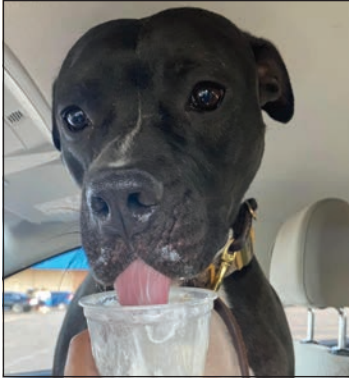
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*This Week's Pet
Looking for
A Forever Home*



Lou

This guy's name is LucyFur but volunteers call him a myriad of nicknames since they don't feel like his name shows his true character.

Names include Lou, Luce and Lucy. He was named after the cat in Cinderella (not because he's terrible).

He is extremely sweet and a ton of fun and arrived at the shelter on Aug. 20, 2022.

He is actually extremely nice and affectionate. Lou is pretty bad on his leash, but he will sit when asked or if he sees a treat.

He is super energetic and loves sprinting around the play yard and running after toys. One volunteer kept giving Lucy treats for sitting, and he would immediately drop them out of his mouth, then when they went

to pick up his treats, he kissed their face and took off again to explore.

On walks, Luce loves looking at himself in windows and will jog back and forth between windows and doors to catch glimpses of himself. Lou also loves playing with toys and laying in the shade (depending on the weather). He loves car rides and pup cups from McDonalds. Lucy is around six years old. He is absolutely fantastic, although fairly ornery. The shelter staff think he is good with other dogs but not cats. Come meet Luce!

Those interested in meeting any 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.

Church Directory

Clay Memorial Lutheran Church

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

Clear Fork Alliance Church

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

Community Bible Church

1043 Springmill St., Mansfield
567-560-8011
www.DiscoverCommunity.org
Pastor Sam Belsterling
10:30 am Sunday Worship
Live stream at <https://www.facebook.com/CommunityBibleChurchMansfield>

**First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**

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

First Congregational Church

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

First English Lutheran Church

53 Park Avenue West, Mansfield
419-522-0662 • www.felc-mansfield.org
Interim Pastor Lisa Peterson
9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship
Call about Prayer Groups, Small Groups, Bible Studies, Book Clubs, Pub Theology, Community Meals, Free Produce distribution and Senior Boxes.

Hope Lutheran Church

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

Lexington Presbyterian Church

35 Church St. West, Lexington
419-884-1330
Pastor Denny Nezrick
10:30 am Sunday Worship
<https://www.facebook.com/Lexington-Presbyterian-Church-117768414915815>

Mansfield 1st EPC

399 Trimble Rd., Mansfield
419-756-7066 • www.mansfield1st.com
Rev. Joseph Yerger
9 am Adult & Youth Sunday School
10 am Sunday Worship
ADA Accessible Nursery
and Children's Programming Available

Mansfield Baptist Temple

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

Ontario United Methodist Church

3540 Park Avenue West., Ontario
419-529-4345 • ontarioumc.com
Pastor Christine Bell
10:15 am Sunday Worship
10:15 am Kingdom Kids

St. John's United Church of Christ

68 Park Avenue East, Mansfield
419-522-2813 • www.stjohnsmansfield.org
Pastor Faith Prioretti
10 am Sunday Worship

Trinity Grace Fellowship

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

G & M Body & Paint Shop

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

Wappner Funeral Home

Mansfield • Ontario • Ashland
419-522-5211



• News Briefs

(Continued from Page 3)

419-774-5683 or andersont@cacyohio.com for more details on the program. The local crisis helpline can be reached at 419-522-4357.



Fun Center Chordsmen will host a show celebrating the chapter's 50 years on Saturday, March 23, at 3 pm.

The event will be held at Lexington High School, 103 Clever Ln, Lexington. This show, entitled "50 Years of Fun," celebrates the chordsmen's 50th year as an active BHS chapter.

Tickets will be available at the door the day of the show with no presale or online sales. Credit/debit cards and cash will be accepted. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$5 for students.



There will be two sessions of the senior citizen luncheon at Madison Comprehensive High School's Ramble Inn, 600 Esley Ln., on Thursday, Feb. 15. The first session will be at 11 am and the second will be at 12:30 pm. The cost is \$8 per lunch.

Reservations must be made by noon on Tuesday, Feb. 13. Call the board office at 419-589-2600, ext. 65001 or email rlyons@madison-rams.net to make a reservation.

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



A Think Spring & Thaw Out Event will be held at the Richland County Fairgrounds on March 16 and 17, from 10 am to 6 pm. Vendors will be in the Arts & Crafts Building, and possibly some outside depending on the weather. There will also be food available from a food and donut truck. Email deniseflores7423@gmail.com for more information.



To submit a news brief item send an email with information to news@tribune-courier.com.



King Creek Falls, SC • Photo By Mark Shutt

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Kathleen Ann Chorpening, January 27

Ray Ellison Jr., January 27

Lois Annette Holuta, January 28

Tammy Elaine Shaffer, January 29

Karen Jean Rhea, February 1

Fredia Dianne Wallar, February 1

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Goldberry Roasting Company moves to new location

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Ashland's Goldberry Roasting Company has moved. They opened a bright and spacious new place on Monday, Jan. 22 at 7 am. Only 500 feet away from their former location, it now offers double the seating, more parking space, a drive-through, and an outdoor patio area once the weather gets nicer. Customers can order online in advance and pick up their drink at the window, or simply order from there.

Another feature that customers love is their new grab and go fridge providing locally made options for breakfast, brunch or lunch! Village Catering said they are excited for the opportunity to partner with Goldberry and grateful for this joint venture! Order your favorite drink and grab one of their featured items in the grab & go cooler or on the dry goods shelf.

It has taken Goldberry around seven months to transform the former Jim's Flowers and Old Elevator building into their cozy new home. They had this to say in a Facebook post:

"All we can say is WOW and THANK YOU! We knew this community would come out and support us, because that's what this community does, but we could've never imagined it would be to the level that we experienced! All week long our space was full of friendly faces, familiar and new, and we heard so many words of encouragement we lost count. Our hearts are overflowing with grat-

itude! Thank you for your patience as we work through the inevitable kinks, but we promise to work hard to keep getting better and better every single day!"

