



# TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com

04.10.25



Photos by Jenna Wolford

**THE COMMUNITY CAME OUT** to support the Ontario Lions Pancake Day on Saturday, April 5, at Ontario High School. The Lions served pancakes and sausage to a large crowd from 6:30 am to noon. (More photos on Page 6).

## Local lake monitors needed

Volunteers with Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD) take an active role in water quality.

The next lake monitor volunteer training will be held Tuesday, April 29, from 5–7 pm at Pleasant Hill Lake, 3431 OH-95 Perrysville.

Richland SWCD partners with the Ohio Lake Management Society-Citizen Lake Awareness and Monitoring (OLMS-CLAM) for training and equipment.

Volunteers will learn how to record water clarity, color, temperature and depth and will monitor Clear Fork, Charles Mill and Pleasant Hill Lakes.

The data is used to document changes in lake conditions and the information is used to assist with watershed management efforts. Results are shared with the public and help increase awareness about water quality and conservation.

Volunteers add data onto the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District website in real-time so must have access to the internet.

To join this citizen-scientist group, sign up to attend the training at <https://richlandswcd.net/event/lake-monitor-volunteer-training-2/>.

Those attending the training are reminded to wear weather appropriate clothing and footwear.

## RCCS hosts Child Abuse Prevention Month kick-off at Malabar Intermediate

To kick-off Child Abuse Prevention Month, Richland County Children Services (RCCS) partnered with Malabar Intermediate School for a rally on Tuesday, April 1.

This year's theme, "Doing Things Differently: Believing in Communities," resonated throughout the event, celebrating the resilience of families and the ongoing work dedicated to protecting children and uniting families across Richland County.

The rally featured proclamations from notable figures including Tammy Puff, Director of Military and Veteran Relations for the Office of Governor Mike DeWine and Mansfield City Mayor Jodie Perry, both of whom recognized April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Richland County Commissioners Cliff Mears, Tony Vero and Darrell Banks also joined the festivities, demonstrating a unified commitment to child welfare.

Community members heard from speakers including Tara Lautzenhiser, Richland County Children Services (RCCS) Executive Director; Tom Hager, Malabar Intermediate School Principal; Cristen Gilbert, Mansfield Branch-YM-CA of North Central Ohio Executive Director; Raykayla Smith, Miss Black Ohio America Teen 2024; and Sean Troun, a sixth-grade student at Malabar Intermediate.

Pastor Aaron Williams Jr. of Maddox Memorial Church of God in Christ also shared heartfelt messages, emphasizing the collective effort needed to uplift families within our community.

The highlight of the event was the keynote address delivered by Teana Sykes, a renowned author, speaker, coach and creator of "Tea Talk", who urged students to believe in their potential and support one another. "When children thrive, communities thrive," Sykes proclaimed, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of those in attendance.

Emceed by Aurelio Diaz, Mansfield City Councilman for Ward 5 and founder/coach of Troupe Flow, the rally was filled with energy, including a line dance that got students moving and celebrating. An extra dose of excitement came from the appearance of the Mansfield City School Tyger Mascot.

In recognition of their participation, RCCS gifted each student with treat bags and blue wristbands bearing empowering messages: "I Am Brave," "I Am Loved," and "I Am Smart." These tokens serve as reminders of the strength and value of every child in our community.

"As Richland County comes together to observe Child Abuse Prevention Month, RCCS and Malabar Intermediate School stand united in their mission to create safe and nurturing environments for all children.

Together, we can foster a culture of belief in our communities and inspire change that uplifts families today and every day," said Brigitte Coles, Community Engagement Supervisor.

For more information about RCCS or to learn how you can get involved, visit [www.richlandcountychildrenservices.org](http://www.richlandcountychildrenservices.org). Call the RCCS 24-hour child abuse hotline at 419-774-4100 to report child abuse and neglect. (More Photos on Page 10)



**Keynote Speaker Teana Sykes**



## LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review  
By Mandy Belczak Gurney



I always trust in getting a good and surprising story with Fiona Davis. She writes NYC historical fiction. There is always a double plot line that converges.

Usually the setting is a historical building that brings about a forgotten history I never would have known.

*The Masterpiece* is about Grand Central Terminal and the art school that existed there in the early 1920s. A female art teacher is underappreciated until a vogue editor takes notice.

She is thrust into the spotlight and caught up in the world of famous artists.

The other storyline follows a newly divorced woman in the 1960s struggling to support herself. She takes a job in Grand

Central Terminal and begins to discover a past full of secrets. It was a sweet story with a little mystery and a fabulous ending. My rating is only because it was a bit slow in the middle, but still worth the read.

My rating: ★★★★★

Follow my blog at [GreenGurneys.com](http://GreenGurneys.com)

## RCF will host annual meeting

The Richland County Foundation will conduct its annual meeting Friday, May 9 at 11:30 am at Kingwood Center Gardens, 50 Trimble Rd., Mansfield.

The Foundation invites anyone in the community who is interested to the lunch.

Registration is online at [richlandcountyfoundation.org](http://richlandcountyfoundation.org), click the donate tab and then events.

The cost is \$30 per person. The luncheon meeting can also be paid for by mailing a check to 181 S. Main St., Mansfield, OH 44902 or call 419-525-3020 for additional information.

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

The Richland County Foundation helps people in Richland County give back to their community by investing their gifts wisely so that grants can be made to improve the quality of life for all the county's citizens.

**View & Print  
Past Issues at**

[www.tribune-courier.com](http://www.tribune-courier.com)



Seljalandsfoss in Iceland • Photo By Mark Shutt

## RPS seeking volunteers

Richland Pregnancy Services (RPS) is seeking volunteers with a passion for the unborn to assist in meeting the needs of clients who are facing an unplanned pregnancy decision.

In 2024, RPS served 412 clients and met their needs in a variety of ways through 1,273 service appointments. RPS is committed to providing free support to a woman or man facing an unplanned pregnancy decision and can only do so through reliable and consistent volunteers.

All volunteers must express a faith in Christ, be part of a local church and hold a biblical world view. Volunteers play a vital role in carrying out the mission of RPS. Eight-Week volunteer trainings are required and are held Fridays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at RPS, 1560 W. Fourth St., Mansfield. Contact [sydney@richlandpregnancy.com](mailto:sydney@richlandpregnancy.com) or call 419-522-8863 for more information.

## Pond Fish Sale

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Pick-up Friday, April 25

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## Tribune-Courier

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# News Briefs

First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Ave West, Mansfield, invites everyone to Holy Week services. On Palm Sunday, April 13, at 10 am, the church will celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus, then begin the Great Triduum on Maundy Thursday, April 17, at 7 pm. This service culminates with the stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday.

The Good Friday service is held at 7 pm, closing out in preparation for the Great Vigil of Easter with gathering around the fire in the South Mulberry St. parking lot. This service begins in candlelight (darkness) and moves to the Glory of Easter with Holy Communion.

On Sunday at 10 am the congregation will celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord with the Festival Easter service. Pastor Jay Jackson will be presiding.

★

Bryan Bielanski, a singer-songwriter based in Charlotte, North Carolina, will perform April 26, at The Mothership, 327 Park Avenue W., Mansfield. Doors open at 6 pm and the show begins at 7 pm.

Born in Parma, OH, Bielanski specializes in acoustic rock & roll. Tickets are \$10 and available at the door. For information visit <https://bryanssuperhappyfuntime.bandcamp.com>.

★

Crossroads Church, 21 E. Main St, Shelby, will host a helicopter egg drop on Saturday, April 12. Registration and breakfast will be at 9 am with game from 9:45–10:15 am and the egg drop at 10:15 am.

This free event is for children ages three years to fifth grade. For more information, visit [crossroadswired.com/easter](http://crossroadswired.com/easter).

★

Richland Carrousel Park, 75 N. Main St., Mansfield, will host an egg hunt on the lawn on Saturday, April 19, at 10 am.

Over 2,000 hidden eggs filled with treats and gifts will be available and those attending can meet the Easter Bunny in person after the hunt. This event will be cancelled if weather is uncooperative..

★

Mansfield 1st Presbyterian Church, 399 S. Trimble Rd., will host a rummage sale Friday, April 11, from 9 am to 4 pm and Saturday, April 12, from 9 am to noon.

Items will include a selection of clothing for children and adults, shoes, books, toys, housewares and more. Proceeds are used for local missions

For information contact the church office at 419-756-7066 or office@mansfield1st.com.

★

Letters of interest and resumes are being accepted for an appointment to the City of Ontario Auditor. The deadline to apply for consid-

eration is Wednesday, April 16. All letters and resumes can be sent to [janezim@icloud.com](mailto:janezim@icloud.com).

★

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 April 16 with turkey and a visit from the 179th Cyberspace Wing. Those attending are asked to bring a non-perishable item, can opener, paper product or monetary donation for the Salvation Army.

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

★

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Dr. Paul Robinson who will speak on "Through the Eyes of Extravagant Love" on Sunday, April 13 at 10:30 am. For information visit [www.allsoulsuuhio.org](http://www.allsoulsuuhio.org).

★

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](mailto:andersont@cacyohio.com) for details. If someone is thinking of harming themselves, call the local crisis helpline at 419-522-HELP (4357).

★

A Maundy Thursday service will be held April 17, at 7 pm. Pastor Peg Welch will be returning to share communion with Ontario United Methodist.

★

The public is invited to several events at Trinity Grace Fellowship, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield.

The Madison community-wide Easter egg hunt will be April 12 at 3 pm for children through sixth grade.

On April 13, Palm Sunday, at 9:30 am, will be a worship service to commemorate Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. A Holy Thursday service will be held April 17, at 7 pm.

A combined Good Friday service will be held with area Global Methodist churches at Paradise Hills GMC, 1491 State Route 603, Ashland, on April 18 at 6:30 pm.

On Sunday April 20, an Easter Sunrise service will be held at 7:30 am, followed by breakfast at 8 am and then Easter morning worship service at 9:30 am.

★

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

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# Church Directory

## Clay Memorial Lutheran Church

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

Pastor Carol Kilgore

Sunday School 9:15 am • Sunday Worship 10:30 am

## Clear Fork Alliance Church

1008 State Route 97, Bellville

419-886-4333 • [www.clearforkalliance.org](http://www.clearforkalliance.org)

Rev. Matt Merendino

Rev. Mike Stine, Associate Pastor

9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship

Sunday Evening 6 pm Home Groups

Monday Men's Group 7:30 pm

Wednesday evenings: 6:45 pm, Prayer Meeting

6:30-8 pm and TeamKID and Youth Group

## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

200 West Third St., Mansfield

419-524-4813 • [mansfield1stcc1833@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.FirstChristianChurchMansfield.com)

FB: FirstChristianChurchMansfield, Ohio

## First Congregational Church

640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield

419-756-3046 • [www.mansfieldfcc.com](http://www.mansfieldfcc.com)

Pastor Brad Bunn

8:30 am Chapel • 10:30 am Sanctuary

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](http://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.

