



TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com

04.18.24



Ontario School Board approves contracts for next school year

The Ontario Local School Board of Education met April 9. Karling Ward, special education supervisor, and Kimberly Johnson, Stingel Principal, gave a special education and related therapy services presentation. They also demonstrated virtual reality tools used with the students.

The board accepted a resignation for retirement from Deanna Weithman, payroll/accounting specialist, effective at the end of her 2023-'24 contract. Also retiring will be Pat Duffner, director of transportation and maintenance, effective at the end of his 2023-'24 contract; and Roberta O'Day, bus driver, effective at the end of her 2023-'24 contract.

The board declared the intent to hire Deanna Weithman, Pat Duffner and Roberta O'Day back as retire/rehires into their current positions for the 2024-'25 school year. There will be a public hearing for the purpose of discussing their return to the district at the May 14, board of education meeting.

The board approved the employment of Ashley Scott, kindergarten teacher, \$44,381, on a one-year contract for next school year.

The board employed certificated staff personnel on one-year limited contracts for the 2024-'25 school year. Approved were Lyndsey Thompson, kindergarten; Maggie Voytko, second grade; Tara Puckett, third grade; Hallee Brown, kindergarten; Stephanie Cole, fifth grade; Amanda VanHarlingen, kindergarten; Tesla Gray, Stingel Intervention Specialist; Logan Leitzky, fifth grade; Devin Osko, Stingel Intervention Specialist; Ashley Cooke, kindergarten; Holly Hale, third grade; Megan Hefner, Stingel Intervention Specialist-MD; Elijah Henkel, instrumental music; Aubrey Cardwell, middle school literature; Camryn Hoffman, middle school intervention specialist; Robin Owen, middle school family and consumer science; Michelle Smith, second grade; Allison Haver, high school chemistry; Jamee Burke, high school mathematics; and Eric Wellman, high school intervention specialist.

Certificated staff personnel employed on three-year contracts beginning with the 2024-'25 school year are Jodi Cooper-Wentz, high school librarian; Melanie Ferguson, high school social studies; Tim Mergel, student services coordinator; Brittany Rhodes, high school family & consumer sciences; Joice Riedel, French and Spanish; Vincent Sansalone, high school health/P.E.; Jaclyn Schaub, high school English; Paige VanCura, high school mathematics; Tonya Welch, high school science; Charlie Ridenour, middle school science; Kellie Ritchey, middle school language arts; Brooke Breitingner, fourth grade; Nicole Carney, preschool special needs itinerant; Hannah Davis, second grade; Kelli Eddleblute, first/second grade looping; Haley Echelberger, preschool special education; Tyler Gates, Stingel Physical Education; Brittney Hart, Stingel Intervention Specialist; Amy Kurtz-Nagel, Stingel School Wellness Coordinator; Mackenzie Reese, preschool; Morgan Schneider, fourth grade; Amanda Secrist, third grade; Kaylynn Thomas, fourth grade; Cassandra VanCura, third grade; and Kyle Ward, Stingel Intervention Specialist.

Classified staff personnel employed on two-year contracts beginning with the 2024-'25 school year are Mark Hairston, bus driver; Steve Perry, bus driver Cassie Amick, high school guidance secretary; Kayla Cain, high school secretary; Marie McGinty, high school study hall monitor; Mike Kehl, middle school custodian; Courtney Stauffer, Stingel custodian; Vicki Walters, Stingel Secretary; Amber Dawson, playground aide; Samantha Mills, playground aide; Mark Ward, playground aide; Jena Balok, middle school cook; Jenna Kiser, Stingel cook; and Brandy Vail, Stingel cook.

One-year extended time contracts for the 2024-25 school year were approved for Jim Buker, 10 days; John Boyd, 15 days; and Robin

(Continued on Page 9)



Photos By Traci Little

KINGWOOD CENTER GARDENS is alive with spring blooms as the warmer weather has brought pops of color throughout the gradens. For hours and other information visit <https://kingwood-center.org>.

Earth Stewardship Celebration begins April 22

The Earth Stewardship Steering Committee has announced the kickoff of the 28th Anniversary Earth Stewardship Celebration, joining citizens across the State of Ohio and the United States in celebrating the Great American Cleanup.

Mansfield Mayor Jodie Perry, the Richland County Commissioners, elected officials, and community leaders will join members of the Earth Stewardship Steering Committee to officially proclaim the months of April 1 through August 1 as Earth Stewardship Months in Mansfield/Richland County.

The kick-off will be held Monday, April 22, at 10 am at the Richland County Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Ave., Mansfield.

The annual event invites area groups in all of Mansfield/Richland County to conduct a project during the months of April through August to commemorate Earth Day, Arbor Day and Soil and Water Stewardship Week and serve as a reminder that these days should not be celebrated on just one day, but throughout the year.

(Continued on Page 6)

The Lexington Landmark

By Bob Carter

If there was ever a landmark in Lexington, it's the beautiful steeple on the former First Congregational Church on Delaware Street. There's quite a bit of history behind the old church building,

The nearby Presbyterian Church was founded by Noah Cook and family (he had 13 children) and was a strong supporter of that denomination. They built a rather large, but plain building on Church Street in 1831-'32 at the same time they were formally constituted. With the only church building in the area, they grew rapidly.

A few members were not in favor of slavery, and church records reveal the following;

"Feb. 8, 1843, charges were filed by William Lyon against Wm. Campbell, a ruling elder, in said church with the crime of first circulating a scandalous report against me by showing a letter to different persons in and out of the bounds of the church, which conveyed the idea that I had in a clandestine manner, conveyed away a negro or colored man on a stolen horse."

The case was dropped due to lack of evidence. Did it run out of town?

But the Presbyterians had another problem that divided the con-



THE BEAUTIFUL former Congregational Church steeple in Lexington has been a landmark since 1873.

gregation. It was a radical new movement that really set some on their ear — it was called Sunday School!

The church, founded by Cook and family, divided and several Cook family members left along with others and founded a "New School Presbyterian" congregation.

In 1846, they built what became the main part of their church just up the street in 1846 for \$835. They became a Congregational Church in 1862.

In 1873, the prospering congregational members expanded the original rather plain structure and added to the front with a bell tower and beautiful steeple.

Bloomer Sowers ran a local general store and merchants in New York who shipped his supplies and sent a used bell for the bell tower. It was cast in 1848 by the New York and Brooklyn Brass and Bell Foundry.

At one time it was used as the town fire bell in addition to calling Sunday services.

In the 1980s, an addition was added rear of the sanctuary in keeping with the original architecture but as years passed and more denominations moved to town, attendance dropped and soon the financially sound congregation had but few members.

In 1950, there were just the Presbyterian, Congregational and Church of Christ churches in town. Today, there are ten congregations, all trying to fill pews.

At that time the decision was made to lease the 184-year old meeting house to a newly established Vision Church in 2017. It is still listed as Congregational and Vision congregations.

The beautiful building has long been a Lexington landmark. It's the only church in town with a tall steeple and classic architecture.

Foundation approves grant for HNCO

The grants committee for the "Summertime Kids" fund at The Richland County Foundation has approved a grant in the amount of \$1,250 designated for Hospice of North Central Ohio's 2024 Camp Hope Children's Bereavement camp scheduled for June 17-18, 20-21 at Pleasant Hill Campgrounds. The grant will fund the purchase of stuffed therapy animals.


Becky Pfister, HNCO Bereavement Counselor stated, "We are certainly grateful for the Richland County Foundation's continued support of this special camp for grieving children. The 'Summertime Kids Fund' has helped us enhance each campers experience and helped facilitate healing by allowing us to purchase special therapy items such as stuffed animals."

Camp Hope was established by HNCO in 1996 in response to a growing need to provide a safe and supportive environment for grieving children to share their story and receive validation for their feelings from a trained and dedicated team of staff and volunteers.

The camp is provided for grieving children ages 6-17 who have lost a loved one through death. Except for a nominal registration fee, the camp is provided free-of-charge to qualified families.

Vol. 63
No. 27

Tribune-Courier



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

PO Box 127, Ontario, OH 44862 • 347 Allen Dr. • 419-529-2847
news@tribune-courier.com • www.tribune-courier.com
© All Rights Reserved

The Tribune-Courier is published by Stumbo Publishing Co., Inc. Advertisers should check their ad immediately. The Tribune-Courier is not liable for failure to publish an ad or for a typographical error or errors in publication, except that adjustment for Tribune-Courier errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. Marc A. Stumbo, publisher; Frank A. Stumbo, president/CEO (1961-2018); Betty E. Stumbo, co-publisher (1961-2017); Jenna M. Wolford, managing editor, general manager and feature/travel writer; Teresa Vore, office manager; Traci Little, photojournalist/advertising representative; Bud Motter, photo journalist; Jim Warne, sports editor; John J. Kirschenheiter, editor (1961-2008); Linda Fulmer, columnist (2005-2014). By-lined stories are opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the position of this newspaper.



