



# TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com

03.28.24



Photos By Traci Little



**THE 17TH ANNUAL BUSINESS EXPO** was held Thursday, March 21, from 10 am to 4 pm at the Richland County Fairgrounds, presented by Hamilton Insurance. This is certainly one of the more popular events, with over 100 local businesses and non-profit organizations exhibiting. Admission and parking were free and open to the public. Individual booths offered prizes, samples and giveaways. The Richland Area Chamber also held prize drawings throughout the day. Canned good items were accepted and those donating were entered to win an oil change, courtesy of Graham Automall. The expo is always a great way for consumers to interact with businesses and learn more about what they have to offer. Businesses were encouraged to participate in the theme, "Don't Get Left in the Dark," referring to the upcoming total solar eclipse. Exclusively Yours Catering won the People's Choice Award, Leap-year Studios won for the Most Creative Booth Award and Dream Huge Realty was chosen for the Best Use of Theme Award. (Photo Above) A ribbon cutting was held to officially open this year's expo. Shown with the scissors in new City of Mansfield Mayor Jodie Perry. (Photo Left) Mechanics Bank had a booth at the expo and had a plinko game for prizes. *See More Photos on Page 8.*

## Madison accepts major donation for baseball program

Madison Local School District Board of Education met March 20, in the Madison Middle School Auditoria

Board president Melissa Walker called the meeting to order. Carrie Hughes was recognized for her retirement. Nikki Cox, Madison South Elementary Principal, gave a presentation.

A donation of \$126,699.71 was accepted from the James and Miriam Runyon estate to be used for the Madison baseball program. James Runyon was a former Madison baseball coach.

The donation of 3,500 pounds of scrap steel, valued at \$4,000, was accepted from The Gorman-Rupp Company for the Career Tech and Adult Career Center welding technology programs.

A donation of approximately 2,000 pounds of scrap steel, valued at \$3,500, was accepted from the Marion Correctional Institution for the Career Tech and Adult Career Center welding technology programs.

A donation of \$33.28 came from Mifflin PTO to Mifflin's Principal Fund for Field Day Supplies.

A donation of \$1,500 was accepted from Mifflin PTO towards the author visit for One School, One Book on May 2, at Mifflin.

A resolution was approved accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission for FY 2025 and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor.

The February 2024 Financial Report was approved as was the Ap-

proval of Appropriation Modifications and Certificate of Estimated Resources for FY25 as submitted. The board also approved the Adult Career Center Requisition 24ALD131 for Capitalized Equipment in accordance with Board Policy 6320.

Don Maxey, high school CT Welding, will retire, effective June 1. The board did not renew non-M.L.E.A. supplemental contracts in compliance with the M.L.E.A. contract.

The board approved stipends for Kelly O'Brien and Jordan Monica for additional girls' soccer coach responsibilities in the amount of \$1,100 each for the 2023-'24 school year.

Volunteers approved for the 2023-'24 school year include David Gilbert, middle school track; and Cayleb Sciacca-Cox, baseball.


Wendy Poland was hired as the STNA Clinical Instructor/Sub for Madison Adult Career Center.

Substitute teachers hired on an "on call" basis, as needed for the 2023-'24 school year are David Gilbert, William Chinn and Brayden Creveling. Also hired as substitute employees on an "on call" basis for the current school year are Trevor Kirsch, bus driver; and William Chinn, custodian.

Resignations were accepted from Trevor Kirsch, bus driver route 26, effective March 31; and Michelle Windsor, Special Ed Aide - South, effective March 14.

(Continued on Page 9)



 **THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER**  
— By Ian Stumbo —

The reviews coming out about *Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire* are highly negative. I even read one post that said it was as bad as *Madame Web*.

While the new *Ghostbusters* movie certainly has its flaws, it's a pretty enjoyably fun romp that brings back all the old and new characters from *Ghostbusters: Afterlife*.

An ancient orb that contains primitive hieroglyphics falls into the hands of Dr. Raymond Stantz (Dan Aykroyd) from a guy trying to get rid of his grandmother's old collectibles. He is played by Kumail Nanjiani.

There is something about this orb that is not right. While the new *Ghostbusters*, headed by Paul Rudd, Carrie Coon, McKenna Grace and Finn Wolfhard, are carrying on the legacy by getting all the ghosts in New York City, the older retired crew are trying to ease into their new lives.

However, this mysterious force in this orb awakens and turns the Big Apple into an icy tundra. All of the *Ghostbusters*, old and new, including Stantz, Peter Venkman (Bill Murray) and Winston Zeddemore (Ernie Hudson), must defeat this new, powerful ghost.

*Ghostbusters: Afterlife* was



the sequel the 1984 classic needed as it had a nostalgic plot with so much heart. While this new entry at times feels like a television episode, there is enough here for fans of the classic movies. There are some laughs, though maybe not as big, and the ending fight sequence is self-contained when it would have been quite a bit more fun if it took place throughout the city. The best performance continues to be McKenna Grace as Egon's granddaughter who really brings the best moments out of the film.

*Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire* is so winning though because this cast is so great. The writing could have used some work though there are enough moments that are fun and entertaining.

This movie is certainly not as bad as the atrocious *Madame Web*, which was a complete mess. There are some fun moments, and while the script could have been tighter and some plot points needed changed, there is enough of *Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire* to recommend for just pure entertainment.



**THE STEAM CORNERS OCTET** front, Hazel Wirick, Bertha Yost, Golda Stull and Ethel Parks; and back, Laura Stull, Maude Bender, John A. Rutherford, Grace Parks and Belva Stull.

## Not Much Left in "Pressure City"

By Bob Carter

Steam Corners has an unusual nickname, especially around Lexington and Johnsville. The corners have a long history dating back to the early 1830s when it was first settled. The name was the result of a steam powered saw and planning mill run by R. J. Boyingtoikin the late 1870s.

This may have prompted others to join or relocate there. The small crossroads once had a blacksmith, post office, school, a general store, a physician and an evangelical church a mile down the road, if you count that.

The town never had a saloon or bar which may or may not have been the account of its slow growth. The elbow benders had to go to the Bungtown roadhouse about two miles west or that other evil place called Lexington.

Steam Corners was known for its music at the turn of the century. John A. Rutherford formed a group of beautiful young ladies into the Steam Corners Octet. He was a farmer and raised large lots of potatoes. His farm had the first silos.

His musical direction led the girls to be quite popular and in demand for local fairs, celebrations and socials. All were young and pretty which added to the charm. Alas, after a few seasons, the young women married, started families or moved. That ended their beautiful music but they were long remembered.

With his ability and direction, Rutherford also organized the Steam Corners Band. How and where the band members got their training is unknown. Perhaps Rutherford did it all, but the band was successful. Lexington, perhaps a musical desert, hired the Steam Corners boys for their Decoration Day (now Memorial Day) parade and ceremonials. This may have embarrassed the Lex folks so a few years later a rag tag Lexington Band was formed. It is recorded that volume outdid skill.

In 1949, a big homecoming celebration was held. Some 1,500 people showed up from across the country. It was the grandest reunion ever held at that crossroads. There was a band, floats and surprising amount of marchers. It passed through the center and then turned around and came back and was a good sized parade.

There is little left of Steam Corners today. At one time there were thirteen houses and several businesses and the Methodist Church. Now only a few houses and the church remain.

Oddly enough, the crossroads might claim the Mid Ohio Race Track as an asset. That's where most folks say the track is located. Steam Corners Road and State Route 314 are ever busy on race days.

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# News Briefs

State Route 603, at its intersection with Crider Rd., will close Monday, April 1, for three days. This is in coordination with the Crider Rd. bridge replacement project.

The detour route will be SR 603 north to U.S. 30 west to U.S. 42 east, and reverse.

Estimated completion is Wednesday, April 3.

★

Mansfield 1st EPC, 399 S. Trimble Rd., will host a spring rummage sale on Friday, April 19, from 9 am to 4 pm; and Saturday, April 20, from 9 am to noon.

This is a semi-annual rummage sale with a selection of clothing for children and adults, shoes, books, toys, housewares, furniture, and more. Proceeds are used for local missions.

