



TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com

03.06.25



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL held a choir concert on March 3. (Top photo) MaKayla Lawrence sings a solo during the concert. (Bottom photo) Dean Morrison, Sophia Fraley, Zak Ramos and Alanna Lee dance during the performance.

Social Work Month recognizes fastest growing profession

Tara Lautzenhiser

Executive Director, Richland County Children Services

Each day, social workers help millions of Americans navigate life's challenges. Social workers care about people. That is why so many people enter social work each year, making it one of the fastest growing professions in the United States.

However, social workers go through years of education and training so they can help individuals, families, communities and our society reach their full potential.

That is why the theme for Social Work Month 2025 is Social Work: Compassion + Action.

In the weeks and months ahead, our social workers will be called to turn their compassion into action to help our nation address a variety of societal challenges, including the many environmental factors and familial issues that impact our clients that we serve.

Social workers are also on the forefront of helping our nation address a mental health and substance use disorder crisis and chronic income inequality that has led to rising homelessness.

The theme also focuses on the need for social workers to have healthy coping mechanisms and self-care habits to be able to take care of ourselves. These mechanisms and habits could include exercise, healthy eating, relaxation techniques, and taking other steps to ensure that their mental health and well-being are nurtured.

We need to empower social workers to continue doing this vital work. We ask for your support in recognizing the importance of social workers, not only during Social Work Month, but year-round. Together, we can make sure social workers have the resources they need to transform compassion into action and make a real difference in the lives of those we serve, while maintaining a work life balance that empowers them so they can do the positive work they do.

Social workers are everywhere — in our communities, in hospitals, the halls of Congress and in local governments, corporations, social service agencies, veterans' centers, as well as schools, sporting institutions, and more. They're also in demand. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the social work profession is projected to grow seven percent between now and 2033 — faster than the average for all occupations. By then, more than 836,000 social workers will be employed here in the United States. Social workers undergo years of schooling and training, gaining the expertise needed to support communities and individuals. They excel at meeting people where they are and provide compassionate guidance and help.



Monthly Friends of the Library used book sale is this weekend

The Mansfield/Richland County Public Library (MRCPL) Evergreen Bookshop will be open for the monthly Friends' Used Book Sale on Friday, March 7, from noon to 4 pm and Saturday, March 8, from 10 am to 3 pm.

A preview sale will be held for Friends of the Library members only on Thursday, March 6, noon to 4 pm. Memberships may be purchased at Thursday's preview sale and cost \$3 per year for individuals and \$5 per family membership.

Special pricing is applied in March for Mystery novels and pocket-sized paperbacks. The featured author of the month is Clive Cussler. Jigsaw puzzles are a new category at the bookshop.

This sale is sponsored by the Friends of the Mansfield/Richland County Public Library (MRCPL).

Materials (adult, teen and juvenile items) are library discards and public donations offered for sale at extremely low prices.

The bookshop is stocked with "new to the store" items each month. All proceeds from the monthly sales sponsor enrichment activities provided by the MRCPL Main Library and its eight branches in Richland County throughout the year.

The bookshop is staffed exclusively by volunteers at 37 N. Walnut St., (near the corner of W. Third St. & N. Walnut St., next to the main library). For information call 419-526-4652.

LOST IN A BOOK Local March of Prayer continues



A Book Review
By Mandy Belczak Gurney



Wow, *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn was a historical fiction gem set in Washington DC during the Cold War when so many people were concerned about communist spies infiltrating the country. Imagine a city filled with politicians, Jewish refugees and women longing for more opportunities. A not so fancy boarding house with too many rules brings together a cast of strangers who find their way to connection. When a murder happens in the house, the story jumps back and forth between the current investigation and the backstory of each of the boarders. I was engrossed in the individual characters the entire time and truly love the way the ending played out. Five stars for me.

My rating: ★★★★★
Follow my blog at GreenGurneys.com

“A Year of Jubilee” is the theme of this year’s March of Prayer in the Mansfield and surrounding area. It is 31 nights of prayer services from 6–8 pm, each in a different location.

“This is the seventh year we have held a March of Prayer, and Biblically, seven is the number of completion, called a Year of Jubilee in the Old Testament,” said coordinator Paul Lintern.

The first March of Prayer was an idea that came out of a series of prayer services held at St. Luke’s Point of Grace, 2 Marion Ave., with Lintern and Jordan Baker recruiting the line-up.

“Although we had all 31 dates filled, others churches asked to be included, so we went another 19 days, until Easter that year,” Lintern said. “The next year, Covid, stopped us 16 days in, but we continued another 45 days with nightly livestreams.”

Each host is invited to create a service authentic to their way of worship and invite anyone to come and participate.