## Grace Episcopal Church

41 Bowman Street, Mansfield

419-524-2661

Rev. Christopher D. Hofer, Priest-in-Charge

Rev. Daniel Orr, Associate Priest

Worship: Sundays, 8 am and 10:15 am

Christian Formation for All Ages: Sundays, 9:15 am

Food Pantry: Thursdays, 9-11 am

2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 4-6 pm

[gracemansfield.org](http://gracemansfield.org) • [facebook.com/GraceChurchMansfield](https://facebook.com/GraceChurchMansfield)

## G & M Body & Paint Shop

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

## Wappner Funeral Home

Mansfield • Ontario • Ashland • 419-522-5211

## Lexington Church of Christ

230 Delaware Ave., Lexington

419-884-1532 • [www.lccoh.com](http://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 Presbyterian Church

399 Trimble Rd., Mansfield

419-756-7066 • [www.mansfield1st.com](http://www.mansfield1st.com)

Rev. Joseph Yerger

9 am Adult & Youth Sunday School

10 am 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](http://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](http://ontarioumc.com)

Pastor George Lee

10:15 am Sunday Worship and Kingdom Kids

## St. John's United Church of Christ

68 Park Avenue East, Mansfield

419-522-2813 • [www.stjohnsmansfield.org](http://www.stjohnsmansfield.org)

Pastor Faith Proietti

10 am Sunday Worship

Office hours: Mon-Fri 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](http://trinitygracefellowship.org)

Pastor Larry Carnes

9:30 am Sunday Worship • 11 am Sunday School

Bible Study Mondays 2 pm

## Orders being accepted for pond fish

The Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD) has announced orders are being accepted for the pond fish sale until April 17.

Customers can select from bluegill, \$1.25 each; yellow perch, \$1.25 each; largemouth bass, \$1.50 each; fathead minnows, \$8.25 per 100; channell catfish, \$1.25 each; hybrid bluegill, \$1.25 each; redear bluegill, \$1.25 each; and white amur, \$16 each.

In addition to fish, customers may also purchase essential pond supplies including Pond conditioner, prices vary; optimal fish food, \$48; and plastic bag and tie, \$1 each.

Orders may be placed online at <https://richlandswcd.net/event/pond-fish-sale-order-deadline-2/>. A minimum order of \$20 is required.

Pick-up for all orders will take place at the Richland County Fairgrounds Horse Barn on April 25 from 10 to 11:30 am. Customers should bring appropriate containers to transport their fish safely. Five-gallon buckets work well but must have an unscented poly liner to ensure fish have enough oxygen during transportation. Customers should also have their containers filled one-third full with the pond water the fish will be transferred into.

## Meetings scheduled

The City of Ontario has released the meeting schedule for the next few months.

April 9, 1 pm, Civil Service Commission

April 16, 6:15 pm, Caucus; and 7 pm, Council

April 30, 6:15 pm, Caucus; and 7 pm, Council

May 12, 8:30 am, Council at Ontario Middle/High School Auditorium, 447 Shelby-Ontario Rd.

May 14, 1 pm, Civil Service Commission; and 4 pm, Planning Commission

Unless noted otherwise, meetings are held at the city building, 555 Stumbo Rd., Ontario.

The Clerk of Council's Office supports the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Those who need special accommodations can call 48 hours prior to a meeting time at 419-529-6714 for arrangements.



## Spring activities and events planned at Ashland's Kroc Center

The Salvation Army Ray & Joan Kroc Corps Community Center in Ashland is planning family-friendly activities this spring.

"In keeping with The Salvation Army's motivation to share the love of God, and the wishes of benefactor Joan Kroc, The Salvation Army Ray & Joan Kroc Corps Community Center in Ashland provides opportunities that help nourish the body, heart and soul of our community," explains says Dan Lawson, PhD, Director of Community Relations and Development.

To deliver on that commitment, The Ashland Kroc Center pro-

gramming and recreation teams collaborate with local instructors and coaches to provide a variety of classes and events. A small sampling of some of the upcoming activities are outlined below.

Spring Break Day Passes are \$12 for youth (1-17 years old) and adults (18+) are \$15. They include access to the entire building, including the indoor waterpark, fitness center, gymnasium and field house (gym and field house are based on availability with scheduled activities). The center will be closed on Friday, April 18 for Good Friday and Easter Sunday, aside from worship services at 10 am.

Middle School Night will be Friday, April 11, from 5-7 pm. Cost is \$5; members are free. This is a middle school-age (grades 5-8) kids-only drop-off event that will include board games, laser tag, dodge ball, roller skating, video games and more.

Lu & Climbing Wall Night will be Friday, April 25 from 6-8 pm. Cost is \$5; free for members. Those attending can test their limits on the open climbing wall, then jump into the interactive LU playground. Space is limited, sign up with the welcome desk.

Batting cages are open Tuesdays and Thursdays, April 10 through June 5, from 5-7 pm for ages five and up (must be seven years old to hit from a pitching machine). Non-member cost is \$5 and members are free. Adult supervision is required. For private coaching or rentals for a team, call Ashley Hall, event manager, at 419-281-8001.

The Lu Interactive Playground is open Mondays, 6-8 pm for ages 5 and up. Cost is \$5; members are free. The gym is transformed into an immersive digital playground. It includes games that test throwing precision, as well as dance challenges, puzzles and virtual sports like soccer, football and basketball. Spots are limited, so sign up with the welcome desk.

The climbing wall is open Wednesdays from 6-8 pm for ages 7 and older. Cost is \$5; members are free. Adults are welcome.

For more information call The Ashland Kroc Center at 419-281-8001. To stay up-to-date on the latest classes and events, follow Ashland Kroc Center on Facebook or @AshlandKroc on Instagram.

## Renaissance to host auditions

Under the direction of Lori Turner, the Renaissance Theatre will host auditions for the Renaissance Youth Opera Theatre production of *1,001 Nights*. Auditions will be Friday, May 2, from 3-7 pm and Saturday, May 3, from 10 am to 3 pm, in Theatre 166, 166 Park Avenue West, Mansfield. Appointments are not required for auditions.

Those auditioning must be 18 or younger (unless still attending high school) during the 2024-'25 school year and should be no younger than nine. Anyone auditioning should be prepared to sing a 16-32 measure excerpt from a song of their choice and bring sheet music in the proper key. An accompanist will be provided. Some actors may be asked to read a short scene from the script. Those auditioning should bring a list of schedule conflicts.

*1,001 Nights* will be presented for four performances on Saturday, June 28, at 2 pm and 7 pm and Sunday, June 29, at 1 and 4 pm. The production will be presented as an outdoor performance in the Renaissance plaza green space, and is a part of the Mechanics Bank Education Series. The performances are free and open to the public.

For information contact Lori Turner at [lori@mansfieldtickets.com](mailto:lori@mansfieldtickets.com).

### Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Stephen L. Chorpening, March 26  
Eularee B Churn, March 27  
Judith Ann Ebert, March 28  
Sandra Kay McWhorter, March 30  
Hedwig Ormesher, March 31  
William Ernest Coffindaffer, April 1  
James Shawn Newman, April 1  
Curtis Ora James Duncan, April 3  
Elizabeth Rose Smith, April 4

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State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas, State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX

State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL



# ONTARIO LIONS PANCAKE DAY • APRIL 5



Photos By Jenna Wolford

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M-F (8-4pm)



## Richland County Juvenile Court's CASA raising awareness in April

Richland County Juvenile Court's CASA Program is raising awareness about the fight to keep local children safe from harm during Child Abuse Prevention Month this April.

Child Abuse Prevention Month highlights the importance of families and communities working together to fight child abuse and neglect.

This push is central to the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program mission of having highly trained community members advocate in court for children experiencing abuse and neglect.

After undergoing a background check and comprehensive training, CASA volunteers are appointed by Juvenile Court Judge Steve McKinley to advocate for children in abuse or neglect cases. Volunteers are community members from all walks of life.

According to Judge McKinley, "advocacy by a CASA volunteer is crucial to helping the court ensure that youth are integrated into loving, permanent homes. Being a CASA volunteer is a great way to serve youth who have been troubled by a broken family structure."

CASA Program Director Brooke Henwood praised local volunteers for their continued investment in learning the circumstances of children's lives in order to ensure that, through their advocacy, each child's voice is heard by the court.

CASA volunteers in Richland County advocated for the best interest of 328 local children in 2024.

Retired Juvenile Judge Ron Spon founded the Court's CASA Program in 1998 to serve the unique needs of abuse and neglected children in our community; an initiative which is continued today by as many as 70 community volunteers.

Volunteers complete at least 30 hours of training and in-court observation before being assigned a case. CASA volunteers receive continued support in their advocacy work and complete annual training.

Richland County CASA is part of a state and national network. There are 48 CASA programs serving more than 9,000 children in 62 Ohio counties annually.

There is a need for more community members to become CASA volunteers and protect children. Training of new CASA volunteers is available at no cost each spring and fall. To learn more contact Brooke Henwood at [bhenwood@rcjcoh.us](mailto:bhenwood@rcjcoh.us) or 419-774-5802.

## RPH hosting mobile vaccine clinics

Richland Public Health will host measles vaccine clinics on Friday, April 11, at Lucas Library, from 10 am to noon; Wednesday, April 16, at Shiloh Village Hall, from 9:30 am to noon; and Thursday, April 17, at Lexington Senior Center, from 10 am to noon.

No appointment is necessary. Those attending the clinic should bring immunization records, a photo ID and insurance cards (if available). Some vaccines are available at no cost for those who qualify. Parents or guardians must accompany minors. For more information call 419-774-4700 or visit [richlandhealth.org](http://richlandhealth.org).



**THE LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL DELEGATION** attended the Ohio Youth and Government Conference. All four bills submitted by the Lexington students passed the house and senate and were signed by the youth governor. Students held major leadership roles at the statewide conference including JayByx M., governor; Katya P., secretary of state; Ellie H., chief of staff; and Oden B. and Natalie S., committee chairs. Katya P. was elected 2026 Speaker of the House and will represent Ohio at the Conference on National Affairs (CONA) in North Carolina this summer. Joining her at CONA are Ellie H. and JayByx M. Natalie S. was named Best Committee Chair and Ellie H. was named Best Cabinet Member.

## OSU-M to host Buckeye Preview Day

The Ohio State University at Mansfield admissions staff is holding another Buckeye Preview Day April 21, from 10 am to 12:30 pm. The event is open to students of any age and are particularly helpful for high school juniors who will soon begin their college search process.

At the preview, students will learn more about scholarship and financial aid, campus housing, student clubs and organizations and much more. Faculty and current students will share their perspectives as well as their experiences on campus.

The preview day will conclude with a campus tour and time for all guests to ask questions. All events will begin in Riedl Hall and students can register online at [go.osu.edu/visitmansfield](http://go.osu.edu/visitmansfield)

While registration is encouraged, walk-in participants are welcome. For more information, contact the office of enrollment services at [mansfield-askabuckeye@osu.edu](mailto:mansfield-askabuckeye@osu.edu) or call 419-755-4317.

Register online at [go.osu.edu/visitmansfield](http://go.osu.edu/visitmansfield)



# BUCKEYE PREVIEW DAYS

April 21 : 10 am – 12:30 pm





# SEE THE



**Together, we're making a  
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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.

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## Representatives McClain and Miller introduce legislation to expand midwifery services in Ohio

State Representatives Riordan McClain (R-Upper Sandusky) and Melanie Miller (R-City of Ashland) recently introduced legislation to recognize and promote the great work midwives perform around the state.

