



TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com

02.22.24



Photos By Jeff Hoffer

GORMAN NATURE CENTER held a Family Friendly Bird Day entitled "A Bird in the Hand" with Steve McKee on Feb. 17. McKee caught wild birds at the Gorman Nature Center and applied numbered metal bands to their legs as he presented a program to all ages.

Ellen Heinz named new president and CEO of Richland Area Chamber

The Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development and Richland Community Development Group (RCDG) has announced the selection of Ellen Heinz as the next President & CEO.

This appointment follows a thorough search facilitated by the Chamber's board and a selection committee led by Kristine Lindeman, vice president of Alumni Roofing and Jake Penwell, president of Shelby CIC/owner of Penwell Funeral Home.

Heinz, currently serving as Ohio Economic Development Representative at the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, brings a wealth of experience in economic development, collaboration, and community engagement. In her current role, she has excelled as the point for Ohio, earning national recognition for superior federal service.

Heinz's extensive background includes roles such as Vice President of Corporate Development at Norweco and Safety Service Director for the City of Norwalk. Her diverse experiences range from launching talent development programs and innovative business initiatives to managing public safety services.

"We are excited to welcome Ellen to the executive leadership role of President/CEO of our organization. Ellen's passion for Richland County stems from having lived and worked here previously. She is relationship-driven, and we are confident this will accelerate her ability to reconnect while establishing new relationships. It has been a pleasure to be a part of the hiring process, and we are looking forward to introducing Ellen to our Richland County communities," commented Kristine Lindeman, Richland Area Chamber Board Chair.

"We are excited to welcome Ellen Heinz to lead the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development. Her track record of success, particularly in attracting investments and fostering community partnerships, aligns seamlessly with our goals for the future," expressed Jake Penwell, RCDG Board Chair.

The Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development and RCDG are the leading business advocacy and economic development organizations in North Central Ohio. With over 1,000 members, the Chamber supports business growth and building a business-friendly climate in the Richland County area.

"I'm very excited to join the Richland Area Chamber team! I couldn't ask for a better region of businesses, board members, team members, political leaders, community organizations, and citizens to work with and serve in my new role."

"I look forward to working together with all of these wonderful stakeholders to bring about additional positive results, building on the success and collaboration currently taking place in the Richland area."

"I am extremely thankful to have worked for the U.S. Economic Development Administration's Chicago Regional Office for the last three years."

"Effective leadership and colleagues have helped me grow as a professional and as a person and will add to what I bring into this exceptional role," replied Ellen Heinz, M.Ed., OhioCED.

For more information about the Richland Area Chamber visit www.richlandareachamber.com.



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



Casey

Casey is a four-year-old male who has been at the shelter since Feb. 23, 2023.

Casey is incredibly sweet and affectionate. He is also very playful and loves running. He seems to be potty trained and almost always uses the restroom outside.

Casey absolutely loves going on walks. He can sometimes be a little intimidating on a leash, because he pulls hard. Casey also likes to walk himself and play tug of war with his leash. It can be a little scary when he jumps up to get it, but once you under-

stand he's playing, it's understandable.

Poor Casey has been in a kennel for one year this week — of course he wants to play! Casey is incredibly smart and will drop the leash and sit the second he sees a treat. Casey wants to be good, he just needs someone to show him how! Come meet Casey!

Those interested in meeting any dog can contact or visit the Richland County Dog Warden's Office and Shelter, 810 N. Home Rd., Mansfield. 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.

THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER
— By Ian Stumbo —

The most enjoyable thing about my experience seeing *Madame Web* was eating the popcorn I ordered before the movie.

One would think with Marvel having a not so stellar 2023 that the studios (and Sony in particular) would try to make up for that instead of putting out another cookie cutter comic book movie. Needless to say, they failed on all counts.

Marvel collaborates with Sony, who owns the Spider-Man franchise, and those films have been good to great, though the spin offs have not been as well received.

Enter Dakota Johnson as Cassandra Webb, a NYC paramedic who has no personality and no empathy. Wow, what great qualifications.

A child of a victim hands her a picture he drew, and she does not know what to do with it. Her partner, played by Adam Scott, is more likable and he is supposed to connect to the Spider-Man universe though every Spider-Man reference in this movie is hidden so it's hard to decipher anything.

After a near fatal crash, Cassandra develops the ability to see into the future. She encounters a man from her mother's past named Ezekiel (Tahar Rahim) who is about to abduct three girls from a train.

Cassandra intercepts as she tries to protect the girls, defeat Ezekiel and find out more about her mother's past as an explorer who found a rare spider in the Amazon.

There is so much wrong with this movie. First, there are virtually no action sequences in a superhero movie, the one at the end is lackluster at best.

The script is awful. It felt like it was written by high schoolers

with a limited vocabulary (I personally was shocked to see there were four writers listed).

The three girls who are cast are not that bad, Sydney Sweeney's character is the best, though we know virtually nothing about them. One is shy, one is nerdy and into math and one is rebellious. It feels like every movie that has been done before and nothing stands out.

Dakota Johnson is fine doing what she is given though she is so uncharismatic it's hard to even enjoy her character.

Also, with her being able to see into the future, it gives away huge plot points of the movie. It felt like there was nothing to enjoy with the coming scenes because the audience had already seen it.

With the failure of *Morbius* and the good and bad of the *Venom* movies, it's mind boggling why Sony would release this without taking more time to get it right. The villain of Ezekiel is one of the worst in modern memory.

Also, the movie takes place in 2003 and the filmmakers take great pains to make sure the audience knows that by Pepsi being an obvious sponsor and showing a Beyonce album cover, a Blockbuster video and having Cassandra mention she is going to watch *American Idol*. Nothing felt genuine, everything felt wedged in.

Madame Web is everything a superhero movie should not be. Lazy script, mildly bad performances, lackluster action and not memorable at all. I, personally, cannot ever see myself watching this again.



Commissioners release video

The Richland County Board of Commissioners have released the State of the County video. This video highlights the 2023 year in review and includes presentations from Richland County Commissioners Darrell Banks, Tony Vero and Cliff Mears, as well as Richland County Administrator Andrew Keller and Sheriff Steve Sheldon.

The video is the second installment in a series of three Richland County branding videos and shines a spotlight on many of the county's notable projects, community investments and the county's financial position. The commissioners plan to release a State of the County video on an annual basis as a part of the board's emphasis on transparency and local government accountability.

The video can be viewed at https://youtu.be/_VKBo5wPkpY

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Madison, Mifflin, Springfield, Troy, Washington and Jefferson Townships*

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News Briefs

Paul Lintern will present a 90-minute concert of "Altered" songs as a prelude to the Sixth Annual March of Prayer series of worship services, Thursday, Feb. 29, at 6 pm at Southside Christian Church, 2055 Middle-Bellville, Mansfield.

These songs reflect nearly 50 years of performing popular songs with lyrics adjusted to embrace faith in Jesus Christ. The mix of holy humor has been a hallmark for Lintern. The concert is free and open to all, and will kick-off the 31 evenings of prayer service that will begin the next night and continue until Easter Sunday.

Songs will include altered selections from Billy Joel, Elvis, Smokey Robinson, Woody Guthrie, The Beach Boys, Glenn Miller, The Drifters, Harry Chapin and Frank Sinatra.



