



TRIBUNE-COURIER

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04.17.25



OSU-M ACADEMIC AWARDS — Carol Landry, associate professor in evolution, ecology and organismal biology at The Ohio State University, presented Destiny Moton of Ontario with the Biological Sciences Book Award during the academic award ceremony April 3 at The Ohio State University at Mansfield.

Ohio State Mansfield honors academic achievement at awards ceremony

The Ohio State University at Mansfield recognized student achievement April 3 during the Academic Awards Celebration. More than 30 students were recognized with scholarships, book awards, student research and writing projects.

"These awards are milestones along your much larger journey," said Dawn Kitchen, associate dean at Ohio State Mansfield. "As Buckeyes, you represent a legacy of hard work, a community bound by many shared values and the determination to push through boundaries."

Each student was individually honored on the stage of Riedl Hall, with awards presented by faculty in their area of study.

The American Chemical Society Award went to Parker Fry of Mansfield. It recognizes outstanding academic performance in chemistry and was presented by Faith Wyzgoski, associate professor, chemistry.

The Outstanding Psychology Major Award went to Wanita Bailey of Galion, recognizing outstanding academic performance in psychology and was presented by Phil Mazzocco, associate professor, psychology.

(Continued on Page 11)

Kingwood Center Gardens will host annual Easter sunrise service

Kingwood Center Gardens will host the annual community Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 20 at 7 am, behind the welcome center.

Paul Lintern, who will preach at the one-hour service with the title, "Old Rugged Cross and New Open Tomb," is coordinating the event, which is an effort of church leaders throughout "Godsfield."



"Mansfield is Godsfield" is a phrase that is popular among local churches.

Overseer Renea Collins, Kingdom Grace Fellowship, will open with the resurrection passage from John, and nationally known gospel group Glory Way, anchored by Mansfield's Justin Crank, will sing five gospel songs throughout.

Pastor Jameelah O'Neal, of Greater Mitchell Chapel, will lead a responsive reading and Dale Baer of Child Evangelism Fellowship will offer a message to children.

The crowd will join in singing several traditional hymns and lyric-adjusted Easter carols, and Jody Titus will lead prayer. Rev. El Akuchie will conclude with the benediction.

A freewill offering will offset costs for the service and support programming for the Jericho Wall of Remembrance and Recovery, at West Dickson Avenue near Bowman Street, entering its third summer as a memorial art park for casualties of addiction.

The first sunrise service at Kingwood was held in 1957, soon after the center opened, following the death of Charles Kelly King, who had established a foundation to provide community use of his estate.

"St. Mark's Lutheran, on Springmill Street, came up with the idea and made the service happen for 65 years," Lintern said. "They weathered whatever the conditions, moving inside only if absolutely necessary."

"Those attending always come with whatever they need to be comfortable, and seem pleased to have overcome the elements, giving them bragging rights, I suppose, at family events later."

Remodeling of the carriage house area caused the event to be moved to the Brickyard in downtown Mansfield one year and Covid closed the event in 2020. The service has been located around the Kingwood grounds throughout the years.

"The first years were around the Kingwood main house in various locations, and for many years it was in the carriage house courtyard until moving to its current location once the welcome center was built," said Lintern.

"This site, south of the welcome center, is convenient, beautiful and conducive for worship; the staff is very hospitable in preparing for such an early event. And no matter where or how early, it is held, the peacock usually finds us."



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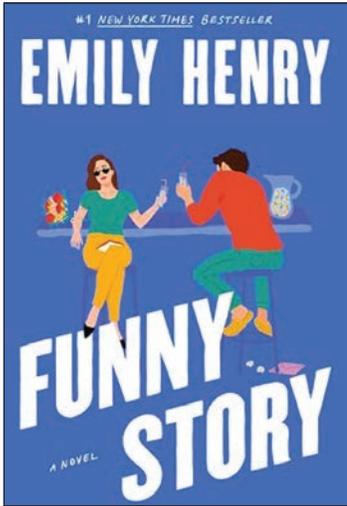
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LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review
By Mandy Belczak Gurney



A librarian in a fictional town near Traverse City, MI, is deep in heartbreak after her fiancé leaves her for his childhood best friend. Stuck without a place to live, she moves in with her ex's new girlfriend's ex.

What should be too complicated for any happiness turns into friendship, and the possibility of something more during a beautiful summer on the shores of Lake Michigan.

I have tried many Emily Henry books in the past and never finished them because the female characters annoyed me, but the novel *Funny Story* was the right fit.

My rating: ★★★★★

Follow my blog at GreenGurneys.com

Presentations to be given at OUMC May 3

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 an artist from Lancaster County, PA. She grew up in a large Old Order Mennonite family and 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 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 ultraviolet black light to create 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 at 419-529-4058

THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER — By Ian Stumbo —

Director Christopher Landon returns to the horror genre and even a little of the comedy/horror genre with *Drop*.

Landon helmed the *Happy Death Day* movies and *Freaky*, all a success in this category.