The bill creates new licensure framework for midwives in Ohio, expanding access to midwifery services and providing additional levels of care for Ohio women. McClain and Miller also championed this policy during the previous General Assembly.

The bill aims to recognize and provide new, optional licensure framework for midwives; ensure that traditional (lay) midwives can continue to operate without licensure as they always have as long as they receive informed consent from their clients and carry out their limited scope of work; create an advisory committee to oversee and advise on matters regarding midwifery; and designate May 5 as "Day of the Midwife."

"The miracle of birth is an awe-inspiring event and isn't simply a procedure to be rushed as long as mom and baby are doing well," said McClain. "Midwives provide a time-tested approach to prenatal care and childbirth that guides the mother through the natural processes to bringing a healthy baby from their womb into their arms."

"I believe this legislation will benefit existing midwives, encourage others to become midwives, and reduce the number of maternity health deserts in Ohio," said Miller. "If a woman wants a midwife for pregnancy, there are many types she can choose from that will give her different levels of care."

McClain and Miller cited the issues surrounding access to maternity services, especially in rural areas, as a key driver behind the bill.

The legislation awaits a bill number and House committee assignment.

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**MAMMARIES**  
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Elva Hurst

## Artist and photographer will give presentations at OUMC

Elva Hurst will share her faith story using chalk talk at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, on Saturday, May 3, from 8:30–11 am.

Hurst is a professional artist from Lancaster County, PA. She grew up in a large Old Order Mennonite family. She spent most of her time teaching herself art between chores on the family dairy farm.

After graduating eighth grade from her one room school, she discovered the lost performance art of chalk talk.

She now owns and operates the Barnyard Art Studio and Gallery on her 40 acre farm in Lancaster, PA. She does some traveling to share her stories of faith and freedom through chalk talk.

She will share her stories through fluorescent chalk, music and sound effects. The grand finale includes a colored light and an ultra-violet black light to create beautiful effects on her art work.

Klye Ray is from Mansfield and is passionate about capturing the beauty and craftsmanship of every church he photographs. He started over a year ago and has photographed nearly 150 churches.

His passion for architecture and history stems from his former job at the Ohio State Reformatory in Mansfield. What started as a small hobby has turned into a large project.

Ray will be sharing his photographs at Ontario United Methodist Church on Saturday, May 3, from 1–2:15 pm.

Both of these presentations are a part of the Ohio Methodist Historical Society's annual meeting. There will be a free will offering for the presentations. Those attending can stay for the day and eat lunch. If staying for lunch RSVP to 419-529-4058

## Construction projects announced

Construction projects are anticipated to affect ODOT roadways in Richland County. All work is weather permitting.

State Route 13 northbound and southbound, from Hanley Road to Chilton Avenue, will have long-term lane closures for a resurfacing project. The northbound and southbound driving lanes will be closed for roadway reconstruction and culvert work. Traffic will be maintained in 10' lanes in each direction with barrels. Estimated completion for the 2025 construction season is November 2025. Estimated completion of entire project is May 2027.

Interstate 71 northbound and southbound, between SR 39 and U.S. 30, will have single lane closures for a slope stabilization project. Two lanes of traffic will be maintained. Estimated completion is November 2025.

State Route 181 SR 181 will have single lane closures from just south of Main Street in Crestline, to SR 309. Project work includes pavement repairs and bridge maintenance work. Traffic will be maintained by flaggers. Estimated completion is September 2025.

State Route 181, between Ulmer Road and Horning Road, will close Monday, April 14 for a culvert replacement.

The detour route for eastbound motorists will be SR 181 east to SR 61 south to SR 309 east to SR 181 and reverse for westbound motorists. Estimated completion is Friday, April 18.

State Route 314 from the Morrow County line to the city of Ontario corporation limits will have single lane closures for a pavement repair project. Traffic will be maintained by flaggers. Estimated completion is June 2025.



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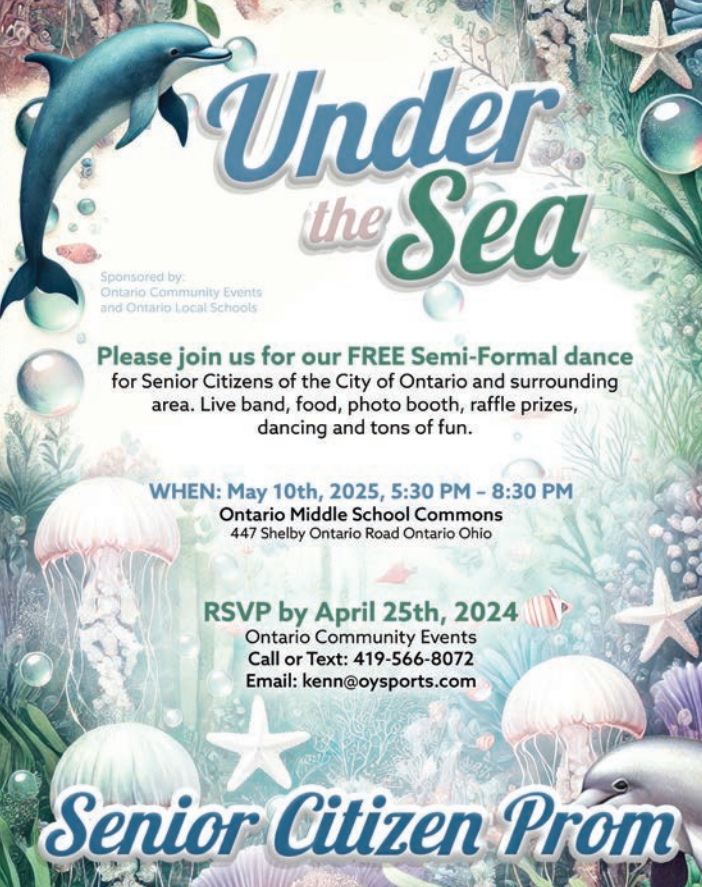
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# Under the Sea

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**Please join us for our FREE Semi-Formal dance**  
for Senior Citizens of the City of Ontario and surrounding  
area. Live band, food, photo booth, raffle prizes,  
dancing and tons of fun.

**WHEN: May 10th, 2025, 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM**  
Ontario Middle School Commons  
447 Shelby Ontario Road Ontario Ohio

**RSVP by April 25th, 2024**  
Ontario Community Events  
Call or Text: 419-566-8072  
Email: [kenn@oysports.com](mailto:kenn@oysports.com)

## Senior Citizen Prom





Mayor Jodie Perry



Tara Lautzenhiser



**RICHLAND COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES** partnered with Malabar Intermediate School for a Child Abuse Prevention Month kick-off rally on Tuesday, April 1. This year's theme is "Doing Things Differently: Believing in Communities."

*Join us for a free program!*



Program is open to Crawford County Residents age 55+. Call to preregister at 419-562-3050 option 4. Space is limited.

## 10 Warning signs OF ALZHEIMER'S

Learn what to watch for in yourself and others. We will discuss the difference between normal aging and Alzheimer's, common warning signs, and the importance of early detection and receiving a diagnosis.

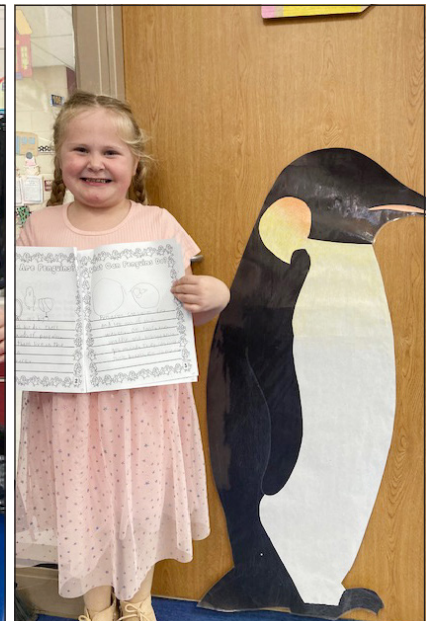
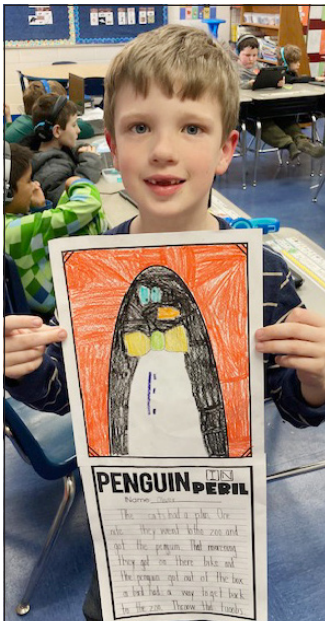
**Monday, April 14, 2025 @ 1:00 pm**

**Crawford County Council on Aging | 200 S Spring St, Bucyrus**





**THE LEXINGTON WINTERLINE OF GOLD** wrapped up its season on Sunday, March 30 at the Ohio Indoor Performing Arts State Finals with a final score of 78.15/100— the highest in Winterline of Gold history! Their show, "Radiohead: The Best of," featured songs like "Everything In Its Right Place" and "Creep," with a standout trombone solo by Chayton Winters.



**MRS. BARRY'S FIRST GRADE CLASS** at Ontario has been researching penguins. Students read books and watched videos and then worked together to write an informative book about many of the special features of these unique birds. They also were read stories about fictional penguins, and then compared and contrasted the fiction with nonfiction, and wrote their own retellings of *Penguin in Peril*, by Helen Hancocks. Measuring themselves up against a life-sized emperor penguin was a highlight, realizing just how big these birds can grow.



# Honor and Merit Rolls

## Clear Fork High School 3rd Nine Weeks

### ALL A'S

**Seniors:** Noel Cline, Emily Conrad, Venessa Eicher, Logan Krzeminski, Fisher McLaughlin, Chloe Mowry, Alexander Ousley, Rebecca Pryor, Reina Rehberg, Dawson Staley, Lola Stillion and Christian Walker

**Juniors:** Ethan Beck, Piper Black, Alyssa Burger, Benjamin Campbell, Milee Carillon, Mattie Colegrove, Kaiden Dettmer, Abigail Geary, Madelyn Hite, Jasmine Johnson, Zoe Lamp, Jozie Lloyd, Austin McFerren, Kenadee Muntain, Lucy Myer, Callie New, Bailee Riddle, Selena Ross, Faith Smith, Liliana Trunzo, Sophia Wilson and Ashtyn Wine

**Sophomores:** Asia Bechtel, Jadalyne Brokaw, Mackenzie Daniels, Aiden Demoss, Gavin Domka, Jonathan Evans, Charles Granholm, Mariah Hatfield, Alaina Hawkins, Davis Hoeflich, Marcus H'oeflich, Erika Hollar, Caleb Mack, Brody McGregor, Katrina Neal, Samuel Robinson, Hudson Schag, Ella Schmidt, Kabuto Setser, Hailly Thrush, Arianna Vanhooose, Austin VanHouten, Addison Weikle, Owen Weikle and Adalyn Wise

**Freshmen:** Matthew Anders, Nathaniel Buck, Gunnar Dill, Alyson Geary, Audrey Haring, Ashlyn Inman, Alyssa Johnson, Maria Knight, McKenley Knuckles, Jyllian Langer, Kylie Ludwig, Ethan McFerren, Karlynn Mortimer, Kendall Oswalt, Quentin Rinehart, Caitlin Seward, Emma Shultz, Adelyn Snyder, Quinn Stover, Addison Thrush, Alina Van Horn and Allison Walker