Survivor
Sandra McElvan

Since 1996 PAT KRACKER
BREAST CANCER FUND
We Can Help

Get those Mammaries
GRAMMED

➔ LEARN MORE

News Briefs

State Route 95, between Divelbiss Rd. and Armstrong Rd. will close Monday, April 22 for a culvert replacement. The detour route will be SR 95 west to SR 97 west to SR 13 south to SR 95, and reverse. Estimated completion is Friday, April 26.

State Route 96, between SR 603 and SR 545, will close Monday, April 22 for 120 days for a bridge replacement project. The detour route will be SR 96 west to SR 545 south to SR 603 north to SR 96, and reverse. Estimated completion is July 31.

★

The Clear Fork Athletic Boosters, baseball teams and softball teams will host a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, April 20, from 5–7 pm. Prior to the event all sponsors, donors and the general public are welcome to tour the facilities from 4–5 pm.

The dinner will include spaghetti, bread, salad, desserts and drinks and baskets for auction.

Cost is \$10 for adults, middle school and high school students; \$6 for elementary students; and free for children under school age.

★

The Mansfield Area Community Hymnsing will be the second Friday in May because of scheduling conflicts. It will be at 7 pm at New Liberty Baptist Church in Lexington on Lexington Ave, a half mile south of Hanley Rd. All are welcome.

★

Richland Academy of the Arts is hosting the All-Ohio Dance Festival on Saturday, April 20. The program director is Anita Shapasian.

The All-Ohio Dance Festival is an event that brings Ohio dancers and their families to Richland County – more specifically downtown Mansfield. The program is about education (classes at RAA), performance (performance at Mansfield Senior) and scholarships awarded to Ohio dancers.

★

The May 15 Ontario Council meeting will be held in the Ontario High School/Middle School Auditorium at 8:30 am.

The June Council meetings will be held on June 12 and 26 at the Ontario Municipal Building at 7 pm.

★

Ontario Community Events and Ontario Local Schools are hosting the 3rd Annual Senior Citizen Prom at the Ontario Middle School, 447 Shelby Ontario Rd. Ontario, on May 4, from 5:30–8 pm.

This is a free semi-formal dance for senior citizens of the City of Ontario and surrounding areas.

Just Jazz Live band will be performing and there will be lots of food, non-alcoholic drinks, a photo booth and raffle prizes. RSVP by April 26, to Ontario Community Events tarin@oysports.com or call 419-961-5016. with name, phone number and email address.

★

A showing of the movie “Screenagers: Under the Influence- Addressing Vaping, Drugs and Alcohol in the Digital Age,” will be held by Community Action for Capable Youth (CACY) on May 7 at 5:30 pm at Linden Road Presbyterian Church.

The movie examines the impact of our digital age on teens’ decision-making in relation to substances such as vaping, drugs and alcohol. The film highlights the changing landscape of the substances themselves, offering solutions for how to best empower teens as they face decisions about what they will and will not be influenced by.

★

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.

★

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 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.

★

The 3rd Annual SPT Charity Golf Outing will be held Friday, May 17, at Twin Lakes Golf Course, 2220 Marion Avenue Rd., Mansfield.

Entry includes breakfast, dinner, beverage, snacks, golf, cart and prizes. Specialized Pipe Technologies seeks to utilize golf to spark a

day of generosity to benefit the Richland County Special Olympics.

For more information call 419-834-8366 or email aaron@sptohio.com. To register visit <https://files.constantcontact.com/5fc06ec5201/3f846a90-7d29-4b37-83cd-bd19efb80b6a.pdf?rdr=true>

★

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, April 27 and 28. Acceptable items include steel and aluminum cans, crushed milk jugs, detergent bottles, plastic bottles with number 1 or 2 on the bottom, broken down cardboard, all papers included with the newspaper but no other magazines or paper. Please remove caps from bottles and rinse all containers well.

★

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 May 15, and will include chicken. This will be a celebration of 50 years.

The group will gather for lunch on May 1 at 11 am at Open Door, 252 W. Main St., Lucas.

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

★

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Wendy Bartlett to speak on “Tikkun Olam: Repairing the World” at 10:30 am on Sunday, April 21. For more information visit www.allsoulsuohio.org.

★

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.

★

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 North End Community Improvement Collaborative (NECIC) will host the 13th Annual 60/60 cleanup on Tuesday, April 23, at 5 pm, starting at the Community Outreach Center, 486 Springmill St., Mansfield.

60/60 cleanup is 60 volunteers taking 60 minutes out of their day to help clean up trash from the local neighborhood.

As a token of appreciation, volunteers who register will receive a commemorative t-shirt and refreshments to enjoy after the cleanup. Register at <https://www.necic-ohio.org/surveys/13th-annual-6060-clean-up-registration>

★

The Lexington Kiwanis will host 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, but will be available at discounted prices. All teams and money must be in before May 29. Proceeds help support Kiwanis youth services. Register at <https://form.jotform.com/231093806474054>. For more information email lexkiwanispresident@gmail.com.

★

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 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

(Continued on Page 12)

Mansfield United Lions Club hosting Strides for Diabetes Walk

Mansfield United Lions Club invites the community to join together for the annual Strides for Diabetes 1-Mile Walk, a free event taking place on Saturday, April 20, at North Lake Park in Mansfield.

This event aims to raise awareness about diabetes and bring our community together in support of those affected by this prevalent health condition. The event will be held from 11 am to 1 pm.

In addition to the walk, there will be a special cooking demonstration by local diabetes educators. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn practical tips and delicious recipes to help manage diabetes through healthy eating habits. The cooking demonstration will take place throughout the event.

The Strides for Diabetes 1-Mile Walk is open to participants of all ages and fitness levels. Participants can walk to support a loved one, raise awareness or simply enjoy a morning of community spirit.

“We are thrilled to offer the Strides for Diabetes 1-Mile Walk as a free community event, welcoming individuals and families to come together for a morning of fun and fitness,” said Jen Gibson, social media coordinator of Mansfield United Lions Club. “By uniting in support of this important cause, we can make a positive impact on the lives of those affected by diabetes in our community.”

Please note that there is no rain date for this event, so partici-

pants are encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather, including comfortable shoes for walking. We will proceed rain or shine, so be prepared to enjoy the event regardless of the forecast.

Registration is now open, and individuals are encouraged to sign up early to secure their spot. To register visit the registration form on the facebook page or email mulcstrides4diabetes@gmail.com

Mansfield United Lions Club is a dedicated group of volunteers committed to serving the community through various charitable initiatives. From supporting vision and hearing programs to organizing community events, it strives to make a positive impact on the lives of those in need. Those interested in joining can attend monthly meetings, held on the second Monday of each month at 6 pm at Burton Park, Mansfield.

Memorial service planned for Marcia Baer

A memorial service will be held in honor of the life of Marcia Baer on Sunday, April 21, at 1:30 pm at Ontario Middle School.

Doors open at 1 pm.

She was an educator and coach at Ontario for 30 years. The middle school gym was named in her honor in 2019.

Church Directory

Clay Memorial Lutheran Church

1601 Amoy East Rd., Mansfield
419-747-6882

Pastor Carol Kilgore
Sunday School 9:15 am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Clear Fork Alliance Church

1008 State Route 97, Bellville
419-886-4333 • www.clearforkalliance.org
Rev. Matt Merendino

Rev. Mike Stine, Associate Pastor
9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship
Sunday Evening 6 pm Home Groups
Monday Men's Group 7:30 pm
Wednesday evenings: 6:45 pm Prayer Meeting
6:30-8 pm TeamKID and Youth Group
Wednesday Ladies Bible Study 6:30-8 pm

Community Bible Church

1043 Springmill St., Mansfield
567-560-8011

www.DiscoverCommunity.org
Pastor Sam Belsterling
10:30 am Sunday Worship
Live stream at <https://www.facebook.com/CommunityBibleChurchMansfield>

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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

First Congregational Church

640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield
419-756-3046 • www.mansfieldfcc.com

Pastor Brad Bunn
8:30 am Chapel • 10:30 am Sanctuary
Sunday School 10:30 am

First English Lutheran Church

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

Hope Lutheran Church

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

Lexington Presbyterian Church

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

Mansfield 1st EPC

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

Mansfield Baptist Temple

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

Ontario United Methodist Church

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

St. John's United Church of Christ

68 Park Avenue East, Mansfield
419-522-2813 • www.stjohnsmansfield.org
Pastor Faith 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
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



Saturday, April 27 is National Prescription Take Back Day

On Saturday, April 27, the METRICH Enforcement Unit will be partnering with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DA) and local law enforcement to present another Prescription Take Back event for the community. This event is sponsored by the Mansfield Division of Police, Richland County Sheriff's Office, Shelby Police Department, Lexington Police Department, Plymouth Police Department, Richland County Solid Waste Authority, Richland Public Health, Community Action for Capable Youth (CACY) and the Richland County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board.