The remaining 2025 schedule includes March 5, Oakland Lutheran, 2045 Olivesburg Rd.; March 6, The MAC, 291 W. Cook Rd.; March 7, Christian Life, 961 Springmill St.; March 8, Greater Mitchell Chapel AME, 182 S. Adams St.; March 9, Potter’s House, 374 Willowood Dr. East, Ontario; March 10, Grace Fellowship, 365 Straub Road East; March 11, Providence Baptist, 112 W. Sixth St.; March 12, First United Methodist, 12 N. Diamond; March 13, Salvation Army, 47 S. Main St.; March 14, Paradise Church, 87 Illinois Ave N.; March 15, Kingdom Life, 7 Consolidated Rd., Shelby; March 16, Kingdom Grace Fellowship, 105 Reba Ave.; March 17, First English Lutheran, 53 Park Avenue West; March 18, Holy Trinity Lutheran, 525 W. Cook Rd.; March 19, Journey Life Center, 2578 Springmill Rd.;

March 20, Recovery Road, 378 Park Ave. West (ARC Empowerment Center); March 21, Open Bible, 1150 Rayfield Dr., with a performance by Glory Way; March 22, Sar Shalom (10:30 am), 2510 W. Fourth St., Ontario, guest speaker from Israel; March 23, Linden Road Presbyterian, 160 S. Linden Rd.; March 24, Mansfield Foursquare Gospel, 393 Davidson St.; March

25, Abundant Life, 1085 Bedford Blvd, Ontario; March 26, Avenue, Gathering, 1756 Park Ave. West; March 27, River Church, 152 Cline Ave.; March 28, Faith Global Methodist, Rte 96, across from Crestview High School; March 29, Fusion, Lexington, 2200 Industrial Parkway; March 30, Gracepoint Lexington, 1887 W. Cook Rd.; and March 31, Storvyside, 541 St. Rt. 97, Bellville.



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NOTICE **TO TAXPAYERS** **Wednesday, March 12, 2025**

WILL BE THE LAST DAY FOR PAYMENT
OF **FIRST HALF 2024** REAL ESTATE TAX
WITHOUT PENALTY AND INTEREST

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

The following financial institutions and their branches are authorized agencies for receiving **FIRST HALF 2024** real estate tax payments.

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News Briefs

There will be two sessions of the Senior Citizen Luncheon at Madison Comprehensive High School's Ramble Inn, 600 Esley Ln., on Thursday, March 20. The first session will be at 11 am, and the second will be at 12:30 pm. The cost is \$8 per lunch.

Reservations must be made by noon on Tuesday, March 18. Call the board office at 419-589-2600, ext. 65001, or email csmith@madisonrams.net to make a reservation.

The Franklin Township Fire Department, 505 Boyce Rd., Mansfield, will host a pancake breakfast on Saturday, March 15, from 7 to 10 am. Proceeds benefit the volunteer fire department.

The Lexington Area Senior Citizens Inc., invites those 55 and older to attend meetings the third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 am. February through May, the group will meet at New Life Church of Christ (NLC of C), 195 W. Durbin, Bellville. Cost is \$17 for the meal.

Meetings June through December will be held at Der Dutchman, Rt. 96, Bellville. Meals are \$16, with an additional \$2 for pie.

The next meal will be held on March 19 with roast beef and a performance by the Clearfork High School Artisans. Those attending are asked to wear green.

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

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Wendy Bartlett who will speak on "National Get Over It Day — really!" on Sunday, March 9 at 10:30 am. For information visit www.allsoulsuuohio.org.

The Sixth Annual Step into Spring will be held Friday, March 19 at the Richland Mall. Walking will be anytime from 9 am to noon.

Richland Newhope, Area Agency in Aging and Richland County Mobility Management are sponsoring this free event to celebrate Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and promote community inclusion. In addition to the walk, several supportive community vendors will be in attendance.

The Malabar Farm Maple Syrup Festival will continue March 8 and 9, from noon to 4 pm. There will be syrup making demonstrations, horse drawn wagon rides and food and maple products for sale. The festival is held at 4050 Bromfield Rd, Lucas.

CACY's Store it Safe Richland Program offers lock boxes for firearms, sharp objects and medications to protect and reduce risk of injury and save lives.

Contact the CACY office at 419-774-5683 or andersont@cacyohio.com for details. If someone is thinking of harming themselves, call the local crisis helpline at 419-522-HELP (4357).

The Ashland Cancer Crusaders Relay for Life Team will host a Relay for Life Craft Extravaganza on Saturday, April 5, from 9 am to 3

pm at Ashland County Fairground's Mozell Hall.

Along with vendors, there will be food and a 50/50 drawing. All money raised from the rental fees and the 50/50 will go to the American Cancer Society Relay For Life.

Ontario United Methodist Church is hosting Mansfield Korean Church and 1st UMC for Ash Wednesday Services March 5 at 7 pm. Rev. Nestor Nazario, District Superintendent West Plains District, will be the guest preacher. All are welcome. A reception will follow.

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

Heinz selected For U.S. Chamber Foundation Education and Workforce Fellowship Program

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation announced Ellen Heinz, M.Ed., OhioCED, CEO & President of the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development was selected to participate in the eleventh cohort of its premiere business leadership program.

The Business Leads Fellowship Program trains and equips leaders from state and local chambers of commerce, economic development agencies, and trade associations with resources, access to experts, and a network of peers to build their capacity to address the most pressing education and workforce challenges.

"I'm very grateful to have been selected for this unique opportunity. Our organization will benefit significantly from participating in the program," Heinz said.

"We created the Business Leads Fellowship Program in response to the needs of our state and local chamber partners," says Kyle Butler, Senior Manager, Programs, K-12 Education at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation. "They, better than anyone, see the critical link between education and economic development, and we are glad to be able to support them as they take on this critical leadership role in their community."

Following a competitive application and selection process, Heinz was selected along with 34 other state and local chamber executives, economic development professionals, and association leaders to participate in the eleventh class of this program.

The eight-month program, consisting of both in person and virtual meetings, will cover the entire talent pipeline, including early childhood education, K-12, postsecondary education and workforce development.

Upon completion, Business Leads Fellows will join the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's dedicated network of over 350 chambers of commerce and statewide associations from around the nation who regularly engage on education and workforce initiatives.