The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. announces a change of date for the February 2024 Advisory Council meeting from Feb. 28 to March 6. For additional information contact Susan at smontgomery@aaa5ohio.org or 567-247-6458.



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.



First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Ave. West, Mansfield, offers senior boxes on the fourth Tuesday of each month, year 'round.

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank has a program called "Senior Boxes" whereby anyone 60+ who falls in the "low income" guidelines can register and then pick up a 30 pound box of non-perishables including two pounds of cheese and a 15 pound box of pre-packaged produce.

Age is a qualification, so those attending should bring a current identification card complete with date of birth and proof of income. Distribution is on the east side of the building between 10:30 am and 12:30 pm to get registered and pick up a box. (Please note time change). There is no cost. Call 419-522-0662 for more information. The next distribution date is Feb. 27.



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. 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 March 20, and will include roast beef. The Fun Center Chordsmen will perform. Those attending are asked to wear green.

The group will also meet March 6, for lunch at 11 am at Outback Steakhouse in Ontario.

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.


(Continued on Page 5)



**Let's Walk Together on
February 24th**



cnoy.com/register




cnoy.com/donate

**75 N Main St
Mansfield, OH 44903
Richland Carrousel Park**

- 4:00 pm: Meet Check-in + Welcome
- 5:00 pm: Move Send-off
- 6:00 pm: Munch Light meal served
- 7:00 pm: Mosey Goodbye + see you in 2025!

Please consider donating, walking or volunteering to help support local charities!

cnoy.com/location/mansfield



17%
Raised: \$7,540
Goal: \$42,422

Mansfield
Hosted by Wayfinders Ohio

40 11 8 8
walkers teams volunteers days left

**got
volunteer
questions?**
Read more about
volunteering
in CNOY

The **Coldest Night of the Year** is a winterrific family-friendly walk in support of local charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness. Join us on **February 24, 2024** - team up, fundraise, walk, and take a moment to look closer... because it's cold out there.

Foundation funds new program to meet workforce needs

The Richland County Foundation Board of Trustees approved grants totaling \$3,245,810 during its February meeting. Competitive, field of interest and donor-advised fund grants approved by the board included the following grants.

Catholic Charities received a grant to provide community emergency and adult advocacy services. Nearly one in four households in Mansfield and over 13% in Richland County live at or below the poverty level in Richland County with 21% of Richland County renters are severely cost-burdened paying over 50% of their income for rent and utilities.

Mid-Ohio Guardianship received a grant to advocate for indigent people in our community who might be suffering from dementia, mental health, and/or developmental disabilities. They provide legal and financial assistance along with help on day-to-day matters.

North Central State College Foundation received a grant to fund a new Integrated Digital Automation Systems program. It will address the training needs of the current and future workforce with training in work-based robotic equipment.

OhioHealth Foundation was awarded a grant to purchase new cameras to assist with their Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program. The equipment will allow nurses to document evidence of

sexual assault or domestic violence, as well as aid in the identification of possible labor/human trafficking victims.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio received a grant for its Helping Hands program. The grant will offset the cost to house Richland County families at the Ronald McDonald House while they care for their hospitalized children.

The Board of Trustees approved grants from donor-advised funds which allows individuals, families, and corporations the opportunity to make grant suggestions to their favorite charities. Donor-advised funds are a flexible and convenient alternative to a private foundation. It is also a way to keep charitable contributions anonymous, at the preference of the donor.

The following organizations received grants from donor-advised funds: Altrusa Club of Mansfield, Ohio, Foundation, Inc., Buckeye Council Boy Scouts of America, Crawford County United Way, Galion Community Center - YMCA, Heartwood, Highlands Nature Sanctuary, Idea Works, Killbuck Water Shed Land Trust, Knox County Community Foundation, Lucas Local Schools, Make A Wish Foundation, Mansfield Art Center, Mansfield Rotary Club Foundation, Mid-Ohio Guardianship, Nature Conservancy, North End

(Continued on Page 9)

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)

★
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 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.

★
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.

★
All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Rev. Elaine Strawn to speak on "Falling in Love with Christian Cooper" at 10:30 am on Sunday Feb. 25. For more information visit www.allsoulsuuohio.org.

★
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_MhGbYTkJxjp1G1Q-1Yk51npySFnU9IORAqgDMX_RlAt3sFhCnBbaO8g.

★
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 also outside, weather depending.

There will also be food available from a food and donut truck. Email deniseflores7423@gmail.com for more information.

★
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.

★
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.

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

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

WILL BE THE LAST DAY FOR PAYMENT OF **FIRST HALF 2023** REAL ESTATE TAX WITHOUT PENALTY AND INTEREST

The County Treasurer is not legally responsible for your failure to receive proper bills — Sec. 323.13 R.C. Failure to receive a tax bill does not void interest and penalty — Sec. 323.08.

The following financial institutions and their branches are authorized agencies for receiving **FIRST HALF 2023** real estate tax payments.

MECHANICS SAVINGS BANK
CIVISTA BANK, SHELBY, OHIO
Night Depository at Treasurer's Office

BART W. HAMILTON
RICHLAND COUNTY TREASURER

PHONE 419-774-5622
Office Hours: 8 am to 4 pm MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

- Margaret Joyce Keener, February 4
 - Robert Dale Brady, February 10
 - Martha Pauline Cardwell, February 10
 - Frederick "Fred" E. Foster Jr., February 11
 - Nancy Jeanne Lobring, February 11
 - Josephine Louise Wellington, February 13
- View Full Obituaries at www.dignitymemorial.com

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 - Ontario • 100 S. Lexington-Springmill Rd. • 419-529-2323
 - Ashland • 308 Claremont Avenue • 419-289-1552

www.wappner.com

Group will attend conference to bolster Mansfield Rising Plan

A group of ten people is heading to the South by Southwest Conference (SXSW) in Austin, TX in March to bolster the Mansfield Rising Plan.

"We have an opportunity through an anonymous donor to send another cohort to SXSW. The goal is to strengthen and enhance the current Mansfield Rising team and plan," said Richland County Foundation Senior Community Investment Officer Allie Watson.

The donor told Watson the results they've seen from the Mansfield Rising Plan are the best thing that has happened to downtown Mansfield in a very long time.

Those attending SXSW are:

Kris Beasley, an administrator at Mansfield Senior High School. He is working every day at the intersection of the city and its young adults.

Jennifer Beavis, the Mansfield Art Center Marketing Director. The MAC has shown renewed vigor and dedication to arts education and attracting top talent and shows to Mansfield.

Braxton Daniels, owner of 3rd Cup of Tea. He is an established artist in the community and is a member of the Public Art Commission.

Mario Davison, the Finance Director for the North End Community Improvement Collaborative. He joined NECIC in 2019 as a Community Organizer to work in the community he loves and grew up in.

Jessica Hiser, the Spherion Mid-Ohio Marketing and Advertising Director. She volunteers for several organizations including as a Downtown Mansfield Inc. Board Member.

Nan McCartney works downtown at K.E. McCartney & Associates as a graphic designer. She was instrumental in writing and developing a federal grant which was awarded to the City of Mansfield for the Main Street Upgrade project.

Sandy Messner, the Richland Area Chamber of Commerce-Economic Development Director of Marketing & Communications. She is a leader for the Mansfield Rising Branding Project and is a Downtown Mansfield Inc. Board Member.