Goldberry opened in 2019 and has grown leaps and bounds from there. With production rising, the need for a second coffee roaster became glaringly apparent. They had simply outgrown their storefront on Claremont Avenue, quickly running out of parking space and seating. After a year and a half of searching they've settled into their new location at 1262 Franklin Ave., right next to the Tin Can Chandelier.

They are now able to offer more seating space, with window options, tables, counters and couches. They also have a large back room for storage, and enough space for both of Goldberry's coffee roasters. The dedicated baristas have a larger counter space to serve customers. There is also a rentable room for people to use for meetings or the entire store can be rented out after-hours for events.

Whether you are busy at work or finding time to catch up with friends, Goldberry has a spot for you to visit and gather. The warm and inviting space is already filled with smiling faces enjoying great company, food, and craft coffee.

Ashland is known for supporting their own and giving back. Goldberry Roasting Company has been fortunate to have a unique opportunity to be a part of coffee's journey from seed to cup. Due to their special relationship with farmers in the Sierra Norte region of Mexico, they've been able to have the joy of improving existing coffee crops. Goldberry cares about getting the roast profile of their coffee exactly right. They boast of highlighting the flavors that farmers around the world have spent generations creating and preserving. That's why it's so important for them to roast their coffee in small batches. It's a wonderful way to bring out the unique flavor profiles of each individual farm and region the bean came from! When you drink your next cup of Goldberry coffee, you're part of the legacy of people who nurtured and cared for it long before it ever made it to their roastery.



Absentee and early voting begins February 21 in Richland County

Absentee and early voting for the March 19, primary election will commence Wednesday, Feb. 21, either by mail or in person at the Richland County Board of Elections, 1495 W. Longview Ave., in the lower level classroom.

The closest entrance is in the back of the Longview Center by the

“Vote Here” sign and flag. Those who enter through the front entrance must take the stairs or elevator down to the lower level. Those who have requested absentee ballots by mail will have their ballot mailed out starting Feb. 21.

Absentee applications to vote by mail are available at <https://www.boe.ohio.gov/richland/> or by calling the office at 419-774-5530 to have a request form mailed.

Early voting schedule:

Feb. 21 through March 8, 8 am to 5 pm, each weekday

Saturday, March 9, 8 am to 4 pm

March 11, 13, 14 and 15, 7:30 am to 7:30 pm, each weekday

Tuesday, March 12, 7:30 am to 8:30 pm (deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail)

Saturday, March 16, 8 am to 4 pm

Sunday, March 17, 1-5 pm, early voting ends

On election day, March 19, polls are open from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm. Early voting ends Sunday, March 17 at 5 pm. There will be no early voting on Monday March 18.

All precincts in Richland County will be open. Voters in the City of Mansfield, Village of Butler, Cass Township, Jefferson Township, Troy Township, Lexington School District, may request a Republican, Democrat or an Issues Only ballot.

The remaining Richland County voters may request a Republican or Democrat ballot.

The only procedure available under Ohio Election Laws to change a party affiliation is to request the party’s ballot in a primary. It does not matter which party a voter is currently affiliated with in their voter registration records. The voter simply states to the poll worker which ballot they want to cast for that election.

To view a ballot online visit <https://www.boe.ohio.gov/richland/candidate-voter-tools/> and voter lookup search, enter last and first name and submit. On the right side, click sample ballots and choose which ballot style to view.

Ontario High School juniors will take required ACT on March 12

Ontario High School juniors will be required to take the ACT test on Tuesday, March 12. The test will be administered by Ontario Local Schools at no cost.

All Ontario and Pioneer juniors including online and CCP students should report to Ontario High School both March 6 and 12.

On Wednesday, March 6, students will take the ACT pre-test.

OHS students should report to first period for attendance and then move to the commons area. Pioneer and CCP juniors should report to the OHS commons before 8 am. Students will be sent back to class around 9:15 am. A bus will be provided for Pioneer students.

On Tuesday, March 12, students will take the ACT. All juniors should follow the same schedule as Wednesday, gathering in the commons. Buses will depart to the Richland County Fairgrounds at 8:15 am. Buses will return to OHS around 12:45 pm.

Pizza will be provided in the commons by OHS Student Council. Juniors will be released for the remainder of the day.

Anyone that needs to ride the bus home must remain in the commons for the duration of the day.

Smart phone, smart watches and fitness bands are not allowed during the test and pre-test. For information contact the high school office.

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.

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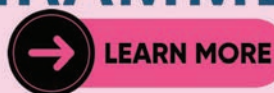
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Survivor
Rhonda Breit



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Village of Lexington discusses commercial sales

The Village of Lexington met Jan. 16 with Mayor Jarvis presiding. Village council members present were Adam Gongwer, Aaron Hoptry, Kim Little, Jeff O'Brien and Todd Wise.

Others present included Attorney John Studenmund, Chief Troy Weaver, Village Administrator Andrew Smallstey and Assistant Finance Director Peter Them.

Ben Mutti of Avon Dr. requested from councilmembers not to support commercial sales of cannabis in the village. Mutti has sought and received support from local commissioners and Ohio Senators. Mayor Jarvis reported the council has an ordinance on the meeting agenda prohibiting adult use cannabis processing, dispensing, laboratories, cultivation areas and facilities.

Jeff Angelini and the princesses and queens from the Blueberry Festival committee presented the mayor with \$5,000 check.

Peter Them reported that there will be a finance report at the next council meeting. The recent CD total is \$518,000 at 4.85%. The audit report is in and available for viewing.

As reported by finance director Peter Them, he had two interviews regarding the income tax clerk position coming up. It is hoped that the village will have the position filled by the next council meeting.

There was a water break on Essex Rd. The crew repaired and cleared out in less than four hours.

Mayor Bob Jarvis reported that he reviewed the audit report. There are six recommendations. Peter Them is currently working on the recommendations.

"I researched the last couple of years of fine payments that came into mayor's court regarding marijuana, and what the village may potentially lose in the future because of legalizing marijuana. Total revenue in 2021 was \$4,490. In 2022, revenue was \$1,465," said Mayor Jarvis.

"We have applied for a grant for a feasibility study of the Lexington connector. The value of the grant is \$220,000. The village would be responsible for 10% or \$22,000 if we receive it."