For information call 419-756-7066. The church is located at the corner of Trimble Rd. and Millsboro Rd.

★

The Ontario Police Department is currently disposing of found property. Those who have had property stolen or lost in the City of Ontario in the previous 24 months can check if it is in the evidence room. Contact Ofc. Allie Shepherd at 419-529-2115. Those who can accurately describe the item (tools, wallet, key, electronics, printer, license plate, clothing or other item) that has been stolen or lost, will be allowed to inspect it. Items will be released after signing a receipt claiming ownership.

★

Trinity Grace Fellowship, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield, will hold several services during Holy Week.

On Holy Thursday, March 28, at 7 pm, a service will consist of a drama presentation titled "Table Talk and Communion."

On Good Friday, March 29, Trinity will participate with other area Global Methodist churches in a 7 pm service at Hayesville Global Methodist Church, 44 S. Mechanic St., Hayesville.

On Easter Sunday, March 31, a 7:30 am sunrise service will be held, followed by breakfast at 8:30, then the regular service at 9:30 am.

★

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.

★

Richland County Solid Waste buildings will be closed to the public on April 8. This closure is necessary due to the projected influx to the county to witness the solar eclipse. The closures include the Recycling Center, 1125 National Pkwy., and the Compost Facility, 441 Cairns Rd. The SCRAP trailer designated for St. Mary's in Mansfield will also not run on this day.

★

Franklin Township Fire Department, 505 Boyce Rd., Shelby, will host a pancake breakfast on Saturday, April 6, from 7 to 10 am.

★

First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Ave West in downtown Mansfield, will be observing and celebrating Holy Week.

On Maundy Thursday, the church will celebrate the stripping of the altar at 7 pm and move into the somber time of Good Friday at

7 pm Friday evening.

On March 30 will be a "March of Prayer" service at 7 pm, beginning with the lighting of the fire in the parking lot, then traveling to the sanctuary where darkness turns to light during the Great Vigil of Easter.

On Easter Sunday morning, all are invited to come and enjoy a special Easter breakfast at 9 am followed by worship and Holy Communion at 10 am. All are invited to celebrate the crucifixion and resurrection of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Officiants for the services are Reverend Dr. Amy Little and Reverend Lisa Peterson, both NALC clergy.

★

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

★

The Ontario Lions Club will host its spring pancake day on Saturday, April 6, from 6 am to noon at Ontario High School.

Meals are \$6 and door prizes have been provided by local businesses (winners need not be present to win).

Children six and under eat free. Tickets are available at the door or by contacting an Ontario Lion's Club member.

★

First Congregational Church, 640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield, will host a Maundy Thursday service with communion March 28, at 7 pm in the sanctuary. A Good Friday service will be held in the chapel on March 29, at noon. Easter Sunday services will be held March 31 at 8:30 am (chapel service) and 10:30 am (sanctuary service).

★

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 April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12.

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

★

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome JD Stillwater to speak on "Magic Recipes: Science and the Profound Meaning of Spring" at 10:30 am on Sunday, March 31. For more information visit [www.allsoulsuohio.org](http://www.allsoulsuohio.org).

★

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 April 17, and will include turkey. The Clear Fork Vo Ag Department will present "Easter Bonnets." A collection of non-perishable items will be held for the Salvation Army.

The group will also meet for lunch at 11 am on April 3, at Chintown, 238 Ashland Rd., Madison area.

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

★

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.

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Photos by Traci Little

**TIM HAWKINS** performed at a sold out show last Thursday evening, March 21. Crossroads Church hosted the event at 1188 Park Ave W., Mansfield, at 7 pm. Hawkins is a comedian, songwriter and singer. Former Audio Adrenaline lead vocalist, Mark Stuart, was also part of the tour. After Mark was diagnosed with an incurable vocal disorder, he struggled to understand God's plan for his life. Everything he worked so hard for seemed to be stripped away from him. In 2010, Stuart began serving the orphan and abandoned children of Haiti. Today, he enjoys sharing his inspirational story about adopting two children from Haiti and encouraging believers to live out their God sized dreams. Learn more about how you can sponsor a child through the Hands and Feet Project at [handsandfeetproject.org](http://handsandfeetproject.org).

# Church Directory

## Clay Memorial Lutheran Church

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

## Clear Fork Alliance Church

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

## Community Bible Church

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

## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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

## First Congregational Church

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

## First English Lutheran Church

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

## Hope Lutheran Church

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

## Lexington Presbyterian Church

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

## Mansfield 1st EPC

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

## Mansfield Baptist Temple

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

## Ontario United Methodist Church

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

## St. John's United Church of Christ

68 Park Avenue East, Mansfield  
419-522-2813 • [www.stjohnsmansfield.org](http://www.stjohnsmansfield.org)  
Pastor Faith Proietti  
10 am Sunday Worship  
Office hours: Mon-Fri 9am to 1pm  
AA Meetings M & F 10 am & noon;  
Wed. noon Brown Bag and Sat. 6 pm  
Clothing Ministry by appt: 419-512-9817

## Trinity Grace Fellowship

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

## G & M Body & Paint Shop

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

## Wappner Funeral Home

Mansfield • Ontario • Ashland  
419-522-5211





## Blue ribbons bring awareness for Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This month and throughout the year, Richland County Children Services (RCCS) encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making Richland County a better place for children and families.

The theme this year is "Doing Things Differently: Moving from the Challenge to the Change." The theme urges us to intentionally explore, engage and invest innovative, new ideas to transform the way we partner with families to deliver services and supports.

Richland County Children Services (RCCS) employees are at the heart of all we do for the children and families we serve in Richland County. For 141 years, RCCS has changed lives.

"Our staff continues a tradition of constantly seeking the best solutions to the needs of abused, neglected and dependent children and their families," said Nikki Harless, Executive Director of Richland County Children Services. "Helping families struggling with abuse and addiction and creating homes through adoption and foster is part of the vital work of our staff."

To help spread awareness for child abuse prevention, Richland County Children Services (RCCS) is inviting individuals, churches, organizations, businesses, and schools to tie a blue ribbon on their door, mailbox, or car antenna during the month of April. The blue ribbon is the international symbol for child abuse prevention. It serves as a reminder that all of us have a responsibility in helping protect children.

In support of this effort, downtown Mansfield is going "blue" in April. The city is tying blue ribbons around lamp posts, and the downtown gazebo in Central Park will be lit with blue lights in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

"The most important thing we can do to help children thrive is to support families before they reach a crisis. To make child abuse less likely to occur, we need to invest in our community and our families," said Brigitte Coles, RCCS Community Engagement Specialist. "Each year, we educate and raise awareness about the impact child abuse has on children and society. Providing information about comprehensive best-practices that are known to build parental capacity through protective factors is key in helping families become more resilient."

National Child Abuse Prevention Month is more than just raising awareness about the reality of child maltreatment. It's about taking action to reduce it. RCCS is helping to reduce abuse and neglect by providing our families with the support they need. There are certain issues such as a family's neighborhood, income level, or other societal factors that can make parenting more challenging. By reducing these vulnerabilities through strengths-based approaches that truly support families, we can begin to mitigate child maltreatment and improve the outcomes of children, youth, and families.

RCCS is marking National Child Abuse Prevention Month with several activities:

Child Abuse Prevention Month Kick Off, Richland County Courthouse, 50 Park Ave E, Commissioners Board Room, Thursday, March 28, 9:30 am. The Richland County Commissioners will present a Proclamation in observance of April being National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Proclamations will also be issued by the cities of Mansfield, Ontario, Shelby, and the Village of Bellville.

Blue Ribbons/Blue Ribbon Trees for Prevention, April 1. Blue ribbons will be on display in downtown Mansfield for Child Abuse Prevention Month courtesy of RCCS, the city of Mansfield, the Mansfield United Lions Club, Rominus James Productions and Tara's Floral. The community can participate by displaying blue ribbons on a tree, door, fence, on your vehicle or mailbox. The blue ribbon is the international symbol for child abuse prevention. Participants can take pictures of their blue ribbons/blue ribbon trees and send them via email to [Brigitte.Coles@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Brigitte.Coles@jfs.ohio.gov) for publication on the agency's website and Facebook page.