Pills will be the only form accepted (no sharps, plastics or liquids.) It will be helpful to put the pills that will be disposed into a

plastic bag or Ziplock bag prior to coming to the collection site. This is only for household unused or expired medications. No pharmacies, businesses, pharmaceutical sales reps, etc.

Richland County will have five locations for prescription drug drop off: the Richland County Solid Waste Authority facility, 1125 National Pkwy., Mansfield; Richland County Sheriff's Office, 597 Park Avenue E., Madison area; Shelby Police Department, 31 Mack Ave., Shelby; Plymouth Police Department, 48 W. Broadway St., Plymouth; and the Lexington Police Department, 44 W. Main St., Lexington. Each location will be open from 10 am to 2 pm.

For information call Lt. Steve Blust at 419-755-9677.

METRICH is a ten county decentralized task force in North Central Ohio whose mission is to improve the quality of life for citizens by reducing the availability of illegal drugs and weapons through proactive enforcement efforts. Citizens may report suspicious activity to the crime hot line at 419-522-7463 and www.METRICH.com

Hospice of NCO receives grant

The IMPACT Youth Council of The Ashland County Community Foundation has approved a grant in the amount of \$1,250 for Hospice of North Central Ohio. The grant will help fund the purchase of stuffed therapy animals for children attending "Camp Hope" children's bereavement camp. The camp, established by HNCO in 1996, will be held at Pleasant Hill Campgrounds on June 17-18, 20--1. Camp Hope is designed to meet the special needs of grieving children ages 6-17 who have lost a loved one through death. The camp is provided free of charge except for a nominal registration deposit.

Becky Pfister, HNCO Bereavement Coordinator stated, "This grant allows us to give these special stuffed animals to each camper. Our staff has found that these to be very therapeutic and comforting to children and teens alike."

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

- Michael Steven Gray, April 6
- James Louis Arata, April 7
- Bette M. Urschitz, April 7
- Frederick Leon Wolf, April 7
- Richard Eugene Chronister, April 8
- Katherine "Katy" (Tiefenbach) Foss, April 9
- James "Jim" Raymond Glasener, April 9
- Bobby Connelly Shook, April 9
- Joyce S. Stahl, April 10
- Frederick E. Seger, April 11
- Donald Andrew Fairchild Sr., April 14

View Full Obituaries at www.dignitymemorial.com

Our Family Serving Your Family for Five Generations Since 1872



WAPPNER
Funeral Directors & Crematory

Three Locations to Serve You

- Mansfield • 98 South Diamond St. • 419-522-5211
- Ontario • 100 S. Lexington-Springmill Rd. • 419-529-2323
- Ashland • 308 Claremont Avenue • 419-289-1552

www.wappner.com



To create the next chapter of your Ontario Library!



WE ARE MOVING!
TEMPORARILY

MRCPL's Ontario library will be closing **April 22**. On **May 6**, you will find our entire collection, helpful staff, programs, and resources at the Richland Mall, 2209 Richland Mall. We recommend parking on the Stumbo Rd. side, south entrance. For full details, go to mrcpl.org.



Photo By Mark Shutt

Sarah Hart will give free performance

The community is invited to attend a concert performance by noted Grammy-nominated composer, church musician and performer Sarah Hart at Mansfield St. Peter's Church on Sunday, April 21 at 3 pm in the church building, 60 S. Mulberry St.

Hart has composed a large number of songs for Oregon Catholic Press and many of them are published in a variety of hymnals, including "You Alone Are Holy."

She will also be joining the Contemporary Ensemble at the 9:30 Mass that Sunday morning. Admission to the concert is free of charge and open to the public. Call 419-524-2572, extension 2113, for more information.

Virtual career fair is April 23

DAV (Disabled American Veterans) and RecruitMilitary® will co-host the Central Region Virtual Career Fair, April 23 from 11 am to 3 pm CST. The event is free to veterans, their spouses, active-duty military personnel and members of the National Guard and Reserve.

More than 40 employers actively seeking the unique talents of America's veterans will be on-site representing a range of industries, from construction to medical to administrative and logistics, with career opportunities from entry level to senior management. In addition to employment assistance, the veterans expected to attend can utilize career counseling and resume assistance, network with fellow veterans and military personnel, and get support with their Department of Veterans Affairs benefits and claims assistance—all at no cost.

This year, DAV will sponsor more than 90 in-person and virtual job fairs. Since the inception of its employment initiative in 2014, there have been nearly 274,000 attendees and more than 167,000 job offers.

Last year, to support employers, dispel myths and demonstrate the business case for employing America's nearly 4 million veterans with a service-connected disability, DAV developed The Veteran Advantage: DAV Guide to Hiring and Retaining Veterans with Disabilities. This guide offers best practices and helpful tools for employers and strives to inspire more organizations to consider the veteran talent pool.

To register for the Central Region Virtual Career Fair and access additional no-cost resources for veterans and their families visit jobs.dav.org.

Governor urges ending the sale of flavored tobacco products

During Governor DeWine's State of the State address, he called for legislation to end the sale of flavored tobacco products in the Buckeye State. The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) supports legislation to end the sale of menthol cigarettes and all other flavored tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, flavored cigars, hookah and smokeless tobacco.

"The tobacco industry markets fruit and candy flavored products, including menthol cigarettes, to young people. ACS CAN thanks Gov. DeWine for standing up for the health of Ohioans and continuing to be a champion against Big Tobacco," said American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Government Relations Director Leo Almeida

"ACS CAN looks forward to working with the Governor and the legislature to increase funding for tobacco control and to pass legislation that will reduce the tobacco burden in Ohio."

Stewardship celebration begins April 22

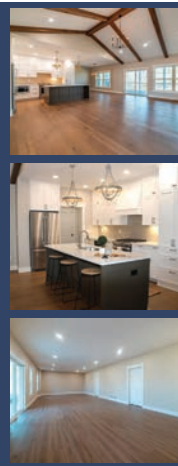
(Continued from Front Page)

Citizens are encouraged to join this celebration by participating in a litter clean up, tree planting and/or beautification project, recycling drive, community garden, rain barrel/rain garden, planting of native plants, pollinators, prairies and/or wildflower garden project. Register by calling 419-522-3211.

Registration and project completion deadline is Aug. 1, (photos due Aug. 4). Over 52,341 volunteers from Richland County have completed over 755 projects and donated over 2.1 million hours of time.



CALL STACEY WAMPLER, 419-565-5184



STUNNING LEX HOME FOR SALE

4 BED, 3.5 BATH, 3180 SF

A newly built, spectacular split ranch on just over half an acre provides an incredible open floor plan with spacious rooms, tons of natural light, and a stunning walkout lower level!

SLUSS REALTY CO.





By Mátiece Thomas
I have written several articles on the importance of being able to pivot when things change. Today I want to share with you my own personal experience with this. Recently, I started a new job, working Monday through Friday. This was a big change for me in many ways. I've always been an entrepreneur, making my own schedule and hours, which gave me a lot of "me" time for my goals.

In the last month, I realized that I'm going to have to figure out how to make time for my workouts and all that I need to do. Because what I was doing before no longer works with my schedule and new life.

I used to be able to fit in long workouts, go cycling or a good jog on a pretty day. Now when I get home I'm tired and I have

to get dinner ready and take care of my "mom jobs". I haven't had the energy for my long lift days.

In week two of my job I started feeling it, my body missed her workouts. I realized I need to make a new plan.

I thought since I'm too tired when I get home to workout, I would set my alarm a little earlier and get something in before work. (I had to pivot).

Right now they are just about 15 minute circuits but I am definitely feeling better getting something in. I hope to build myself up to longer workouts in the morning, but I'm a work in progress.

My Trainer Girl's Tips for you today are (1) Remember when change happens you have to pivot, don't dig your heels in. (2) When it comes to workouts, it's important to do something instead of nothing, every movement counts. (3) Don't be hard on yourself during your adjustment period to something new, give yourself grace. (4) Results come from consistency, so never give up on your goals!

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



Photo by Damon Callis



kimmyscucina

By Kim Sterry

SEMOLINA SPONGE CAKE WITH STRAWBERRY SYRUP

Ingredients

- 5 large eggs
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1 cup semolina
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- Juice of one lemon



Instructions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Prepare a 9 inch cake pan (spray or grease). In a bowl with a whisk or mixer mix the eggs and add the melted butter. Add sugar and continue to mix. Add flour, semolina, baking powder and salt. Add lemon juice. Bake 30-35 minutes.

LIKE Kimmy's Cucina on Facebook & Instagram



Day Trippin' With Damon – West Virginia's New River Gorge National Park contains some of the states rarest plants. Congress established the park in 1978 to preserve and protect this important free-flowing waterway. The completion of the New River Gorge Bridge on Oct. 22, 1977 solved a travel challenge. The bridge turned a 40-minute drive into less than a minute. It removed the need to navigate down narrow mountain roads across an ancient river. The New River Gorge Bridge is the longest steel span in the western hemisphere. It is also the third highest bridge in the United States.