Learn more about Alzheimer's disease
and win prizes while playing BINGO!

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 1:00 pm
Crestline Public Library

324 N. Thoman St. | Crestline



Open to Crawford County residents 55+. Space is limited and advance reservation required.
Please call Courtney at the Crawford County Council on Aging at (419) 562-3050 opt. 4 to sign up.

For any questions, contact Jennifer Miller at 567.302.3610
Connect with us - alz.org/nwohio | alz.org | 800.272.3900

Postal inspectors issue reminder to be alert for imposter scams

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service is kicking off National Consumer Protection Week, March 2–8, with a warning about the dangers of imposter scams. Imposters are scammers who work very hard to convince consumers they are a friend or relative, or that they are from a legitimate source, such as a bank or government agency. These fraudsters then take personally identifiable information (PII) and use it to steal victims' money.

"There are many types of imposter scams," Inspector in Charge (INC) Eric Shen of the Criminal Investigations Group says. "But they all start with messages like, 'I'm in trouble...', 'I need...', 'You've won!...', or 'I have a great offer for you!'" These scammers lull consumers into a false sense of trust, gain access to privileged information, and then drain financial accounts."

"With a few simple tips, consumers can protect themselves from imposter scams," INC Shen says:

Take your time to make financial decisions. Whether it's investments or unsolicited offers, like the lottery or sweepstakes, don't rush into sending your money to someone you don't know.

Is it really a representative from your bank sending that email or text? To be certain, call your bank at the number you were given

when you opened your account. Don't call a number that you haven't verified and never click on any links in an email or text.

Grandparents: Before sending money to help a grandchild who says they're in a desperate situation, make sure it's really them! Call them or their parents at a number you recognize to confirm they sent you a message.

If you meet someone over the internet who professes their love for you right away, but needs financial assistance to meet you, exit the conversation as quickly as you can.

The Postal Service will NEVER send you an unsolicited text. Any text or email claiming you have a USPS delivery problem is designed to steal your PII. Delete these messages, but before you do, send the bogus text or email to spam@usps.gov.

Put your phone number on the National Do Not Call Registry at 1-888-382-1222 or at www.donotcall.gov.

If you are a victim of a scam or suspect fraud, report it. Submit an online report to the Inspection Service or call 877-876-2455.

Remembering these simple tips will help keep consumers' personal information and finances safe. For more information on how to spot an imposter, visit www.usps.gov/ncpw-2025.

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

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

200 West Third St., Mansfield
419-524-4813 • mansfield1stcc1833@gmail.com
Rev. David Zerby
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
10:30 am Sunday School (nursery–high school)
10:30 am Monday Morning Bible Study
7:30 am Wednesday Men's Breakfast

First English Lutheran Church

53 Park Avenue West, Mansfield
419-522-0662 • www.felc-mansfield.org
Pastor Jay Jackson
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.

Lexington Church of Christ

230 Delaware Ave., Lexington
419-884-1532 • www.lccoh.com
Lead Minister Brandon Bogue
9 am Sunday School
10 am Sunday Worship

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 Traditional 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

Oakland Lutheran Church

2045 Olivesburr Rd., Mansfield
419-571-9920
Pastor Paul Lintern
9 am Sunday Worship

Ontario United Methodist Church

3540 Park Avenue West., Ontario
419-529-4345 • ontarioumc.com
Pastor George Lee
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 9 am to 1 pm
AA Meetings M & F 10 am & noon;
Wed. noon Brown Bag and Sat. 6 pm
Clothing Ministry by appt: 419-512-9817

Southside Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

2055 Middle-Bellville Rd., Mansfield
419-756-3436
Pastor Paul Lintern
10:45 am Sunday Worship

Trinity Grace Fellowship

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

G & M Body & Paint Shop

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

Wappner Funeral Home

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419-522-5211

Domestic Violence Shelter seeks volunteers to help support survivors

The Domestic Violence Shelter is seeking compassionate and motivated community members to support its work through volunteer service. Volunteer positions include general volunteer, event volunteer, front desk advocate volunteer, hospital advocate volunteer, support group assistant volunteer and youth volunteer.

Prospective volunteers must be 18 years of age (those under 18 may serve in limited capacities and with appropriate supervision as outlined in the volunteer information packet). Due to the sensitive nature of the shelter's work, prospective volunteers must undergo an application, interview and screening process prior to engaging in service.

Volunteers must be committed to the shelter's mission and dedicated to ending domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence and stalking and supporting survivors of violence.

Volunteers must show respect for the people the shelter serves and be committed to upholding confidentiality laws. Compassion, empathy, and a non-judgmental attitude are essential qualities for volunteers.

Last year alone, The Domestic Violence Shelter provided housing for 143 individuals, answered 847 crisis calls, offered advocacy during 180 SANE exams, and educated over 1,400 people in the local community. These vital services wouldn't be possible without the dedication of volunteers.

"From supporting clients directly to helping with essential tasks such as cleaning or administrative work, every role makes a lasting difference," said Volunteer Coordinator Katherine Henderson. "Volunteers are the heart of our operations, and without them, we couldn't deliver the life-changing services our community relies on."

Learn more about volunteer opportunities and apply to serve by contacting Katherine Henderson at 419-774-5843 ext. 100, or by email at khenderson@thedvshelter.com.

Scholarships available to local students

The Area Agency on Aging announced the start of its 2025 Scholarship Program, aimed at supporting individuals pursuing higher education or certification in the field of aging or disability services.