A payment of \$22,000 was authorized for a connector/annexation road study. This would also include State Route 97 and U.S. Route 42 to Rite Aide.

"Representative Marilyn John contacted me last Tuesday," said Mayor Jarvis. "She reported that Lexington is 13th in position to receive grant money to start updating the downtown corridor, starting at the Depot. We applied for \$5.7 million dollars; Representative John took the request down to one million dollars.

As reported by Chief Weaver, stats for 2023 are in. There is a difference in sick leave since instituting the new policy. The police department has dropped 48.5% and the administration had a 59.1% decrease in sick leave usage.

A resolution was passed directing the removal and addition of village officials to various accounts and a safe deposit box at Mechanics Bank and declaring an emergency.

An ordinance was approved establishing the range of compensation for village employees.

An ordinance will provide for permanent budget amendments and appropriations for January for parks and general funds.

An ordinance appointed Peter Them as the administrative director effective Feb. 1, 2024.

An ordinance prohibiting adult use cannabis processing, dispensing, laboratories, cultivation areas and cultivation facilities and declaring an emergency was approved.

Based on an identical ordinance from Rocky River, OH, councilman Hoptry asked how much revenue will be lost by not allowing this in village limits. Hoptry stated they should look at all avenues for possible revenue. Council President Gongwer stated he would like to prohibit the sales, based on current events that unfolded in the State of Colorado when they allowed dispensaries.

President Gongwer, a previous police officer, stated more monies would be spent on costs to cut the escalating crime that will coincide with freedom of cannabis dispensaries.

Councilman O'Brien asked if the committee needs to be created to work on the annexation. Attorney Studenmund stated consent of property owners must be first obtained. Then a discussion with Richland County Commissioners will need to happen. A waiting period is then ordered before sending out a notification to property

owners. Certification will be necessary also. The village currently has an agreement with Washington Township; nothing is in place with Troy Township.

Mayor Jarvis read a Proclamation for Administrator Andy Smallstey who will be retiring from the village after working 32 years. Smallstey initially started as a dispatcher for Lexington Police before working for administration in 2010.

Romanchuk participates in joint Ohio, Pennsylvania energy meeting

State Senator Mark Romanchuk (R-Ontario) participated in a joint meeting with other members of the Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee as well as the Ohio House Energy and Natural Resources and Public Utilities Committees and the Pennsylvania Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

The goal of the meeting was to better understand energy policy implications and community concerns with PJM, specifically on the growing need for reliable, sustainable, and affordable energy.

"I agree with much of what was said in today's hearing in regard to the state of our electric grid and bad policies at the federal level. While some attention was given to Ohio's unregulated electricity market, there wasn't enough attention given to the benefits of markets themselves," Romanchuk said.

"Simply put, the market has outperformed the decision making of the Ohio legislature and PUCO. Past policies have hindered the health of the electric grid and constrained future supply of electricity. On the other hand, the market has delivered generation diversity, lower cost, and higher reliability. Ohio should rely on what works - competition and markets."

The committee heard from two panels, which included insights from Asim Haque from the PJM Interconnection, Chair Jenifer French of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, and energy industry leaders.

Watch the meeting at <https://ohiochannel.org/video/ohio-house-public-utilities-committee-2-1-2024-ohio-pennsylvania-joint-hearing-on-interstate-energy-and-public-utilities>.

ARTTALK events will be held every first Wednesday for local artists

Mansfield Arts and Culture Sector has announced ARTTALK, a monthly networking event for artists of all ages, mediums and skill levels to meet, interact, share ideas and build community. The location will change month by month and will be held the first Wednesday of each month. February's event will be held in the community art studio inside MOSAIC church, 296 Park Avenue West on Wednesday, Feb. 7, from 6-8 pm.

ARTTALK is presented by the Mansfield Arts and Culture Sector as a way to empower artists by building the foundations for a diverse and thriving art scene in Mansfield/Richland County.

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KCCC students qualify for BPA state competition

Knox County Career Center students competed in the Business Professionals of America (BPA) Region IV competition at the end of January.

KCCC students in the Computer Network Technology (CNT), CollegeU-Business (CLGU), Digital Media and Software Development (DMSD), and Pre-Professional Mentorship (PPM) programs competed against students from Delaware Hayes High School, Delaware Area Career Center, Highland High School and Tri-Rivers Career Center.

BPA is a career technical student organization that allows students to compete in various competitions in the areas of Finance, Business Administration, Management Information Systems, Digital Communications and Design, Management, Marketing and Communications and Health Administration.

On Friday, Feb. 2, BPA State Qualifiers in Region 4 were announced at the Region 4 Awards Ceremony held at the Willis Education Center in Delaware. KCCC had 42 students qualify for state in 20 events. The BPA State competition will be held on March 7 and 8 in Columbus.

Keyara Murphy, BPA Region IV Director, said, "The students did a great job competing in the BPA Region IV competition. All students prepared in different ways; reviewed resources for tests, and created projects using specific software. All contests were scored by a professional from the content area. Students apply and improve life skills through these competitions."

Murphy added, "As an alumnus, I love what this organization offers to students. It was life-changing for me as a student, and I know it can be for current students as well. We wish the best to the students who are proceeding to compete at the State, and potentially the BPA National Level. These are the opportunities and experiences CTE is made of."

The following students qualified to compete in the BPA State competition in March:

Tanner Nutter (CollegeU-Business) 1st place in Banking and Finance

Zachary Clow (CollegeU-Business) 2nd place in Banking and Finance

Kaylee Small, Taylor Thorne, Sami Lacksonen, Carter Thompson (CollegeU-Business) 1st place - Financial Analyst Team

Carter Mull (CollegeU-Business) 1st place in Personal Financial Management

Brysen Armstrong (CollegeU-Business) 2nd place in Personal Financial Management

Christopher Cline (CollegeU-Business) 1st place in Intermediate Word Processing

Jacob Spaulding (CollegeU-Business) 2nd place in Business Law & Ethics

Kayleen Small (CollegeU-Business) 3rd place in Business Law & Ethics

Caleb Adams (Computer Network Technology) 1st place in Computer Network Technology

Noah Overholt (Computer Network Technology) 2nd place in Computer Network Technology

Jeremy Risko (Computer Network Technology) 1st place in Server Admin Using Microsoft