Richland SWCD to host native plant workshop May 8

As gardening season arrives, the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD) is hosting a free workshop on native plants Wednesday, May 8 at 5:30 pm at the Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Ave., Mansfield.

Guy Denny, retired Ohio Department of Natural Resources Chief of Natural Prairies and Preserves Division, will provide a brief introduction on native plants and then open the floor up for a question-and-answer session.

This workshop is suitable for those considering using native plants and for those who are already using native plants in their landscaping.

Options to consider before purchasing plants are planting in the right location, blooming times, and if there is a desire to attract butterflies, bees and other pollinators.

The Native Plant Sale will take place after the workshop.

Richland SWCD encourages landowners to choose native plants when planning their garden or landscape. Native plants are more suited to our climate and soil and typically do better in our gardens than non-native species.

Native plants also provide excellent habitats and food for insects, pollinators, and wildlife.

Native plants have a strong root system, more soil is held in place which slows stormwater runoff and filters pollutants before they enter rivers, lakes, and streams.

To register for the workshop or for more information about the workshop and sale, visit, <https://richlandswcd.net/event/native-plant-workshop-and-sale-2/>, call 419-747-8688 or e-mail Contact@Richlandswcd.net.

Tree giveaway, clean-up challenge and tire take back events planned

In celebration of Earth Day on April 22, the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) invites the public to join in a series of events highlighting and supporting Eastern Ohio's natural resources and beauty. With the generous support of Encino Energy, Kraton Chemical, the Williams Companies, Infinity Natural Resources and the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Foundation (MWCF), the MWCD has scheduled a busy lineup of activities focused on conservation, community engagement and sustainability.

MWCD will give away native Ohio trees at multiple locations across the District. Made possible by generous support from the Williams Companies, MWCD will be distributing native trees including Red Oak, White Oak, and White Pine.

With 225 trees available at each location, this is a first-come, first-served opportunity, with a limit of one tree per family. Any remaining trees will be donated to Camp Tuscazoar.

Trees are available on April 20 at Atwood Lake Park Welcome Center, 9500 Lakeview Rd., Mineral City, OH, 11 am to 1 pm; Charles Mill Lake Park Messerly Recreation Center, 1277 A SR 430, Mansfield, OH, 1-3 pm; Seneca Lake Park Welcome Center (12-2 pm) and Marina Point Shelter #2 (3-4 pm), 22172 Park Rd. and 165 Lashley Rd., Senecaville, OH; and Tappan Lake Park Activity Center, 84000 Mallernee Rd., Deersville, OH, 11 am to 1 pm.

"Our tree giveaway event is a significant step towards promoting biodiversity and enhancing the natural beauty of our region and engaging community members in the effort. We appreciate the Williams Companies for supporting this important work because trees not only beautify our surroundings but also provide essential habitat for wildlife. We invite everyone to join us in this meaningful endeavor and come get a free tree," Craig Butler, MWCD Executive Director.

In partnership with Encino Energy, Infinity Natural Resources and the MWCF, MWCD presents the Earth Day Clean-up Challenge. Individuals aged 18 years or older are invited to participate in this social media activity to win a prize valued at up to \$500.

Participants can visit Atwood, Leesville, Charles Mill, Clendening, Pleasant Hill, Piedmont, Seneca or Tappan Lake Parks and/or Marinas, take a picture of a recreational activity and post it on social media, tagging the location (e.g., Atwood Lake Park, Charles Mill Lake Park, etc.) and using #MWCDEarthDay2024.

Participants are encouraged to pick up and dispose of any litter they find, contributing to the cleanliness of the parks and waterways.

MWCD encourages the community to participate in the Earth Day Clean-up at the Lake and help keep them pristine by gathering and disposing of trash around the lake. In return, participants will receive a free night of camping. Events occur:

April 20: Atwood, Tappan, Seneca and Charles Mill

April 27: Leesville, Piedmont, Pleasant Hill and Clendening

MWCD is hosting a Tire Take Back Event for area residents to reduce the environmental impact of discarded tires by bringing them to MWCD for proper disposal. This will be held April 27, from 8 am to 2 pm at Atwood Lake Park.

Willig Tire Recycling LLC will be on-site to accept all tires. Tires must be free of debris, and tires on wheels cannot be removed. (Federal law prohibits hauling more than 10 tires without a permit.)

MWCD can accept up to 2,500 tires on a first-come, first-served basis.

"Our Tire Take Back Event is a crucial step in reducing the environmental hazards posed by discarded tires. By participating, you contribute to cleaner waterways and a healthier environment for all," Matt Thomas, MWCD Chief of Conservation. "We look forward to all of these wonderful programs and are grateful to all of the sponsors who have helped make these opportunities some to life."

MWCD encourages everyone to participate in these or other Earth Day events and join together in protecting and preserving the natural beauty of Eastern Ohio. More information on MWCD's Earth Day events and Clean-up Challenge contest details can be found at www.mwcd.org.

The good neighbor for small business

Call or stop in today



Michelle Gates
Michelle Gates, Agent

2021 Park Avenue West, Suite 100
Ontario, OH 44906

Bus: 419-756-5010
michelle@michellegates.com
www.michellegates.com



State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL

State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL

State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX

•Ontario School Board approves contracts

(Continued from Front Page)

Owen, 5 days.

The board approved three-year extended time contracts for 2024-'25, 2025-'26, and 2026-'27 school years for Jodi Cooper-Wentz, 10 days; and Brittany Rhodes, 5 days.

The board approved one-year extended time contracts for the 2024-'25 school year using funding from the CTE grant for Heath Sager, 10 days; and Doug Basham, 10 days.

The board approved the 2024-'25 English department reading material for the summer and the school year and the Stingel Elementary student handbook for the 2024-'25 school year.

Jordyn Eckert was approved as Ontario Middle School's online summer school supervisor at \$30 per hour (not to exceed 80 hours).

Hannah Sudduth was hired as a HomeBound instructor for the 2023-'24 school year at \$22.50 per hour, not to exceed five hours per week.

The board approved an agreement with LLA Therapy for extended school year therapy services.

It was decided to not renew tutoring staff effective June 30, 2024, including Doreen Givens, Susan Kurtzman, Jennifer Jarvis, Paulette Huber (part-time) and Airika Freeman (ESL Tutor).

The board approved the revised 2023-'24 school year calendar. This calendar reflects adding an early release day on Thursday, May 16, 2024 to host an OHSAA track meet.

A stipend was approved for Kari Tarvin as a piano accompanist for the Charlie Brown play production for \$500. A stipend was also approved for Elijah Henkel as an orchestra accompanist for the Charlie Brown play production for \$500.

Ohio Health-Mansfield was approved as the agency to provide physicals for bus drivers for the 2024-'25 school year.

The board approved the employment of extracurricular/supplemental personnel for the 2023-'24 school year. This includes Cameron Shifflet, high school assistant track coach, \$1,309.20 (50% of five coaches sharing three positions); Pete Brophy, high school volunteer baseball assistant coach, \$0; and Steve Chelski, high school volunteer assistant track coach, \$0.

Donations were accepted from Dennis Nelson, \$550, softball; Todd and Keeley Friend, \$200, water for South Sudan charity; Precision Technologies Inc., \$1,050, baseball; Johnny Appleseed Baseball Club, \$300, baseball; Jason and Shannon Kearns, \$300, baseball; Dennis and Carol Mabry, \$25, track; Donna Holt and Violet Navarro, \$20, water for South Sudan charity; and Ontario Athletic Boosters, \$6,363, visitors concession building.

Facility requests were approved for Ontario Youth Sports (Kenn Spencer) for use of high school library and for summer recreation interviews; Ontario Youth Sports (Kenn Spencer) for use of auditorium, middle school classrooms, gym, pool and commons for summer recreation; Marcia Baer Scholarship Committee (Theresa Arnett) for use of middle school gym for Marcia Baer memorial service; Ontario

Youth Sports (Shawnda Schneider) for use of Stingel gym for soccer practice; Central Ohio Hornets basketball team (Tonya Winningham) for use of Stingel gym for basketball practice; and Little, Junior and Miss Ontario Pageant and Scholarship Program (Gianna Gallo) for use of auditorium for rehearsals and pageants.

The next board of Education meeting will be held on May 14.

Columbia Gas reminds customers to call 811 before digging projects

In observance of National Safe Digging Month in April, Columbia Gas shared results from a recent national survey of 1,000 U.S. homeowners revealing that over half (51 percent) plan to complete an outdoor do-it-yourself digging project in the next year, 56 percent do not plan to notify 811 ahead of time, putting themselves and their communities at risk.

Thousands of buried utilities are damaged each year due to digging activities. Safe Digging Month reminds homeowners and contractors that digging without knowing the approximate location of underground utilities can result in serious injuries, inconvenient service disruptions and costly repairs when natural gas, electric, communications, water and sewer lines are damaged.