Scholarships awarded include \$2,000 for a student attending a 4-year university; \$1,000 for a student attending a 2-year college, technical school, center of education, or pursuing a certification; and \$1,000 for a student attending any type of higher institute of learning or certification and a retiree or staff member of the Area Agency on Aging or is a child (step) or grandchild (step) of an actively employed (full-time or part-time) Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. staff member.

Applicants can visit aaa5ohio.org for detailed eligibility criteria and application instructions. The deadline is March 15, 2025.

First Congregational Church hosts annual Pancake Day Celebration

First Congregational Church invites the community to its annual Pancake Day, on Tuesday, March 4 (Fat Tuesday), from 4:30-7 pm at 640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield.

All-you-can-eat pancakes are served to guests, complete with toppings for kids to decorate their own pancakes. Pancakes, sausage, coffee, juices and water will all be served on the menu along with gluten-free options which available upon request.

This year, all donations from the event will go to Taking Root Farms, an organization dedicated to empowering adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Attendees are invited to give freely by donation only.

Call First Congregational Church at 419-756-3046 for additional information.

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Jeffrey L. Brown, February 21
Skie Michelle Cogar, February 21
Charlotte Alma McKown, February 22
Randall Lynn Leasure, February 23
Jessie Leland Scholl, February 23
Henry Ford Stricklin, February 23
Betty Jane Brewer, February 24
Jonathan Allen Sanders, February 24
Jeannette Jacqueline Shockey, February 24
Virginia Grace Applegate, February 25
Verna Mae Nolen, February 25
Elsa Greta Giess, February 26
Laura Ann Durfee, February 27
David Lee Hinkle, February 27
Mary Elizabeth Fisk, February 28

View Full Obituaries at www.dignitymemorial.com

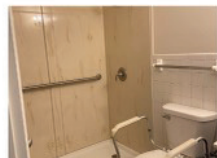
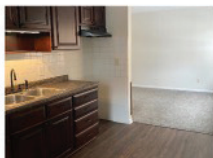
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difference in Richland County.**

We believe in the power of community. For 80 years, we've been dedicated to making Richland County a better place to live, work and thrive.

Thanks to the generosity of individuals like you, we're able to help support everything from education and the arts to healthcare and environmental conservations. Every donation, no matter how small, contributes to our collective impact.

We invite you to join us in helping to improve our community. Together, we can shape a more promising future.

For Good. For Ever.
richlandcountyfoundation.org



Hocking Hills, OH • Photo By Mark Shutt

Donors could win \$5,000 gift card during month of March

Patients who need blood transfusions often describe the effects as immediate. Nonprofit blood services provider Vitalant urges all eligible blood donors to give blood in March and make a lifesaving difference.

Donors of all types are needed to help patients of all blood types. The need is greatest for type O, the most transfused and most compatible when a patient's type isn't immediately known.

Blood donations are needed not just for emergencies and acute illnesses, but for patients who have long-term health issues. The most common bleeding disorder, von Willebrand disease, affects the blood's ability to clot and can cause excessive bleeding and pain. Among other treatments, blood donations may help those whose blood does not clot properly on its own.

A Special Thanks to Donors

March 1–31, donors who give will be automatically entered into a giveaway to win one of two \$5,000 prepaid gift cards.

Planktown Market, 1921 Free Rd., Shiloh, will host a drive Wednesday, March 5, from 3:30–6:30 pm.

A blood drive is scheduled for Saturday, March 29 at Hale's Harley-Davidson, 1400 Harrington Memorial Rd., Mansfield, from 10 am to 4 pm.

The Richland Mall in Ontario also has bloodmobiles each Wednesday from 1–7 pm. It is typically located across from the Ontario branch MRCPL temporary library location.

Get Those
MAMMARIES
Grammed



helpmepat.org



Photo by Damon Callis

Day Trippin' With Damon – The Ohio Bird Sanctuary is a private non-profit organization that was founded in 1988. Originally entitled the Richland County Raptor Center, the sanctuary was operated from the private farm of Chris and Gail Laux. In 1995, the site of Boy Scout Camp Avery Hand was leased, providing a permanent home for the organization. In 2009, the scout camp closed and the sanctuary purchased the 52 acres it had previously leased plus the dining hall structure and an additional 38 acres. It is located at 3774 Orweiler Rd., Mansfield. Visit www.ohiobird-sanctuary.com for information.



Interior design inspo



Transitional STYLE



Transitional Style

Transitional style decor blends traditional and contemporary design elements to create a balanced, timeless look. It's characterized by clean lines, neutral colors, and a mix of textures that create a sophisticated yet inviting atmosphere.



BOOK IT TO THE GOAL

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF 110,000 CHECKOUTS DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH.

Each time you check out an item March 3-29, in person or online, you'll automatically be entered to win one of two \$50 Walmart gift cards.

 MARCH 3-29

It's that easy! Check out:

- Books and Ebooks
- Music, Movies
- Magazines
- Things and Kits

and you're entered — every-time!



mrcpl.org

MRS. ECHELBERGER'S preschool class at Ontario recently enjoyed a Fairytale unit. They had dress up, puzzles and letter and math activities. Students also read many different fairytale stories.

Providence Labradoodles is part of owner's life-long passion for dogs

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Providence Labradoodles, tucked away in the heart of Mansfield, is a family-owned breeder specializing in Australian Labradoodles and Bernedoodles. Linda Carr's dedicated leadership has given the establishment a reputation for producing healthy, well-socialized puppies that become cherished family members.