Tyler Ing (Computer Network Technology) 2nd place in Server Admin Using Microsoft

Brody Casebolt (Computer Network Technology) 3rd place in Server Admin Using Microsoft

Kessin Lang (Computer Network Technology) 1st place in Network Admin Using Cisco

William Hoeksema (Computer Network Technology) 2nd place in

Network Admin Using Cisco

Caedmon Platt (Computer Network Technology) 3rd place in Network Admin Using Cisco

Emilia Camp (Computer Network Technology) 2nd place in Computer Security

Elliott Anderson, Hunter Brooks, Tanner Burgess, Tyler Ing (Computer Network Technology) 1st place - Network Design Team

Jack Davis (Digital Media & Software Development) 1st place in Fundamentals of Desktop Publishing

Jaxon Reed (Digital Media & Software Development) 2nd place in Fundamentals of Desktop Publishing

Derek Purdy (Digital Media & Software Development) 3rd place in Fundamentals of Desktop Publishing

Jamison Purdy (Digital Media & Software Development) 1st place in Digital Media Production

Hannah Blubaugh, Joslynn Rine, Leon Cornette, Olivia Slone (Digital Media & Software Development) 1st place - Visual Design Team

Elizabeth Hatfield, Taylor Bryant, Julia Partington, Makaya Frazier (CollegeU-Business) 1st place - Global Marketing Team

Laura Page (CollegeU-Business) 1st place in Entrepreneurship

Jeremy Risko (Computer Network Technology) 1st place in Advanced Interview Skills

Chelsea Perkins (CollegeU-Business) 1st place in Extemporaneous Speech

Korbin McGowan (CollegeU-Business) 1st place in Ethics & Professionalism

Will Stemen, Kaleb Randall, Brookelyn Yoder, Madison Wind (Pre-Professional Mentorship) 1st place in Parliamentary Procedure Team

Ella Marofsky (Pre-Professional Mentorship) 1st place - Presentation Management Individual

Voter registration deadline nearing 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. 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 that they 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; and 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 but must do so by the Feb. 20 deadline. Online registration is also now available at 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) and all area high school offices

Registration is available at www.boe.ohio.gov/richland or requested by mail. Call 419-774-5530 to have a form sent by mail.

Honor and Merit Rolls

Clear Fork High School Second Quarter

ALL A

Senior: Heather Atherton, Kylie Belcher, Zoe Daniels, Champ Delancy, Caden Freitag, William Hamilton, Collin Johnson, Abigail Kern, Summer Kinnard, Abigail Kitzmiller, Mikka Knapik, Rachel LeFever, Nate Lind, Emma McCoy, Madison McKenna, Allison Montgomery, Kadynce Muntain, Sophia Perry, Evan Picchioni, Taya Shultz, Aria Stage, Joseph Stupka, Kasey Swank, Linzy Weyhmeller, Kendall Windsor and Avary Wine

Juniors: Ava Beard, Melodie Blubaugh, Garrett Hotz, Jay Jackson, Melisa Maldonado Elias, Kylie McGinty, Bailey McKee, Leah Mortimer, Alexander Ousley, Rebecca Pryor, Alexis Rodriguez and Mason Sansom

Sophomores: Alyson Brokaw, Alyssa Burger, Milee Carillon, Ava Carr, Nicholas Coker, Mattie Colegrove, Leonard Copeland, Tristan Cromer, Kaiden Dettmer, Abigail Geary, Lucas Goodman, Brenley Higgins, Madelyn Hite, Jasmine Johnson, Marissa (Charlie) Kenison, Zoe Lamp, Rowyn Lang, Jozie Lloyd, Austin McFerrer, Kenadee Muntain, Lucy Myer, Callie New, Hunter Rahall, Selena Ross, Matthew Shutt, Hadley Slaughter, Mary Stupka, Sophia Wharton and Mia Wilson

Freshmen: Asia Bechtel, Jadalyne Brokaw, Grace Burgholder, Mackenzie Daniels, Jillian Dunn, Jonathan Evans, Mariah Hatfield, Davis Hoeflich, Marcus Hoeflich, Caleb Mack, Samuel Robinson, Hudson Schag, Ella Schmidt, Chloe Steward, Haily Thrush and Arianna Vanhoose

HONOR ROLL

Senior: Cory Balduff, Erica Gillis, Victoria Haas, Alton Jeffries, Jada Lamp, Marissa Lawhun, Emilee Morrison, Caleb Peters, Abigail Sauder, Jonah Sharp, Ariel Stage, Andrea Swainhart, Isabella Swiatek, Adam Vanausdle, Grace Weikle and Alexandria Welshans

Juniors: Jayden Bowman, Lexie Colegrove, Grant Keep, Carter King, Emily Montgomery, Regan Pore, Reina Rehberg, Peyton Salisbury, Kaybria Sims, William Stewart, Lola Stillion, Emery Volz, Christian Walker and Lillian Weikle

Sophomores: Ethan Beck, Benjamin Campbell, Caroline Dill, Tyler Evans, Xander Frederick, Liam Hamilton, Iona Hickerson, Gwyneth Jones, Clayton Lewis, Kaleb Martin, Carter Means, Erny Nutter, Bryar Ousley, Eliana Pelkey, Bailee Riddle, Kaiden Schlosser, Landon Schlosser, Porter Schmidt, Myles Sharp, Faith Smith, Rozalyn Stover, Paisley Thrush, Michael Tokar, Liliana Trunzo, Gavin Walker, Adam Wallis, Ava Wharton, Ashtyn Wine and Nathaniel Wine

Freshmen: Landon Berry, Mary(Max) Betts, Coy Bieri, Addison Brown, Wesley Bunnell, Layla Daugherty, Aiden Demoss, Gavin Domka, Benjamin Dudley, Christian Edwards, Alaina Hawkins, Erika Hollar, Hannah Kinnard, Brynley Kirkpatrick, Brody McGregor, Katrina Neal, Mya Perry, Alexis Radcliffe, Ava Roberts, Bryn Sansom, Kabuto Setser, Wade Traxler and Owen Weiser

MERIT ROLL

Senior: Reagan Aldridge, Renee Anders, Zain Brown, Timothy Conkling, Saylee Fowler, Connor Hauger, Noah Pittenger, Taylor Ramey-Wolf, Hayden Roberts, Gage Sansom, Piper Stepp and Katelen Wimer