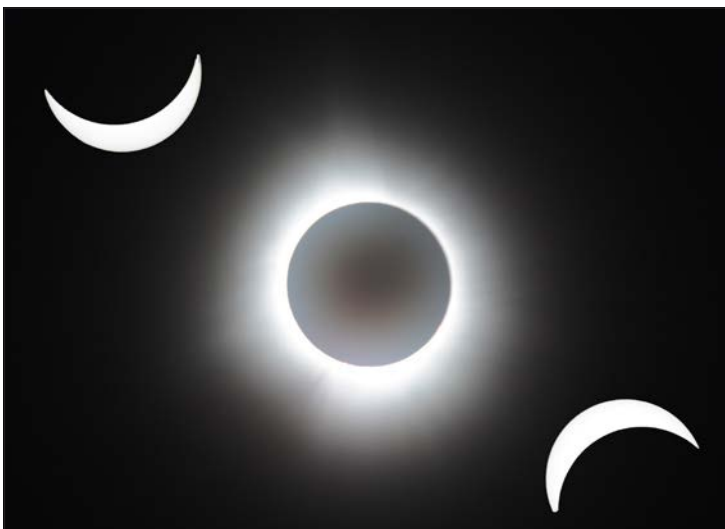
Making a free locate request online at ohio811.org or by calling 811 at least two full business days before digging will help maintain essential utility service while keeping their communities safe by reducing the likelihood of accidentally digging into buried lines.

It takes just a few minutes to submit a locate request by phone or online, said Columbia Gas of Ohio President & COO Robert Heidorn. "Those few minutes can make a big difference when it comes to safety. There's just no reason to take a chance on hitting a utility line that could result in injuries, service disruptions, repair costs and fines."

After contacting 811, professional locators will mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, spray paint, or both. Each color of paint and/or flag represents a unique type of underground utility. The flags may be removed once the project is fully complete. To learn more information or to see the complete color code guide visit ColumbiaGasOhio.com/811.

Whether you're installing a mailbox, planting trees, or performing any other outdoor digging project, Columbia Gas encourages you to take the following steps:

- Always contact 811 at least two full business days before digging, regardless of the depth or familiarity with the property.
- Plan ahead. Call on Monday or Tuesday for work planned for the weekend, providing ample time for lines to be marked.
- Confirm that all lines have been marked after two full business days have passed.
- Once lines are marked, only hand dig within 18" on either side of the width of the utility line.
- Consider moving the location of your project if it is near utility line markings.
- If a contractor has been hired, confirm that the contractor has contacted 811. Don't allow work to begin if the lines aren't marked.
- Visit ohio811.org <<https://oups.org/>> for additional information and to view Ohio's Dig Law.



Total Solar Eclipse • April 8, 2024 • Photo By Jeff Hoffer

Consumer Cellular®

**NO HIDDEN FEES.
NO HIDDEN ANYTHING.**

Plans start at just \$20/month.

888-679-1057

© 2024 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change.



ONTARIO STUDENTS IN SIXTH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES classes are learning about ancient trade. They recently participated in a market simulation where they experienced bartering for resources their community needed.



FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, Ontario and Shelby's middle schools have competed in a Problem of the Week challenge. Each week, a problem is presented and any sixth through eighth grade student that would like to participate can solve the problem. The students get extra points for being the first correct answer, but every correct answer receives a point. Ontario did not come out on top this year, but the top five winners received Cove gift cards. Pictured are Tianna Keinath (talented/gifted coordinator) and students Jeffrey Davis, Saniyah Witherspoon, Ian Linger, Ellie Dawson and Naomi Mullins.

APRIL 2024

COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Presented by the Alzheimer's Association Northwest Ohio Chapter

Join us to learn about the 10 common warning signs of Alzheimer's disease and what to watch for in yourself and others.



PLEASE CALL 800.272.3900 TO REGISTER

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

ASHLAND COUNTY | HAYESVILLE

10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's
Tuesday, April 23 - 10:00 am
Hayesville Golden Center / Hayesville Methodist Church
44 South Mechanic Street, Hayesville

CRAWFORD COUNTY | BUCYRUS

10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's
Monday, April 29 - 11:00 am
YMCA of Bucyrus - Tiffin
1655 E Southern Avenue, Bucyrus



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT Jeremiah Viscioni wore a Peep costume the day before SPRING break and went to Stingel to spread some cheer to younger students.

Two local students help with University of Mount Union project

Nursing students at the University of Mount Union took part in the CHE 115 Service Learning Project (SLP) at Washington Elementary School, where they performed and explained chemistry demonstrations to elementary students related to real-life medical or health science.

Dr. Sheryl Mason, associate professor of chemistry, has been doing this project for several years and resumed it in 2023 after taking a break as a result of COVID-19. Mason's goal for the first-year nursing majors is to research, learn and explain the college-level chemistry behind a fun demonstration. The students then practice teaching the science in a kid-friendly, fun, simplified, yet accurate way. This project is a component of the laboratory part of the course, with some sections also taught this spring by Dr. Keith Miller, associate professor of biochemistry.

Participating were local students Kazden Blevins of Ontario and Kaylan Lamb of Lexington.

The SLP spans several weeks of lab work where Mount Union students are assigned a chemistry demonstration to research and practice their research on classmates, and then, a level down to fourth and fifth-grade students at the Washington Elementary school. The goal is for the elementary students to learn something new in the chemistry field, get hands-on experience and interact with college nursing students. Mason hopes that this project will help educate those who might one day aspire to go into a STEM-related field.

This semester's projects include demonstrations that showcase acid-based chemistry, catalysis of chemical reactions, endothermic and exothermic reactions, polymer chemistry, electrolytes and effects of change in gas pressure. These experiments all have fun names like, "Making Goo Worms," "Jumbo Fresh: Elephant's Toothpaste" and "Colorful World of Stomach Acid."

Mason's overall goal with the project is to promote science and its importance in our everyday lives (in this case with emphasis on the human body, health and medicine) to many in the community. This is a unique project for nursing students to lead, but further illustrates the intersection of chemistry and nursing while being grounded in the liberal arts. This project does not just impact students required to take this course, it also affects elementary students, teachers and the parents/families of the fourth and fifth-grade students.



The CCP Environmental science class took advantage of the nice weather to do some soil sampling. A soil probe was used to compare upland dryland to lowland swamp soils. A texture and soil color test was then done to further analyze and classify.



THE STAFF AND STUDENT BODY of Ontario High School elected seniors to the 2024 Prom Court on the basis of friendliness, outgoing personality, leadership skills, school spirit, school and community involvement. Elected were Brooklyn Rowe, Pablo Sanchez Vidal, Ka'Mashya Shaw, Chase Studer, Olivia Kreger, Bryson Stoots, Sarah Hendrix, Carter Weaver, Jastyn Allen, Grason Bias, Taylor Counts, Monroe Bolen, Davanna Parks, Canaan Wentz, Jaslyn Lopez, Richard Ye, Ava Dean, Austin Boughton, Sarah Strickler and Grayson Ginn. 2024 Homecoming King Jonah So and Homecoming Queen Ella Shaffer will crown the Prom king and queen at the conclusion of the Grand March on Saturday, April 27 at 8 pm.

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



Hadley

This lovely lady is around two years old and is a volunteer favorite! Hadley is sweet and affectionate. She is also extremely good on a leash and loves to play.

A lot of times, Hadley just wants to cuddle. Other times, she wants to sprint after toys. She absolutely loves human attention. Hadley can be super goofy and make you laugh and

laugh. She is a little timid at first, but then, after she trusts a human, she really opens up. Hadley seems to like other dogs and is practically perfect. Hadley came in as a stray in May, 2023.

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.

• News Briefs

(Continued from Page 3)

their HEAP application.

Individuals will need to have copies of 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 and 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.

The last day to apply for the regular HEAP benefit is May 31, 2024. For information or assistance with applying call 419-524-4144.



Mifflin Township Fire Department will host and pancake breakfast and open house Saturday, April 27, from 7-10 am.

The breakfast will be held at the new Mifflin Road Department/Township Hall, beside Station 1, 2308 Park Ave E., Madison area.

The breakfast is dine-in or carry-out by donation. It includes sausage, milk, orange juice or coffee.

The event is sponsored by Mifflin Township Firefighters' Association.



First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Avenue West, will be offering senior boxes of nonperishable food provided by the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. This comes with a 15 lb. box of fresh produce and a 2 lb. box of cheese. These items are free to those who qualify by age (60+) and low-income guidelines. Participants must have at least one person age 60 or older in the household.

Senior boxes are available on the fourth Tuesday of each month, year round. They may be picked up between 10:30 am and 12:30 pm.

Due to the volume of clients, distribution is moving to the Mulberry St. parking lot at the corner of Park Avenue West, beginning in May. This is directly across the side street from the church.

Those attending should pull in and follow the signs and directions.