Meghann Fahy stars as Violet, a woman who suffered a traumatic event with her ex husband and is trying to start dating again while taking care of her son.

She goes on a date in a high tower restaurant with a man named Henry (Brandon Sklenar).

Soon, Violet starts getting air drops to her phone that threaten herself, her family and dictate her every move. Violet tries to figure out who is threatening her while not tipping off anyone.

Drop is a solid thriller. The performances by the two leads are very convincing and they both help balance suspense and

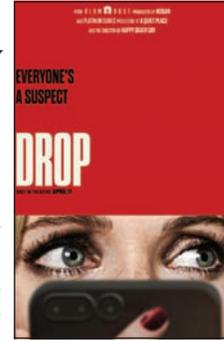
realism very well.

As the movie unfolds, Landon keeps taking the audience around the restaurant trying to figure out who is behind these threats and builds suspense well.

The downsides of the movie are that is a little bit of a one time watch though in saying that I could see them making a sequel.

The ending really moves fast and turns into more of an action film at the end. This is appreciated where even at 90 minutes it does drag at times.

Christopher Landon does a fine job directing *Drop*. Its a solid suspense film that takes some liberties though the two leads really uphold the film. I will give *Drop* a recommendation for fans of this genre.



Cadini di Misurina, Province of Belluno, Italy • Photo By Mark Shutt

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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, May 8. 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, May 6. Call the board office at 419-589-2600, ext. 65001 or email csmith@madisonrams.net to make a reservation.

★

The Annual Ontario 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.

Visually impaired children can arrive at noon for a specially designed hunt sponsored by the Ontario Lions Club.

★

First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Ave West, Mansfield, invites everyone to Holy Week services. A service will be held 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 will be 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.

★

First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Avenue West will be offering senior boxes of non perishable food provided by the Greater Cleveland Food Bank from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm or until supplies run out. This comes with a 15 lb. box of fresh produce and a two lb. box of cheese. These items are free to those who qualify by age (60+) and low income guidelines. Recipients must have at least one person age 60 or older in the household.

These items are available on the fourth Tuesday of each month, year round. The distribution is held in the South Mulberry Street parking lot. The next distribution is Tuesday, April 22.

★

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>.

★

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

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.

★

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.

★

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 May 21, celebrating the 51st anniversary of LASC. Entertainment will be the musical group Granny Creek.

The group will join together for a lunch on May 7, at Chinatown, 238 Ashland Rd., Mansfield, at 11 am.

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

★

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Jen Gibson who will speak on "Rising and Rooting: The Spirit of Easter and the Flower Communion" on Sunday, April 20 at 10:30 am. For information visit www.allsoulsuuhio.org.

Attendees are invited to bring a single flower or a full bouquet to place on the altar.

★

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).

★

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.

★

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

★

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

★

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.

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 or call 419-522-8863 for more information.

★

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, 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 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.

★

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

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 and 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: [FirstChristianChurchMansfield, Ohio](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChristianChurchMansfield)

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.

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 • [facebook.com/GraceChurchMansfield](https://www.facebook.com/GraceChurchMansfield)

G & M Body & Paint Shop

168g 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

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

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 and Kingdom Kids

St. John's United Church of Christ

68 Park Avenue East, Mansfield

419-522-2813 • www.stjohnsmansfield.org

Pastor Faith Proietti

10 am Sunday Worship

Office hours: Mon-Fri 9am to 1pm

AA Meetings M & F 10 am & noon;

Wed. noon Brown Bag and Sat. 6 pm

Clothing Ministry by appt: 419-512-9817

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

Phil Mazzocco named NECIC acting CEO

The North End Community Improvement Collaborative, Inc. (NECIC) announced a leadership transition following the resignation of interim CEO Anthony Chinni on Friday, April 4.

The NECIC Board of Directors met on April 7, and unanimously appointed Board President Phil Mazzocco as acting CEO with full executive authority.

NECIC expresses its sincere gratitude to Chinni for his many years of dedicated service since 2007. His leadership, insight and commitment have played a significant role in advancing NECIC's mission "To improve the quality of life and economic landscape of the North End) and impact in the community.

As part of responsible fiscal management, NECIC has implemented targeted staffing reductions and hour adjustments to align operations with available funding. These changes, while difficult, were necessary to ensure long-term organizational sustainability and continued service to the community.

Operational responsibilities have been reassigned among appropriate personnel. Deanna West-Torrence, NECIC's Founder, who stepped down as CEO in September 2024, remains actively engaged remotely in supporting programs, fund development and special projects during this transition.

NECIC remains committed to transparency, equity and community empowerment. The organization will continue to move forward as it prepares for the appointment of a permanent CEO.



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Construction projects are ongoing throughout area

Construction projects are anticipated to affect ODOT roadways in Richland County. All outlined 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. Es-

timated 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 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, closed 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.

State Route 314 between Flowers Road and SR 309, will close Monday, April 21 for 30 days for a culvert replacement. Estimated completion is Wednesday, May 21, 2025.