April activities include:

Wear Blue Day Wednesday, April 10. Wear Blue Day is an annual statewide event to spread awareness on the important issues of child abuse, neglect, and dependency. On this day local businesses, offices, schools, agencies, factories, retail outlets and media partners are asked to Wear Blue to show unity against child abuse and neglect. Participants can take pictures of themselves, their group, classmates, or co-workers wearing blue and send them via email to

[Brigitte.Coles@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Brigitte.Coles@jfs.ohio.gov) for publication on the agency's website and Facebook page.

Free Blue-Ribbon Cookie -Wear Blue Day, April 10 at Buckeye Bakery, 21 E. 4th Street, Mansfield

RCCS has teamed up with Buckeye Bakery for Wear Blue Day on Wednesday, April 10, to give the first 100 customers wearing blue a free cookie in support of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Central Park Gazebo Goes Blue, April 1-30: The Central Park Gazebo in downtown Mansfield will be lit in blue lights in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

For more information about child abuse prevention programs and activities go to [richlandcountychildrenservices.org](http://richlandcountychildrenservices.org). Please call the Richland County Children Services 24-hour child abuse hotline at 419-774-4100 to report child abuse and neglect.



### Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Larry Leroy Gumber, March 13  
Margaret Mae Boyce, March 16  
Beverly Balliett, March 17  
Janice Stroble, March 18  
Thea Ruth Reed, March 19  
Miriam E. Rupe, March 19  
Cathy Jo Speakman, March 20  
Judith "Judy" Ann Plank, March 21  
James Ray Conley, March 23  
Betty Messer, March 23

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

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

# Lexington Kiwanis will host annual golf outing at Twin Lakes

The Lexington Kiwanis invites the community to sign up for the fourth annual golf outing at Twin Lakes on Friday, June 7. Registration is at 12:30 pm and shotgun start is at 1:15 pm. This is a four-person scramble format. New this year is a \$10,000 Hole-in-One Challenge.

Dinner will be served at 5 pm. Those unable to golf can come at 5 pm.

Cost is \$300 per team of four includes green fees, cart rental, soft drink, chips and hot dog at the turn, dinner and prizes.

Alcoholic beverages are not included in the cost of the outing, but will be available at discounted prices.

\$100 company hole sponsorships are available. All teams and money must be in before May 29.

Money raised at the outing will go to help support youth services that the Kiwanis supports throughout the year.

Twin Lakes Golf Course is located at 2220 Marion Ave., Mansfield. Register at <https://form.jotform.com/231093806474054>. For more information please email [lexkiwanispresident@gmail.com](mailto:lexkiwanispresident@gmail.com).

# ONTARIO LIONS PANCAKE DAY

## Saturday, April 6, 2024 • 6:30 am to Noon at Ontario High School



**Tickets: \$6 • Age 6 & Under Free**

Door Prizes donated by local businesses  
(Winners need not be present to win)

*Proceeds support local and world-wide Lions projects*

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*kimmyscucina*  
By Kim Sterry

**PORK LOIN ROAST**

*You are going to love this pork roast. It is quick and easy to prepare and will pair well with so many dishes. Potatoes or rice as a side would be perfect.*

**Ingredients**

- 3 1/2 to 4 lbs Pork Loin Roast
- 1 cup brown sugar salt & pepper olive oil
- 2 fresh sprigs of rosemary several sprigs of fresh thyme
- 1/2 cup apple cider

**Instructions**

Rub pork loin with brown sugar, salt and pepper. Let sit for 20 minutes. In a cast iron skillet add enough olive oil to cover bottom and heat on stove top. Add pork loin and sear on both sides. Add rosemary and thyme on top and place in the oven. Cook for 1 to 1 1/2 hours until internal temperature is 160. Add cider the last 10-15 minutes of cooking (just to mix with all the good flavor in the bottom of the pan). Let sit for 10 minutes before you slice the meat. This will help meat retain juices.

*LIKE Kimmy's Cucina on Facebook & Instagram*



Lifestyle Inspiration



Trainer Girl's Tips

By Mátiece Thomas

The word of the day is "Restore."

When creating your workout plan, it's essential to understand not only your goals, but also what your body will need to repair and restore afterwards.

If you create a routine that only consists of heavy lifting, but fail to incorporate activities that repair and restore what you are breaking down, then you are letting yourself and your body down. Something to always remember is that if you let your body down, it will eventually return the favor.

Don't get me wrong, our body needs strength and endurance from our muscles. I'm not rec-

ommending that you stop lifting, but simply that you remember to add active recovery days along the way.

Yoga is a great way to help restore your body. Personally, I love restorative yoga, which helps repair the damage we do to our joints and body on a daily basis. If yoga is not for you, you could choose to do some work with bands.

If you are looking to work on your balance and stability, perhaps single leg movements would be ideal or working with a BOSU ball.

Your Trainer Girl's tip for you today is to create balance between your muscles and workouts.

Remember that it's just as important to stretch and restore your muscles and joints as it is to build them. Don't let your body down and it will return the favor!

Follow me at Instagram-5pts-fitness\_trainergirl for nutrition and workout tips.



Photo by Damon Callis

**Day Trippin' With Damon** – Kokosing Gap Trail is located near Kenyon College. The Kokosing Gap Trail is a paved, 14-mile recreational trail built on a former Pennsylvania Railroad line with endpoints in Mount Vernon and Danville. A 1940 Alco O-6-O locomotive and a 1924 Chesapeake & Ohio caboose sit next to the trail in Gambier.









# •Madison accepts major donation for baseball program

(Continued from Front Page)

The board hired James Adams and William Chinn, summer mowing, effective mid-April, 2024; Jim Miller, temporary general summer help, effective mid-April, 2024; Martha Urig, temporary summer help – bus garage, effective May 23; and Crystal Leiter, Special Education 1-1 Aide – Mifflin, effective April 2.

Amanda Oswalt has been awarded the Special Education Aide position at Madison South Elementary, replacing Michelle Windsor who resigned.

Darla Noblet has been awarded the bus driver route 26 position at the bus garage, replacing Trevor Kirsch who resigned.

The board approved an unpaid leave of absence for Thomas Williams, Eastview custodian, effective April 5–30.

The board approved the 2024–'25 preschool calendar, preschool parent handbook and itinerant services parent handbook.

The board approved a weekly tuition rate increase for the Madison Early Childhood Learning Center effective June 3, 2024. The increases are as follows: infant tuition from \$200/week to \$225/week; toddler tuition from \$180/week to \$200/week; preschool tuition (part-time) from \$95/week to \$100/week; preschool tuition (full-time) from \$150/week to \$175/week; school age summer tuition from \$140/week to \$160/week; school age latchkey tuition (AM or PM) from \$65/week to \$70/week; and school age latchkey tuition (AM and PM) from \$85/week to \$95/week.

The board approved the two-year contract between EJ Therapy and Madison Local Schools for therapy services for the 2024–'25 and 2025–'26 school years.

The board approved the interagency agreement between Ohio Heartland CAC Head Start-Early Head Start, the North Central State/OSU/M Child Development Center-Early Head Start, Great Lakes Community Action Partnership Migrant and Seasonal Head Start and the Madison Local School District effective July 1, 2023 until June 30, 2024.

A Memorandum of Understanding was reached between the Madison Local School District and Ohio Heartland CAC Head Start for the 2023–'24 Program Year.

The purchase of three Clausing Vertical Milling Machines (plus accessories and freight) and two Clausing Lathe Machines (plus accessories and freight) was approved in the amount of \$99,472 for the Precision Machining program to be paid from the Adult Career Center's Super RAPIDS Grant funds.

The board approved the first reading of the property inventory revised board policy.

An overnight trip was approved for the SkillsUSA Ohio State Competition April 9–10, 2024 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio.

An overnight trip was approved for May 10–14, 2024 for the Career Tech Director, BPA Advisor and six students to attend the BPA National Leadership Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

The board approved a net Reduction in Force of 11 teaching positions effective with the 2024–'25 school year (for the reason of enrollment).

The board approved the suspension of the following contracts, effective with the 2024–'25 school year due to reduction in force Kyna Wright, Ariel Gough, Autumn Moore, John Hughes, Madelyn Schlauch, Elaine Beeghly, Madysen Blanton, Amy Studer and Gwendalyn Boyer.