### HONOR ROLL

**Seniors:** Christopher Fenton, Bobbie Jo Fliger, Emily Montgomery, Kaybria Sims and Lillian Weikle

**Juniors:** Hansen Dornbirer, Aidan Haring, Delilah Henry, Addison Johnson, Savannah Mazzola, Bryar Ousley, Kaiden Schlosser, Clinton Stallard, Mason Walls, Nathaniel Wine and Jacob Zack

**Sophomores:** Aubree Barnes, Mary(Max) Betts, Taylor Bly, Arianna Bostic, Cooper Brokaw, Wesley Bunnell, Khristopher Bush, Layla Daugherty, Benjamin Dudley, Christian Edwards, Noah Goodman, Brynley Kirkpatrick, Ethan Line, Joseph Lykins, Isabella McKenna, Avery McWilliams, Hayden Northrup, Marin Ocheltree, Mya Perry, Marley Pinkerton, Alekai Price, Ava Roberts, Alexander Schlosser, Nicholas Skaggs, Chloe Steward, Wade Traxler and Owen Weiser

**Freshmen:** Elyza Baumgardner, Ian Black, Chesnei Flynn, Broghan Gatten, Olivia Hall, Ava Hanson, Gage Hoffman, Luke Keever, Malayna Kehl, Presley Lily, Katelyn Lucci1 Aubryn Nickoli, Braylen Petheri, Madilynn Peters, Sophia Schag, Ashley Smith, Zhoie Steagall, Victoriya Vaughn, Malia Walker, Alexis Walters and Barrett Walters

### MERIT ROLL

**Seniors:** Perry Beller, Kaiden Bloomfield, Mel Blubaugh, McKinlie Carpenter, Corbin Hall, Carter King, Trevor Kinnamon, Emma Parsons, Peyton Rader, Carson Shields and Mason Wade

**Juniors:** Tobin Amos, Sabree Caudill, Xander Cyphers, Laiken Eith, Xander Frederick, Lucas Goodman, Gwyneth Jones, Jayden Kaylor, Nicholas Martin, Porter Schmidt, Hadley Slaughter, Rozalyn Stover, Sophia Wharton and Makenna Wuertz

**Sophomores:** Morgan Armstrong, Zane Atkinson, Audrey Bowman, Addison Brown, Carter Coale, Sergio Cruz 4th, Wade Davis, Kane Delancy, Peyton Freitag, Christian Kinnamon, Broegan Lyon, Landon McKee, Alexis Radcliffe, Kendyll Renz, Taylor Richmond, Isaac Ross, Ashtyn Salisbury, Bryn Sansom, Trey Sellers, Peyton Sickles, Camellia Smitticus, Grace Stallard, Kaiden Thomas, McKenzie Wandall

**Freshmen:** Kendall Baughman, Devin Dorion, Wyatt Hamilton, Brayden Hayes, Zayden Haynes, Areanna Hood, Emma Humphrey, Keegan Lorentz, Adelyn New, Jaxon Oswalt, Ashley Peterson, Jasper Picchioni, Jaydee Skeens, Payton Snyder, Marley Strouse and Collin Thompson

## Madison Local Schools 3rd Nine Weeks

### ALL A'S

**Seniors:** Andreus Adkins-Tolbert, Isabella Allen, Nathan Baldinger, Aleigha Bebout, Isaiah Bland, Emily Bogner, Emily Brandt, Braelynn Cox, Aaliyah Dombroff, Dryden Durbridge, Ryleigh Foley, Elijah Fox, Kaden Fultz, Lucas Garand, Wyatt Geiger, Landon Goad, Nikkian Grimes-Pittenger, Carter Heimbuch, Ashley Herder, Logan Hoffman, Ava Huff, Mason Jacobus, Keiayrsah Jones, Olivia Kiley, Cameron Kuhn, Natalie Markle, Hannah Markley, Gage Masters, Gavyne Mc-

Daniel, Allison McKown, Keira Mooneyham, Emily Musgrove, Samantha Myers, Isaiah Ortiz-Martinez, Ian Parker, Paige Patton, Mavery Perkins, Dakota Perseitz, Sydney Phillips, Josslynn Pryor, Nevaeh Rhein, Meghan Roberts, Madison Sackman, Brody Savage, Emma Speelman, Trenton Speelman, Lucas Stollings, Kristian Stoots, Leah Thomas, Owen Wigton and Angela Williams

**Juniors:** Elizabeth Bekeleski, Madison Berry, Nathan Bittman, Myla Blankenship, Julianna Boliantz, Micah Clark, Preston Coffman, Morgan Cook, Courtney Cyrus, Lillian DeLong, Timothy Ellis, Brianna Fidler, Emma Finley, Hayden Hatfield, Aubrey Hendrickson, Maci Hergatt, Alyson (A) Hoak, Kalayah Johnson, Kaylin Johnson, Drew Kepple, Campbell Kiser, Tauren Lindsey, Isabella Liviskie, Christopher (Chris) Lucas, Nicholas Maglott, Kavantray Marsh, Deont'e McDaniel, Ashton McGlasson, Zoe McQuillen, Macy Mounts, Jada Neal, Jalycia Nelson, Andrew Parish, Raygen Reiter, Emma Reynolds, Jennah Richards, Zoey Robinson, Aryana Rogers, Elizabeth Schwartz, Briana Smith, MaRhea Smith, Bryce Speelman, Grace Speelman, Grady Spurlock, Esther Stanfield, Kaylee Stone, Liam Stone, Ariyah Tufts, Courtney (Cole) Viocck, Audrey Ward and Jerry Wertz

**Sophomores:** Alexis Cameron, Kinley Clow, Kaylea Cole, Isabella Conway, Samantha Crist, Claire Durbridge, Trenton Ford, Kennedy Hofer, Cambree Howe, Chase Hunsinger, Kaiden Koch, Evan Larsen, Sophie Lowe, Darius Marsh, Jordan McWilliams, Avery O'Brien, Ravino Pena, Geraldo Sayre, Kylie Schaefer, Autumn Schroeder, Zoei (Zee) Sealey, Jaxson Shaffer, Allie Shrader, Isabella (Bella) Smith, Hudson Stacy, Keeli Stewart and Baylee Yost

**Freshmen:** Zaylynn Ball, Kaley Bowman, Deanna Chipner, Carter Foley, Anna Hannah, Sydney Hazlewood, Owen Hendershott, Joun-ee Jaranowski, Adalynn Jordan, Kaden LaPene, Victoria Neal, Rachel Porter, Khloe Sayre, Jaiden Shaffer, Allie Shambaugh, Landon Stone, Maci Whitesel and Makenzie Wynn

**Eighth Grade:** Jenna Bebout, Lainey Binns, Alexander Dillon, Troy Kegley, Andrew (Aj) Lowe, Gabreilla Mickouma, Cameron Montgomery, Hayley Morris and Miah Reid

**Seventh Grade:** Liam Barr, Jaxson Bennett, Ky-Lyn Byerly, Gannon Conway, Abbigale Crist, Alyse Emery, Daevon Endicott, Samara Gillespie, Jordan Jeffers, Emma Lewis, Preston Patrick, Matthew Risner, Kendal Shrader and Natalie Smith

**Sixth Grade:** Annalise Barber, Jessica Cakebread, Daniel Carpenter, Amia Carroll, Lily Eckenwiler, Lauren Foster, Hailey Hedrick, Roman Hipfl, Liam Kiser, Kennadi Knipp, Parker Larsen, Gavin Moore, Grant Mountz, Xavier Roberts, Demari Roper, Eleanor Sidwell, Kemonie Sims, Lorelai Sly, Shawn (Jr) Sydnor, Madelynn Thompson, Beckham White, Mackenzie Wiggins and McKenzie Wingle

**Fifth Grade:** Zella Ball, Ella Barr, Lincoln Bays, Isabella Beatty, Carter Clow, London Hamilton, Kendle Keirns, Zeke Markley, Peyton Meek, Kellen O'Brien, James Price, Joel Robertson, Carter Shenberger, Olivia St Clair and Chalyne Zehner

**Fourth Grade:** Lillian Chambers, Allie Fellure, Embert Fry, Sawyer Howell, Kinsey Kirkpatrick, Teagan Kirsch, Weston Miller, Brynn Sauder and Gabriel Utt

**Third Grade:** Evan Baldridge, Blaire Belcher, Paityn Brooks, Madilyn Bryant, Jaxson Carroll, Lincoln Collins, Gracie Evans, Rayson Evans, Jekhi Finley, Livia Foote, Grayson Hoehn, Oliver Hubert, Dalton Hudson, Konner Jessee, Lily Kegley, Scarlet Kindinger, Caleb King, Madilynn Kline, Asher Larsen, Emeri Lewis, Cobey McCoy, Landon Mitchell, Stacey Montgomery, Lincoln Morrow, Edith Mount, Emme Neron, Hayden Ohl, Cameron Parsley, Leah Peck, Amiyah Radcliffe, Divinity Shoaf, Ava Sigman and Liam Wake

### HONOR ROLL

**Seniors:** Draven Anderson, Ava Armstrong, Chloe Babcock, Addison Baker, Nikolas Balg, Jacelynn Barley, Shyann Barnhart, Aiden Bartley, Ashlynn Benson, Ethan Bibler, Matthew Biller, Nya Bishop, Allyssa Blasini, Tristan Blevins, Rodney Caldwell, Madison Crank, Gracie Dotson, Ariel Ellis, Kira Ewers, Freddie Gordon, Alyssa Gray, Alyse Huggins, Zariah Jackson, Kiarra Johnson, Mariah Johnson, Brynn Kiley, Elijah Lewis, Claira Lowe, Gage Lykins, Veronica Mawer, Zion McCraney, Ayezhia Mitchell, Carter Moore, Calvin Nelson, Braden Nungester, Brady O'Brien, Damon Parnell, Sophia Parsons, Landon Rhinehart, Emily Ringer, Larissa Sarow, Ellieanna Shindeldecker, Faith Smith, Destinee Snavelly, Lillie Southerland, Emma Stankovich, Layni Stollings, Brianna Studer, Maggie Thomas, Lillian Truax, Kahleb Vance, Karis Vega, Adam Weatherford, Derek Yates and Lela Zehner

**Juniors:** Lilliana Allen, Payton Bartolomea, Megan Bays, Cruz Boggs, Natalie Brandt, Carter Branham, Paityn Butler, Gabriella (Gabby) Chipner, Aubrie Clark, John Collins, Aubrey Conn, Laykin Curry, Evan Cyrus, Emily Daugherty, Piper Donahue, Collin Faith, Hannah Fultz,

(Continued on Page 13)



# •Honor and Merit Rolls

(Continued from Page 12)