Linda's passion for dogs began early in life, leading her to transition from a career in elementary education to professional dog grooming in 2011. Her profound care for dogs naturally progressed into breeding, culminating in the founding of Providence Labradoodles.

At Providence Labradoodles, the emphasis is on breeding puppies with exceptional health and temperament. This involves careful research and collaboration with esteemed breeders which has helped ensure that each puppy meets the highest standards. The goal is to provide families with companions that are not only healthy but also exhibit loving and sociable dispositions.

All of the puppies at Providence Labradoodles are raised in a nurturing home environment, where they receive personal human interaction from birth. This approach ensures that each puppy is well-socialized, and able to adapt seamlessly into their forever home.

The hands-on care and attention contributes to developing confident and affectionate dogs. The extensive curriculum begins on day three of their life.

Understanding that bringing a new puppy home is a significant commitment, Providence Labradoodles offers extensive support to new owners. From detailed guidance on puppy care to ongoing assistance, they ensure that families feel confident and well prepared. The high priority of this commitment reflects their dedication to the well-being of both the puppies and their new families. These puppies are crate trained and well on their way to being potty trained by the time they go home.

To maintain the quality and health of their breeding program, Providence Labradoodles offers a Guardian Program. This initiative allows select families to partner with them, providing a loving home for her breeding dogs, while ensuring ethical practices. It's a mutually beneficial arrangement that prioritizes the dogs' welfare.

The satisfaction of countless families who have welcomed these puppies into their homes reflects the success of Providence Labradoodles. Testimonials highlight the exceptional care and dedication invested in each puppy, with many praising the smooth adoption process and exceptional ongoing support provided.

For those interested in adding a Labradoodle or Bernedoodle to their family, Providence Labradoodles offers a transparent and informative process. Prospective owners can explore upcoming litter availability, meet the breeding dogs, and access a wealth of resources on their official website.

Additionally, their active presence on social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram provides regular updates and a glimpse into the vibrant community they've cultivated. Find out more about a mini Bernedoodle litter due in April, Australian Labradoodle litters due in May and July.

Those looking to welcome a healthy, loving and well-adjusted puppy into A home this year can reach out to Providence Labradoodles at <https://providencelabradoodles.com/>. Find them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ProvidenceLabradoodles/> and Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/providencelabradoodles/>.



Marc and Linda Carr



SHF Applications available now

The Board of Directors of Samaritan Hospital Foundation will again offer scholastic awards to persons residing in Ashland County or UH Samaritan Medical Center employees or immediate family members. To be eligible, applicants must be currently enrolled or accepted in an accredited program in the areas of nursing, medicine or allied medical studies.

Completed applications must be returned with appropriate grade transcripts by April 11, 2025, to the Samaritan Hospital Foundation, Attn: Mona Campbell, at 663 E. Main St., Ashland, OH.

Scholastic Award applications for the 2025-'26 academic year are available at www.samaritanhospitalfoundation.org and at University Hospitals Samaritan Medical Center, 1025 Center Street, Ashland, at the main lobby reception desk.

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



KCCC students qualify to compete in SkillsUSA Regional and Super Regional competitions

Knox County Career Center (KCCC) students competed in SkillsUSA Regional and Super Regional competitions recently.

SkillsUSA is one of KCCC's Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) in which our students compete and participate in. KCCC had 19 students compete in the SkillsUSA Regional and Super Regional competitions, in which nine of them qualified for the SkillsUSA State competition on March 18.

KCCC will have 17 students competing at the SkillsUSA State competition — nine from the regional and super regional competitions and eight more students who are competing in "straight-to-state" SkillsUSA competitions (did not have to qualify in a regional or super regional competition).

Joe LaFevre, KCCC's SkillsUSA Co-Advisor, said, "We are proud

of all of our students who competed in the competition and are honored to go represent the Knox County Career Center at the SkillsUSA State competition."

Matt Russo, KCCC's other SkillsUSA Co-Advisor, added, "This is an excellent opportunity for students to represent our school and showcase the skills and abilities they have developed during their time in their lab."

The following students competed in SkillsUSA Regional and Super Regional competitions but did not advance to the state competition: Payton Peters, Ella Bouton, Rylei Schulties, Jonathan Cunningham, Landon Pfeiderer, Ethan Moore, Jay Stapleton, Wayne Denuit, Adiel Bressi and Dalton Curtis.

SkillsUSA Regional & Super Regional Results (State Qualifiers): Gracelynn Parrish (Collision

Repair Technology), 4th place, Collision Repair

Evan Williams (CNC-Axis Milling Programmer), Silver, Precision Machining

Keith Rogers (CNC-Axis Milling Programmer), 4th place, Precision Machining

Ana Pore (Job Skill Demonstration OPEN), 4th place, Individualized Career Exploration (I.C.E.)

Alyssa Higgs (CNC Programmer), bronze, Precision Machining

Beau Keller (CNC Programmer), 4th place, Precision Machining

Estella Gandee (Medical Terminology), 4th place, Health Technologies

Lilly Foster (First Aid-CPR), bronze, Health Technologies

Albert Ross (CNC Turning), gold, Precision Machining

Donnie Clark joins Chamber as project manager

The Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development has announced that Donnie Clark will be the new Economic Development Project Manager for the Richland Community Development Group (RCDG).

With an extensive background in business development, public relations, marketing, agriculture, and community leadership, Clark brings a wealth of experience and passion for supporting economic growth in the region.