The board approved the termination of the employment of Adam Sweet on the grounds of gross neglect of duty and in accordance with Article X – Contract Policy of the negotiated agreement between the Madison Local School District Board of Education and the Ohio Association of Public School Employees' (OAPSE) Local #292. Additionally, the treasurer will serve Sweet with a notice of the board's action by certified mail.

The next regular meeting will be held April 17, at 6 pm in the Madison Middle School Auditoria.

## Kingwood Center Gardens adjusts admission price

On April 1, Kingwood Center Gardens will implement an updated pricing structure for general garden admission. Adults (19 years and over) will be \$10; children (7–18) will be \$5 (formerly \$8 for teens 13–18); and children (6 and under) are free. Kingwood members always have unlimited free garden admission.

Kingwood will continue offering free admission on Free First Mondays, Live on the Lawn summer concerts and Family Day. New free admission days are being added in 2024 including Arbor Day (April 26), National Public Gardens Day (May 10), Grandparents Day (Sept. 8), and Veterans Day (Nov. 11).

Furthermore, the changing of the seasons will be celebrated with new half-priced admission days: Summer Solstice (June 20), Autumnal Equinox (Sept. 22), and Spring Equinox (beginning in 2025).

Kingwood participates in Museums for All (\$1 admission with an EBT card and ID) and offers a free family admission package through the Adventure Pass program at the Mansfield Richland County Public Library.

Existing Kingwood memberships at the Dual or Individual level will receive a special offer by mail in April to assist with potential impacts due to the change in child pricing.

Like many businesses, Kingwood is facing increased costs in operating the gardens, including horticulture resources, utilities, fuel, equipment, and staffing expenses.

Kingwood is expanding education programs and planning special exhibits while continuing signature events like Christmas at Kingwood, Pumpkin Glow and Wine Walk, while maintaining and restoring the historic garden estate.

Hours of operation extend on April 1 to 10 am to 7 pm and it is a Free First Monday; Thursdays are open until 9 pm. Kingwood Hall will be open longer, closing one hour before the gardens. The greenhouse, Kingwood Garden & Gift Shop and Gateway Café close one-half hour before the gardens. Learn more at [kingwoodcenter.org](http://kingwoodcenter.org).

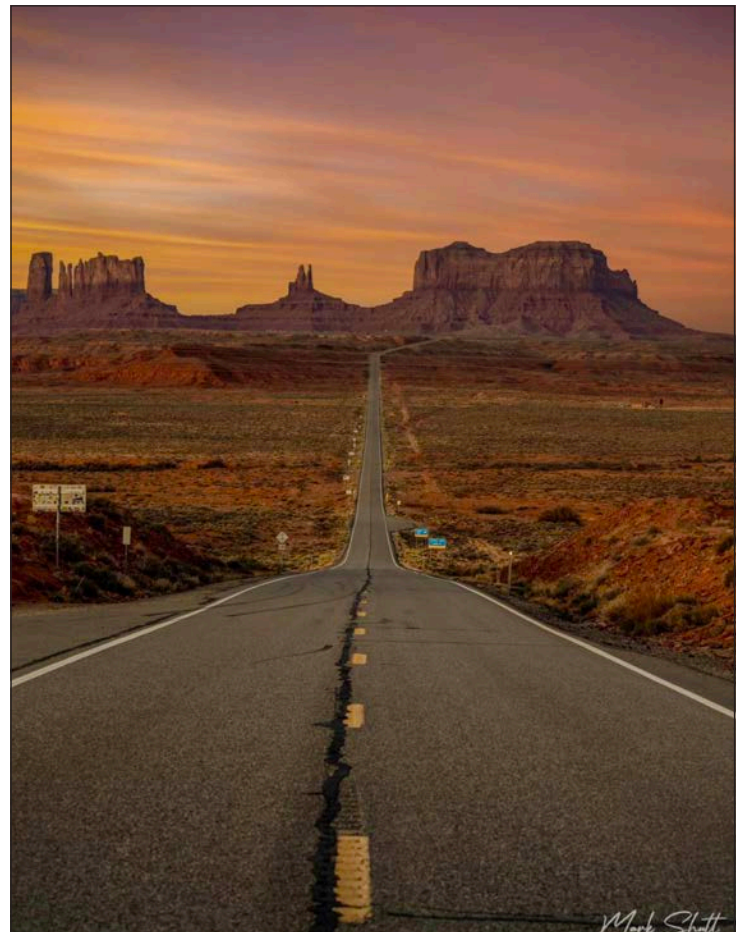


Photo By Mark Shutt





Photos by Jenna Wolford

TRINITY GRACE FELLOWSHIP, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield, held its annual Madison Community Easter Egg hunt March 23. There was a 15-minute program, followed by a hunt for 4,000 eggs. Children returned inside to make crafts and decorate cookies to take home. Children also received an Easter basket gift.





# Lexington makes plans for sidewalk to connect parks

The Village of Lexington Council met March 4, with Mayor Jarvis presiding.

Council members attending were Keith Bacin, Adam Gongwer, Aaron Hoptry, Wynn Kearns, Kim Little and Jeff O'Brien. Also present were Attorney John Studenmund, Chief Troy Weaver and Lexington Village Administrator Peter Them.

Finance Director Peter Them reported a water leak at 85 Kimberwick which was found the previous Friday. Everything is repaired and back to order.

Regional Planning and ODOT have funds for Lexington which will be submitted this to KEM.

Them reported that a property owner at 167 E. Main St. is requesting a lot split. The owner is selling his house but will keep the property behind it. The planning commission approved the same request in their meeting and council also approved.

Councilman Little asked if the proposed crosswalk for Plymouth Street has been started. Them said it had been discussed. The sidewalk will be located between the baseball/softball fields and soccer fields. The crosswalk will be designed to connect Patriot Park to Community Park.

Mayor Bob Jarvis reported that the planning commission has started reviewing and updating the village's zoning ordinance. It was originally thought this task would be a year in the making, but the last meeting was far better than expected and it will probably only be taking six months.

A request was made for a memorial bench honoring Attorney Bob Whitney. Whitney was born in Lexington, three houses down from the square. The benches are often paid for by other family members.

Councilman Little requested the bench installed, if able, facing south from the square toward the school. Whitney will also have a plaque at the high school recognizing his years of service on the school board.

Mayor Jarvis read the Proclamation for Richland Newhope. On March 6, he bowled at Lex Lanes recognizing March as Development Awareness Month.

Councilman O'Brien asked for the status on funding for the village's downtown revitalization. Mayor Jarvis replied that it is a two-step process. He has approached Representative Marilyn John, the mayor, Edge Group and Peter Them met with Senator Mark Romanchuk.

Chief Weaver gave an update on the license plate reader. This equipment just helped capture a vehicle involved with a fraud case where the person was wanted for over two and half years. The village owns five plate readers and has proven their value several times. Councilman Kearns asked if the chief doubted their worthiness. Chief Weaver replied that the readers were first not put to use, but recently he has installed all five of the readers and two of the readers have proven their worthiness.

Parliamentarian Keith Bacin: gave a reminder about the Primary Election date of March 19.

Councilman Kearns reported on the Feb. 26 cemetery board meeting. The 1/2 mil replacement was on the upcoming levy.

The audit was completed with the new treasurer. Some of the board policies have not been adopted, but it is being worked on. Elizabeth Michalski is working out great at the department.

The finance committee met March 18, before council for recommendations of capital equipment only. A second reading will be held at April's first council meeting. It used to be that council was required to have the entire budget done by the first of April, but now they are able to hold off with the capital items due in July.

Administrator Them contacted AEP regarding the log that is weaved between wires near Mid-Ohio Auto Repair Shop. AEP said they will investigate.

# Taking Root Farms announces start of capital campaign

The Board of Directors of Taking Root Farms announced the kick-off of the Field of Opportunities Capital Campaign. Taking Root Farms is on track to break ground in the fall of 2024 on a 5,000 square foot facility that will provide day-habilitation services to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities over the age of 18 in Richland County.