Juniors: Segno Ault, Liam Beer, April Berry, Bobbie Jo Fliger, Dawson Staley, Parker Swihart, Allyson Walls, Hunter Weikle and Dillion Wheeler

Sophomores: Jhayda Ammons, Brinley Barnett, Kaiden Bloomfield, Kailyn Bowman, Jacob Brokaw, Taylor Carpenter, Sabree Caudill, Xander Cyphers, Savannah Dorion, Hansen Dornbirer, Evan Hamilton, Aidan Haring, Lilah Henry, Ethan Hull, Addison Johnson, Nikolas Kinkel, Nicholas Martin, Savannah Mazzola, Briana McGinty, Fernando Molina, Devyn Oswald, Emma Parsons, Shelbi Sullivan, Gavin Thompson, Audrey Vanausdle, Sophia Wilson, Makenna Wuertz, Jacob Zack and Patrick Zirkle

Freshmen: Jonathan Annis, Morgan Armstrong, Aubree Barnes, Adelaine Bash, Taylor Bly, Arianna Bostic, Audrey Bowman, Cooper Brokaw, Christopher Bush, Ava Campbell, Weston Coble, Wade Davis, Allie Emerson, Jace Feeman, Tiegana Franta, Noah Goodman, Charles Granholm, Joseph Lykins, Broegan Lyon, Zachary Nelson, Hayden Northrup, Marley Pinkerton, Jonah Robison, Isaac Ross, Alexander Schlosser, Peyton Sickles, Deacon Sims, Nicholas Skaggs, Camellia Smitticus, Kaiden Thomas, Austin VanHouten, Addison Weikle, Owen Weikle and Adalyn Wise



A Battle of Wits and Words held at Ontario's Stingel Elementary

Stingel Elementary School was abuzz with excitement as fourth and fifth grade students showcased their exceptional spelling expertise in the annual Stingel Spelling Bee on Dec. 19.

The event drew a large and enthusiastic audience of fellow students, teachers, and parents eager to witness the impressive display of linguistic skills.

The contestants demonstrated remarkable confidence as they stepped up to the microphone to tackle challenging words. The words ranged from everyday vocabulary to more complex terms, putting the young spellers' abilities to the test.

After several rounds of competition, three finalists emerged as the top spellers. The first-place winner was fifth grade student Isaac Hohman, second place was fourth grader Charlie Yoakam and third place was fourth grader Tyrin Kirst.

These three students continued their competition on Jan. 25 as contestants in the Richland County Spelling Bee. In an impressive third-place finish in the County Bee, Tyrin Kirst will compete against students from grades 4-8 in the Tri-County Spelling Bee on Feb. 15.

The spelling bee highlighted the academic achievements and hard work of each member of the Stingel Spelling Bee Team.

News Briefs in Education

Melina Shultz of Lexington has been named to the dean's list at John Carroll University for the fall 2023 semester.

Students eligible for the list must have completed a minimum of 12 semester hours within one semester and have a quality grade point average of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. John Carroll University is located in University Heights, OH.



Ontario High School freshman orientation will be held Thursday, Feb. 8, from 7-8 pm in the high school cafeteria.

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Plymouth FFA prepares for spring CDEs

By Nicole Beverage, Plymouth FFA Reporter

Through Career Development Events (CDEs) FFA members learn teamwork, critical thinking skills and decision making skills. They also learn to value the importance of ethical competition and individual goals and achievements. CDEs give FFA members the opportunity to develop skills they will need in their future careers from time management to organization and industry specific knowledge. CDEs occur at local, district, state, and national levels.

Upcoming CDEs that Plymouth FFA members will be participating in are: Ag Mechanics, Poultry, Nature/Wildlife, Livestock, Farm Business management, Public Speaking and Dog Grooming. Students meet at least once a week to practice for their competitions. Students are provided with many resources and alumni assist students in learning the skills and knowledge required for their specific CDE. FFA members must strive to reach their full potential as they compete against other FFA members and chapters in Ohio.

Students participating this spring and their coaches include:

Ag Mechanics: Lily Weaver, Anthony Moore, Kamryn Hall, Isaiah Miller, Dillan Myers and Hunter Shepherd

Poultry: Braden Montgomery, Madison Montgomery, Chiyo Harris, Katelyn Swingle, Kristen Swingle, Ava Stine and Matthew Gillum

Nature/Wildlife: Ki Barber, Bri Flanagan, Gabe Hinkle and Kansas Huston

Middle School Nature/Wildlife: Makayla Ashby and Gwen Cave
Livestock: Aaliyah Grose, Addison Slone, Kendall Oakley, Morgan Follett, Rylee Gowitzka, Nicole Beverage, Taylor Dean, Kelsey Surgener and Alyson Lewis

Middle School Livestock: Kensley Burrer, Sienna Kennison, Erika Monry, Makayla Bowman and Anna Caughenbaugh

Farm Business Management: Lincoln Distl and Braden Montgomery

Public Speaking: Jay Scott, Colton Hass, Armando Flores and Anna Caughenbaugh

Dog Grooming: Kyrsten Caudill, Addison Slone, Olivia Balkin and Camryn Wallace

Ag Mechanics: Teams in this event consist of four students that

solve a multi-system agricultural problem scenario. The team works to solve the problem and prepare a report while judges evaluate. Additionally, individuals complete a written exam that covers five agricultural technology and mechanical areas: compact equipment, electricity, environment and natural resources, machinery and equipment and structures. Thank you Nick Laferty and Leonard Felty for helping to coach this CDE.

Poultry Judging: Participants in this CDE select live meat-type chickens for broiler breeding, evaluate and place live egg-type hens, and rate the finished product by evaluating and grading ready-to-cook carcasses and parts of chickens and turkeys. Thank you Sarah Hoak, Rosie Reer, and Douglas Reer for coaching this CDE.

Nature/Wildlife: This contest creates a fun and competitive environment to learn management & conservation of natural resources for wildlife habitat, knowledge of and respect for laws related to hunting and other outdoor recreational activities, and safety.