"In this vital role, Clark will be responsible for spearheading Richland County business retention, expansion and attraction efforts."

"His duties will include managing property databases, responding to Requests for Information (RFIs), coordinating business visits, and facilitating collaborations between local businesses, stakeholders and community partners," said Ellen Heinz, President and CEO of the Richland Area Chamber and Economic Development.

"Clark will also lead data-driven research initiatives and help promote Richland County's assets to potential investors and businesses."

Clark's professional journey highlights his entrepreneurial spirit, leadership abilities, and commitment to community service. As the owner of Elzy Milling & Trade in Bellville, he led the company to quadruple in size, serving customers across all 50 states and 23 countries.

Beyond his entrepreneurial success, Clark has developed a strong background in public relations and client management through his work with national and regional organizations.

Clark's dedication to business support, conservation, education, and community planning is also reflected through his board member service for several organizations, including the Richland County Regional Planning Commission, Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development, Ohio Bird Sanctuary, IdeaWorks, and more.

Clark holds a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from Ohio University's E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, where he graduated summa cum laude and is a native of Bellville.



THE CCP ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY CLASS at Ontario High School is studying water and soil quality. The students grew some rye grass and are testing the pH and nutrient levels in the soil. In addition, the students are testing water samples for E. coli, lead, fluoride, chlorine and other environmental factors that humans influence and that play a role in our environment.

Ohio State's Engineering Technology Program draws interest from Tennessee to Mansfield

Most companies involved in manufacturing or product management rely on engineers, but what they sometimes need even more are engineers who understand business and leadership concepts and have a strong interdisciplinary background in order to apply what they know.

This is the premise behind the Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology Degree — one of the newest majors at Ohio State University Mansfield and three other Ohio State regional campuses.

The degree was first offered at Ohio State Mansfield and other regional campuses in 2020. It was created by Ohio State's College of Engineering — the college's 15th major and the only one that can be completed on a regional campus.

On Friday, Feb. 21, a delegation from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville's Tickle College of Engineering spent the day learning about the success of the degree, in anticipation of launching their own four-year program this fall.

Jason Opal, dean of Ohio State Mansfield, said the Engineering Technology program fits well within the mission of land-grant universities.

"Engineering technology is a perfect example of the land-grant mission," Opal said. "The degree is only offered at our regional campuses and is designed to be accessible and affordable. By its very nature, this degree is at the center of the ongoing industrial revolutions that Ohio and Tennessee and elsewhere in the country are experiencing."

The visitors included Matthew Mench, dean of the Tickle College of Engineering; True Brown, associate vice chancellor for advancement; and college academic leaders with specialties in chemical, mechanical, and nuclear engineering, and student success.

Ohio State's engineering technology degree is different than an engineering degree because of the added focus on leadership skills as well as applied knowledge. This is what sparked the Tennessee contingent's interest in Ohio State Mansfield's expanding engineering program.

"This is an industry-driven, industry vetted program," said Kathryn Kelley, director of the Ohio Manufacturing Institute at The Ohio State University. "This is really, truly hands-on learning. We want students to graduate not only with expertise in mechanical, electrical, and materials engineering but also with the management skills to excel in leadership roles from day one of their careers."

Kelley said it is critical for engineering technology students to learn professional skills like leadership and management, because

they often find themselves working as part of a team in the workplace and need to be able to handle different roles and job duties.

"We fused the program with business and leadership skills because what we learned is that engineers are often required to be team managers and leaders," Kelley said.

Zach Ernest, a graduate of the first cohort at Ohio State Mansfield, shared lessons learned during a panel of industry experts. Ernest was a non-traditional student who worked full-time while completing his degree.

He said the professors were flexible and caring and were the reason why he was able to succeed.

"What stands out the most is the hands-on application from professors who truly cared about teaching me," said Ernest, who works for Ashland Conveyor Products as a manufacturing quality engineer.

Other industry panelists included Mark Cacchio, director of manufacturing human resources for Charter Next Generation; and Leslie Brenner, vice president of operations with Michael Byrne Manufacturing.

The engineering technology courses at Ohio State Mansfield are taught by Amber Rader and Juan Pablo Rincon, assistant professors of practice in the Depts of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, respectively.

Both discussed the importance of working with the industry and making certain that coursework and lab work align with industry expectations.

One way the program does this is through senior capstone projects, which connect students with industry professionals and real-world challenges.

Rincon said the two-semester capstone project is one of the most important courses for students because "they get to integrate all of the knowledge that they gained throughout the program."

Two students, Sam Ratvasky and Alec Vanderbilt, are completing a capstone project that involves creating a manufacturing exhibit for the Buckeye Imagination Museum, a local children's museum that features hands-on, play-based activities.

Both students have traveled across Ohio and as far as Ireland, giving presentations to higher education leaders and industry partners.

The day was filled with conversation about the intricacies of the degree, lessons learned and opportunities for growth.

Matthew Mench, dean of the Tickle College of Engineering, said the visit reaffirmed the need for the degree.

"There's a niche for a type of engineer that the industry needs in Ohio and all across the country and this is a similar story as what we have heard from our own employers," he said. "It's great to see other programs and it's also great to learn from a program that has just started."

The Tickle College of Engineering will welcome its first engineering technology students this fall, and is visiting other land grant universities, including Purdue and Texas A&M.



SAM RATVASKY, a senior in the engineering technology program at Ohio State Mansfield, explains how students use robotics as part of their coursework. Ratvasky helped lead a tour Friday, Feb. 21, when a delegation from the University of Tennessee Knoxville, came for a visit.