Through Taking Root Farms proven rural farm model, adults with limited prospects for meaningful work and new social connections can come together to engage in sustainable farm work and program designed to drastically improve the quality of their lives and that of their families or caretakers. The \$2.5 million goal will go directly to funding the construction of central farm buildings that are essential to the program's success. Every gift improves the lives of both the individuals who are directly impacted and our community as a whole.

Community leaders and financial supporters gathered at the future site on Monday, March 25 as board president Angela Eisaman announced plans to build the first building in the program. This building will house programming that includes a lounge, gross motor and fine motor rooms, kitchen, mudroom as well as a clinic and reception.

Recognizing their shared goal of serving the same population, Taking Root Farms partnered with Raemelton Therapeutic Equestrian Center for the location of the program. The Raemelton site was chosen as the optimal location due to its program synergies and central location. Raemelton Therapeutic Equestrian Center has entered into a long-term lease agreement for six acres of property with Taking Root Farms. This property will be used for the farm's buildings. Taking Root Farms will also have exclusive use of additional shared acreage/structures for shared programming.

Taking Root Farms empowers and enhances the daily lives of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in Richland County and the surrounding region. The farm model promotes and enhances the physical, social, and emotional well-being of those served through purposeful and meaningful work and through relationships formed in the community.

**There is a need for care, support, and research for nearly 7 million Americans living with Alzheimer's. Behind these numbers are friends, family and loved ones - the reasons we fight to #ENDALZ.**



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# Madison opens kindergarten registration Tuesday, April 2

Kindergarten registration for Madison Local Schools will be held April 2-30. Children are eligible to attend kindergarten during the 2024-'25 school year if they are five years of age on or before Aug. 1, 2024.

The first step in the registration process is to complete the online registration through FinalForms. The registration link can be found at [www.mlsd.net](http://www.mlsd.net) under Madison FinalForms or using the link under "Kindergarten Registration." Those without internet access can schedule an appointment to complete the online forms with the child's assigned building. Select the 2024-'25 school year in FinalForms when registering a child. Registration will not open until April 1 to complete a child's FinalForms.

Current Madison South preschool students moving into kindergarten will need to log into their existing Final Forms account and complete the 2024-'25 forms.

Once all online forms are completed, parents must drop-off the required documents to the elementary school in which they reside between 9 am and 3 pm Monday-Friday. The district is closed April 8. School phone numbers are Madison South 419-522-4319; Mifflin 419-589-6517; and Eastview 419-589-7335.

Required documents include student birth certificate, parent/guardian driver's license, custody papers (if applicable), must be date stamped and signed by the court, parent/guardian proof of residency (see final forms for approved list) and immunization records.

Required immunizations for school attendance are four doses of DPT (5 doses if 4 were given before fourth birthday), three or more doses of Polio with final dose after fourth birthday, three doses of Hepatitis B, two MMR's and two Varivax (chicken pox) or history of having disease.

## Free event focuses on elder safety

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging and Wyandot County Department of Job and Family Services Adult Protective Services (APS) have collaborated to host a community event aimed at combating elder abuse, scams and exploitation. This effort brings together local experts, community organizations and citizens to address critical issues affecting older adults and will also highlight resources to enhance healthy aging while staying safe.

The event will be held April 22, from 10 am to noon at Trinity Evangelical Church, 108 Malabar Dr., Upper Sandusky.

A resource fair will feature local community organizations committed to supporting older adults. Attendees can connect with representatives from Wyandot County Department of Job and Family Services, other organizations from Wyandot County and the Area Agency on Aging. Educational materials and resources will be available.

A light brunch will be provided, encouraging networking and community-building. Giveaways will also be provided. This event is free, and RSVPs are not required.



Photo By Jeff Hoffer

**THE FULL WORM MOON** reached its peak in the morning hours of Monday, March 25. It rose at sunset on both Sunday and Monday. The worm moon, named by Native American tribes in reference to the beetle larvae and other creatures that emerge from hibernation in the spring, was visible to everyone across the world, since the moon appeared to be full for a couple of days.

## 68th Annual Easter Sunrise Service planned at Kingwood

Kingwood Center Gardens will host a community Easter Sunrise Service this Sunday at 7 am, behind the welcome center.

This is the 68th year for the service, which was sponsored by St. Mark Lutheran Church until two years ago. Paul Lintern, who will preach at the one-hour service, is coordinating the event.

"We like to say that "Mansfield is Godsfeld," and this is the effort of church leaders throughout the community," he said.

Pastor Monica Swank of Church Requel will open with the resurrection passage from John, and Glory Way will sing three gospel songs. Overseer Renea Collins of Kingdom Grace Fellowship will lead a responsive reading and Dale Baer of Child Evangelism Fellowship will offer a message to children. Susan Hitchman Evans will accompany singing of Easter carols and hymns and Pastor Dave Rentzel of Kingdom Life will pray. The Rev. El Akuchie will offer the benediction, with Glory Way closing out the service.

A freewill offering will offset costs for the service and support the upcoming National Day of Prayer service and parade, May 2.

Metronome Music is providing a keyboard for the event. "Over the years, Kingwood has hosted this in several sites, around the main house and in the carriage house courtyard, This site is convenient, beautiful and conducive for worship," said Lintern, adding that it is among the earliest dates that Easter arrives.

"Come prepared to be outside, regardless of conditions. Only twice have we moved inside, in the last 25 years," he said.

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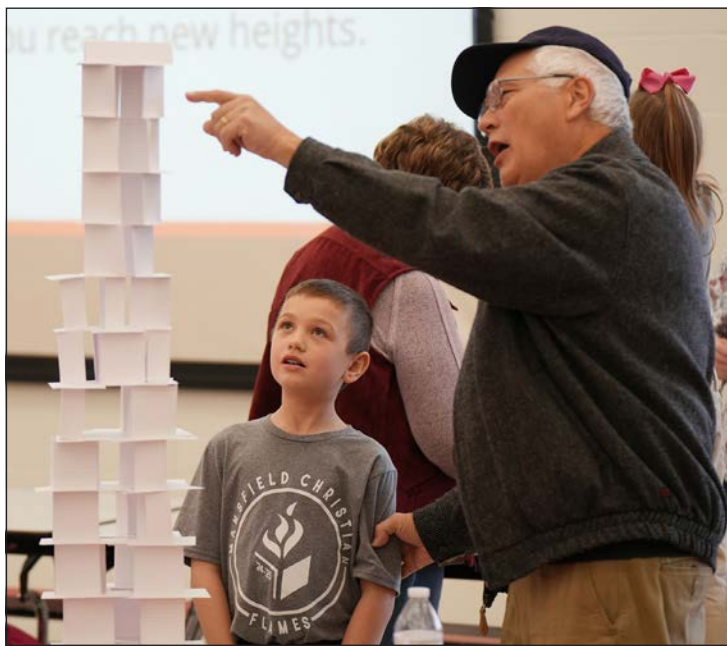
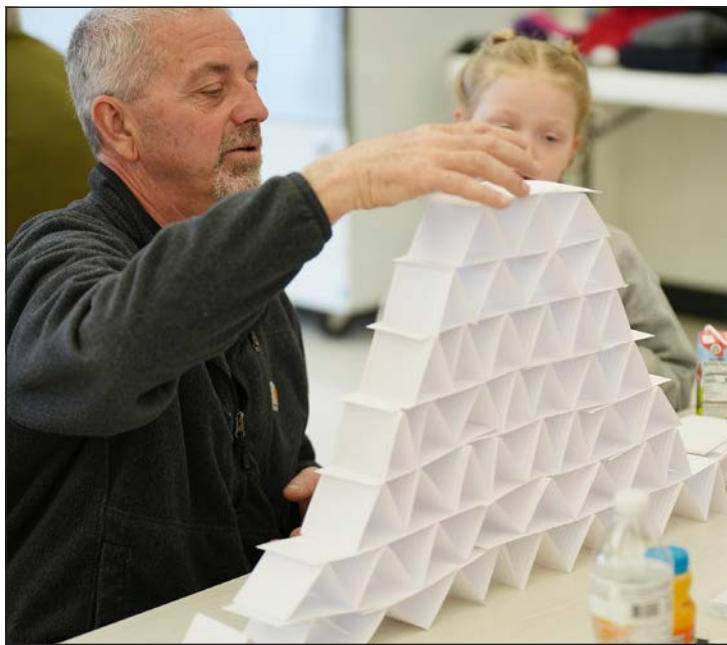
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**MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL** held a Grandparents Day for second and fourth grade students. Together, students and grandparents enjoyed building structures with cards.