Easter — one cross, one love

By Peter Kujala

He carried his cross up to Calvary, embraced it. Already flogged by the Romans, he allowed himself to be nailed, hung on this cross. His loved ones fled, abandoned him in the hour of trial, the enemies mocked where he bleeding, suffering looked down on them and said "Father, forgive them!"

What is this, how is such sacrificial love possible? This Jesus, who became the world's most famous name, and whose birth marks the beginning of our calendar era and whose book, the Bible, became the most read. The answer can only be found in that very book, where it says "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life". So it was love for each of us with the purpose of saving us to eternal life.

Death is one hundred percent guaranteed for everyone, no one escapes. But, this Jesus who also died on the cross is said to have conquered death and rose from the dead on the third day. I think we need an explanation here, how is this possible? We find the answer in that Bible again. It says that "the wages of sin is death", and that Jesus as the Son of God lived a sinless life, and therefore death could not keep him.

Now we know that we ordinary people sin every day. We slander, lie, exploit, hate and treat each other unlovingly. The list is as endless as this Jesus' love for us when he takes on all our billions of sins on the cross, like a giant magnet.

And before God the Father, he therefore says "Forgive them!" and what could God then do other than just forgive us when our sins have been removed on the cross. Through this forgiveness and freedom from sin, the way has suddenly been opened to eternal life, when death lost its right to keep us.

The greatest question and fear of every human heart, is it probably "death?" Should we just cease to exist as if we never existed, a dot that fades, vanish into nothingness? The one who defeated death responds in a sacrificial and love-filled "No, believe in Me and you will live", because as the Bible finally says: "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Love on the cross has spoken, can we ignore and rush on to the meaningless, emptiness of the grave and death, or do we choose to believe and rejoice in a wonderful eternal future with the prince of Life, Jesus Christ?



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Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Theodore "Ted" Hoover Jr., April 3
 Constance "Connie" Ellen Barre, April 5
 Georgia Marie Stadler, April 5
 Carolyn Sue Stamper, April 5
 Michael "Mike" E. Witzky, April 6
 Sherry E Green, April 8
 Helen Marie Lahm, April 8
 Marsha Lynn Pearce, April 8
 Rebecca Ann Dunson, April 10

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Photos By Gwen Boyer/Craig Weston
TRINITY GRACE FELLOWSHIP, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield, held its Madison community-wide Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 12 for children through sixth grade. Those attending heard an Easter presentation, hunted for eggs and decorated cookies.

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS ARE AN IMPORTANT

component of overall health and aging, and may also protect against cognitive decline.



alz.org/publichealth | centerofexcellence@alz.org

Social Determinants of Health and Dementia Risk

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS ARE DEFINED AS MEANINGFUL AND SUSTAINED CONTACT with at least one other person that is beneficial to all involved and often pertains to a common interest or activity.

It is estimated that **FREQUENT SOCIAL CONNECTIONS MAY LOWER THE RISK OF COGNITIVE DECLINE BY UP TO 70%.**



To promote healthy aging, we should **ADDRESS AND ENCOURAGE SOCIAL CONNECTIONS ACROSS THE ENTIRE LIFECOURSE**. Priority populations include the LGBTQ+ community, rural populations, women, and disproportionately affected populations.

SOME COMMUNITIES HAVE ENCOURAGED SOCIAL CONNECTIONS THROUGH:

- Promoting intergenerational focused programs and activities.
- Improving access to technology and the internet, especially in rural areas.
- Supporting the development of community-based group exercise and leisure programs.
- Expanding public transportation options in rural communities.