MARK CACCIO, director of manufacturing human resources for Charter Next Generation; Leslie Brenner, vice president of operations with Michael Byrne Manufacturing; and Zach Ernest, a manufacturing quality engineer for Ashland Conveyor Products, spoke about the demand for engineering technology professionals during a panel discussion Feb. 21 at Ohio State Mansfield.



OMS FCCLA applies for FACTS grant

The Ontario Middle School chapter of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) recently applied for a F.A.C.T.S. (Families Acting for Community Traffic Safety) grant.

If awarded, the chapter will receive \$1,250 to support their initiative. Led by eighth grade student McKenzie Shick and assisted by advisor Ms. Robin Owen, the OMS FCCLA chapter has chosen to focus on raising awareness about seat belt usage.

To promote this important safety message, the chapter is displaying "Did you know?" questions on school monitors, rewarding students with candy for wearing their seat belts in the drop-off line and sharing this informational article on the school website. Through these efforts, they aim to increase awareness, reduce injuries and ultimately save lives.

Important things to keep in mind when you travel in a vehicle:

Why Wearing a Seat Belt Is a Must

Imagine you're in a car, heading to your favorite place—maybe a friend's house, a game, or the movies. You buckle up, right? If not, here's why you should every time, no matter how short the trip.

Seat Belts Keep You Safe

Cars are designed to get you places quickly, but sometimes, sudden stops or turns happen. A seat belt keeps you securely in your seat so you don't get tossed around inside the car. Think of it like a superhero's safety harness—it keeps you protected when things don't go as planned.

It's the Law

Just like traffic lights keep drivers and pedestrians safe, seat belt laws exist to protect everyone in a vehicle. In most places, wearing a seat belt is required, and not wearing one can result in a ticket. So, clicking that buckle is not just smart—it's the rule!

They Work — Really Well

You might hear people say, "I don't need a seat belt. I'm a great passenger." But even the best drivers can't control everything on the road. Other cars, sudden stops, or slippery roads can all create surprises. Seat belts help absorb impact and keep you in the safest position possible.

Good Habits Start Now

The sooner you get used to wearing a seat belt, the more automatic it becomes. One day, when you're driving, you won't even think twice about buckling up before starting the car. Plus, by wearing yours, you set a great example for others—especially younger kids who look up to you.

Quick Tips to Remember: Always buckle up before the car moves, make sure your seat belt is snug across your chest and lap — not behind your back and remind friends and family to wear theirs, too.



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL students enjoyed hot cocoa and a coloring contest in the library recently.



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Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights



Cody Mabry



Audrey Wolford



Isaac McFarland

Photos By Jenna Wolford

CRESTVIEW SCHOOLS hosted the 19th Annual Road Apple Run 5K on Saturday, March 1, at the school and on surrounding roads. Runners braved cold temperatures to take part in the event which benefits the school's cross country and track teams. Cody Mabry, 33, of Shelby was the overall and top male finisher with 20:38.06. Audrey Wolford, 16, a Crestview and Pioneer CTC junior, was the top female finisher with 23:45.98. Placing second overall was Crestview freshman Isaac McFarland, 15, with 21:06.86, followed by Crestview freshman Brant Leidigh in third with 21:16.79. Placing fourth and fifth overall were Jack Ramsey, 14, with 21:39.37 and Easton Smith, 13, with 21:49.42.



Scott Wade



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Colonel Crawford advances to regional semi-finals

By Kris Leiter

If you have followed the OHSAA post-season in the past weeks, all of our Richland County teams have concluded and there were some very good games, as is typical in this area. Big hats off to our Richland County teams!

However, there are a few teams in “neighboring” counties that compete with our Richland County teams somewhat regularly, so we will “adopt” them for the sake of this week’s column.

As for my “good neighboring counties” mindset. There is a team we are going to give some credit to this week: the Colonel Crawford Eagles

Colonel Crawford, 23-1, is slated to play in the regional semi-finals this Tuesday, March. 4.

This year, the Eagles almost have an unblemished record. They have won 23 consecutive games. So, as curiosity would have it, who was the spoiler? Who put that pesky loss in the loss column this season? Well, none other than their friendly foe, the Crestview Cougars who took the 56-48 win.

As a matter of fact, these two teams have tangled for the past four years. Their series record is 3-2, Cougars. This series goes back to the 2021-’22 season and Colonel Crawford had not beaten the Cougars since, until this year.

Well, the Eagles’ Dave Sheldon got his redemption just recently as they defeated Crestview last week, earning their way to Bowling Green for the regionals.

Crestview and head coach John Kurtz made another run into the

post-season this year. The Cougars finished with a respectable record of 17-7 (10-4, second place in the Firelands Conference).

The Colonel Crawford Eagles, manned by a 20-year coaching veteran Sheldon with a lifetime record 349-112 (.757 winning percentage) for the Eagles, are now at 23-1 (14-0, fourth in the N-10 conference).

Let’s not forget the likes of Carter Valentine, phenom of the 2022-’23 Eagle squad, who has been with another “Eagle” Family, the Ashland University Eagles, in adjoining Ashland County.

Last year, when the game came down to the final seconds, the Cougars won by one-point 40-39.

This year, Coach Sheldon probably had redemption on his mind. Colonel Crawford put up some big digits in the first half back at the beginning of the season by scoring 39 points, compared to the Cougar’s 10 points.

In the second half, Crestview found the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, well, almost, by scoring 29 to the Eagles 25 points. The Cougars would defeat the Eagles 56-48.