Camryn Gowitzka, Ashley Gusta, Emmalie Hall, Kelsie Harry, Landon Harvey, Anaysia Henriquez, Nathan Hoffman, Randy Jamieson, Brennan Johnson, Amya Joplin, Riley Kallerson, Izabela King, Laney Lewis, Jacob Lord, Zachariah Loretta, Nathanael (Nathan) Marks, Wyatt Martin, Aaron McEndree, Chloe McWhorter, Kaleb Minch, Owen Morrow, Camdyn Neal, Olivia Penrod, Cameron Porter, Olivia (Liv) Price, Nathan (Nate) Riggle, Lily Sanderfer, William Saunders, Johnny Smith, Katie Smith, Jaxin Stancombe, Taylor Steffey, Kinlei Stoltenberg, Anthony Studer, Lucas Swanger, Kya Swigart, Lillian Symsick, Ashton Taylor, Alexander Thompson, Kayzia Thornley, Bryce Tudor, Jocelyn Turner, Joseph Walker, Lillian (Lily) Waxter, Rudy Webel and Gracie Young

**Sophomores:** Leo Atwell, Zoie Ball, Destiny Britt, Jaselle Clark, David Clayburn, Destini Conrad, Brianna Coulter, Lucas Davidson, Giavanna DiPuccio-Resendiz, Landyn Dodd, Lindsay Dulin, Nicolas Gatten, Treyvin Glasser, Aliya Hall, Jayden Hall, Autumn Haynes, Travis (TJ) Hicks, Santanna Hoffman, Ashtyn Huffman, Chloe Jeffers, Mac'kel Johnson-Kawczynski, Lola Kerrick, Layla Krizan, Joshua Maglott, Christopher Manley, Malachi Marsh, Kiya McConaughy, Taylor McKown, Kylie Merritt, JulieAnna Miller, Alexander Moore, Melissa Moore, Cadence Mutter, Ashley Nikolaus, Bryce Ocheltree, Aubrey Ohl, Sophia Palmer, Cadance Peters, Branson Porter, Ellie Powell, Sarah Ringer, Zackary Sanders Winters, Emily Saunders, Peyton Schulte, Joseph (Wade) Seibert, Lincoln Shepherd, Shiann Skeen, Cameron Smith, Hayden Stollings, Kristopher Sutton, Gabriela Vega-Wieland, Lyla Walker, Daniel Weightman, Evan Williams and Knight Wolfe

**Freshmen:** Sophia Allen, Cory Bishop, Isaiah Blust, Aniyah Bond, Cohen Brandt, James (Jr) Broyles, Kaiden Burghard, Bryant Carroll, Braydon Christine, Caliyah Clapper, Jarrod Cyrus, Alec Day, Kai Dean, Shiana Elliott, Ariel Foote, Chloe Gilbert, Kaleia Gonder, Kayden Graf, Kendall Graham, Lawson Gray, Livia Grove, Cadence Gushard, Amerah Reign (Amerah) Hapin, Izabella (Bella) Harris, Anyla Hence, Cadence Hendrickson, Alana Henriquez, Jaxson Henry, Sarah Holt, David Hudson, Haylie Hutcheson, Alexander Jenkins, Payton Kellner, Camylle King, Zaydien Longboat, Cailyn Lozier, Alexander (Alex) Maddy, Aerianna Massey, Ayden McGlasson, Noah Miles, Angel Montanez, Cerenity Montgomery, Aubrieanne Morton, Emma Myers, Landon Parsons, Nevaeh Patton, Leeann Perkins, Devin Peterson, Isabella Putney, Karalynn Ransom, Rhiana Reynolds, Joseph (Joey) Roberts, Bailey Rogowski, Gracie Schaade, Adrian Siedel, Coltin Smith, Gavin Spiess, Kaylor Steagall, Destiny Thompson, Kenley Turner, Leah Wallrabenstein, Elle Washington, Phillip Wiggins, Peyton Wylie and James Zaletel

**Eighth Grade:** Anna Ankrum, Abigail Anschutz, Alaina Ash, Aleah Bara, Makenna Berkshire, Elodie Blair, Isabella Childs, Brennan Coulter, Dylin Cyrus, Lucas Eckenwiler, Hannah Evans, Gavin Faith, Aubree Fisher, Jack Foster, Bella Guardiola, Kordell Hardy, McKenna Haynes, Arenal Hunsinger, Bryce Jacobs, Bryleigh Jordan, Madison Kliever, Addalyn Lynch, Brandon Maglott, Aryiah Miller, Mason Morrow, Lillian Mutter, Jaylonna Nelson, Daniel Norris, Tavian Porter, Addyson Powell, Gabriel Prater, Savanna Ransom, Trace Schafer, Mackynzie Smith, Cloe Taylor, Drayden Tschantz and Morgan Turney

**Seventh Grade:** Zane Baker, Reagan Brooks, Amelia Clayburn, Baylee Cushard, Grady Davis, Traevon Endicott, Carson Feltner, Peyton Foote, Savannah Hamilton, Dillon Herder, Lainee Heston, Izabella Kenner, Kaeleb Llamas, Declan Maddy, Landon McFarland, Aziyah McKnight, Carson McQuillen, Faith Metcalf, Kathryn Myers, Marielle Peters, Casey Rachel, Peyton Ramirez, Gabriel Salyers, Aryan Spencer, Scott Steagall, Vincent Studer, Alexander Weightman, McKenzie Williams, Brennen Wilson, Ethan Wingo and Jersie Yunker

**Sixth Grade:** Faith Barney, Tanner Bays, Jacob Bond, Jeffrey Brooks, Delaney Conway, Dashawn Fields, Kaelyn France, Frehley Gushard, Asherah Hapin, Erin Johnson, Taelyn Kirsch, Milo Mccann, Abrianna Micallef, Dane Moysi, Lelia Myers, William Owens, Christian Pennington, Mileena Porter-Race, Dylan Pucci, Bristol Salser, Elena Santiago, Hagen Sauder, Jocelynn Shaffer, Clayton Shepherd, Sadie Smith, Lillian Suttle, Seth Utt, Myah Williams and Caylee Yeager

**Fifth Grade:** Corinne Beal, Madalyn Best, Benton Brandt, Braxton Brandt, Skylar Carlson, Kaiden Chan, Wyatt Clark, Karson Dale, Quinton Davis, Madelinbe Dunlap, Isaiah Hollar, Landon Hunt, Jazalyn Joplin, Caliyah Keith, James Lang, Olivia Mason, Joseph (Joe) McMasters, Baylee Mitchell, Bentley Moore, Clayton Mount, Jaxson Pennywitt, Joseph (Joe) Reddy, Tyler Salyers, Carter Smollen, Hailey

Snelling, Emily Spillman, Aubrey Spurlock, Ezra Triplett, Nora Ward, Kristopher Washington, Tyson Wendling and Eliana Wilson

**Fourth Grade:** Elena Allen, Embree Baker, Ayden Bara, Preslee Barney, Thomas Bautz, Jonah Blust, Nevaeh Bond, Bexley Brandt, Chloe Bridges, Kyson Brinker, Lillian Brooks, Maddox Brown, Steven Burnell, Brogan Buzzard, Kyrie Byrd, Ania Carroll, Jayce Clark, Seth Clark, Jessi Conway, Ryker Cullen, Kylee Cushard, Brantyn David, Abigail Davis, Natalie Debo, Max Duffner, Mason Edmiston, Jayden Estes, Andrew Finley, Layla Gushard, Lillian Hay, Gracie Henderson, Abel Hensley, Bryson Holloway, Alexander Holt, Arielle Jackson, Noel Johnson, Harley Kindinger, Grace Kunz, Phoenix Lewis, Na'Riah Likely, Jase Little, Kinnidi McPeck, Abel Miller, Hunter Moore, Marlie Morganstern, Maicie Moss, Elli Neal, Olivia Parks, Lucas Perry, Ares Peters, Nakeivia Powell, Toby Ransom, James Ross, Waylon Schoonover, Callie Shoffstall, Lexys Shrock, Mykelti Sly, Blakely Swansstrom, Ellie VanWagner, Brynn Wheatner and Jacario Williams

**Third Grade:** Lilyahanna Adkins, Karter Allen, Praxton Allen, Emily Allison, Jaxson Bebout, Robert Beck, Jasper Blair, Noah Blankenship, Nevaeh Bostic, Josiah Brammer, Lyla Bristow, Madalyn Burkholder, Raylee Carmichael, Ruger Childress, Kiryn Clouse, Jah'keise Colvin, Cayne Comisford, Chase Cornell, Mason Crego, Abel Dewitt, Tanner Drake, Owen Elswick, Jay'sean Favers, Gavin Fellure, Paislee Finley, Stephen Fisher, Mercy Foncannon, Wyatt Fouts, Owen Frank, Olivia Given, Beckham Gleason, Harrison Groving, Layla Harvey, Christopher Haynes, Crue Henry, Josephine Hill, Melia Hogard, Ryleigh Holmes, Emma Horsley, Lily Hudson, Daphne Ingles, Ammity Jackson, Myles Klecka, Abram Kliever, Ellorie Lang, Braydon Lawrence, Ra'Mari Lee, Corbin Lentz, Ava Lewis, Malachi Lindsay, Lillyana Lohr, Isiah Lykins, Braxon Martin, Jillian McMasters, Bailey Mcquillen, Kennedy Miller, Lincoln Myers, Logan Myers, Juni Parker, Kainen Partin, Zeighla Perry, Connor Pryor, Mae Rhinebolt, Faith Richards, Lilyana Richards, Madelyn Risinger, Asher Sammons, Aaron Shabbir, Jase Shiera, Braxton Shively, Karsyn Sigafoos, Zayne Simpkins, Marlee Smith, Novalene Smith, Luke Stantz, Kaylie Stevens, Austin Stoots, Jace Stout, Jacob Sturgell, McKinley Tackett, Brendan Thomas, Evelyn Wake, Nate Walker, Averis Washington, Cassidy Wilson and Brynlee Young

## Auker awarded national scholarship

The National Association of Landscape Professionals Foundation announced their annual national scholarships at the National Collegiate Landscape Competition at Colorado State University.

Kennedy Auker, a senior in Landscape Design & Management, was awarded the \$1,000 Stephen Hillenmeyer Landscape Services Scholarship.

Auker said, "Receiving the Stephen Hillenmeyer Landscape Services Scholarship, presented by the National Association of Landscape Professionals, is an incredible honor. I'm deeply grateful for this \$1,000 scholarship and the opportunity it provides me to pursue my dream of running my family's farm."

Auker plans to pursue a degree in Agriculture. She is dedicated to taking over her family-owned farm and keeping the generation of farming running. With a background in landscaping and farming, Auker is excited to contribute her skills to the field of Agriculture.

Auker added, "I'll be attending The Ohio State Agricultural Institute to major in both Sustainable Agriculture and Landscape Horticulture, and this scholarship brings me one step closer to that goal. The Scholarship Awards Breakfast was a wonderful experience. I had a chance to network with other scholarship recipients and was inspired by their stories. I'm thankful to all those who have supported me on this journey, and I look forward to using this scholarship to make a lasting impact on the future of farming and landscaping."







Hudson Henry &amp; Charley Beheler

## KCCC students excel at National Collegiate Landscape Competition

Knox County Career Center (KCCC) students in Landscape Design & Management competed in the National Collegiate Landscape Competition at Colorado State University that was held March 17–22.

KCCC was 1 of 2 high schools that competed in the event with over 50 schools and 700 competitors.