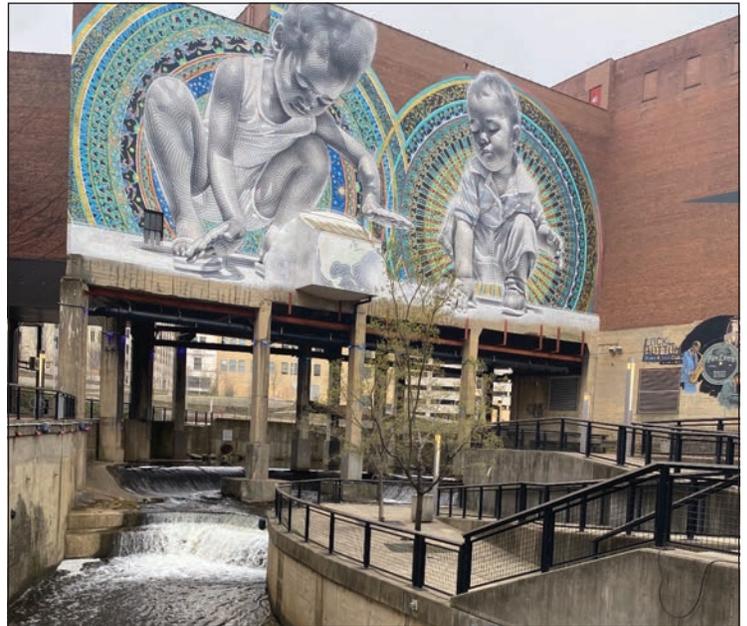


Photo by Damon Callis



Day Trippin' With Damon – The Towpath Trail in Akron was once the Ohio & Erie Canal. The inland commercial waterway, built between 1825 and 1832, carried passengers and goods from Lake Erie to the Ohio River, providing a crucial connection to the Gulf of America via the Mississippi River. Canal boats were towed by mules and utilized a series of sandstone locks that enabled boats to climb along the Continental Divide. The canal, which opened between Cleveland and Akron in 1827, can be directly credited with the growth of Akron. By 1880, the canal's significance was in decline due to railroads. After the flood of 1913, the waterway was abandoned. The concept of restoring the towpath as a multipurpose trail began to emerge in the 1980s, and the first section of the Towpath Trail opened in 1993. Visit <https://www.summitmetroparks.org/parks-trails/towpath-trail/> 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.

Community unites for “Wear Blue Day” in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month

Photos and Article By Traci Little

The Waterford at Mansfield, in partnership with longtime community advocate Doc Stumbo, hosted a public “Wear Blue Day” Rally on Wednesday, April 9 at 10 am, to raise awareness during Child Abuse Prevention Month. The powerful event drew supporters from across Richland County and featured prominent guest speakers, including Miss Ohio 2024 Stephanie Finoti, Richland County Children Services (RCCS) Executive Director Tara Lautzenhiser, and Richland County Prosecutor Jodie Schumacher.

“Wear Blue Day” is a statewide initiative encouraging Ohioans to wear blue as a sign of unity against child abuse and neglect. This year’s theme, “Doing Things Differently: Believing in Communities,” emphasizes the importance of community support in preventing abuse and promoting the overall well-being of families and children.

Crystle Stephenson, Executive Director of The Waterford, welcomed the crowd alongside residents and staff, expressing their commitment to learning how to contribute meaningfully to the cause.

Doc Stumbo then introduced Miss Ohio, who passionately spoke from her dual perspective as a public figure and pediatric healthcare professional.

“I support this cause as Miss Ohio, but also as a healthcare worker in pediatrics,” said Finoti. “Children are often too afraid to speak out when they’re harmed by those they thought were their protec-

tors. That’s why we must rise up and be their voice. I’ve had to be in rooms with families and staff during very difficult conversations. It’s not easy, but it’s necessary. Thank you for wearing blue and standing up for our most vulnerable.”

Brigitte Coles, Community Engagement Supervisor for RCCS, along with Paula Caldwell, Community Engagement Support, expressed heartfelt appreciation to The Waterford. Coles introduced two key leaders in the fight against child abuse: Prosecutor Jodie Schumacher and RCCS Executive Director Tara Lautzenhiser.

Schumacher addressed the crowd with a call to action: “Your community is only as strong as its weakest link. When our children are abused, they lose hope—and when they lose hope, our community suffers. I ask you to stand with us. If you see something, say something. You may be the only voice a child has.”

Lautzenhiser, a Mansfield native and passionate advocate for child welfare, shared sobering statistics and hopeful developments. “Of the children we drug test due to substance-related family concerns, nearly 60% test positive. Even babies and toddlers are being exposed to meth, fentanyl, and THC,” she said. “But we’re also making progress. A new child advocacy center will soon open in Richland County—a centralized place for interviews, medical care, law enforcement, and support services for young victims.”

(Continued on Page 9)



Richland County Children Services Executive Director Tara Lautzenhiser, Doc Stumbo and Miss Ohio 2024 Stephanie Finoti



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING

Take Back the Night

ON APRIL 29, 6-8 PM AT RIEDL HALL OSU MANSFIELD

Join Prosecutor Jodie Schumacher in celebrating resiliency as we Take Back the Night! Guest speakers, a walk of honor, a candlelight vigil, and a resource fair full of community resources!



Community unites for “Wear Blue Day” celebration

(Continued from Page 8)

Lautzenhiser also spoke about RCCS’s focus on kinship care. “We strive to place children with relatives or close family friends before considering foster care. Last year, 164 children were placed with kin. But as of today, 137 children remain in foster care, and we only have about 55 licensed foster homes in the county,” she said.

“Some children have had to be placed as far away as Dayton, Youngstown, or even out of state. We need more foster families—people who are willing to open their hearts and homes.”

The rally underscored the importance of prevention and proactive community engagement. Lautzenhiser emphasized the month’s theme: “Doing things differently means educating and supporting families before abuse or neglect occurs. We can’t separate the well-being of children from that of their families and communities.”

To continue this mission, Richland County Children Services will host a Take Back the Night event on April 29, from 6–8 pm at Riedl Hall, on the OSU Mansfield campus, 2400 Kenwood Circle, Mansfield. The evening

will include guest speakers, a walk of honor, candlelight vigil, and a resource fair.

Those interested in hosting a table can email kcash@richlandcountyo.org for more information. For more on how to support or get involved with RCCS, visit www.richlandcountychildrenservices.org. To report child abuse or neglect, call the 24-hour/7 day a week RCCS hotline at 419-774-4100.