Orie Rush, a small business owner/entrepreneur, musician, and visual artist. He is part of a group that is working on the Do It Yourself Skatepark at Liberty Park.

Source Media Properties CEO Jay Allred and Downtown Mansfield Inc. Executive Director Jennifer Kime, both original Mansfield Rising members, will go to SXSW to provide guidance to the team. The group will research and develop new potential projects that fit within the Mansfield Rising plan and reflect the current reality of the city's growth.

"The Mansfield Rising Plan has been an absolute honor to participate in and represent over the years. It's had a visible impact, especially downtown. Perhaps more importantly, it's developed and inspired young leaders who are shaping the future of Mansfield and Richland County.

We're so excited to welcome this new group who will join the existing team in moving the plan forward and imagining new projects to tackle," said Allred.



Nan McCartney, Sandy Messner, Jessica Hiser, Kris Beasley, Mario Davison, Orie Rush and Braxton Daniels.

As in 2018, the group headed to Austin will work to bring the community along with them. They will produce blogs about their experiences while at SXSW for publication on Richland Source and participate in a podcast interview when they return to Mansfield. Residents will be able to follow their experiences on social media as well.

In 2018, the Richland County Foundation leadership took an unusual track to develop an investment strategy for downtown Mansfield. Instead of hiring a professional consulting firm, it had a citizen-led group create the plan.

The Foundation turned regular citizens into consultants which gives depth and authenticity to the plan. It provides a road map for projects and opportunities for partnerships to continue the renaissance of Mansfield. The Foundation invested \$1.2 million to execute the Mansfield Rising Plan. To read the plan go to richlandcounty-foundation.org, click "Community Impact" then the "Mansfield Rising" tab.

The City of Mansfield was awarded many grants to help fund the updated Main Street streetscape. Investing in Main Street is a high priority action item in the Mansfield Rising Plan. The project will beautify Main Street, make it pedestrian friendly, add new sidewalks, crosswalks, lighting, waterlines, and drainage system. New brick crosswalks are designed to meet ADA requirements to improve visibility and safety.

A suspended catenary lighting system will be installed over Main Street between 4th and 5th streets and a decorative ring light will be suspended over the mid-block crossings on Park Avenue between Main and Diamond Streets.

Construction on Main Street will begin in 2025.

The city converted Diamond Street to two-way traffic in 2021 and Mulberry Street in 2019. The changes will create a more walkable downtown.

Downtown Mansfield Inc. was awarded a Foundation grant to fund the first phase of a community wayfinding project. Using the principles and guidance from the Mansfield Rising Plan, wayfinding along the Main Street corridor and throughout downtown will be incorporated. The wayfinding will integrate the new brand, highlight destinations, and promote downtown districts. It will be visually appealing and interact seamlessly with both pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

A committee worked with a marketing firm to create a brand and message for Mansfield and Richland County. The Richland Area Chamber and Economic Development and Destination Mansfield - Richland County started using the new brand in their publications and advertising. The purpose of the branding project is to weave a powerful and positive story to raise awareness about why this is a great place to live, gather, and conduct business.

The City of Mansfield in coordination with the Richland Community Development Group Art Sector created a Public Art Commission to vet projects. Public art projects were funded by various organizations with a 50% matching grant from the Richland County Foundation. Up to \$50,000 in matching funds has been made available to create art in a variety of methods, including traditional painted murals, window art, as well as temporary and permanent public art on visible walls and surfaces.

Two grant opportunities are available for downtown building owners to improve their property for residential use. The License Plate Tax has funded a Vertical Development Grant through Downtown Mansfield, Inc. that will help property owners bring buildings up to code. Many downtown buildings are unoccupied on the upper floors because the plumbing, electrical service, or stairs need an upgrade. The second grant opportunity is to incentivize downtown property owners to renovate the upper floors for apartments or condominiums.

The Downtown Mansfield, Inc. Facade Improvement Fund received additional grant funding from the Foundation and Mansfield City Council via the License Plate Fee. Building owners received matching grants to make improvements. The grants assist economic development and the rehabilitation of historic properties in downtown Mansfield.

The Richland Community Development Group received a \$25,000

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STUDENTS IN TONYA WINNINGHAM'S second grade class at Stingel Elementary at Ontario enjoyed crafts, cookies and cards on Valentine's Day. Students are (top photos) Addie, Fynn, Mason, Larkin and Will; and Jones; and (bottom photos) Graham; Juliana and Larkin.

•Group to attend conference

(Continued from Page 6)

AARP grant to create a pop-up linear park along West Third Street between Bowman and Mulberry Streets. The park called "Imagination Park on 3rd Street" was installed and up for a week in September of 2021. Various businesses and nonprofit organizations provided programming to engage and attract the public. The OhioHealth Foundation donated \$100,000 towards a permanent linear park on West Third Street. That project is in the planning phase and is seeking additional funding.

The Downtown Improvement Board (License Plate Fee Committee) approved funding for free public Wi-Fi from Central Park to the Carrousel District as the first phase. The Wi-Fi is strong and working well in the most high-traffic areas of downtown. The City of Mansfield IT Department will plan for additional phases. This is the first step towards a Smart City Plan.

The Renaissance Theatre, Mansfield-Richland County Public Library, Little Buckeye Children's Museum, and Idea + Works collaborated to show outdoor movies with funding from the Foundation.

RPH offering home visits

Richland Public Health offers free home newborn visits for Richland County parents. Parents can receive advice and guidance from a registered nurse from Public Health Nursing.

Specialized staff visits parents before a child's birth or while a baby is a newborn up to eight weeks old and provides a comprehensive assessment of the mother and baby.

The mother's health, emotions, infant feeding, sibling rivalry, community information, new roles, baby's growth and development questions are covered during the visits.

To schedule an appointment for a prenatal or newborn home visit call 419-774-4540.

RPH encourages Richland County residents to take advantage of these services that are designed to help navigate the journey ahead.

Forms can also be filled out at <https://richlandhealth.org/personal/newborn-home-visits/>



EIGHTH GRADE art students at Ontario Middle School have been learning about various artists and studying their techniques. Each student selected one artist to further research and paint two of the artist's works in the artist's style. Students created clay boxes and painted scenes which corresponded with their chosen artist. Student clay boxes will be on display in the Ontario Middle School showcases through March.

Madison students will present *Seussical Jr.* March 15, 16 and 17

The Madison Music Department will presents *Seussical Jr.* on Friday, March 15 and Saturday, March 16 at 7 pm and Sunday, March 17 at 2:30 pm at Madison Middle School, 1419 Grace St.

Tickets are available during school hours from the school cashier at the high school and at the door prior to each performance.

Cost is \$8 per adult and \$6 for students and seniors.

Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat and all of the favorite Dr. Seuss characters spring to life onstage in *Seussical Jr.*, a fantastical musical extravaganza from Tony-winners, Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty.

Transporting audiences from the Jungle of Nool to the Circus McGurkus, the Cat in the Hat narrates the story of Horton the Elephant, who discovers a speck of dust containing tiny people called the Whos.

Horton must protect the Whos from a world of naysayers and dangers, and he must also guard an abandoned egg that's been left in his care by the irresponsible Mayzie La Bird.