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

Subscribe for FREE and receive the weekly issue delivered to your email. Send us an email with your name to - news@tribune-courier.com

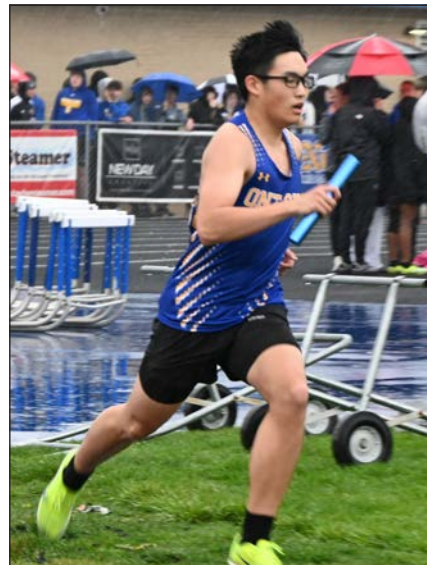
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**ONTARIO VS GALION JV SOFTBALL · APRIL 9 · WARRIORS WIN 27-5
ONTARIO REMAINS UNDEFEATED · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER**



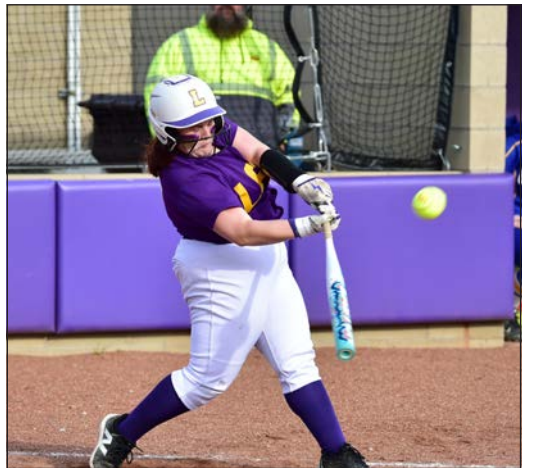
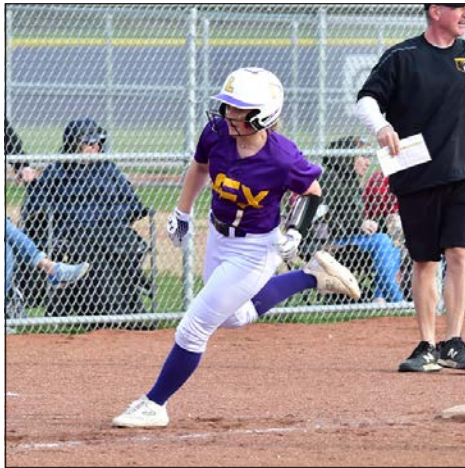
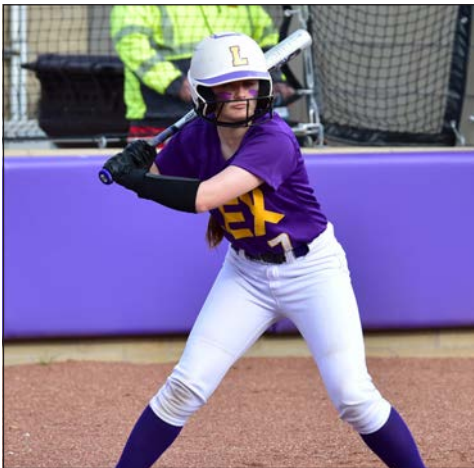
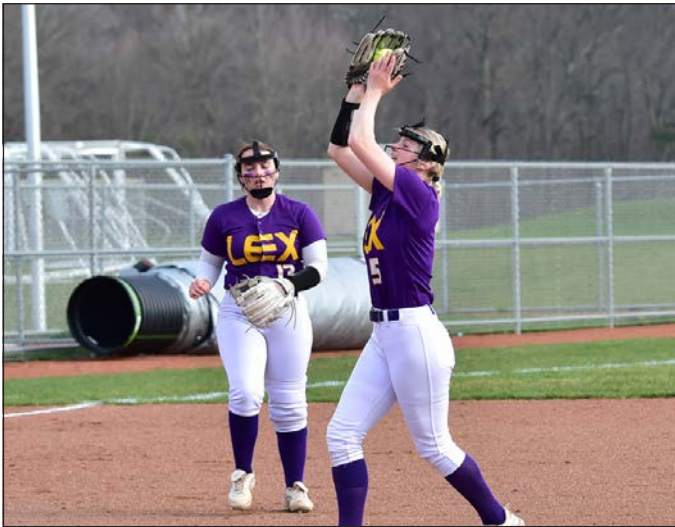
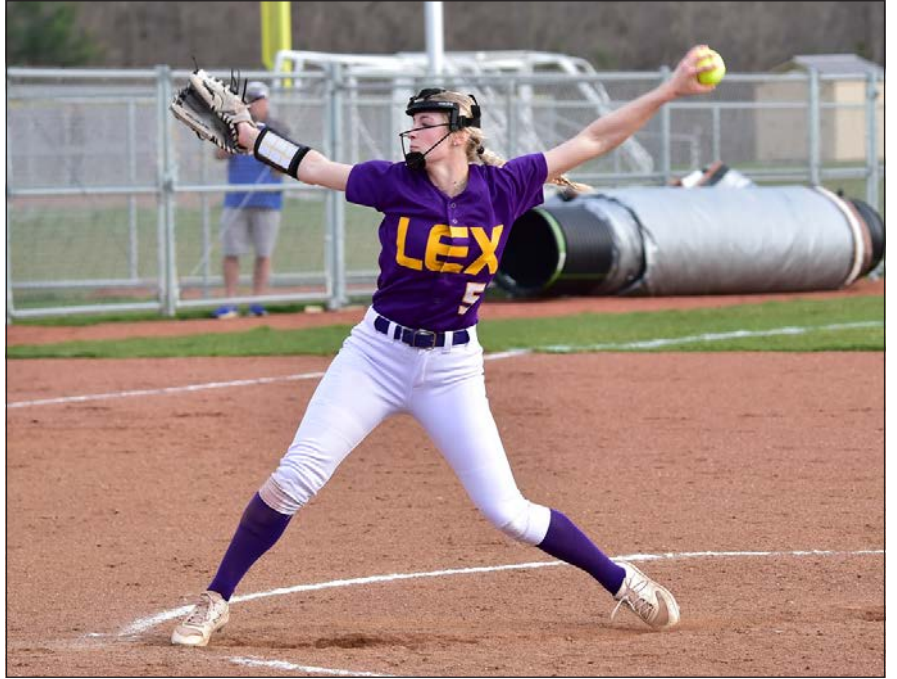
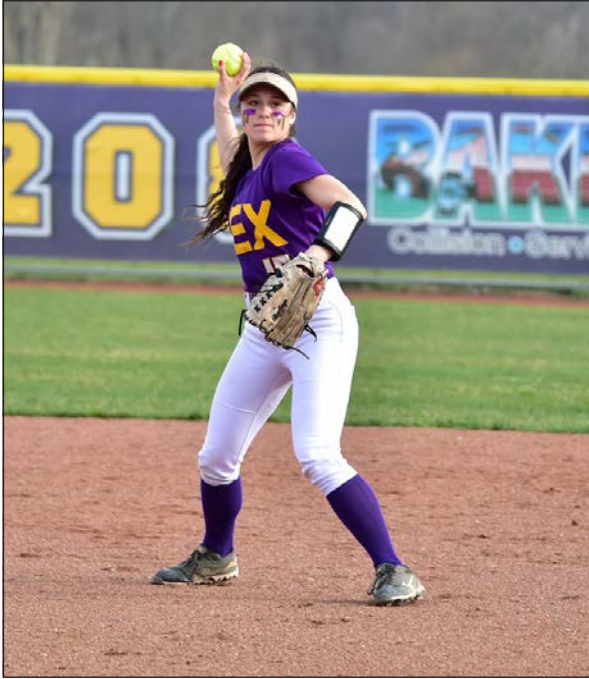
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO TRACK INVITATIONAL • APRIL 11



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS WOOSTER SOFTBALL · APRIL 9 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Mid-Season Baseball & Softball Results

By Kris Leiter

Part 1

As we are approaching the mid-point of our local high school baseball and softball seasons, I thought I would give a little update on how our area teams are doing. There have been quite a few game cancellations due to muddy fields, not uncommon for spring sports in Ohio.

Clear Fork Colts (4-2, 0-2 Mid-Ohio Athletic Conference) Head Coach Chris Spencer is at the helm with the Colts' boys baseball team. The Colts currently sit seventh place in the Mid-Ohio Athletic Conference at 4-2 (conf. 0-2)

However, they are on a three-game winning streak as we speak.

They initially put a hefty hammer in the armor of Cardington, on March 25 with a score of 13-5. Following a two-game loss to Galion on March 27-28, they have recovered well.

They took two wins on April 6 in a tri-match, double-header with Lucas and Hillsdale at the Corral. The Colts took full advantage of their recently installed beautiful artificial turf.

In game one, they handed the Cubs a shut-out of 6-0, then, in game two, they handed Hillsdale a goose-egg with another shut-out of 10-0.