Well, what would be the chances that Sheldon could have redemption? The Eagles would need to face Kurtz’ Cougars in the District finals to advance to the regionals and that’s exactly what happened! On Feb. 28, the Eagles defeated the Cougars 61-39 to advance to the regionals tonight.

The game is set for Bowling Green State University, Strohs’ Arena, March 4, at 6 pm. The Colonel Crawford Eagles (1 seed) (23-1) will take on the Miami Valley Country Day, (3 seed), (17-8).

Theatre programs partner for ‘Sound of Music’ March 21-23

The Ashland University Theatre Department and The Ashland Kroc Youth Theatre will be partnering in the first joint production of the timeless classic *The Sound of Music* March 21-23 at the Hugo Young Theatre, Ashland University Center for the Arts, 331 College Ave.

Teresa Durbin-Ames, Ph.D., Artistic Director and Associate Professor of Theatre for Ashland University, is serving as the director of the production, and Majors Billy and Annalise Francis, Corps Officers and Administrators of The Salvation Army Ashland Kroc Center, are serving as music and movement directors.

This is the first time the two programs have partnered together, with the impetus being to enable the college students an opportunity to mentor the kids from The Ashland Kroc Youth Theatre program.

“This partnership provides an opportunity for the university to engage directly with the community promoting the arts, bringing new people to campus and creating future audiences,” explains Dr. Durbin-Ames. “It is exciting to see the AU students working with the young cast members on this beautiful show. Not only do the youth get to watch how someone older creates a role, but the college students also get to experience the enthusiasm and commitment that the youth bring to every rehearsal.”

Cast members include Maria Rainer, Ellie Nickoli of Lexington; Captain Georg von Trapp, Keever Whitehead of Lewis Center; Mother Abbess, Emilee Fletcher of Centerburg; Liesl von Trapp, Callina Francis of Ashland; Rolf Gruber, Owen Radebaugh of Ashland; and Friedrich von Trapp (dual casted), Trevor Kellogg and Nolan Shambaugh, both of Ashland.

Tickets are already on sale. Early birds are encouraged to purchase tickets now.

Show dates and times include Friday, March 21 at 7 pm; Saturday, March 22 at 2 and 7 pm; and Sunday, March 23 at 2 pm.

Tickets are available now for purchase at the AU Campus Store or by going online to www.ashland.edu/performing-arts-tickets. For more information call 419-281-8001.

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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 February 19, 2025.

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.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-02 – (THIRD READING) A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE ONTARIO COMMUNITY INVESTMENT CORPORATION AS THE OFFICIAL AGENCY AND INSTRUMENTALITY OF CITY OF ONTARIO FOR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES, AND AUTHORIZING THE CORPORATION TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THE MUNICIPALITY.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-01 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR OR HIS DESIGNEE (CHIEF OF POLICE) TO DONATE THREE (3) UNNEEDED AND SLATED FOR AUCTION PATROL CARS TO NORTH CENTRAL STATE COLLEGE POLICE ACADEMY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-02 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 139.01 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THIS CITY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Cathy VanAuker
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, OH
(T-C 3-6, 13 '25) 40 L

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Branch Manager - Loan Officer

Small businesses required to file BOIR by March 21

**By Troy Balderson
Member of Congress**

An update has been given for the Beneficial Ownership Information Reporting (BOIR) requirements under the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA).

Despite ongoing legal challenges and previous court-ordered suspensions, the reporting requirement has been reinstated, and businesses are, once again, required to submit their BOIR information to FinCEN by March 21, 2025.

Bingo night will benefit Crestview prom

The Crestview Prom Committee will host a Prom-O bingo night on Saturday, March 15, at 5 pm at Crestview High School, 1575 Rt. 96, Ashland.

The \$30 event fee includes a nacho bar dinner, bingo dauber and 20 bingo cards. Prizes include Snow Trails tickets, Cinemark tickets, paintball tickets, gift cards, metal signs, raffle baskets and more.

There will also be a 50/50 drawing and extra bingo cards will be available for purchase. All are invited, not just Crestview community members.

Proceeds will go to support the Crestview High School Prom.

For more information or to reserve online, email harley.jami@crestviewschools.net or call 419-895-1700. Tickets are also on sale at the high school during school hours.

This decision impacts millions of small businesses nationwide, mandating the disclosure of sensitive ownership information to the federal government. Failure to comply may result in severe penalties, including fines of up to \$10,000 and potential imprisonment.

While I remain committed to fighting against this unconstitutional overreach and working toward a full repeal of the CTA, it is critical that you stay informed and take the necessary steps to comply with the new reporting requirements.

Most small business owners, including LLCs, corporations and other reporting entities must file. Reports must be submitted to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) online portal at <https://boiefiling.fincen.gov>.

Businesses failing to file may

face fines up to \$10,000 and possible criminal charges.

I was proud to introduce H.R. 425, the Repealing Big Brother Overreach Act, alongside my colleague Rep. Warren Davidson (OH-8), to repeal these unconstitutional personal privacy violations in the CTA. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/425/cosponsors?s=2&r=1>

Additionally, business owners should be wary of scammers attempting to exploit uncertainty around these new requirements.

As always, I will continue to fight against this burdensome mandate and work toward real solutions that protect the privacy and rights of small business owners.

My office can be contacted by phone at 614-523-255 or by e-mail at rep.balderson@mail.house.gov.



Clear Fork Reservoir • Photos By Jeff Hoffer