Although Horton faces ridicule, danger and a trial, the intrepid Gertrude McFuzz never loses faith in him. Ultimately, the powers

of friendship, loyalty, family and community are challenged and emerge triumphant!

Bringing these characters to life will be Aiden Mooneyham as The Cat in the Hat, Sophia Parsons as Horton the Elephant, Karlie Wilson as Gertrude McFuzz and Emalie Green as Mayzie La Bird.

Other *Seussical* cast members include Audrey Ward as JoJo, John Keogh VI and Lillian Christian as Mr. and Mrs. Mayor, Brandi Bowles as the Sour Kangaroo, Sanaa Davis, Bri Studer and Piper Donahue as the Bird Girls, Jacob Ford as Yertle the Turtle, Ashley Anschutz as Young kangaroo, Connor Coey, Roman Hipfl and Beckham White as the Wickersham Brothers, Carson Tatum as the Grinch and Kristian Stoots as Vlad Vladikoff.

The colorful cast of Whoville Citizens include Loren Carmel, Courtney Cyrus, Emma Finley, Ashley Gusta, Lorelai Sly, Taelyn Kirsch, Erin Johnson, Gabrielle Kline, Tori Smith and Sophia Palmer.

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•Foundation funds new program to meet workforce needs

(Continued from Page 4)

Community Improvement Collaborative, North Central Ohio Land Conservancy, Ohio Bird Sanctuary, Ohio Environmental Council, Ohio Heartland Community Action Center, Raemelton Therapeutic Equestrian Center, Richland Community Development Group, Renaissance Performing Arts, Richland Academy of the Arts, Richland Veterans Mentor Program, Rubies Women’s Group, Salvation Army, Sierra Club Foundation, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, SoundWaters, Inc, Taking Root Farms, The Ocean Conservancy, Visual Bucket List Foundation, Wayfinders Ohio and YMCA of North Central Ohio.

The board allocated grants from donor-designated and agency funds. Agency funds are established by charitable organizations and can be endowed or non-endowed. The agency benefits from the Foundation’s professional asset management, which allows the agency’s staff and board to focus on providing services to their constituents.

Designated funds provide annual support to the charities selected by the donor. They offer the added benefit that if the organization ceases to exist the Foundation has the responsibility to ensure that the donor’s original intent is met in seeking a new suitable organization.

The board approved grants from donor designated and agency funds to the following organizations: American Guernsey Foundation, American Red Cross, Ashland University, Buckeye Council Boy Scouts of America, Catalyst Life Services, Catholic Charities - Mansfield, Children’s Dyslexia Center, Children’s Theatre Foundation, Clear Fork Valley Foundation, Community Action for Capable Youth, Discovery School, Domestic Violence Shelter, Downtown Mansfield Inc., First Christian Church, Mansfield, First Congregational Church of Mansfield Ohio, Friendly House Association, Friends of Richland County Park District, Habitat for Humanity Richland County, Hospice of North Central Ohio, Kingwood Center Gardens, Lexington Local Schools, Lucas Local Schools, Malabar Farm Foundation, Mansfield Richland Public Library, Mansfield 1st Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Mansfield Area Y, Mansfield Art Center, Mansfield Aviation Club, Mansfield Cancer Foundation, Mansfield Christian

School, Mansfield City Schools, Mansfield Memorial Homes, Mansfield Playhouse, Mansfield Police Department, Mansfield Reformatory Preservation Society, Mansfield Rotary Club Foundation, Inc., Mansfield/Richland Public Library, Methodist Theological Seminary, North Central Ohio Alzheimer’s Association, North Central Ohio Land Conservancy, North Central State College, North Central State College Foundation, North End Community Improvement Collaborative, Ohio Bird Sanctuary, Ohio Genealogical Society, Ohio-Health Foundation, OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital, Ohio State College of Medicine, Ohio State University – Mansfield, Ontario Local Schools, Ontario Police Department, Pioneer Career and Technology Center, Plymouth Area Historical Museum, Renaissance Performing Arts Association, Richland Academy of the Arts, Richland Carrousel Park, Richland Community Development Group, Richland County Children Services, Richland County Childrens Services – The New Store, Richland Community Development Group, Richland County Historical Society, Richland County Museum, Richland County Sheriff’s Office, Richland Newhope Center, Richland Newhope Industries, Richland Pregnancy Services, Salvation Army, Shelby Helpline Ministries, St. John’s Church, Third Street Family Health Services, Trapshooting Hall of Fame Inc., United Way of Richland County, University Club Foundation, Volunteers of America, Wayfinders Ohio, Y Aware and YMCA of North Central Ohio.

Other grants went to Grace Episcopal Church, Knox Technical Center, Madison Adult Career Center, Mansfield Richland County Third Grade Spelling Bee, North Central State College, Pioneer Career and Technology Center, Tiffin Academy of Hair Design and YWCA.

The Richland County Foundation, a not-for-profit 501c3, was established in 1945 as a way for individuals to pool and invest their gifts for the long-term good of Richland County and its residents.

The Foundation helps people in Richland County give back to their community by investing their gifts for charity wisely so that grants can be made to improve the quality of life for all the county’s citizens. Collaborating with donors, the Foundation meets important needs today and plans for a strong future.



ONTARIO PRESCHOOL students had a special Valentine’s Day celebration last week with crafts and fun.



STUDENTS IN Tonya Winningham's second grade class at Ontario Stingel Elementary recently completed a five-week Junior Achievement program about the community and jobs with volunteer Christine Gfrer from Warren Rupp. Gfrer taught students about how businesses in the community all work together. She also taught about money and wants versus needs. Students enjoyed learning more about their community and especially enjoyed the volunteer teaching them. Gfrer brought them each a cup and pen when they received their certificate of completion.

News Briefs in Education

More than 1,300 students were named to the President's List at Coastal Carolina University for the Fall 2023 semester, including Lucy Bond, from Mansfield. Students who made the President's List have achieved a 4.0 grade point average during the semester.

Coastal Carolina University is located just minutes from the resort area of Myrtle Beach, S.C.

★
Knox County Career Center (KCCC) students in the Building Trades and Metal Fabrication & Welding programs received Lift Training recently. Students received the following certifications: Class 7 All-Terrain Forklift, Boom-Elevated Platform, Towable Lift, and Self-Propelled Elevated Platforms.

Lift training is done yearly at KCCC. Sunbelt Rentals and Holmes Rental donate all the equipment that is used for the training.

"Even with a shortage of skilled tradespeople, the industry demands highly trained workers. KCCC continues to consistently provide high-quality, skilled tradespeople through the support of our local businesses," said Colby Clippinger, Building Trades instructor at KCCC.

★
The Board of Directors of Samaritan Hospital Foundation will offer scholastic awards to persons residing in Ashland County or OH

Samaritan Medical Center employees or immediate family members. To be eligible, applicants must be currently enrolled or accepted in an accredited program in the areas of nursing, medicine or allied medical studies.

Completed applications must be returned with appropriate grade transcripts by April 19, 2024, to the Samaritan Hospital Foundation, Attn: Mona Campbell, at 663 East Main Street in Ashland, Ohio.

Scholastic Award applications for the 2024-'25 academic year are available at www.samaritanhospitalfoundation.org and at University Hospitals Samaritan Medical Center, 1025 Center Street, Ashland, Ohio, at the main lobby reception desk.