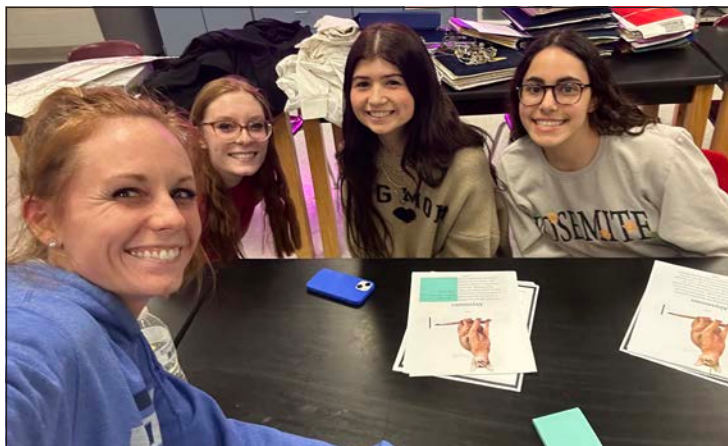
Livestock Judging: Students participating in this CDE make accurate and logical observations of livestock, decide on the desirable traits in marketing and breeding livestock, and select and market livestock that will satisfy consumer demands and provide increased economic returns to producers. Thank you to Monica Baxter, Jenny Beverage and Paula Seaman for coaching this CDE.

Farm Business Management: This team CDE requires four members to collaborate through decision-making and problem analysis skills to reach a final written or oral report. Additionally, each team participant completes an individual written activity.

Public Speaking: Students research a topic of interest and then put together a creative, informative speech. The speech is then presented to a panel of judges, who score the student based on the speech's content, composition and delivery.

Dog Grooming: Students learn proper tool and equipment identification and how to do the proper AKC cut for their breed of dog. Thank you to Megan Caudill for coaching this CDE.

Learn more about Ohio FFA Career Development Event opportunities here: <https://ohioffa.org/cde/>



PLYMOUTH FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA (FFA) students and coaches prepare for spring CDEs.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS MT. VERNON EIGHTH GRADE OCC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
LADY LEX WINS 24-20 · JANUARY 29 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**MADISON VS NEW PHILADELPHIA EIGHTH GRADE OCC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
JANUARY 29 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER**



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS TIFFIN COLUMBIAN VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL · JAN. 30 PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS TIFFIN COLUMBIAN JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL · JAN. 30
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS RIVER VALLEY SEVENTH GRADE BASKETBALL MOAC TOURNAMENT
FEBRUARY 3 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS GALION SEVENTH GRADE BASKETBALL MOAC TOURNAMENT FEBRUARY 3 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Lexington goes up against Gahanna-Lincoln at Battle Series Holiday Tournament At Ohio Dominican College

Photo and Article By Kris Leiter

The weather was chilly outside on the campus of Ohio Dominican College, as they were hosting a Holiday Showcase High school tournament called the "Battle Series" Holiday Tournament.

If you love high school hoops, there was a mere 19 games played in three days, Jan 13-15.

The unique thing about holiday tournaments is that you will see teams that are from various places around the state that you wouldn't normally see, and even some from out of state. The format isn't the norm, as in a typical tournament. In this case, you play one team and then you are done for the weekend. You can definitely get your fill of the hardwood hoops—it's just a nice mix.

The nice thing is that all the stats are online as well.

As in sports, undefeated teams tend to have a target on their back. As for the Lexington Minutemen and head coach Scott Hamilton, they seem to be handling the status quite well.

They were going to "battle" against the Gahanna-Lincoln Lions.

Gahanna was coming into the contest at 8-5, but they also play some very competitive opponents in and around the Columbus area.



Lexington's Gavin Husty (11) and Elijah Hudson (21)

Would the Minutemen remain undefeated and grab their 15th victory or would the Lions put a blemish in the loss column?

With phenoms like Braden Fogle and Seven Allen usually putting a good number of points on the scoreboard, things looked good.

As the first quarter commenced, the Minutemen were getting things warmed up, and within minutes, they notched the score with a 12-5 lead.

As the clock ticked away in the first quarter, the Lions weren't too far behind.

In basketball, scoring streaks throughout the game are common, especially when you do the scoring, however, those pesky Lions would go on a 7-0 scoring streak and by 1:20, the Lions locked things up 12-12!

However, the Minutemen did not come to the party empty-handed and as seconds were left in the quarter, Minuteman Dantrell Hughes flipped the script for the lead and dropped two points in the hat, closing out the first quarter with Lexington on top 14-12.

Quarter number two would begin with fireworks for Big Lex and who doesn't like a dunk to open the quarter?

Who other than Brayden Fogle continued to keep the heat going to keep the crowd entertained and Lex on top 16-12.

As both teams continued the "see-saw" battle of scoring with Fogle collecting four more points and Elijah Hudson throwing his name in the hat as well with two points and a 3-pointer at 1:55. The more the merrier!

By the time the halftime horn sounded, Lex was king of the hill at 28-25. It was a good first half for Lex, however Gahanna was not going away anytime soon.

As the third quarter kicked-off, so would another dunk, but Lexington's Hudson wanted to share the fun with a dunk as well at 7:40.

As the quarter continued, so would two more lead changes. The battle continued and halfway through the third quarter, Gahanna took the lead, 31-30.

Lexington needed to regroup and Scott Hamilton probably needed to catch his breath and find some Lion repellent! The Lions were tough, no doubt about it.

As the minutes would run, so would Fogle's hot scoring hand as he dropped six more points with the help of Latrell Hughes with four points.

At the end of three quarters, the Lions would be back on the hill at 41-40. A good three quarters for sure, but what would the fourth quarter bring? What bag of tricks did Scott Hamilton bring to Columbus?

The fourth quarter brought some big free throws by the household names of Fogle and Allen, almost sounding like a law firm.

At 6:24, with Lex trailing 41-40, Fogle sank his first of two free throws, knotting things up at 41-41! However, Gahanna would say no way! They dropped a three to topple the domino and jump back on top 44-41.

Gahanna continued to drop another six points in the next minutes, bringing the score to 50-44 at 3:40 remaining. Lex needed points and time was running low!

The Lions were holding a 6-point lead, with minutes remaining, Lex had to foul to stop the clock, and they did.