Crystle Stephenson at the Waterford had this to say about hosting the event “It was an honor to host Wear Blue Day to raise awareness for child abuse at The Waterford. We are very pleased with the number of people who came wearing blue because they were genuinely interested in how they can help.”

“I think we left feeling more informed about how we can all do something to help those who cannot help themselves, the innocent and precious children who need our support, right here in Richland County.

“One of the most important take-aways from the event was that if you see or hear something not right, every one of us has an obligation to say something.”



Photos By Traci Little

Foundation supports summer programs for children

The Richland County Foundation Board of Trustees approved grants totaling \$293,288.70 during its April meeting. The Foundation is supporting summertime programs focused on children.

The Board of Trustees approved 27 Summertime Kid grants totaling \$59,000. The grants of up to \$2,500 were given to support creative, educational and fun-filled activities for hundreds of Richland County children.

Fifteen career technical education scholarships were approved for students to earn a certification at a technical institution. The Scholarship Committee implemented a rolling deadline for CTE scholarships to meet various enrollment deadlines. In aligning with Ohio's Attainment Goal, the Foundation wants to help fill the gap between job openings and certified employees as well as lead the way to support workforce development through CTE scholarships.

The Board of Trustees approved grants from donor-advised funds which allow individuals and families the opportunity to make grant

suggestions to favorite charities. Donor-advised funds are a flexible and convenient alternative to a private foundation. It is also a way to keep charitable contributions anonymous, at the preference of the donor.

Organizations receiving grants from donor-advised funds were Ashland University, Awaken Pittsburgh, Buckeye Council of Boy Scouts of America, Buckeye Imagination Museum, Catalyst Life Services, City of Mansfield, Community Health Access Project, Domestic Violence Shelter, Downtown Mansfield Inc., Friendly House, Friends of the Richland County Park District, Furniture Bank of North Central Ohio, Habitat for Humanity of Richland and Crawford Counties, Hospice of Western Reserve, Kingwood Center Gardens, Love On A Mission, Lucas Baseball Softball League, Lucas Local Schools, Mansfield Christian School, NAMI of Richland County, North End Community Improvement Collaborative, Ohio Bird Sanctuary, Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Philanthropic Venture Foundation, Raemelon Therapeutic & Equestrian Center, Renaissance Performing Arts, Richland Astronomical Society, Richland Community Development Group, Richland Pregnancy Services, Rubies Womens Group, St. Anne's Episcopal Church, St. Peter's School, Third Street Family Health Services, Visual Bucket List Foundation and YMCA of North Central Ohio.

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

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

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.

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LEXINGTON TNT ATHLETES OF THE WEEK John Bartone, Andrew Badnell and Will Perkins were recognized recently. TNT stands for (Toughness Not Talent).

•OSU-M honors academic achievement at awards ceremony

(Continued from Front Page)

Book Awards in Academic Disciplines went to outstanding students chosen by faculty and were honored with specially selected books. The Art, Music and Theatre Award went to Dominic Ferraro of Brook Park and was presented by John Thrasher, associate professor, art.

The Biological Sciences Award went to Destiny Moton of Ontario and was presented by Carol Landry, associate professor, evolution, ecology and organismal biology. The Business & Economics Award went to Grant Hiatt of Shelby and was presented by Fran Bowes, senior academic advisor.

Criminology and Sociology Awards were presented to Alyssa Detillion of Bucyrus and Jaclyn Jakubick of Mansfield by Shelly Kowalski, senior lecturer, sociology.

An education, primary award went to Lydia Ackerman of New Washington and an education, secondary award went to Sydney Eyerly of Mansfield. These were presented by Terri Bucci, associate professor, education.

An engineering award went to Elliot Geissman of New Washington. It was presented by Amber Rader, assistant professor of practice, electrical and computer engineering.

Awards also included:

English: Mayson Mullins of Mansfield, presented by Elizabeth Kolkovich, associate professor, English.

History: Natalie Littlefield of Ashland, presented by Mary Cavenner, associate professor, history, on behalf of Heather Tanner, professor, history.

Mathematical and physical sciences: Dorothy Gyimah of Columbus, presented by Wenfei Li, senior lecturer, Engineering.

Philosophy: Tommy Montgomery of Cincinnati, presented by Glenn Hartz, professor, philosophy.

Psychology: Autumn Meigs of Fredericktown, presented by Amy Brunell, professor, psychology.

Social Work: Alexus Barry of Mansfield, presented by Lu Ann Howard, lecturer, social work.

Social Work: Taylor Kramer presented by Lu Ann Howard, lecturer, social work, on behalf of Jessica Luttrell, senior academic advisor.