Applications are also available at Samaritan Hospital Foundation at 663 E. Main St., Ashland, or by contacting the Foundation office at 419-207-7900. Recipients will be notified in late May.

★
Ontario will host a Senior Citizen Paint & Mingle free community event for local senior citizens on Saturday, Feb. 24, in the Ontario Middle School commons, beginning at 2 pm.

The event is limited to 35 people and includes free snacks and drinks provided by Ontario Community Events Family Engagement Committee.

RSVP to 740-974-9133 or hiner.amy@olsohio.org.



MADISON LOCAL SCHOOLS hosted the Mansfield-Richland County Third Grade Spelling Bee on Feb. 12, at Madison Middle School. Participating schools included Eastview Elementary (Madison), Madison South, Saint Mary of the Snows Catholic School, St. Peter's Elementary, Richland School of Academic Arts and Stingel Elementary (Ontario). The top three winners were from Ontario Stingel Elementary. This was the eighth annual bee and Madison's third year as host. Linda Burrage is the spelling bee coordinator. Pictured are front, Evelyn Lee, first place; Kai Grassick, second place; and Margot Bibble, third place; and back, Ginny Corso, judge; Beth Owens, judge; Natasha Jolin, teacher; Winston Greene, pronouncer; and Marilyn Wheaton, judge.

Breakfast planned Saturday in Shelby

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.

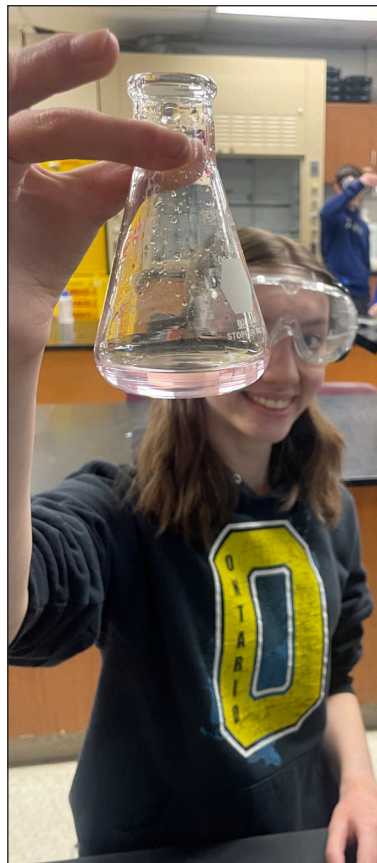
The free-will donation meal includes pancakes, fresh whole hog sausage, eggs, orange juice, milk and coffee.

Money donated at the breakfast goes to food pantries in Richland County, in honor of FFA chapters. No reservations are needed.

The breakfast has donated nearly \$19,000 to area food banks and the Harmony House in the past 16 years.

Follow Richland County Farm Bureau on Facebook and bookmark richland.ofbf.org for details on events and programs throughout the year.

Ohio Farm Bureau's mission is working together for Ohio farmers to advance agriculture and strengthen our communities. Learn more at ohiofarmbureau.org.



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL chemistry students determined the concentration of acid in vinegar via a technique called titration.



ONTARIO FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS visited Ontario Senior Point to do Valentine's Day crafts with the residents. The students enjoyed their time as much as the residents. The Kindness Club began in the fall and students decided they wanted to give back to the community during this school year.



THE ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY CLASSES at Ontario High School had two guest speakers from OhioHealth. They came to talk with students about brain and spine trauma, the nursing/medical profession and answer questions the students had. Tammy McChristy-Weaver and Emily Keller shared their love for their profession and gave advice to students thinking about the medical field.



Saskatchewan, Canada • Photo By Mark Shutt

Hymnsing returns March 1

It's time for the new season of the Mansfield Area Community Hymnsing with the first being held Friday, March 1, at 7 pm at New Liberty Baptist Church, Lexington Ave., Lexington (located a half mile south of Hanley Rd).

This is an audience participation event, where the congregation calls out the hymn number from the hymnals and everyone joins in to sing them. It is an evening of singing the older hymns of the church.

The event is free and open to all.

Several of these events will be moved to the second Friday of the month because of schedule conflicts.

Watch the *Tribune* for more information on these schedule changes.

Lexington resident concerned about speeders on Fox Road

The Village of Lexington Council meeting was held Feb. 5. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bob Jarvis.

Council members attending were Keith Bacin, Adam Gongwer, Aaron Hoptry, Kim Little, Jeff O'Brien and Todd Wise. Also attending were Attorney John Studenmund, Chief Troy Weaver and village administrator Peter Them.

Charles Comstock of Essex Road asked council to fill the very large potholes riddling Community Park. Comstock suggested using Park Levy funds for the repairs. Mayor Jarvis noted the park is in the flood plain. The mayor also noted that it is winter; the season not to do maintenance.

If the village blacktops the parking area, it eventually washes away from all the wear and tear of constant flooding. Mayor Jarvis noted that the park levy monies are used for playground equipment and other items, but it will be evaluated by the Parks Department. Comstock said it is a problem that has been ongoing for several years and needs attention.

Mike Mitchell of Fox Road requested more police patrol. Over the last few years, the traffic has increased on Fox Road. The posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour. There are no sidewalks on Fox Road and many pedestrians use the street, especially when there is snow on the ground.

Mitchell has noted between the hours of 7 and 9 am and 4 and 6 pm, the drivers are in a hurry, speeding on Fox Road. Mitchell asked if it is possible to have more police patrol and/or radar sign installed on the street. Chief Weaver said a radar sign will necessitate to install on personal property. Chief Weaver will review locations.

Finance director Peter Them reported that the 2023 books have been reconciled. There were no issues. The Hinkle system filing has started. He reported that Wendy Baney was hired to work in the income tax department.

A dead tree was reported at 83 Plymouth St. Woody's tree service has removed it.

It was proposed that Andrew Smallstey be hired as a consultant at an hourly rate and on an "as needed basis" at a rate of \$100 per hour. President Gongwer asked if there is a time limit to Smallstey as a consultant. Them stated six to twelve months and/or eight hours a month. Expiration would be Dec. 31, 2024. Councilman Bacin asked why not just a handshake instead of written contract and Attorney Studenmund stated a written contract is necessary to justify pay for auditors and tax-payers. Attorney Studenmund indicated he could have an Ordinance for next council meeting, Feb. 19.

Councilman Bacin asked about a silver Cadillac parked at 43 Delaware; it is moss covered.

Mayor Bob Jarvis reported, "I attended a meeting in Shelby with Joe Geiss to review possible grants for the village. We have an updated version of committees and boards. We will hold a Records Retention meeting on March 18 at Sept. 16 after council."

As reported by Chief Weaver, "The Police Department has been taking several reports of streetlights out. AEP's website regarding streetlight outages has been down since last November. I have contacted AEP and they have just completed the last light reported."

"I attended a BWC meeting regarding the April 8 Solar Eclipse. Schools are closed that day and we will staff more for traffic starting Friday, April 5. We were told to expect internet and cellphone interruptions."

Councilman Bacin commended the officer who was out January 28 with a safety vest on and picking up debris that littered the street. Bacin noted it took time and effort to clean the matter up.

An ordinance was approved authorizing the administrative director to advertise for competitive bids for the resurfacing of certain village streets and declaring an emergency.