Charley Beheler placed 21st in Compact Excavator. Hudson Henry placed 25th in Compact Track Skid Steer. Ava Pullins placed 13th in Construction Cost. Layla Crase & Mason Vallance placed 21st in Hardscape. Hudson Henry placed 19th in Mini Track Loader. Kennedy Auker placed 18th in Sales Presentation. Jerako Salva placed 22nd in Tractor Backhoe. Charley Beheler & Hudson Henry placed 37th in Truck & Trailer. Lauren Perry placed 53rd in Turf & Weed ID and 71st in Wood Plant ID. Layla Crase, Kennedy Auker, and Grady Row placed 33rd in Plant Install.

"We had a great time at the National Collegiate Landscape Competition in Colorado. Our students represented us well and did a fantastic job. We were 1 of 2 high school programs at the event and competed at a high level," said John Campbell, KCCC's Landscape Design & Management instructor.

## Donors could win \$5,000 gift card

The American Red Cross urges individuals to give lifesaving blood or platelets now. Donors can book a time to give blood or platelets by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

All who come to give in April will be automatically entered for a chance to win a \$5,000 gift card. There will be three winners. Those who come to give April 1–13, will receive a \$15 Amazon.com gift card by email. All who give April 14–30, will receive a Red Cross t-shirt, while supplies last. Upcoming blood donation opportunities:

Wednesday, April 9, 8 am to 8 pm, St. Peter's High School, 111 W. First St., Mansfield; and noon to 6 pm, The Ontario Center

Thursday, April 10, 10 am to 4 pm, Schmidt Security Pro, 241 Mansfield Industrial Pkwy., Mansfield; 10 am to 3 pm, 199 W. Main St, Shelby; and 1–6 pm, Lucas Community Center, 252 W. Main St., Lucas

Tuesday, April 15, 1–6 pm, Crossroads Ontario Campus, 636 Lexington-Springmill Rd. S.

Wednesday, April 16, noon to 6 pm, The Ontario Center; and noon to 6 pm, Planktown Country Market, 1921 Free Rd., Shiloh

## Sam Jackson named March Pioneer Student of the Month

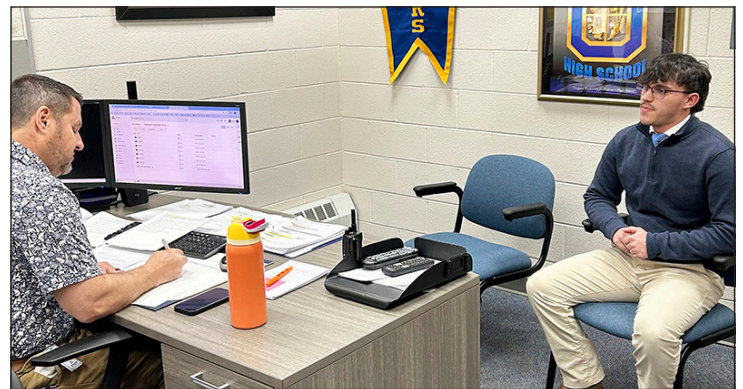
Pioneer Career and Technology Center has announced that Sam Jackson is a March 2025 Student of the Month.

A senior from Ontario High School, Sam is enrolled in our Media Communications program, where he goes above and beyond to expand his skills.

In his lab, Sam takes on leadership roles, including managing the broadcasting station for sophomore visitation days, contributing to the live production of PNN's Pioneer Today show, working on the film crew and creating promotional materials.

Beyond Pioneer, Sam has been active in Ontario athletics and concessions. He also helps neighbors with lawn care, enjoys pet sitting, and works at the Lexington Infield Sports Complex. In his free time, he loves drawing, writing, and exploring live video broadcasting and television production "Thanks to Ms. Moritz, my experience at Pioneer has taught me so much about my field and sparked interests I hadn't considered."

Looking ahead, Sam plans to attend The Ohio State University, majoring in Moving Image Production.



**STUDENTS IN BRITTANY RHODES' Career and Leadership Readiness class at Ontario completed a mock interview for a crew member position at Raising Cane's with the hiring managers being the administrators. Each student completed an application prior to the interview and each student brought their updated resume and cover letter with them to the mock. After the interview, students wrote a thank you email to their hiring manager.**





**THE SKILLSUSA STATE COMPETITION** was held in Columbus March 18 and 19 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The competition brings over 5,000 competitors, business and industry partners, instructors and vendors together in over 100 contests in all 16 Career Pathways to showcase Career and Technical Education in Ohio. KCCC had 17 students who competed in various SkillsUSA State competitions. Albert Ross (Precision Machining) was awarded the Gold (1st place) in CNC Turning and advanced to the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference, which is held June 23-27 in Atlanta, Georgia. Evan Williams (Precision Machining) was awarded the Bronze (3rd place) in CNC Milling. Iona Hickerson, Miracle Bartal, and Emma Seymour (all 3 in Health Technologies) were awarded the Bronze (3rd place) in Career Pathways Showcase: Health Services. Dylan Springer (HVAC) was awarded the Bronze (3rd place) in HVAC. Joe LaFevre, KCCC's SkillsUSA co-advisor, said, "All of our students did an excellent job competing at the SkillsUSA State competition. I am extremely happy for Albert. He is a bright young man who has spent a lot of time perfecting his craft with the CNC Turning competition."

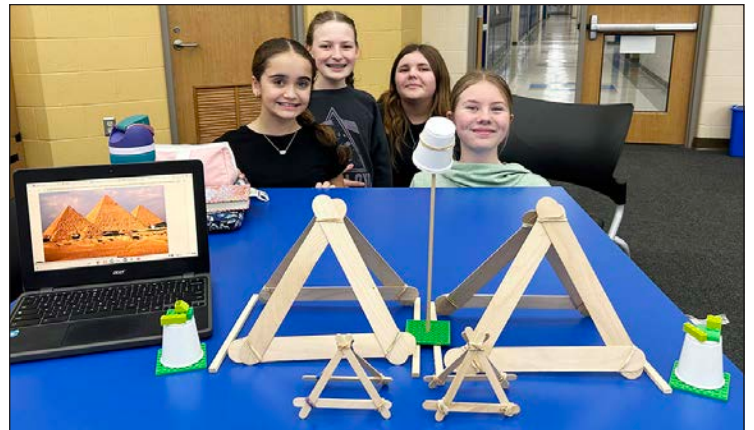
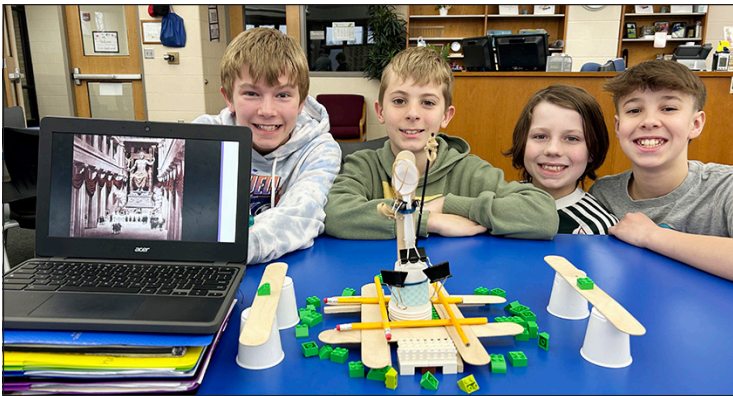
## Ontario High School Students at Pioneer







**LYNDA DITTY'S CLASS** at Ontario gave animal presentations to parents on March 26. The "Ditty-Os" performed five songs using sign language and entertained their families with the facts they learned about an animal they chose. Each child chose an animal and researched it on National Geographic and then checked out animal books at the library. The kids decorated the classroom into a gigantic ecosystem. They had the rain forest, the ocean, the grasslands, the forest, a cave and a snowy iceberg for Antarctica. Students dressed up as their animal. They told what classification they were, what they ate and if they were an omnivore, carnivore or herbivore. They described their habitat and a fun fact about their animal.



**SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS** who are caught up on social studies assignments worked together to build replicas of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World using a variety of materials.



## Artist Laureate to present original film documenting effects of PTSD

The Artist Laureate for The Ohio State University will visit Ohio State Mansfield for an April 21 screening of *Scrap Heap*, a film he wrote, starred in and produced on the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder in military veterans.

Kevin McClatchy is the head of Acting and Directing in Ohio State's Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts. He is also the director of the OSU Shakespeare & Veterans Initiative and the OSU Shakespeare and Autism Project.

Based on a true story, "Scrap Heap" is a turbulent, darkly funny whiplash tour that examines the costs of war and explores the reality of what we ask of service members as well as society's responsibility in the transition from service to civilian life.

The idea for "Scrap Heap" came from McClatchy's reflection on the people in his life impacted by military service. He

recalled how his father, a Marine in World War II, lived the last 60 years of his life with undiagnosed PTSD, and how it would have been invaluable to those experiences growing up. He also learned about his friend, Jeff's, remarkable military service and struggles with the VA, mental health.

"Creating this film has helped me widen my radar of how our veterans are portrayed and given me a front-row seat into a portion of their experience," he said. "People who have seen this film, including veterans, tell me that it helps

express and amplify their struggles in ways they could not do alone."

Please note, *Scrap Heap* discusses combat-related trauma and suicide and uses flashing lights and sound effects including gunfire.

The film will be shown at 6 p.m., inside the auditorium at Riedl Hall. The event is free to attend and there is no pre-registration.

Following the showing of the film, a community conversation will be held to discuss reactions and perceptions regarding the military-civilian divide in the Unit-

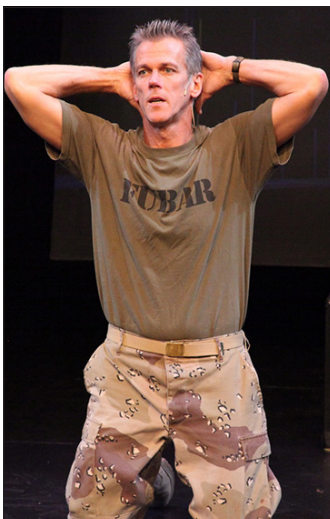
ed States.

McClatchy has been facilitating workshops for the military community since 2016 and did a week-long residency with Scrap Heap at the Wexner Center for the Arts in July 2023.

McClatchy has been a working actor for over 30 years. His recent acting credits include "The Tempest" at the Royal Shakespeare Company, the films "Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile, Old Man and the Gun and On Sacred Ground" as well as episodes of WGN's *Outsiders* and NBC/Universal's *Gone*.

McClatchy has a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from Washington and Lee University and earned his Master of Fine Arts in Acting and Performance from The Ohio State University.

Riedl Hall is located at 1760 University Dr., Mansfield. For more information contact Joe Fahey at fahey.9@osuedu or 419-755-4276.



**MAYOR OF ONTARIO** Kris Knapp presented a Proclamation for the National Association for the Education of Young Children's (NAEYC) Week of the Young Child. This proclaimed April 5-11 as the Week of the Young Child in the Ontario community. This proclamation highlights the importance of early childhood education and the incredible role educators, families and community members play in nurturing the growth and development of young learners. The Mayor visited preschool students at Cloverhill Early Learning Center in Ontario and read a book to the children. He also took a tour of the center. Pictured are Mayor Knapp, Cloverhill CEO/Owner Natasha Repp and Heather Addington, Cloverhill Assistant Director.