The Mansfield Faculty-Staff Scholarship Award recognizes continuing students at Ohio State Mansfield chosen by a vote of faculty and staff as most outstanding in classroom performance. Trinity Potts of Shelby received the award, presented by Amy Brunell, professor of psychology

The David M. Scott Memorial Scholarship was created in memory of David M. Scott, professor of physics, who taught on this campus from 1970 to 1986. It is given to a student with high academic standing in science or engineering. The recipient was Max Steinhauser of Ashland and was presented by Agus Muñoz-Garcia.



DAWN KITCHEN, associate dean at Ohio State Mansfield, shakes the hand of Taylor Kramer who received the Social Work Book Award.

The James R. McLeod Scholarship was created in memory of James R. McLeod, associate professor of anthropology, who taught on the campus from 1986 to 1998. It is given to a student who has displayed excellence in both academic work and community service. The recipient was Destiny Blubaugh of Fredericktown and the award was presented by Agus Muñoz-Garcia, associate professor, evolution, ecology and organismal biology.

The Mansfield Campus Academic Excellence Award is presented each year to outstanding seniors at Ohio State whose baccalaureate studies have been primarily at the Mansfield campus. Mayson Mullins of Mansfield received the award from Elizabeth Kolkovich, Associate Professor of English.

The annual Student Art Exhibition awards included:

Best of Photography Award: Evan Brown of Mansfield, presented by Kate Shannon, associate professor, art.

Visual Arts Award: Mallorie McAvene of Ashland, presented by John Thrasher, professor, art.

Florence B. Allen Literary Awards recognize outstanding works composed by Mansfield campus students. They were presented by Darlene Slack, Lecturer, English. Awards included:

Poetry: First place, "Her," by Destiny Blubaugh of Fredericktown

Second Place, "Intent," by Lacey Hall of New London

Fiction: First place, "Funeral," by Mayson Mullins of Mansfield

Second Place, "Bytes & Pieces," by Dawson Hale of Mansfield

Creative nonfiction: First place, "Table Etiquette," by Dawson Hale

Second Place, "Learning our Fate with ASD," by Tabitha Dawson of Mansfield

Writing Across the Curriculum Awards are given for essays and other writing projects, such as journals and lab reports, submitted by faculty. The winner is the paper judged outstanding by a faculty panel from across the curriculum.

Earning first was "The Price of Coal," by Maddie McKenna. It was submitted for Writing & Information Literacy and was presented by Darlene Slack, Lecturer, English.

Second place went to "Absorbed, Domesticated, Assimilated," by Mayson Mullins. It was submitted for 19th Century British Novel and was presented by Darlene Slack, Lecturer, English.

The Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Forum included presentations of:

"Fitness consequences of developmental plasticity in females of the viviparous cockroach *Diploptera punctata*," presented by Cadance Russell, Destiny Moton and Maximilian Steinhauser with advisor Agustí Muñoz-Garcia.

"Validation of the manual bolus integration to measure energy expenditure in small animals," presented by Destiny Moton, Maximilian Steinhauser and Cadance Russell with advisor Agustí Muñoz-Garcia.

"Heritability of metabolic rates and other correlated traits in females of the viviparous cockroach *Diploptera punctata*," presented by Maximilian Steinhauser, Cadance Russell and Destiny Moton with advisor Agustí Muñoz-Garcia.

"Buckeye Imagination Museum—Manufacturing Exhibit," presented by Sam Ratvasky and Alec Vanderbilt with advisor Juan Pablo Rincon.

"Sexual motivation and perceptions of target's psychological needs," presented by Aankhee Talukdar with advisor Amy Brunell.



AGUS MUÑOZ-GARCIA, associate professor in evolution, ecology and organismal biology, presented Destiny Blubaugh of Fredericktown, with the James R. McLeod Scholarship during the academic award ceremony April 3 at Ohio State Mansfield.

Ontario Board agenda filled with contract approvals

The Ontario High School Board of Education held an organizational and regular meeting on April 8.

Mike Schwall, Stingel Music Teacher, shared a presentation about the history of the ukulele. Stingel students played their ukuleles for the board members.

The board approved Mackenzie Stoner as a Stingel first grade teacher for next school year for \$44,381. Kelsea Noblet was hired as a middle school intervention specialist for next school year, \$59,897.

Addison Sandru was hired as a middle/high school physical education and health teacher for next school year, \$45,175. Aaron Akers was hired as a Stingel third grade teacher for next school year, \$48,522.

Staff hired on a one-year contract as returning retire/rehire personnel for the 2025-'26 school year are Tim Henige, high school social studies teacher; Tod Petit, elementary school counselor; and Heath Sager, high school industrial technology.

Staff hired on one-year limited contracts for the 2025-'26 school year are Ashley Cooke, kindergarten; Theresa Dutch, Stingel intervention specialist; Holly Hale, third grade; Megan Hefner, Stingel Intervention Specialist-MD; Ashley Scott, kindergarten; Michelle Smith, second grade; Kennedie Spencer, pre-school intervention specialist; Carissa Whitmer, K-2 cross categorical resource room; Aubrey Cardwell, eighth grade literature; Camryn Hoffman, middle school intervention specialist; Robin Owen, middle school family and consumer science; Melinda Saltzgeber, sixth grade math; and Jamee Burke, high school mathematics.