Councilman Wise commended the village at maintaining the policy of keeping all streets on schedule for resurfacing.

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Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS ASHLAND GIRLS BASKETBALL (SENIOR NIGHT) · FEB. 15
WARRIORS WIN 61-59 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

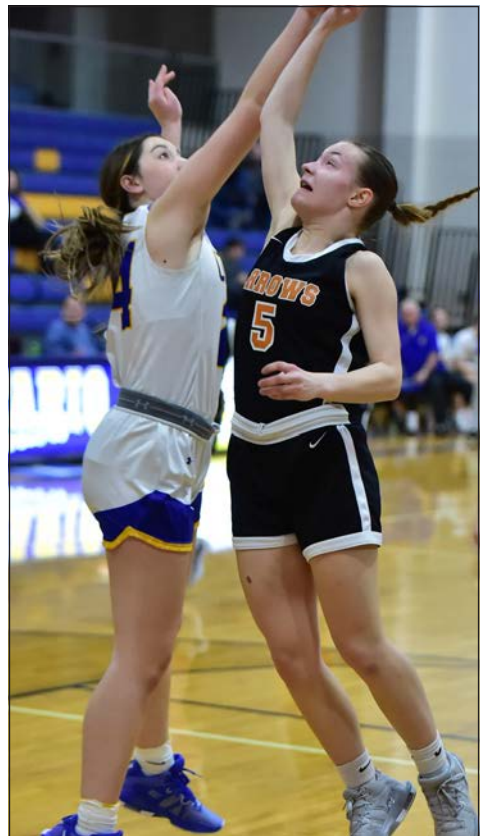
ONTARIO VS ASHLAND GIRLS BASKETBALL (SENIOR NIGHT) · FEB. 15 WARRIORS WIN 61-59 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS ASHLAND GIRLS JV BASKETBALL · FEB. 15

PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Shelby Whippets take 61-44 win over Presidents

Photos and Article By Kris Leiter

I'll admit it, sometimes I fall into the curiosity temptation of being a sportswriter...it just depends on the vibe. It may be seeing if the "underdog" will cause an upset or the curiosity of seeing two good teams battle it out. I'm sure I'm in good company with my fellow colleagues with this mindset. Sports can be like that.

I have covered a number of Shelby Whippets boys games this year, and no matter who the opponent is, they always seem to have a good matchup. This was the case on Jan 18.

Marion Harding (10-2) came to Shelby (9-2). The Presidents from Marion Harding brought some stout height with six upperclassmen including four seniors and four players ringing in from 6' 1" to 6' 7"!

This was quite a tall tale, literally! However, that's until you look at the height on the Whippet bench. Shelby clocks in with an incredible powerhouse of height with 11 upperclassmen — eight of those ranging from 6' 0" to 6' 7" comprised of eight seniors, three juniors and a Wright State candidate senior, 6' 7", Alex Bruskotter.

Let's not forget a very productive sophomore and household name in the Whippet lineup Issaiah Ramsey ringing in at 6' 3".

As the game commenced for this packed-out contest, and for almost the first two minutes, both teams jockeyed for position in their own prospective half-court offenses. Finally at 6:01, there were two blocked shots by Shelby to get the crowd pumped.

Shelby sent Marion sophomore, 6' 5" Boston Pearson to the charity stripe and he dropped both shots to break the ice, 2-0, Marion was off and running!

It didn't take long for the Whippets to return the favor as they utilized their press and the fireworks began.

At 5:45, Shelby senior 6' 5" Casey Lantz brought his housewarming gift to the party with his first two points of the game. Lantz's contribution tied the ball game 2-2! As another minute ticked by, you knew IT would happen, but didn't know quite when.

At 4:50, Bruskotter notched the scoreboard as well, and the first lead change came with a big 3-point shot to bring the tally to 5-2. Within the next minute, at 4:05, he added to the fun with another basket, making it 7-2 for the Whippets.

Shelby then went on a 9-5 scoring run through the remainder of the first quarter to take a 16-7 lead.

As quarter number two kicked-off, Marion regrouped and brought some fire power of their own.

At 7:40 and 7:25, Marion senior, 6'-5", Marquis Long brought back-to-back 2 baggers to close the Shelby gap, 16-11, with Shelby still holding the lead.

As the minutes ticked by, the Shelby lead would

again start to spread. The Whippets continued to add to the total. Bruskotter with two points at 4:35 and Lantz was back with another two points at 4:10, Shelby held a 23-13 lead, and we weren't even to the halftime mark yet!

Even though the Whippets were cruising nicely, you never want to settle into complacency, and as the clock neared the 3:00 minute mark, Shelby added more to the cushion with well-skilled sophomore Brayden Devito, adding to the total with two points, and junior, 6' 4", Karsen Homan adding his own gift of two points, bringing the score to a healthy 29-21 lead at halftime.

Halftime in any game gives both teams time to regroup and make adjustments. What would the President's bring as the second half opened? Would they close the gap?

Well, as the story goes, the third quarter would bring more of the same from the beloved Whippets, and at 7:10, Bruskotter made a nice steal!

More scoring was in store with contributions by Whippets senior, 6' 1", Bryson Baker with two tallies at 7:40, Issaiah Ramsey with two points at 7:10, as well as Lantz again, with two buckets at 6:35.

Shelby was holding a commanding third quarter lead by 12 points of 35-23 at 6:35.

The floodgate of points continued to pour in as Shelby's gap increased and the Whippets took another 14-12 scoring run into the end of three quarters, rounding things off 49-35 as the third quarter horn sounded.

As soon as the fourth quarter started, Lantz put two points on the board again, now making the score 51-35. At 6:55, Bruskotter wasn't done with his homework, and as he dropped a BIG 3-pointer making the score 54-37!

(Continued on Page 20)



Shelby's Alex Bruskotter (5) and Karsen Homan (44)



Shelby Coach Greg Galloway

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS SHELBY GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL · FEB. 13
LEXINGTON WINS 53-43 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS SHELBY GIRLS JV BASKETBALL · FEB. 13
SHELBY WINS 22-44 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MCS fire continues to blaze with 87–49 win over Cubs

Photo and Article By Kris Leiter

Just the name “The Furnace” would sound intimidating to most people, but the nickname refers to the Mansfield Christian Flames home arena. I think Coach Cary Craner and his supporting staff of coaches and players are quite fine with the label this season.

The Flames have been hotter than hot this year. It’s not just the win-loss record of 9–3, but the magnitude of the final score over their 9 wins thus far.

The Flames have been dissecting their opponents, not by a few points as you would typically expect...no, no, no. They are beating the opponents quite handedly, ranging anywhere from 14 points to an incredible 35 points and are averaging a 27-point margin of victory over their competition this year! I don’t know about you, but that’s a pretty impressive resume!

The Flames only have three losses this season. One loss came from a narrow defeat by only two points at the hands of the Lucas Cubs, which is not surprising. Both teams are loaded with talent.

The Cubs are on a roll again, with Taylor Iceman leading the Cub pack, as he has for years, and speculating another successful post season journey.

Another Flame loss, again at no surprise, was to the Crestview Cougars, which are still making a wake across the state and leaving their opponents in the rear-view mirror on the bus ride back to Ashland.