The Colts notched another victory over Buckeye Valley on April 13, with a staut score of 13-8.

Topping the hitting charts for the Colts is Jay Jackson with a whopping .563 and 11 RBIs. A batting average of .300 at any level of baseball is very good, but Jackson has been swinging the lumber quite well. Jackson has burned up the base path as well with 12 huge stolen bases. I would imagine the opponents catchers keep an eye on Jackson pretty closely.

Joining Jackson is Mason Sansom with a popping .455 average and 32 trips to the batters box. He has tallied eight RBIs as well. He has crossed home plate, scoring runs 12 times thus far.

Luke Schlosser is toeing the pitching rubber with perfect 4-0 record on the year. With a mind-boggling 36 strikeouts, look out opponents! He has pitched 20 innings, facing 87 batters with an incredible 1.69 ERA.

Lady Colts' (6-3, 5-0 Mid-Ohio Athletic Conference) Chris Clapper, along with assistants Courtney Palmer and Haylie Miller, are standing proudly on a 6-3 campaign and sit in second place in the MOAC with a perfect 5-0 conference record. They are just behind fellow conference member the Shelby Lady Whippets, who are ringing in at a perfect 6-0 in the MOAC.

The Lady Colts are playing some very good softball, even with one of their losses coming earlier in the season to a very good Wooster Triway. The Colts gave a gallant effort against Triway Pitcher, senior Carter Wachtel, who has committed to Georgia Tech.

The only other two losses were to Lexington, by a very slim margin in both games.

The Lady Colts continued to notch two big wins over Galion on March 27-28, beating the Lady Tigers 4-3 and 13-5.

The first week of April, the Colts put a hurt on the Ontario Warriors, defeating them on April 1, 9-7. They would then topple Mari-on Pleasant on April 9-10, beating the Spartans 9-7 and 11-9.

Two juniors seem to be leading the hitting category quite nicely this year. Melodie Blubaugh, a multi-sport athlete and a household name in the valley is hitting an incredible .500 at the plate, with 37 plate appearances. She has also notched 16 runs and 15 hits as well.

Katrina Rogers, a junior, has been wielding the bat with an amazing .469 average, with 13 runs and seven of those being home runs. She also has 15 hits. Rogers has been on fire in the RBI column with 23!

Sometimes a freshmen will shine on any given team, as is the case with pitching phenom Miley Shafer. She has been primarily manning the duties in the circle for the Colts, with 37 innings pitched, facing 177 batters. She has notched an incredible 20 strikeouts as well!

The Crestline Bulldogs (1-2, 0-1 Mid-Buckeye Conference) are

currently sitting in the lower portion of the MBC. Long standing coach Cory Forshaw is at the helm for his thirteenth year of running the hardball program in Bulldog Country.

The Bulldogs knocked out a win over Monroeville on April 4, defeating the Eagles in extra innings 9-5. Crestline put four runs up in the eighth inning, ending up victors in an enduring contest. There were no other statistics available at the time of this printing.

The Lady Bulldogs' (Mid-Buckeye Conference) Patti Huber is manning the team this year. Due to rainouts, there were no statistics available at the time of this printing.

Crestview Cougars' (2-4, 1-2 Firelands Conference) Don Keemer is heading the Cougars baseball troops in the upper part of the county. The Cougars have two wins under their belt, with victories over Black River, 3-2 on March 25, as well as handedly defeating Western Reserve 17-2 on April 3.

The seniors are representing the batting stats thus far. Leading the wielding of the bat for the Cougars is senior Brennan Fullk, with a meaty .444 average with 19 trips to the plate and 3 RBIs. Another familiar name to the Cougars lineup is multi-sport athlete senior Jar-ek Ringler, with a respectful .438 average with 20 trips to the plate. Ringler also has 4 RBIs to his credit.

Ringler has primarily been manning the pitching duties for the Cougars, with 30 strikeouts, while facing 80 batters, with a 1.26 ERA, and touting a 2-1 pitching record.

The Lady Cougars (7-2, 3-0 Firelands Conference) and Head Coach Aaron Goon deserve a big shout out. The ladies are blazing a trail up in the Firelands Conference in the number one slot, with an overall record of 7-2, and currently on a two-game winning streak, carrying a clean 3-0 conference record.

Hats off to senior Sophia Durbin who is batting a solid .520, with 33 trips to the plate. She has 11 RBIs. Reigning in second place, just below Durbin, is junior, PJ Endicott, who is also wielding the bat with a solid .467 average, with 32 plate appearances, 12 RBIs and a jaw-dropping six doubles.

Junior Chesnie Patton has faced 106 batters and sent 28 back to the dugout on strikeouts with a 1.88 ERA. She is also proudly holding a 4-1 record.

Lexington Minutemen's (1-7, 1-3 Ohio Cardinal Conference) Kevin Morrow is running the charge for the baseball squad this year.

The Minutemen marched to a victorious shutout over conference foe, the Madison Rams on April 3, 5-0. No statistics were available at the time of this publication

There must be something in the water in Lexington this school year, as Scott Hamilton and his basketball team fared well this season as well.

The Lady Lex softball team, (11-0, 3-0 Ohio Cardinal Conference) led by Todd Gallownia are following to the beat of that same victorious Minuteman drum, called success. They are having an awesome and perfect season thus far with a 11-0 overall and 3-0 record in the OCC.

Can you say shutout three times? As in blanking Vermillion 17-0 on April 4, followed by Crestview two days later on April 6, 14-0, and for the trifecta, taking down conference member, the Wooster Generals 10-0 on April 9.

Kudos to Lex with a total of 109 runs scored in 10 games against a total of 31 runs collectively by all opponents!

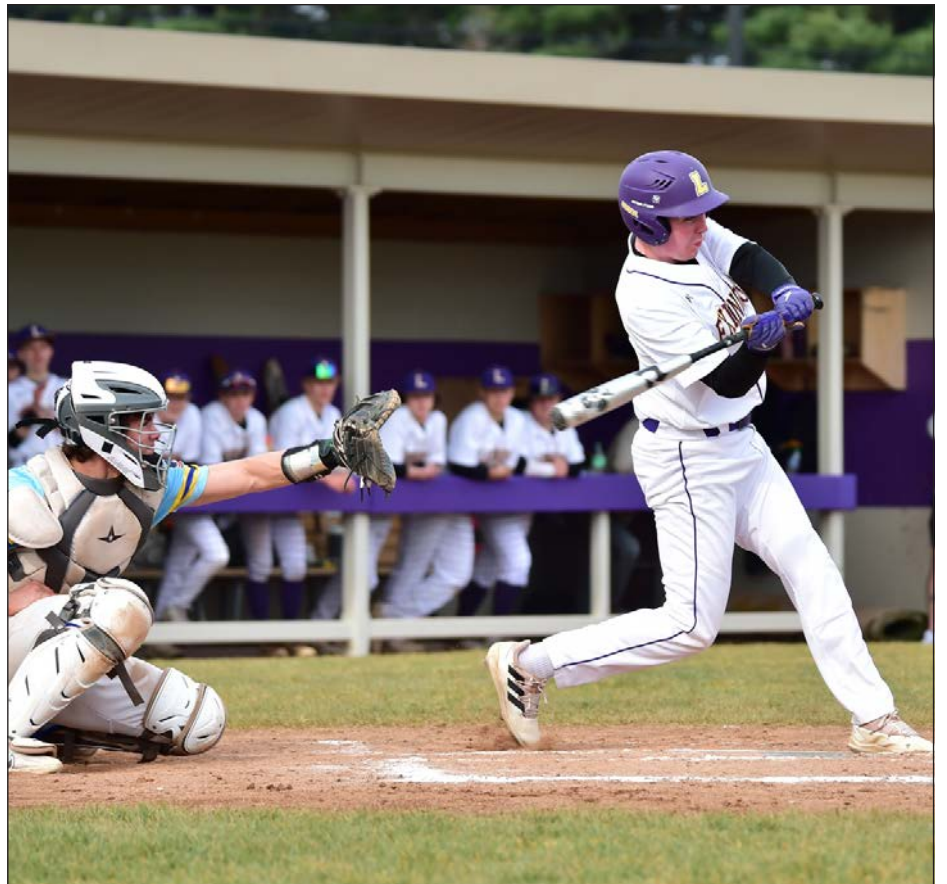
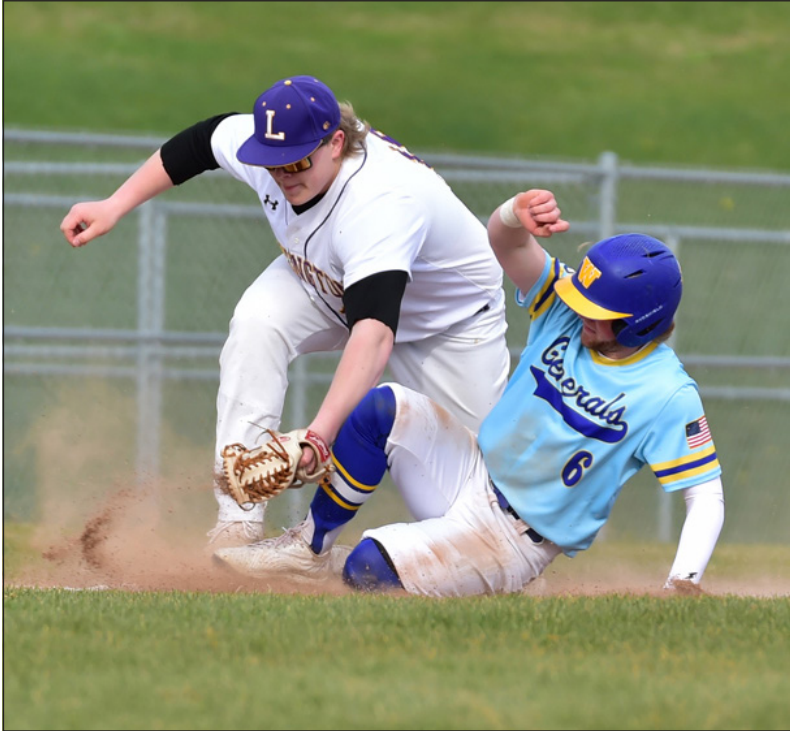
Junior Makaree Chapman leads the Lex squad with .571 average, 43 plate appearances and 18 RBIs. Right behind Chapman by an eyelash is senior Kylie Galownia, touting a .568 avg., 43 trips to the plate and 20 RBIs. Rounding out the hitting trio is senior Jillian Morr, swinging a .475 average with 44 trips to the plate and 6 RBIs.