## Wear Blue Day rally planned

The Waterford at Mansfield and community leader Doc Stumbo are hosting a Wear Blue Day Rally, on Wednesday, April 9, at 10 am, to raise awareness for Child Abuse Prevention Month. The rally will be held at The Waterford in Mansfield, 1296 S. Trimble Road, and is open to the public.

Wear Blue Day is an annual statewide event encouraging individuals and organizations to Wear Blue as a symbol of unity against child abuse and neglect.

This year's theme is "Doing Things Differently: Believing in Communities."

The rally will feature guest speakers Miss Ohio 2024 Stephanie Finoti and Richland County Children Services Executive Director, Tara Lautzenhiser.

For information contact Brigitte Coles at 419-774-4168.

## Madison BOE will meet Friday, April 11

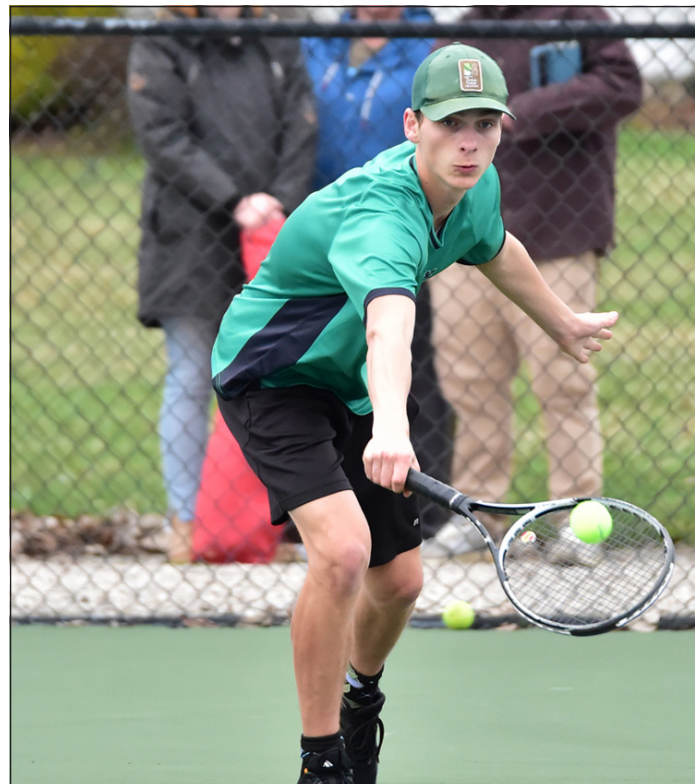
The Madison Local Board of Education will meet for its work session in the Madison Middle School Professional Development Room, 1419 Grace St., on Friday, April 11, at 4 pm.

They will have a tax policy presentation by David Conley, Rockmill Financial Consulting.



## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

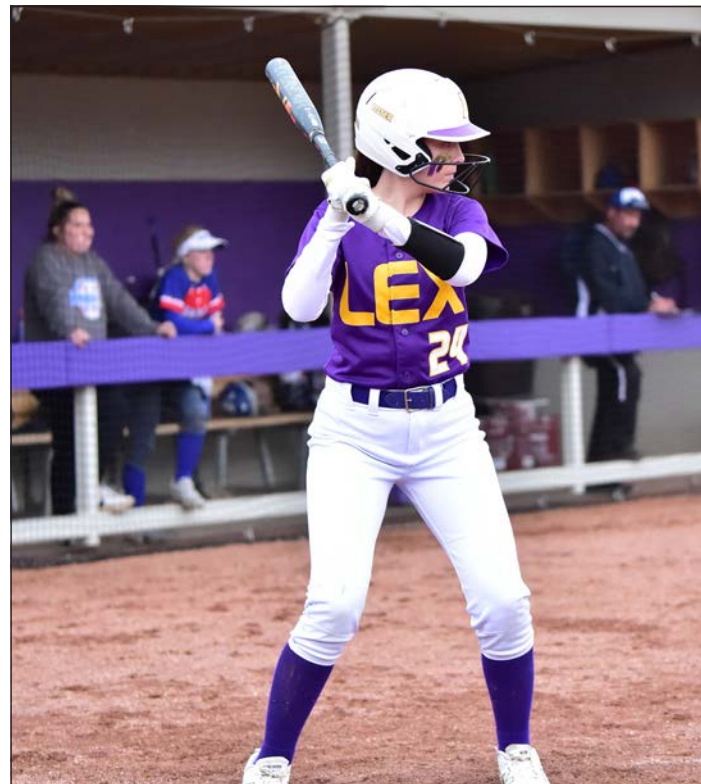
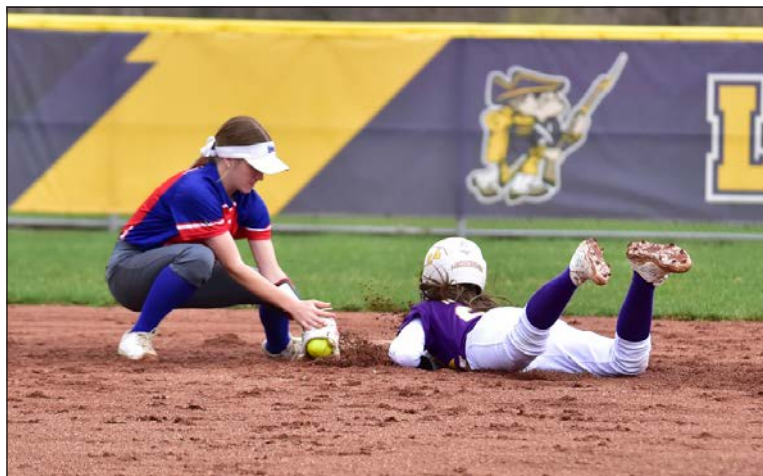
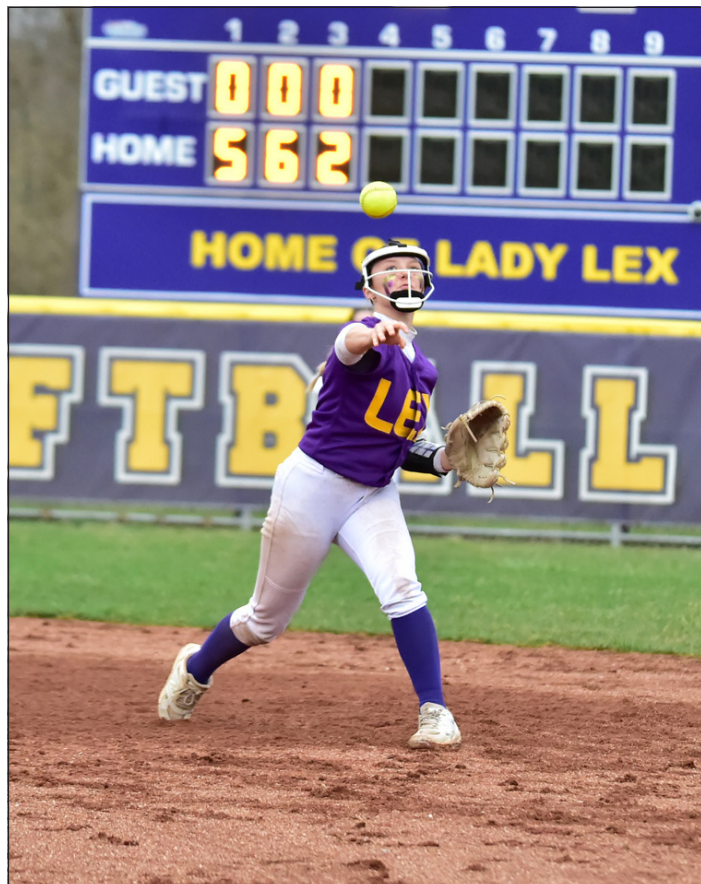
CLEAR FORK VS ONTARIO BOYS TENNIS · APRIL 3 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER





# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS WEST HOLMES SOFTBALL · APRIL 3 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER





# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

## ONTARIO VS RIVER VALLEY TENNIS · APRIL 1





## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS MARION PLEASANT BOYS TENNIS · APRIL 7 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER

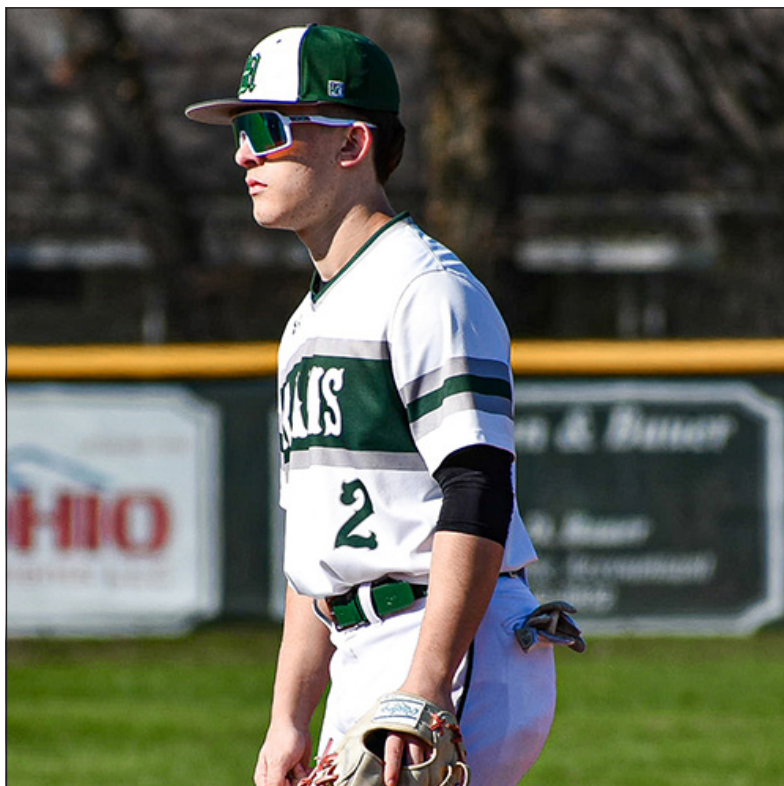




## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS WOOSTER BASEBALL · APRIL 1 · WOOSTER WINS 2-1

PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN





# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

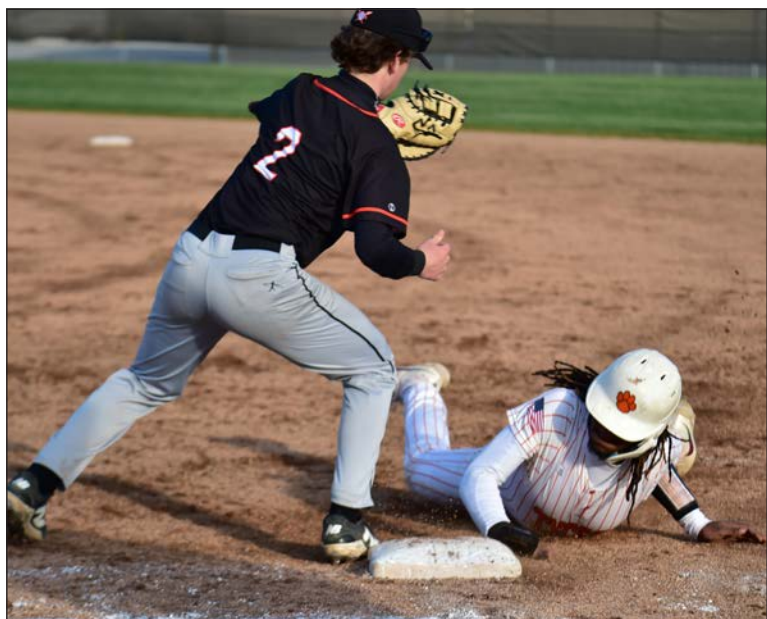
MADISON TRACK INVITATIONAL · APRIL 3 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN





## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

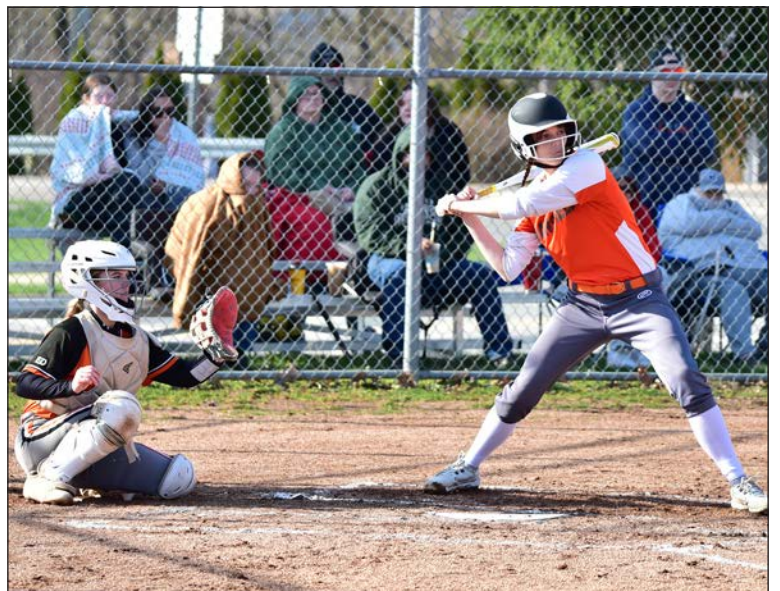
**MANSFIELD SENIOR VS ASHLAND BASEBALL · APRIL 1 · ASHLAND WINS 17-7**  
**PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER**





## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MANSFIELD SENIOR VS ASHLAND SOFTBALL · APRIL 1 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER





## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights



**THE MADISON BOYS TENNIS TEAM** played against Upper Sandusky, opening the season with a 3-2 win. Freshman Landon Stone synched the win for the Rams in a three-setter. He lost the first set 6-3 coming back to win the second set 7-5 and pulling off the third set 6-3 for the win and team win. Landon excitedly shared, "This was my first high school match and my first win." Team members are Dryden Durbridge, Trenton Ford, Drew Kepple, Landon Stone, Yusuke Sasaki, Mason Jacobus, and Taylor Steffey.

## High school baseball season underway

By Kris Leiter

Baseball season is now in full swing. Dodging rain storms and muddy fields, local teams have been taking to the field the last few weeks.

Let's take a peek at the Ontario Warriors Baseball Team. They are starting out the season in fine fashion and leading the pack in the MOAC.

The Warriors apparently love the number 3 thus far. They currently have three wins. In their opening game on March 31, they handed the Madison Rams a loss, 6-3.

In the next two games, on April 1 and 2, they handed River Valley two losses by the scores of 5-2 and 11-8. Again, a margin of victory three runs.

Looks like things are on fire for the Warriors, considering last year, they were 1-2 to start off the season.

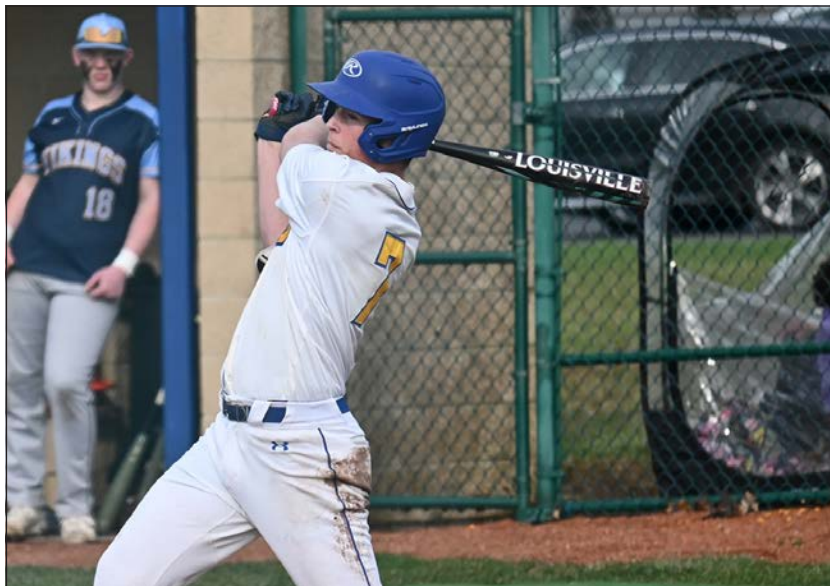
The Clear Fork Colts Baseball team are currently 2-1 overall, and 1-1 (third) in the MOAC.

The Colts defeated the Galion Tigers on March 31, narrowly 2-1. They had runs in the second and seventh innings to seal the deal.

On March 29 and March 31, the Colts won over Cardington-Lincoln 2-1 in both games.

On April 1, They fell to the Galion Tigers 4-3.

## ONTARIO VS RIVER VALLEY BASEBALL · APRIL 2





# CLASSIFIEDS

## LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE RICHLAND COUNTY  
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
PROBATE DIVISION

22-1628 B DENNIS C. BOTTORF, Administrator of the Estate of Christopher Ramshaw, Plaintiff v. JOHN DOE(S), Potential Next of Kin of Christopher Ramshaw and BART HAMILTON, Richland County Treasurer, Defendants

To the Defendants, the unknown spouse, creditors, executors, administrators, heirs at law, next of kin, devisees, legatees, and/or assigns of Christopher Ramshaw, whose present location is unknown and cannot with reasonable diligence be ascertained:

Plaintiff has brought this action naming you as a defendant in the Richland County Common Pleas Court, 50 Park Ave. East, Mansfield, Ohio 44902, by filing its Complaint on the 12th day of March, 2025.

The object of the complaint is to obtain authority to sell real estate of Christopher Ramshaw, deceased, said real estate located at 523 Heineman Blvd, Mansfield, Ohio 44903.

The relief demanded by Plaintiff is authorization by the Richland County Probate Court to sell the real estate owned by Christopher M. Ramshaw and to determine any next of kin and such other legal and equitable relief to which it may be entitled.

You are required to answer the Complaint within twenty-eight (28) days after the last publication of this notice setting forth whatever right, title or interest you have or may claim to have in the aforementioned premises or be forever barred from claiming or asserting same. The publication will be published one a week for six (6) consecutive weeks, with the last publication to be made on/about April 21, 2025.

In case of your failure to answer or otherwise respond as permitted by the Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure within the time stated, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dennis C. Bottorf, Administrator of the Estate of Christopher M. Ramshaw

By Cassandra JM Mayer, Attorney for Estate of Christopher M. Ramshaw, 452 Park Ave West, Mansfield, Ohio 44906, Phone: 419-524-2444; Fax: 419-524-2300.

(T-C 3-20, 27, 4-3, 10, 17, 24 '25) 60 L

## 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 April 2, 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-03 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PUBLIC

EMPLOYEE BONDS FOR CITY OF ONTARIO OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE 18-44.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-07 – AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITION AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF ONTARIO, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-08 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A REVISED CONTRACT FOR THE UNION OF THE MANSFIELD CITY HEALTH DISTRICT AND ONTARIO CITY HEALTH DISTRICT WITH THE RICHLAND COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT PER R.C. §3709.07, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-09 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 24-03, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Cathy VanAuker  
Clerk of Council  
City of Ontario, OH  
(T-C 4-10, 17 '25) 41L

## Hunt is April 19

The Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 19 at 1 pm on Milligan Road near the splash pad.

This event is designed for children age three years old through those currently in fourth grade.

The hunt will be divided into three distinct areas. There will be thousands of eggs, special baskets and over \$500 in prizes.

This event is provided free of charge to the community, thanks to the generous support of community sponsors.

Any visually impaired children can arrive at noon for a specially designed Easter Egg Hunt brought sponsored by the Ontario Lions Club.

Scan to  
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to the FREE  
Weekly Issue



Or Visit  
<http://eepurl.com/hnS9N9>

## National nonprofit credit counseling agency helps consumers cut through the confusion of balance transfers

When faced with mounting credit card debt, a balance transfer promotion that offers promising low or zero interest may seem like a lifeline. While these cards can be a step in the right direction to overcome financial hardships, they can leave consumers in greater debt if they don't prioritize paying off the balance.

"Between transfer fees, interest rate changes and the temptation to keep spending, balance transfer cards need to be used cautiously," said Manuel Salazar, chief executive officer at Take Charge America, a national nonprofit credit counseling and debt management agency. "By treating balance transfer cards as short-term tools for focused repayment, people can use them to reduce debt rather than rack it up."

Salazar do's and don'ts for making informed decisions about balance transfers.

**DO Have a Payoff Plan Before the Promotional Period Ends:** Balance transfer cards typically offer a low or zero annual percentage rate (APR) for a limited time, usually between six to 12 months. Once this period expires, the APR can jump significantly. Calculate how much you need to pay monthly to eliminate the balance before the promotional rate expires and commit to making the payments.

**DON'T Overlook Balance Transfer Fees:** Most balance transfer offers come with a fee, typically 3% to 5% of the transferred balance. That means transferring \$5,000 could cost up to \$250 upfront. Before committing to a transfer, factor in these fees and compare them to potential savings to determine if the move is financially beneficial.

**DO Keep Your Old Credit Card Open (But Avoid Using It):** Closing a credit card after transferring the balance can negatively impact your credit score as you lower your total available credit limit. This means your credit utilization rate — the amount of debt you have compared to your credit limit — will increase, ding your score. Instead of closing the account, keep it open but avoid racking up new charges. You can even cut the card to avoid temptations to spend.

**DON'T Assume a Balance Transfer Will Solve Your Debt Problems:** While balance transfers can help reduce interest payments, they are not a cure-all. If high balances stem from poor financial habits, focus on building a realistic budget and an emergency fund. Without addressing the root cause, you risk accumulating more debt.

For expert guidance on managing debt and building a strong financial future, schedule a free credit counseling session.

Founded in 1987, Take Charge America, Inc. is a nonprofit agency offering financial education and counseling services including credit counseling, debt management, housing counseling and bankruptcy counseling. It has helped more than two million consumers nationwide manage their personal finances and debts.

Learn more at [takechargeamerica.org](http://takechargeamerica.org) or call 888-822-9193.

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY



**First Federal  
Bank of Ohio**  
THE RIGHT LOAN. THE RIGHT BANK.

1728 W. Fourth Street  
Mansfield, Ohio 44906  
Phone: 419-529-4687  
Fax: 419-529-4154  
[landerson@firstfederalbankofohio.bank](mailto:landerson@firstfederalbankofohio.bank)



**Lisa Anderson**  
NMLS 618735  
Branch Manager - Loan Officer