The Mapleton Mounties came into The Furnace on Jan. 19, with a nice ring of 9–2. The Mounties, have a similar win-loss column with only two losses. One loss came from those pesky “never-say-die” Crestview Cougars, manned by John Kurtz, which is no stranger to the hardwood.

The Mounties other loss was to conference foe Norwalk St. Paul.

Flames freshman D’Andre Martin was the first to drop two points at 7:40 to start the fire. Mapleton wasn’t going to sit around and watch the party without bringing some gifts.

At 7:30 and a mere 20 seconds later, at 7:10, Mapleton dropped five points, taking over the lead, 5–2 for the Mounties! If that wasn’t enough, Mapleton dropped another two points at 6:35, adding to the score, 7–2 right out of the shoot.

Things were getting warmer, but the Flames were feeling left out and needed to turn the heat back on the Mounties. Flames freshman

Davion Mack joined the fun with a BIG 3-pointer to close the gap within three points, the Mounties still leading 8–5.

The Flames were getting warmed up, and for the next minutes, Mack dropped another four points as well as teammate senior Gabe Westfield who would join in with two points at 3:05 and flip the script, the Flames were back in the lead 11–10.

The clock wound down with under a minute to play in the first quarter as the Flames held the lead 20–14. The Mounties came to play and they weren’t going away easily.

As the second quarter began, it was time for a 14–6 scoring run by the Flames, with some fiery arrows, including two steals by D’Andre Martin, four points by Amarr Davis and a sweet 3-pointer by Davis Wushinski!

Halfway through the second quarter, the Flames were holding a commanding lead of 34–20! Are you feeling the Heat?

As the quarter continued, so would the hot hand of freshman Davion Mack with another 3-pointer — now opening the lead by 17 points to 40–23. As the quarter closed, more fireworks would ensue and you can’t end the half without a BIG DUNK from Davion Mack! As the halftime horn sounded, the Flames had a healthy lead of 44–23.

The opening of the third quarter would bring more firepower and another huge scoring run of 23–14 by the Flames!

At the end of three quarters, the Flames were getting higher and hotter at 67–38.

The fourth and final quarter would continue to see the Flames show why they have only lost three games this year, as they continued to drop the rock and had two more steals by D’Andre Mack.

Remember Mack’s dunk a bit ago? Well, he was BACK with another one at 5:25! The Flames continued to sizzle the net the next few minutes to end the contest 87–49, an almost 40-point margin!

Leading scorer for the Flames and in double figures was Davion Mack with an amazing 33 points, including three for three from the foul line. Joining Mack was teammate Amarr Davis with 17 points, including 5 for 6 from the foul line and Davis Wushinske with 11 points.

•Shelby takes 61–44 win

(Continued from Page 17)

As the minutes wound down, Marion kept the pace and the teams both scored seven points the remainder of the quarter.

The Whippets had opened the scoring door so far open, that there was no room for redemption by the Presidents. The Whippets added another victor with a 61–44 final score.

Leading scorers for the Whippets showed four players in double figures. Leading the pack was Karsen Homan with 15 points, including two treys. Joining him was Alex Bruskotter with 14 points, including two 3-pointers. Adding to the party was Issaiah Ramsey with 11 points and sealing the deal with 10 points was Casey Lantz.

On a side note from me, I’ve seen dozens of players on the hardwood and typically in the game of basketball most guards who are shorter in height are typically quicker than a post player. The guards will bring the ball down the court, set-up the play and then with help a taller player potentially score.

As with Alex Bruskotter, it’s quite unique to see a 6’ 7” player actually listed in the roster as a guard but handles the ball as proficiently as he does. He also will play the perimeter like a guard, and shoots the 3-pointer with ease (and it’s just fun to watch a post player drain a 3-point shot), but yet he can transition with quickness and amazing ball-handling skills that you would typically see in a point guard. You just don’t see that combination of skills at the high school level as the norm.

I’m not discounting other area teams, and trust me, there are some good teams that should make a nice run in the post-season run this year. If you haven’t had an opportunity to see Shelby play this year, I would highly encourage you to do so, you won’t be disappointed!



Mansfield Christian senior Davis Wushinski (2) and freshman Davion Mack (13)

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Cougar scuffle with Cubs ends in another Crestview win

By Kris Leiter

There aren't many high school hoops happening on a Monday, but if you look around you can find the nugget of a great game sometimes. As I visited northern Richland County, site of the Crestview Cougars, on Jan. 22, it would become much more than a typical basketball game.

Crestview (13-0) and Lucas (9-2) are manned by two seasoned coaches and this year, both teams look good for deep runs into the post-season. Coach Taylor Iceman has been the leader of the "Cub" pack for years now and has produced some post season runs of substantial value. They were slated for a regional appearance in the spring of the 2020 at the Canton Fieldhouse, but the pandemic nixed a lot of teams that year.

Coach John Kurtz is no stranger to the hardwood with tons of experience and mans the Crestview Cougar ship this year, as he has done for years.

This sounded like a great match-up, which made my decision on what game to cover a lot easier. And I was excited!

As the first minutes wound through the first quarter, both teams were patiently working their half-court offenses, like a chess match, waiting and watching.

And then at 6:40, the Cubs notched the scoreboard with first blood from a BIG 3 from junior 6' 4" Zac Winters. 3-0, Cubs on top!

As the first quarter continued, the Cubs dropped the rock, and by the end of the first quarter, the Cubs held a 14-8 run. Could the Cubs hand John Kurtz and company their first loss of the season?

Some have tried, including Colonel Crawford in the final seconds, as well as Ontario and Coach Jerry Moten earlier in the year with a scoring frenzy of game 105-94!

The Cubs were off to a good start...stay tuned.

As the second quarter would ring in, so would the Cougars' roar. By the 6:00 minute mark, the Cougars had flipped the script and taken the lead 16-15 with a big 3-pointer!

Both teams jockeyed baskets to-and-fro as the clock dwindled — a tug-of-war if you will. It was definitely exciting to watch, meeting my expectations!

By the end of the second quarter, The Cougars extended the lead 27-21, but the Cubs were not far behind!

Starting the third quarter, at 7:34, Cub Zac Winters dropped two big free throws to close the gap for the Cubs, 27-23, only four points off the pace!

As the second quarter clock ran, the teams continued the "tennis-volley" like match, trading baskets like trading stocks on the New York Stock Exchange!

Included would be the hot hand of Cub senior, 6' 3", Aiden Culler with eight points including two BIG 3-pointers in the third quarter. By the time the third quarter horn would sound, who would be the King of the Hill?

Crestview doesn't go away quietly and they were just getting started. They opened the floodgates with an incredible 25-12 scoring run. By the end of three quarters, the Cougars were sitting on top with a 15-point lead of 50-35!

What would the fourth quarter bring? This wasn't the Cubs first

rodeo, and surely not Taylor Iceman's only tim in a high stakes game!

As the Cougars would continue to score, the Cubs actually outscored them on a 26-22 run!

However, as the clock stopped, the Cougars had outscored the Cubs 25-12 in the third period, which helped the Cougars to keep the lead going into the fourth for a final of 72-61.

The Cubs gave it a gallant effort in the scoring column with 4 players in double-figures.

Leading the "Cub" pack with 16 points was Zac Winters and also with 16 tallies was Gabe Porter. Ringing in with 12 points was Aiden Culler with 12 points and Logan Toms with 10 points.