Three-year contracts, beginning with the 2025-'26 school year, were awarded to Carly Benavide, fourth grade; Halle Brown, kindergarten; Stephanie Cole, fifth grade; Natasha Jolin, third grade; Logan Leitzky, fifth grade; Devin Osko, Stingel Intervention Specialist; Tara Puckett, third grade; Lindsey Thompson, kindergarten; Amanda vanHarlingen, kindergarten; Maggie Voytko, second grade; Doug Basham, middle school industrial technology; Wendy Wilging, eighth grade language arts; Jeremy Barrett, Spanish; Veronica Cain, high school counselor; Allison Haver, high school chemistry; Elijah Henkel, instrumental music; Sarah Krichbaum, high school intervention specialist; Meghan Willeke, high school English; and Eric Wellman, high school intervention specialist.

Two-year contracts, beginning with the 2025-'26 school year, were awarded to Lindsay Cardwell, Stingel secretary; Faith Krebs, Stingel playground aide; Emily Stearns, Stingel playground aide; Lauren Kehl, Stingel custodian; Kimberly Bell, middle school secretary; Jericka Davis, bus aide; Jessica Lambert, bus driver; Ted Vail, bus driver; Craig Crawford, bus mechanic; Mary Jane Baker - High School Cook; Joilee Eutsay, Stingel cook; Jackie Gerhart, middle school cook; Bambi Glasener, Stingel cook; Crystal Holbrook, high school cook; and Kimberly Rigenbach, middle school cook.

The board approved one-year extended time contracts for the 2025-'26 school year for Jim Buker, 10 days; John Boyd, 15 days; Robin Owen, 5 days; and Tod Petit, 10 days.

First Congregational Church celebrates Holy Week with special services

First Congregational Church invites the community to join in a celebration during Holy Week and Easter. A series of special services and events will be held.

A Maundy Thursday service will be held April 17 at 7 pm in the chapel. This will include scripture, prayer and communion to commemorate the Last Supper and Christ's teaching on how to love and serve one another.

On Good Friday, April 18, at noon, a solemn and reflective service will be held at noon to honor the crucifixion of Jesus. There is room for reflection and reverence during this silent time of worship.

On Easter Sunday, April 20, celebrate and honor the joy of Christ's resurrection with two festive worship services at 8:30 am and 10:30 am in the sanctuary.

Between services, families are invited to enjoy an Easter Breakfast and egg hunt at 9:15 am in Blymyer Hall. All ages are welcome. For information call 419-756-3046.

The board approved a three-year extended time contract for the 2025-'26 through 2027-'28 school years for Veronica Cain, 15 days.

Karling Ward resigned as the special education supervisor, effective at the end of her 2024-'25 contract. Hannah Sudduth, high school intervention specialist, resigned, effective at the end of her 2024-'25 contract. Trish Ruslee, middle school custodian, resigned for retirement purposes, effective at the end of her 2024-'25 contract.

A change to Cary Carcione's previously approved retirement date was approved to move from Sept. 29, 2025 to May 31, 2025.

The board approved the employment of extracurricular/supplemental staff personnel for the 2024-'25 school year including Robey Bolen, track volunteer assistant coach, \$0; and Eric Barrison, track volunteer assistant coach, \$0.

The 2025-'26 English department reading material for the summer and the school year was approved.

2025 summer help hired for facility and transportation maintenance included Ronald Crawford, \$13 hourly; Aiden Ohl, \$13 hourly; and Tim Henige, \$18 hourly.

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

Caitlin Phillips was hired as a temporary substitute teacher for Stingel/middle school/high school for the current school year.

A mediation agreement was reached to provide special education services for a student.

A related services contract for the 2025-'26 school year was approved for Rachel Knell, certified occupational therapy assistant.

The board voted to not renew tutoring staff, effective June 30, 2025, including Doreen Givens, Susan Kurtzman, Jennifer Jarvis, Felicia Montero, Doreen Petit and Paulette Huber.

A service contract between YMCA Kids Club and Ontario Local Schools was reached.

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

OhioHealth Mansfield was approved as the agency to provide physicals for bus drivers for the 2025-'26 school year.

Donations included Brian Gates Insurance Agency Inc., \$800 for Tyler Gates Field Day; Ontario Hospitality, Inc. DBA Holiday Inn Express & Suites, \$5,000 for the technology fund; Milark Industries, Inc, \$500 for middle school PBIS; Park National Bank, \$100 for Teacher Appreciation Week; and Ontario Lions Club, \$150 for Teacher Appreciation Week.

Keith Strickler discussed the OFCC Building Renovation Project and the Softball Field Construction Update.

Jerod Them gave a Legislative Liaison Report. Keith Strickler and Amy Hiner gave a Permanent Improvement Committee Report.

The next meeting will be May 13.

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.



MCS presents “Switching Principals”

The Mansfield Christian School Drama Department presented *Switching Principals* by Pat Cook on April 11 and 12 in The Ohio State University at Mansfield’s Founders Auditorium.