Gahanna took advantage and dropped three more points on top of the lead already and as the seconds ticked down, The Lions would have the lead 55-46 at 1:25 left.

The Lions watched the clock and, with ball in hand, they handed Lex their first loss of the campaign.

All was not lost, as it was one electric game with dunks and just a good overall game between two well-coached teams.

Leading scorers for Lexington were Brayden Fogle in double figures with 23 points, 6 rebounds and a blocked shot and Seven Allen, also in double figures with 14 points and five rebounds. Elijah Hudson came in with seven points as well.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS MT. VERNON EIGHTH GRADE GIRLS OCC CHAMPIONSHIP · JAN. 31
LADY RAMS WIN 30-20 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights



ONTARIO GIRLS BASKETBALL coach Tracy Baxter speaks to her players during the River Valley game.

Ontario varsity girls fall to foe of River Valley Vikings

Photo and Article By Kris Leiter

As the River Valley Viking girls rolled into Ontario on Jan. 11, they brought with them many gifts. Unfortunately, they were gift baskets — tallying 48 points on the scoreboard.

As things were getting started in the first quarter and at 4:40 in the, the Vikings were striking and leading 4-2.

At 4:08, Ontario struck back with sophomore, 6' 0" Paradise Peru sinking the front end of two free throws and were then within one point at 4-3, River Valley leading.

The Warriors committed five fouls in the next few minutes, allowing the Lady Vikings to capitalize and go on an 8-0 scoring run.

At the end of the first quarter, the Vikings were spreading the net even further with an 11-3 lead.

The second quarter would have the Vikings with even more of a gust, going on another scoring run of 10-0. The lead at 4:35 would have the Vikings sailing with an 18-3 lead.

It was time for the Warriors to bring something to the party, and at 3:05 in the second quarter, junior, 5' 5", Kennedy Weller dumped in a two-pointer, making it 21-5.

The teams continued to trade baskets in the next few minutes and at 1:15, it would be Lady Warrior Weller again with two points, 23-7, Vikings, ending the second quarter.

The third quarter, the Warriors would warm up and senior, 5' 3" Ka'Mashya Shaw threw a few buckets into the mix with back-to-back tallies at 6:10 and 5:15 on the clock.

The Vikings weren't done yet, as they would round out the third quarter with a 35-19 lead.

The fourth quarter, the Warriors could only muster up 10 points and the Vikings scored 13, closing the game 48-29.

Leading scorers for the Lady Warriors were Ka'Mashya with 9 points as well as Eden Howard with 6 tallies and Kennedy Weller with 5 points.

St. Peter's tumbles against strong Loudonville Redbirds

By Kris Leiter

The St. Peter's Spartans Boys rolled into Loudonville Redbird territory on a chilly Friday evening on Jan. 12. As in most cases, it's never easy to win on the road, especially in the "Cage" of the Redbirds.

As the first quarter commenced, so did the Redbird points as Loudonville went on a 19-4 scoring run as the first quarter ceased. St. Peter's put four points in the bucket with junior Antonio Lindsay.

As the second quarter began, Lindsay would start the party with another two points, and at 7:10, it would be 19-6.

At 3:30, another two points came from Spartan Sidiki Sissoko, making it 30-14, Redbirds.

As the next few minutes ticked by, the Spartan scoring got warmed up as the Spartan youth contributed to the mix with freshman Jaydon Fultz dropping five points; a BIG 3-pointer at 1:20 and two more tallies at :10 seconds on the clock.

As the sound of the halftime buzzer, the Redbirds lead 40-19.

Starting the third quarter, the Spartans continued to keep the ball in the hoop as Markeis Johnson sank two, and Lindsay brought more gifts to the party by dropping two points at 4:07 to keep the score at 53-25.

At halfway through the third quarter, another freshman Jaxen Haynes hit a field goal and BIG 3-pointer at 2:25 to add five points for his docket.

As the quarter was winding down, it would again be Sissoko, adding to the team total with two points, 62-32, the Spartans trailing by 30 points.

As the fourth quarter would arise, Lindsay would drop both free throws to up the Spartan score 67-37, the Redbirds still holding at a 30-point spread.

As the fourth quarter hit halfway, the Redbirds were relentless and held a comfortable 30-point lead for most of the fourth quarter.

As the horn sounded, the Birds hit another 3-pointer at :40 seconds left, closing out the finale at 77-44.

Leading scorers for St. Peters in double figures were Antonio Lindsay with 16 points and Sidiko Sissoko with 10 points as well.

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FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Ashland Eagles, Findlay Oilers fight to 94-86 AU win

Photos and Article By Kris Leiter

Remember that nice little cold snap of weather we had recently? Ohhh, I do recall vividly. I traveled across interstate 30 west toward the town of Findlay, where grew up.

It's just a nice sized community that hosts some great sports teams, and especially this year, as the Findlay Trojans boys basketball team is doing extremely, as is the University of Findlay Oilers team.

One great thing about basketball season is that it's nice and toasty warm in a gymnasium. I finally had an opportunity to take in an Ashland University men's game on Jan. 13, as they traveled to the University of Findlay's Croy Gymnasium.

This matchup was the 100th time that these two teams have battled it out on the hardwood over the years. The Oilers hold the edge with 66 wins in the record book, an incredible rivalry by two great Division II college teams. However, ironically, in the last 10 meetings, the two teams are deadlocked at 5-5!

Would the Ashland Eagles put a 34th win in the rivalry column? They were playing on the road, and that's always a challenge.

Let's not forget about Oiler Head Coach Charlie Ernst, who I had a chance to chat with earlier in the week.

He has been manning the ship for the Oiler's men's team for the past 13 seasons with an incredible 266-101 record.

He has also been a part of the Oilers coaching staff even back when previous coach Ron Niekamp was leading the team.

John Ellenwood and his Eagles come in with a very respectable record of 10-4!

As with any rivalry, the records usually take a back seat and the emotions and intensity usually lead, and that it did!

As the first quarter opened, both teams played a patient half court offense, with both teams waiting for the best shot, like a methodical game of chess. As baskets were traded back and forth, Findlay took a slight lead, 14-12.

However, the Eagles didn't travel an hour just for social hour and they were just getting warmed up.

At the 14:40 mark, Javin Etzler dropped a big 3-pointer to put the Eagles back on top 15-14.