## Heating assistance available

The Ohio Department of Development and Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. remind Ohioans that assistance is available to help with home energy bills. The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps Ohioans at or below 175% of the federal poverty guidelines pay their heating bills.

Ohioans can visit [energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://energyhelp.ohio.gov) to apply online, download a copy of the application or find contact information for a local Energy Assistance Provider. Senior citizens may go to their local Area Agency on Aging office for help with assembling the required documents and completing their HEAP application.

Individuals will need to have copies of the following documents:

- Most recent utility bills.
- List of all household members (birth dates and social security numbers)
- Proof of income for the past 30 days for all household members (12 months for certain income types).
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members.
- Proof of disability (if applicable).

HEAP benefits are applied to an individual's energy bill after Jan. 1. Those who need immediate assistance with energy bills should contact their local Energy Assistance Provider. A list of providers can be found at [energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://energyhelp.ohio.gov).

The last day to apply for the regular HEAP benefit is May 31, 2024. For more information or assistance with applying for a HEAP benefit, contact the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. at 419-524-4144. For more information on the programs, visit [energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://energyhelp.ohio.gov) or call your local Energy Assistance Provider.

## Ontario and Pioneer will receive career-tech funding

State Senator Mark Romanchuk (R-Ontario) has announced that more than \$7.2 million is coming to Richland County to support career-technical education programs. Both Ontario Local Schools and Pioneer Career & Technology Center will use the funds to prepare Ohio's students for future careers.

"Ohio's economy is booming, and we are in need of a well-developed and well-trained workforce to keep it moving forward," Romanchuk said. "These investments in career-technical education will help our next generation have the skills to find fulfilling jobs in today's economy."

Ontario Local Schools will receive \$642,849 from the Career Technical Education Equipment Grant Program. The funding will help the district purchase updated equipment for career-technical programs. 56 schools across Ohio will receive more than \$67.7 million from this program to expand their reach to an additional 10,345 students.

Pioneer Career & Technology Center was awarded \$6,613,375 to renovate an existing building into an advanced manufacturing center with a new welding lab. The funds will also help the center establish its new electrical trades program. These dollars come from the Career Technical Construction Program, which is investing almost \$200 million to build and expand classrooms throughout the state.

Both grant programs were allocated money in House Bill 33, the state's main operating budget, which Senator Romanchuk supported.

## Reservations open for workshop

The next Conservation Creation Arts & Crafts Workshop hosted by Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD) will take place Tuesday, April 2 at 6 PM at the Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Ave., Mansfield. The evening will focus on herbs with Christine Libby from Alta Florist & Greenhouse sharing her expertise. Participants will plant a trio of oregano, chives and parsley seeds in a container to take home and enjoy.

Richland SWCD provides all the materials. The cost is \$12 per person and reservations are requested by March 29. Visit <https://richlandswcd.net/event/conservation-creation-arts-crafts-workshop-tbd-3/> or call 419-747-8685 to register for the workshop.



# Pioneer students headed to state conferences

At the March 18 meeting, the Pioneer Board of Education adopted a resolution accepting tax amounts and rates and authorizing necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor.

The board adopted the 2024-'25 Pioneer CTC High School, adult ed and preschool calendars and preschool fees.

Donations were accepted from Scott and Karen Donahue, donation of \$50 to be deposited into the Art Barr Scholarship fund and used for annual student scholarships; and Olson, Soldiers & Sailors Memorial, Mansfield, donation of lumber valued at approximately \$200 to be used by the construction programs.

Tim and Michele Starkey, Mansfield, donated clothing items to the Pioneer Sharing Closet; and Dawn Wright-Smith, Blackburn Giving Fund, Wells Fargo Bank, Charleston, SC, donated \$90 to be deposited into the Alumni Endowment fund and used for annual student scholarships.

The board approved student participation in the State SkillsUSA Competition, Hyatt Regency, Columbus, April 9-10, for Brayden Pence, Willard, Industrial Diesel; William Naylor, Northmor, Precision Machining; Jacob Brinley, homeschool, Precision Machining; Austin Estridge, Buckeye Central, Precision Machining; Colton Worden, Wynford, Industrial Diesel; Lita Frost, Ontario, Homeland Security; Phoebe Oswalt, Lucas, Graphic Arts; Raina Kelly, Crestline, Graphic Arts; Autumn Holmes, Galion, Graphic Arts; Vanessa Woods, Northmor, Criminal Justice; Elleciana Webb, Galion, Criminal Justice; Josh Porter, Ontario, Criminal Justice; Dyonna Ball, Shelby, Criminal Justice; Emily Cantrell, Northmor, Criminal Justice; Dylan Sweitzer, Wynford, Graphic Arts; Kortney Eaton, Lucas, Media Communications; Lillian Ebner, Galion, Performing Arts; Douglas Garris, Northmor, Performing Arts; Kaydence Payne, Lucas, Performing Arts; Matthew Bennett, Galion, Masonry; Annjolena Gonzalez, Crestline, Engineering Design; Diondre Cantey, Ontario, Engineering Design; Tyler Mason, Buckeye Central, Engineering Design; Erin Lindsey, Shelby, Engineering Design; David Hoover, Northmor, Engineering Design; Wilson Tallman, Lexington, Engineering Design; and David Cooperrider, Ontario, Engineering Design. Chaperones are John Burgess, government instructor/skills co-advisor; Grant Brocwell, masonry instructor; Anne Kurtzman, performing arts instructor; and Jeremiah Howe, career tech supervisor.

Students attending the HOSA State Leadership Conference, Glass City Center, Toledo, April 10-11, are Mia Felder, Galion, Dental Assisting; Maggie Lantz, Crestview, Dental Assisting; Makayla Dickson, Ontario, Dental Assisting; Rayna Clayton, Bucyrus, Dental Assisting; Jahniya Likely, Ontario, Dental Assisting; Aiden Green, Lucas, Exercise Science; Ryan Diehl, Northmor, Exercise Science; Mason Diaz, Lexington, Exercise Science; Manae Tatum, Ontario, Exercise Science; Emma Mies, Ontario, Exercise Science; Baylee Black, Ontario, Exercise Science; Olivia Hardy, Col. Crawford, Exercise Science; Lorelei Reed, Shelby, Medical Technologies; Addyson Whitesel, Lexington, Medical Technologies; and Kalie Carr, Bucyrus, Medical Technologies. Chaperones are Mike Millward, exercise science instructor/HOSA lead advisor; Meghan Haney, medical technologies instructor; Kevin Vargyas, supervisor; and Karrie Davisson, HOSA co-advisor.

Students attending the FCCLA State Leadership Conference, Ohio Expo Center, Columbus, April 25-26, are Shelby Middle School students Mia Mullins, Makenzie Couch, Kayla Lykins, Matalyn Byrd and Ethan Beck. Chaperones are Gwen Schwemley, Shelby Middle School FCCLA Advisor; Sandy Cornett; and Jill Couch.

The board approved employment for Shannon Sprang, academic supervisor; 3-year contract, Aug. 1, 2024-July 31, 2027; and Kevin Vargyas, Career Tech Supervisor, 3-year contract, Aug. 1, 2024-July 31, 2027.

Kerra Hines resigned from the Medical Assisting program, effective June 1, 2024.

LeAnne Bauerdick was hired as an integrated math instructor on a one-year contract, effective August, 2024.

The board approved the employment of Joy Downing, intervention specialist, on a one-year contract, effective August, 2024.

Jennifer Verspoor was hired as an intervention specialist on a one-year contract, effective August, 2024.

Paternity leave was approved for Brent Tyrrell and a revised pater-

nity leave request was approved for Terry Stuart.

Chaperone stipends for HOSA Cavs Day were approved for Karrie Davisson, Vickie Hunt, Mike Millward and Stephen Raphael. Chaperone stipends were approved for the FCCLA Regional Competition. These will go to Crystal Jennings, Kelly Jung and Maleesa Warner.