Manning the duties in the pitching circle is Chapman, with a 1.79 ERA, 70 amazing strikeouts while only walking 15 and facing 183 batters.

Stay Tuned next week for the remainder of our coverage teams.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS WOOSTER BASEBALL · APRIL 9 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER
WOOSTER WINS 3-2



Donors asked to give in honor of National Volunteer Month

During National Volunteer Month in April, the American Red Cross asks donors to help protect the blood supply by making and keeping blood or platelet donation appointments in the weeks ahead. Donors of all blood types – especially type O blood donors and those giving platelets – are needed now to keep the blood supply strong enough to support critical patient care this spring.

The Red Cross depends on thousands of volunteer blood donors to collect about 12,000 blood donations every single day. With no substitute for blood and no way to manufacture it, volunteer donors are essential in transfusion care. Blood drives and donation centers also depend on the generosity and valuable time of those who make it possible for the Red Cross to help people in need.

Book a time to give lifesaving blood or platelets by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App. Those who come to give April 8–28, will receive a \$10 e-gift card to a merchant of choice, plus be automatically entered to win a \$7,000 gift card. There will be two lucky winners. See RedCrossBlood.org/Spring for details.

Bloodmobiles are scheduled for:
Thursday, April 18, 10 am to 4 pm, Schmidt Security Pro, 241 Mansfield Industrial Pkwy., Mansfield; and 2–7 pm, Lucas Community Center, 252 W. Main St., Lucas

Friday, April 19, 8 am to 1 pm, OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital, 335 Glessner Ave., Mansfield; and 10 am to 3 pm, YMCA, 750 Scholl Rd., Mansfield

Wednesday, April 24, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario; and 7 am to 1 pm, K of C Hall, 208 Vernon Rd., Shelby

Thursday, April 25, 11 am to 5 pm, Heartland Church, 2505 Lexington Springmill Rd S., Lexington

Friday, April 26, 8 am to 2 pm, Pioneer Career & Tech Center, 27 Ryan Rd., Shelby

Saturday, April 27, 9 am to 2 pm, Jefferson Twp Hall Bellville, 115 Main St., Bellville

Survey helps with long-term planning

The Richland County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is developing its 2025–’50 Long Range Transportation Plan for the region to improve and maintain the multimodal transportation and roadway system over the next 25 years starting from 2025.

As part of the planning process, RCRPC MPO has launched an online survey to seek the public’s input on transportation safety needs and priorities for investing the MPO’s resources to meet future transportation needs across the Richland County Transportation Planning. The survey can be taken now through Monday, July 1 at <https://veravoice-rcrpc-363784d271f7.herokuapp.com>.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



**1728 W. Fourth Street
Mansfield, Ohio 44906
Phone: 419-529-4687
Fax: 419-529-4154
landerson@firstfederalbankofohio.bank**



Lisa Anderson
NMLS 618735
Branch Manager - Loan Officer

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. 23-27 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, OR HIS DESIGNEE THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN JOHNNY APPLESEED BASEBALL CLUB AND THE CITY OF ONTARIO FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF AND USE OF A BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELD AT MARSHALL PARK, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Cathy VanAuker
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 4-11,18 '24) 25L

LEGAL NOTICE

In the Matter of the Adoption of Emeril Rae Crawford Case Number: 20245013 Richland County Court of Common Pleas, Probate Division.

Emonde Robert Adkins whose last known address is unknown is hereby notified that on the 18th day of March, 2024 a petition was filed in the Court of Common Pleas, Probate Division, Richland County, Ohio, 50 Park Ave. East, Mansfield, OH 44902, being Case No: 20245013, for the adoption of Emeril Rae Adkins and alleging that your consent as parent of said child is not necessary because you have failed without justifiable cause to provide more than de minimis contact with minor or to provide for maintenance and support of said minor as required by law or judicial decree for a period of at least one year immediately preceding the filing of the adoption petition or placement of the minor in the home of the petitioner. A consent hearing will be held on the 15th, day of May, 2024 at 10:00 o'clock A.M. and the best interest hearing will be had on the 11th, day of June, 2024 at 10:00 o'clock A.M. before the Judge of said Court at 50 Park Avenue East, Mansfield, Ohio 44902.

IF YOU WISH TO CONTEST THE ADOPTION, YOU MUST FILE AN OBJECTION TO THE PETITION WITHIN FOURTEEN DAYS AFTER THE PROOF OF SERVICE OF NOTICE OF THE FILING OF THE PETITION AND OF THE TIME AND PLACE OF HEARING IS GIVEN TO YOU. IF YOU

WISH TO CONTEST THE ADOPTION, YOU MUST ALSO APPEAR AT THE HEARING AS SET OUT ABOVE.

A FINAL DECREE OF ADOPTION MAY BE ENTERED IF YOU FAIL TO TIMELY FILE AN OBJECTION AND / OR APPEAR AT THE HEARING.

Kelly L. Badnell
Judge, Court of Common Pleas,
Probate Division, Richland County, Ohio
(T-C 4-11,18, 25 '24) 25L

LEGAL NOTICE

In the Matter of the Adoption of Ka'Zharriah A' Damonya'e Crawford Case Number: 20245014 Richland County Court of Common Pleas, Probate Division.

Danielle Brittany Gideon whose last known address is unknown, is hereby notified that on the 18th day of March, 2024, a petition was filed in the Court of Common Pleas, Probate Division, Richland County, Ohio, 50 Park Ave. East, Mansfield, OH 44902, being Case No: 20245014, for the adoption of Ka'Zharriah A' Damonya'e Crawford and alleging that your consent as parent of said child is not necessary because you have failed without justifiable cause to provide more than de minimis contact with minor or to provide for maintenance and support of said minor as required by law or judicial decree for a period of at least one year immediately preceding the filing of the adoption petition or placement of the minor in the home of the petitioner.

A consent hearing will be held on the 15th, day of May, 2024 at 10:00 o'clock A.M. and the best interest hearing will be had on the 11th day of June, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. before the Judge of said Court at 50 Park Avenue East, Mansfield, Ohio 44902.

IF YOU WISH TO CONTEST THE ADOPTION, YOU MUST FILE AN OBJECTION TO THE PETITION WITHIN FOURTEEN DAYS AFTER THE PROOF OF SERVICE OF NOTICE OF THE FILING OF THE PETITION AND OF THE TIME AND PLACE OF HEARING IS GIVEN TO YOU. IF YOU WISH TO CONTEST THE ADOPTION, YOU MUST ALSO APPEAR AT THE HEARING AS SET OUT ABOVE.

A FINAL DECREE OF ADOPTION MAY BE ENTERED IF YOU FAIL TO TIMELY FILE AN OBJECTION AND / OR APPEAR AT THE HEARING.

Kelly L. Badnell
Judge, Court of Common Pleas,
Probate Division, Richland County, Ohio
(T-C 4-11,18, 25 '24) 25L

Local teams place at Cardboard Boat Regatta

The 3rd Annual Mike Cauley Cardboard Boat Regatta was held on March 13 at Colonel Crawford High School. There were a total of 42 boats racing and 148 students participating.

Overall winners of the 2024 Traveling Golden Oar were High School Champions, Crestline High School with 150 point, instructor Joe Slone; Second – Colonel Crawford with 30 points, instructor, Austin Strouse; and Third – Pioneer Career & Technology Center with 10 points, instructor, Matt Hanning.