Let's bring in Eagle Ethan Conley at the 14:54 mark to drop another

3-point bomb on the Oilers, upping the game 18-14!

The Eagles were getting hotter and soaring as Eagles do, and kept the Oilers just in the rear view mirror as they would went on a 16-14 run, and at 7:01 they would be leading the contest 34-28.

As the tussles kept tussling, the Oilers continued to let the Eagles know they were still present and not going away easily.

At the 6:20 mark, the Oilers were getting greedy now, dropping 10 points in the next two minutes!

At 4:15 on the first half clock, the Oilers dropped a field goal and came within two points at 36-35!

How about another basket say-ith the Oilers? Another two points and the Oilers have tied up the game at 38-38!

As the minutes were winding down and with under three minutes in the first half, the volleys continued.

Alas! How about catching your breath? As the first half of this intense, exciting game would come to rest, the Eagles held the lead 48-43.

As the second half clock commenced, the battle of baskets, lead changes and ties continued.

Findlay started closing the gap and put some heat on the Eagles, and at 18:15, the Oilers would dropped a BIG 3-bomb by Oiler Joey Edmonds. The game was knotted 52-52! When they say you have to be there, it's true. The crowd was rocking!

It was Ashland's turn and Maceo Williams wasn't going to let the Eagles down as he toppled the domino and the Oilers lead with a 2-pointer, putting the Eagles back on top, 54-52!

The teams would continue to battle through another tie and two more lead changes and at 14:10, Eagle Trevell Adams put two more on the board, giving the Eagles the lead and a 61-60 lead!

The 14:10 time on the clock was monumental, as that would be the last time the Oilers would gain the lead. I'm sure If John Ellenwood would have known that ahead of time, he could have breathed a lot easier. But this is what makes great games and great rivalries!

The Oilers continued to stay on course and would not let the Eagles gain more than a 7-point lead and would bring the score within two points 86-84 at the 1:45 mark.

As the final horn would sound, the Eagles could put win number 34 in the record books with a final score of 94-86. Hats off to the Oilers for a great effort!

Leading the Eagles scoring in double figures was Simone Wheeler with 19 points, two big three-point shots and six incredible defensive rebounds.

Also, big kudos to Maceo Williams with his contribution of nine points and Ethan Conley with seven points, four defensive rebounds and a blocked shot!



Ashland University's Maceo Williams (20)



Troy Balderson and Robin Kelly launch Congressional Digital Health Caucus

Congressman Troy Balderson (OH-12) and Congresswoman Robin Kelly (IL-2) announced the establishment of a Congressional Digital Health Caucus. The Caucus aims to inform policymakers of the rapid advancements in digital health innovation, highlighting the potential impacts on patients and the health care system, and ensuring that all Americans benefit from the transformative power of digital health tools.

The Digital Health Caucus will serve as a platform for dialogue and collaboration among experts from government, the private sector, and the health care industry. By fostering partnerships and driving informed discussions, the Caucus seeks to shape policies that support the integration of cutting-edge digital health technologies into the health care landscape.

Key Objectives of the Congressional Digital Health Caucus:

Informing Policymakers: The Caucus will play a crucial role in educating policymakers about the latest developments in digital health, providing insights into the potential benefits for patients, healthcare providers, and the broader healthcare system.

Ensuring Accessibility for All Americans: The Caucus will work to ensure that digital health tools are accessible to all Americans, irrespective of socio-economic status or geographical location.

Promoting Collaboration: The Caucus will serve as a hub for collaboration between government agencies, private sector

innovators, and healthcare professionals. By fostering partnerships, the Caucus aims to accelerate the development and adoption of digital health solutions.

Addressing Regulatory Challenges: The Caucus will advocate for policies that strike a balance between fostering innovation and ensuring patient safety and data security.

Advancing Research and Development: The Caucus will work to advance research and development in the digital health space, encouraging innovation that improves patient outcomes and health care efficiency.

“As lawmakers, we must foster innovation in health care and ensure accessibility and affordability for patients,” said Balderson. “Thanks to rapid advancements in health care technology, we can achieve all three. Congresswoman Robin Kelly and I are excited to launch the Digital Health Caucus, which will bring together Members of Congress who are passionate about improving health care outcomes and making health systems more efficient. Quality health care has too often been isolated to areas around bigger cities, limiting access for rural Americans. Digital health care can finally close the urban-rural divide and make quality care available to all, regardless of zip code.”

“From telehealth visits to virtual treatment monitoring, digital technology is transforming medicine and improving prevention and treatment options at a rapid pace. I’m proud to co-chair the bipartisan Digital Health

Caucus with Congressman Troy Balderson to identify innovative applications for digital technology in healthcare,” said Kelly. “The Digital Health Caucus will work to ensure that historically marginalized communities have equal access to these groundbreaking advancements. By incorporating the responsible use of technology into our caring systems, patients will be able to access ever-growing possibilities for treatment and prevention.”

“I’d like to thank Representatives Balderson and Kelly for their leadership in forming the Congressional Digital Health Caucus. We know getting things done on the Hill isn’t always easy. But this is a bipartisan priority, and the Digital Health Caucus will address issues we should all get behind: helping Americans access and afford quality health care – and helping the American tech companies and other innovators leading the way in this space. That means public policies that support health innovation,” said Gary Shapiro, President and CEO of the Consumer Technology Association.

Digital health care has been particularly impactful in rural parts of Ohio. Away from urban and metropolitan areas, access to affordable, quality health care can be a challenge. This is particularly true for older patients, who may have issues getting to and from their appointments. Digital health technology can finally bridge this gap and bring medical care from the doctor’s office to the patient’s home.

CLASSIFIEDS

SEEKING DESIGN SERVICES

The Ontario Local School District Board of Education is seeking the professional design services for its project consisting of the construction of a softball field and creating an interior cosmetic design plan for current buildings. Firms interested in submitting a statement of qualifications may obtain additional instructions for doing so by emailing Keith Strickler, superintendent at strickler.keith@olsohio.org or by going to the District website at <https://www.ontarioschools.org>. Statements of Qualification are due on Feb. 19, 2024 at 4 pm.

Keith Strickler
Ontario Local Schools
City of Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 2-8, 15 -24) 19L

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:

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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 to complete a pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of the appointment.

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