The board approved employment of a substitute instructor and classified personnel Crystal Black, library/media center aide.

The board approved the employment of part-time classified personnel Lexi Dye, ECE Parent Coordinator; and Colette Robinson, cafeteria worker.

Lexi Dye was hired as a substitute ECE Lead Teacher/aide. Adult Education personnel were also hired.



**STUDENTS OBSERVED** colored flames from metal ions and used their findings to identify an unknown compound in Ms.Haver's chemistry class at Ontario High School.



# Domestic Violence Shelter accepts mural and art contributions

In a significant display of community support, Park National Bank has extended support to The Domestic Violence Shelter. This contribution has enabled renowned local artist Allison Pence to bring a burst of color and inspiration to the shelter through a series of vibrant murals.

Beyond funding Pence's creative endeavors, the compassionate staff at Park National Bank have taken a hands-on approach by inscribing affirmations on the walls throughout the shelter, extending from the shared living areas to each of the 14 individual bedroom doors.

Park National Bank's generosity has not only facilitated the creation of uplifting art throughout the shelter but also spurred a much-needed renovation of the children's playroom.

In an innovative move, a chalkboard was installed below the chair rail to foster the children's artistic inclinations. Additionally, Pence seamlessly integrated existing crayon and pen marks into her new artwork, enhancing the room's original whimsical aesthetic.

"I was deeply moved when Colleen approached me about this project, as it presents an opportunity to positively impact an entire community," Allison Pence commented. "My hope is that the vibrant colors and the uplifting theme dispersed throughout the hallways will make the shelter more inviting and welcoming."

Chris Hiner, the Regional President of Park National Bank, expressed his enthusiasm about the project's transformative potential. "Our support for these murals goes beyond mere beautification; we're instilling a sense of hope and resilience in those to remind them better days are ahead," Hiner remarked.

Echoing Hiner's sentiments, Shannon Hatfield, Director of Shelter Services, emphasized the healing and inspiring power of art. "This project enables us to create an environment that not only ensures safety but also radiates positivity for our residents," Hatfield stated.

Those in need of assistance are encouraged to contact the shelter hotline at 419-774-5840. For individuals interested in volunteer opportunities, they are invited to call the hotline and ask for Sarah.



THE ONTARIO MIDDLE SCHOOL book fair ran from March 18-22. Students had an opportunity to do some browsing.

# ONTARIO STINGEL RIGHT TO READ WEEK



Ellie Rietschlin



Vaidehi Patel

Part of Right to Read Week was a school-wide coloring contest-including staff. Student prizes were a goodie bag of art supplies and the staff prize was a sweet treat of Crumbl Cookies and a few art supplies as well. Winners were Preschool: Ethan Truex; Kindergarten: Aven Holden; 1st Grade: Makenna Whisler; 2nd Grade: Willow Kiser; 3rd Grade: Ellie Rietschlin; 4th Grade: Vaidehi Patel; 5th Grade: Macie McClain; and Staff: Mrs. Carney. Students were also invited to bring a stuffed animal to read to in the library.



## Red Cross offering incentives to donors in March and April

This spring, the American Red Cross asks donors to help defend the blood supply by giving blood or platelets now to combat the fact that only three out of 100 people donate blood. When donors give March 25 to April 7, they'll get an exclusive *Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire* and Red Cross t-shirt, while supplies last.

Blood and platelet donation appointments remain vital this month. People of all blood types – especially those with type O blood – are critical to ensuring hospital shelves can be replenished as soon as possible.

To book a time to give, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, or call 1-800-RED CROSS. Additionally, all who come to give April 8–28 will get a \$10 e-gift card to a merchant of choice, plus be automatically entered for a chance to win one of two \$7,000 gift cards. Visit [RedCrossBlood.org/Spring](http://RedCrossBlood.org/Spring) for details.

Bloodmobiles are scheduled for:

Thursday, March 28, 2–7 pm, Community Building, 21555 Pealer Mill Rd., Butler

Friday, March 29, 11 am to 5 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

Tuesday, April 2, 9 am to 3 pm, Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center Mansfield, 1125 Aspira Ct., Mansfield; and noon to 5 pm, Berean Baptist Church, 2145 Middle Bellville Rd., Mansfield

Wednesday, April 3, 10 am to 4 pm, OSU Mansfield/NC State Eisenhower Center, 1760 University Dr., Mansfield; and noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

Friday, April 5, 11 am to 5 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

Tuesday, April 9, noon to 6 pm, Saint Paul Lutheran Church, 48 Church St., Bellville

Wednesday, April 10, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario; and 1–6 pm, Planktown Country Market, 1921 Free Rd., Shiloh

Thursday, April 11, noon to 6 pm, Mosaic at Park Avenue Baptist Church, 296 Park Ave West, Mansfield; 1 to 7 pm, Mohican Wood Products, 20460 Nunda, Butler; and 10 am to 4 pm, OhioHealth, 199 West Main St., Mansfield



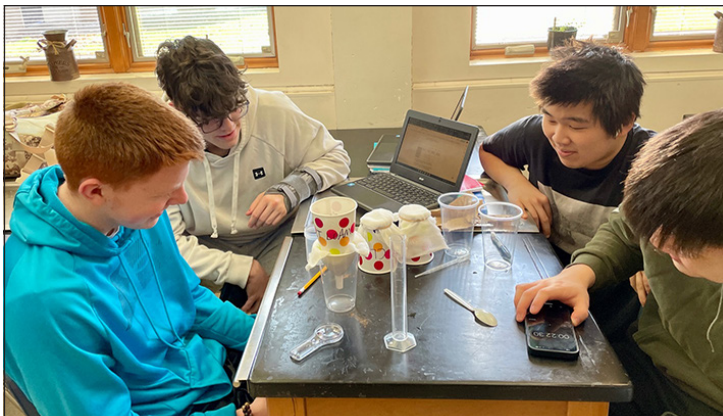
## KCCC students compete in National Collegiate Landscape Competition

Knox County Career Center (KCCC) students in Landscape Design and Management competed in the National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP) National Collegiate Landscape Competition on March 12–15 in Provo, Utah.

Oliver Ruprecht finished in 37th place overall (out of 595 students) with 277.50 points.

Tristin Hankinson finished 14th of 32 in the Compact Excavator Operation. Oliver Ruprecht finished 6th of 40 in the Compact Track/Skid Steer Loader Operation. Tristin Hankinson and Oliver Ruprecht finished 21 of 32 in the Irrigation Assembly. Oliver Ruprecht and Aaron White finished 19th of 36 in the Truck and Trailer Operation. Jesse Rings and Aaron White competed in the Hardscape Installation. Jesse Rings, Layla Crase and Oliver Ruprecht competed in Landscape Plant Installation. Layla Crase competed in Mini Truck Loader Operation.

“Our students competed well at the National Collegiate Landscape Competition. Oliver did an outstanding job finishing in 37th place overall. It was a great experience overall for our students,” said John Campbell, KCCC’s Landscape Design and Management instructor



**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE** at Ontario High School wrapped up their unit on soil and agriculture with a “Properties of Soil” lab. Students examined particle size and permeability of clay, sand and silt loam.

## Teddy Bear Concert is April 28

The Renaissance Theatre will host the final concert of its three Teddy Bear Concerts in the 2023–24 Mechanics Bank Education Series on Sunday, April 28 at 2:30 pm.

In partnership with Buckeye Imagination Museum, the concert is entitled “The Science of Sound” and will be held in Theatre 166, 166 Park Avenue West in Mansfield.

This is an interactive performance featuring audience participation, and live musicians from the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra.

G geared to children ages 2 through 10, each concert offers small audience sizes, lights up, low sound levels and safe sensory-spaces.

Tickets are \$5 each and are on sale at the Renaissance Box Office, 138 Park Avenue West, Mansfield, at 419-522-2726 and online at [www.rentickets.org](http://www.rentickets.org).

Additional generous support for the Ren’s Teddy Bear concert series comes from Nationwide Children’s, the Ohio Arts Council, and Sharon Granter, in memory of her late husband, Don.