Employmentpalooza offers reverse job fair to high school students

In just a few weeks, high school students from across the county will showcase their skills and interests with the hopes of getting employed. This collaborative effort, spearheaded by the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development and Ohio Means Jobs (OMJ) Richland County, invites local employers to meet high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are seeking internships, seasonal work, part-time, and full-time work after graduating.

These students will have booths, and the employers will come to meet them! EmployMEpalooza is a "Reverse Job Fair."

Faculty members and mentors are currently working with students who are preparing to tell local businesses about their interests, skills, and aspirations. These students are crafting resumes and gathering items to display on their tables so employers can get an idea of what they would be like as employees.

The event will be held on March 6, from 10 am to noon at Richland Academy of the Arts, 75 N. Walnut St., Mansfield.

There is no cost to employers or students, but both must register for the event before attending. Students can register at <https://portal.richlandareachamber.com/events/details/employmentpalooza-2024-student-registration-6126> Employers can register at <https://portal.richlandareachamber.com/events/details/employmentpalooza-2024-employer-registration-6128>

For questions contact Clint Knight, Director of Workforce Development at cknight@chooserichland.com.

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.

Movie premier is February 27

The movie premier of *Symbol of Strength* will be shown Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 7:30 pm on the NCSC/OSU Campus in the Bromfield Library, 1660 University Dr., Mansfield.

The production is by Leapyear Studios in association with The Domestic Violence Shelter, Inc. of Richland County. This is a locally produced film.

This is a free community event. However, seats are limited, so make sure to arrive early.

For information visit <https://www.thedvshelter.com/tdvam.html>

Ontario High School Winter Games



CLASSIFIEDS

**CITY OF ONTARIO
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
PATROL OFFICER EXAM**

The City of Ontario will conduct a Civil Service examination for the position of entry level police officer on Sunday, March 24, 2024, at the Ontario Municipal Building Community Room, 555 North Stumbo Road, Ontario, Ohio 44906. Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. and the exam will begin at 9:00 a.m. No admittance after 9:00 a.m.

Candidates must be U.S. citizens and present a valid driver's license at the time of the examination. Must be at least 21 years of age (unless the candidate qualifies for the OPOTA exception) but not more than 34 years of age and must possess a high school diploma or GED equivalence. Passing Candidates who qualify in the top ten will be required to complete a physical strength and agility test. Candidates that are selected will be subject to psychological, polygraph, drug and alcohol screening along with a comprehensive background check.

NOTICE: Applicants must have their Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) Certification to apply. Applicants currently enrolled in an Ohio Basic Peace Officer Training Academy are allowed to test but Certification must be complete by time of appointment.

The City of Ontario is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on any basis prohibited by law including military status. However, if you are applying for a civil service examination and elect to claim military service credit either as an honorably discharged veteran or as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component as provided in R.C. 124.23, then please attach a copy of your honorable discharge from active duty, DD 214 or other proof of eligibility for this credit. Applications will be available at the Ontario Municipal Building, 555 Stumbo Road, beginning February 19, 2024, at the Police Department window or online at www.ontpd.com. Applications will be accepted until Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. at the Police Department window in the Municipal Building, 555 Stumbo Road, Those with questions may call the Division of Police at 419-529-2115 and ask to speak with a recruiter.

Cathy VanAuker
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 2-22, 29, 3-7 '24) 63L

LEGAL NOTICE

The following is a succinct summary of the legislation adopted by the Council of the City of Ontario, at their regular meeting held on February 7, 2024.

The complete text of this Ordinance may be viewed and copies obtained at the Office of the Clerk of Council, Ontario Municipal Building, 555 Stumbo Road, Ontario, Ohio, during regular business hours.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-02 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS PRO-

VISIONS OF CHAPTER 11 – PLANNING AND ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO CODIFIED ORDINANCES.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-02 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PERFORM BRIDGE REPAIR ON HOME ROAD OVER US-30, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Cathy VanAuker
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 2-15, 22, '24) 28L

**LEGAL NOTICE
ANNUAL REPORT**

The Madison Township Richland County Ohio, 2023 Annual Financial Report is available for review at the Madison Township Hall, 817 Expressview Dr., Mansfield, Ohio 44905. You may call 419-589-9999 or email clerk@madisontwp.us

Leanna Rhodes, Fiscal Officer
Madison Township Trustees
Mansfield, Ohio
(T-C 2-22, '24) 12L

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Madison Township Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at the Madison Town Hall, 817 Expressview Drive, rear entrance. The requested hearing is as follows:

APPLICATION # 1-24

1. Legal Description – 1229 Ashland Rd, Mansfield, Ohio 44905 (Parcel# 0250904102000) with zoning district of R-3. A variance requesting to erect 240 sq.ft. Advertising sign on the front of building. Current regulation allows a 200 sq. ft. sign

At this hearing, all persons shall be given ample opportunity to speak "for, or against" the application. The purpose of this hearing is to determine whether the applicants will be granted their request.

Board of Zoning Appeals
Dan Bishop, chair
Madison Township Trustees
Mansfield, Ohio
(T-C 2-22, '24) 26L

Show is March 23

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

Leadership Unlimited applications accepted through March 29

Leadership Unlimited applications are open for the class of 2024-'25. Individuals who live or work in Richland County are encouraged to apply.

The Mansfield-Richland Area Educational Foundation runs this community leadership program to expand participants' knowledge of the challenges and opportunities within Richland County through tours, activities and discussions. The program incorporates personal leadership development through "The Leadership Challenge" assessment and book discussion.

Program days take place on the second Thursday, October through June with an opening retreat on Sept. 5 and 6 at Mohican Lodge & Conference Center.

"I am always impressed with our participants who have a desire to learn and make an impact each year," said Program Director Angie Cirone.

Participants will learn about opportunities for civic engagement while expanding their networks and developing the skills to confidently lead.

"Leadership Unlimited gave me an opportunity to learn about the hidden treasures and the endless amounts of opportunities there are for people in and outside of Richland County," said LU Class of 2023 Alumnus, Gary George of Richland Newhope. "Not only was the time I spent with my LU class a lot of fun, but it also exposed me to a diverse group of people from an array of different career fields that will benefit the students I serve who are looking to enter the workforce."

Applications will be accepted through March 29. A maximum of 35 participants will be selected for the program from a cross-section of industries. A selection committee will review all completed applications and choose applicants who have demonstrated commitment, leadership ability, and a desire to serve their community.

Tuition for the program is \$1,500. Tuition should be met by the participant and his or her sponsoring organization or employer. Payment plans may be arranged, and financial aid is available.

"I would encourage anyone who has the opportunity to participate in this great program to do so," George said. "You will not only benefit from a networking standpoint, but you will also make new friends for life."

Learn more about Leadership Unlimited or start an application at <https://richlandareachamber.com/workforce/leadership-unlimited/>

Contact Angie Cirone for more details at acirone@richlandareachamber.com or 419-522-3211, ext. 103.

The Mansfield-Richland Area Educational Foundation is a Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development organization on a mission to invest in our community's future by developing diverse leaders through impactful education.





**1728 W. Fourth Street
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Phone: 419-529-4687
Fax: 419-529-4154
landerson@firstfederalbankofohio.bank**



Lisa Anderson
NMLS 618735
Branch Manager - Loan Officer