**THE FUN CENTER CHORDSMAN** is celebrating 50 years of acapella singing in the community. The chordsmen performed in a special 50-Year celebration event Saturday, March 23, in the new Lexington High School auditorium. The Fun Center Chordsmen has been a certified chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society since the fall of 1974. At one point, the chorus consisted of over seventy men. "Membership with this group does not require a member know how to read music nor that he have an exceptional singing voice," said Kracker. "He just needs to love singing and enjoy good camaraderie. We rehearse every Monday night at 7 pm at the First Presbyterian Church on South Trimble Rd. All are welcome." Trevor Garrabrant is the current director of the chorus, and is assisted by Jim Frye and Dave Kracker. Four former directors guest directed at the event.

### Clayborne named student of the month

Pioneer Career and Technology Center announced Chloe Clayborne as a February Student of the Month.



Chloe, a junior from Lexington High School, excels in the Horticulture program. She is the daughter of Jake and Stephanie Clayborne.

Chloe is an active member of both the FFA and the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS), showcasing her commitment to both academic excellence and extracurricular involvement.

A dedicated individual, she makes it a priority to visit the gym every weekend, highlighting her focus on personal wellness.

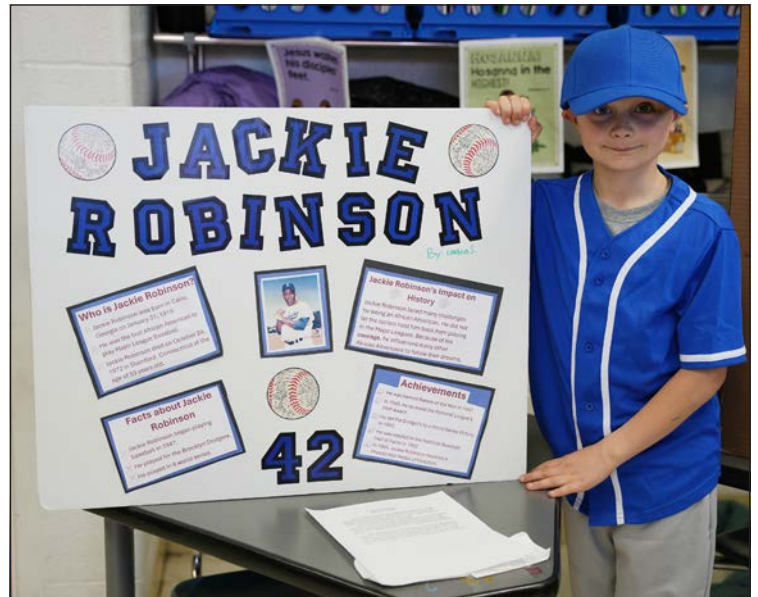
Reflecting on her time at Pioneer, Chloe describes her experience as phenomenal. She has found a supportive community among her peers and the school staff. She is thriving in her classes and lab work.

Chloe plans to go to college at North Central State College to become an interior designer



**MRS. GARBERICH'S ART 1** eighth grade students at Ontario, along with Superintendent Strickler went to the Mansfield Art Center on Wednesday, March 20. Students and Strickler enjoyed learning how to make a glass flower. Students viewed the show "Peculiar Beauty, Nature Examined" followed by an opportunity to draw one of their favorite pieces.





**THE THIRD GRADE LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM** was held at Mansfield Christian School. Students read about different people, places or events that impacted the world. Students learned a Core Value – Be engaged in impacting our world positively through our own unique talents and abilities.

### Correction: OMS Power of the Pen

The Power of the Pen teams from Ontario Middle School competed at Kent State University for the regional competition on March 16. The combined seventh and eighth grade teams took third place out of 32 teams in the Northeast region. The seventh grade team took third place out of 32 teams. Individual awards went to Olivia Sandwall for her first round district writing and Jackson Buttill for his third round district writing. Both automatically qualify for the state competition.

In the regional individual competition, Zahrana Woods placed fourth in the seventh grade competition, and Leeah Ziegler placed 11th in the eighth grade competition. Zahrana and Leeah automatically qualify for the state tournament as well. The teams anxiously await for the final tabulations to see if more team members qualify for state. Seventh grade regional team members are Jackson Buttill, Maddy Hocker, Ella Mans, Sophia Sandwall and Zahrana Woods.

Eighth grade regional team members are Kihanna Clark, Stella Durbin, Rylee Vandenburg and Leeah Ziegler. The team would like to thank Aiden Armstrong, Lexi Conrad and Kendyll Mullins for serving as runners.

Special thanks go to Mrs. Hocker and Mrs. Buttill for serving as tab room volunteer and lunch supervisor, respectively. Eighth grade coach is Wendy Wilging and seventh grade coach Kellie Ritchey. *Note: An incorrect name was provided last week for Olivia Sandwall.*

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# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

## Whippets end state playoffs in close 68-65 defeat

Photos and Article By Kris Leiter

I just want to give credit where credit is due and the Shelby Boys Basketball Team definitely deserves credit for a season well played!

We are so blessed to have a hotbed of great basketball in this area for both girls and boys teams. Crestview, Ontario, Mansfield Senior, Mansfield Christian, Lexington, Lucas and Shelby all had great seasons.

Shelby made the state playoffs for the first time in school history. The boys headed to Dayton last Saturday to meet up with the Maysville Panthers in the state tournament. Shelby was defeated in the final four with a very close 68-65.

Reflecting back during the regular season, there were so many close games, and sometimes so close, I was wondering what the

outcome would be. It always seemed like Shelby would find a way.

Good basketball makes for good memories. A big take-away this season was Alex Bruskotter, who I hadn't really had the chance to watch much until this year. The more I watched, the more amazing it was. I have seen a lot of basketball over the year, but to see a 6' 7" post player do what he does is phenomenal. His ball handling skills are second-to-none. I am excited to see his upcoming endeavors at Wright State.

Issaiah Ramsey was always in the scoring mix this year. Ramsey is heading to the collegiate life as well, where he will be playing football for the Ashland University Eagles, right next door in neighboring Ashland County.

Feel free to keep up with my columns going into the fall season, and with Issaiah, as I usually try to keep our readers informed of local talent making strides at Ashland College. Since it is a short drive from Mansfield, it frequently has a nice mix of talent from our area.

Casey Lantz and Brayden Devito also contributed greatly this season. From my recollection, every time I was watching a game this season, both young men were making their marks, whether it be snagging a rebound, boxing out an opponent, or shooting the ball, I was living vicariously through them at times.

And credit also goes to the rest of the team, Tanner Hartz, Cohen Sturtz, Bryson Baker, Anderson Brubaker, Brennan Lewis, Eli Schwemely, Amareon Russell and Karsen Homan, as all were contributors in one way or another.

Let's not forget the amazing coaching staff of head coach Greg Gallaway and his great staff  
*(Continued on Page 20)*



**SHELBY HEAD COACH** Craig Callaway cuts the net after winning regional finals at Stroh center on the campus of Bowling Green State University. Shelby advanced to the state finals for the first time in school history!



**Shelby senior Issaiah Ramsey will play football at Ashland University next year**





# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

## ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL TRACK PRACTICE



### • Whippets end playoffs

(Continued from Page 19) of Steve Hoffbauer, Alex Kurtzman and Davey Hipp.

All their hours of preparation behind the scenes that most people don't see have paid off.

Of course, we can't forget the awesome athletic director Pat Lewis, who has been a vital part of the Whippets sports program over the years. Every time I attend a game, even at another school, Pat always goes out of his way to say a big hello and is always so informative and accommodating.

Pat was also monumental in coaching the Whippets back in the 2005-'06 campaign to a 14-8 record.

Again, Shelby, Thank you for the memories and a great season!





# CLASSIFIEDS

## 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 March 20, 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. 24-06 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO, OHIO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024 AND EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2024.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-04 – A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RICHLAND COUNTY FINAL 9-1-1 PLAN.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 24-07 – AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE SERVICE DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO, REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 23-26, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Cathy VanAuker  
Clerk of Council  
City of Ontario, Ohio  
(T-C 3-128, 4-4 '24) 33L

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**THE ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL Spanish 4 students visited Pancho's Tacos in Bellville to engage with the local Mexican community, culture and cuisine.**

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