School spirit has never been lower at Marvin Gardens High School. When a new principal is scheduled to arrive, everyone is hoping for a fresh breeze. What blows in, however, are George and Madge, two con men who slipped in through the principal’s office window while hiding out from the law.

The cast included Abigail Trotter, Katie Hillman; Constance Thrupp, Lillie Mowry; Amos Wompers, Aidan Johnson; Jake Hurley, Hudson Stigall; Myron Thrupp, Cooper Stigall; Madge Juke, Autumn Nicol; George Thurlow, Brian Craddolph; Dutton Riley, Logan Gehrisch; Mom, Macie Simmering; Sue Yardell, Scarlett Ziadeh; Emma Clonk, Grace Them; June Henkleston, Star Turner; Mrs. Quonset, Lillian Howard; Jay Blough, Noah Pearce; Onna Niles, Lizzie Vogel; Principal Darling, Logan Wilson; Donna Flagstone, Deanna Boyd; Terri Linton, Emma Docherty; Cyndi Somers, Lily Ziadeh; Marla Burns, Ruth Echavez; and Judith Hightower, Tatianna Smith.



Photos By Traci Little

Mansfield Main Street project progressing

Submitted by Downtown Mansfield Inc.

For generations, Main Street has stood as a symbol of small-town life, a place where hopes and dreams take shape in brick and mortar, old friends stop to chat, and the entire town gathers to celebrate holidays, homecomings, and more.

In Mansfield, our Main Street carries that same magic and just as much promise. That's why the Main Street Improvement Project is more than a construction effort. It's a commitment to preserving Mansfield's familiar charm while investing in a downtown that welcomes the next generation of memories. Main Street is the place where tradition meets transformation, and with safer sidewalks, improved illumination, modern infrastructure, and a renewed sense of place, we're making sure Main Street remains the heart of our city for decades to come.

It's been one month since the project broke ground and we're off to a strong start. Kokosing is the main contractor for the Main Street Improvement Project, with oversight and inspection provided by American Structurepoint. Kokosing's crews have been hard at work installing new waterlines and service connections from Third Street to Fifth Street. This essential infrastructure work will ensure that when the fresh, smooth pavement is laid down next year, it stays that way.

Traffic has continued to flow, with a minimum of one lane open during the day, limited nighttime closures and local shops are open and ready for your business! Thanks to the cooperation and support of downtown businesses and residents, this first stage is on track to wrap up in early June. Similar traffic impacts should be anticipated throughout this phase of construction.

Once the waterline is installed, surface-level improvements will be visible, including, wider sidewalks, improved lighting, new signage, and new brick crosswalks.

A public meeting about the Main Street Improvement Project was

held April 10, at Social on Main. A brief presentation was given providing an overview of the project and was followed by a question and answer session. Representatives from Kokosing and American Structurepoint attended.

The Main Street Improvement Project will continue through October 2026 and is a full streetscape transformation. Funded by more than a dozen sources, primarily from outside of Mansfield, including a \$7.3 million federal RAISE grant, project improvements include new waterlines and storm sewers; new sidewalks, signage and traffic signals; a conversion from one-way to two-way traffic; curb extensions, landscape beds and upgraded lighting; decorative brick intersections and crosswalks; and redesigned plazas with new furniture, shade trees and a rebuilt fountain.

Each block from First Street to Sixth Street will see carefully planned improvements. After the waterline work is completed in early June, work will begin at the north end of Main Street near Sixth Street and proceed block-by-block southwards to the conclusion of the project.

While there will be occasional detours and short-term closures, pedestrian access to businesses will be maintained throughout. We will continue to work with local businesses and the contractors to limit the impact of construction and encourage residents to support their favorite spots downtown!

Whether you're a business owner or resident looking to do some downtown shopping, there are easy ways to stay updated:

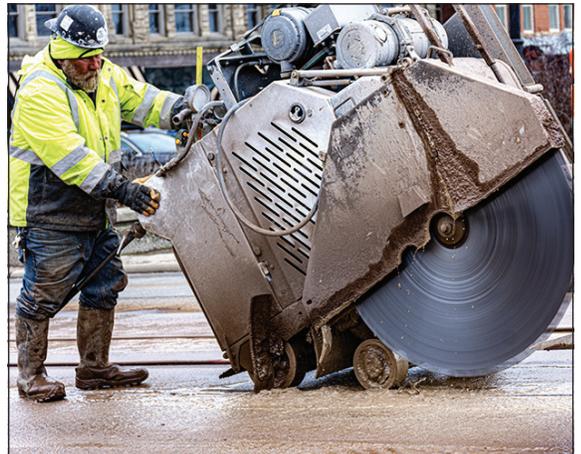
Visit MainStreetMansfield.com to learn more and check the traffic impact map. Get text alerts by texting Mainstreet to 419-443-6519.

This project depends on community support. If you have suggestions, concerns, or ideas, please share them, we want to hear from you. Text us anytime at 419-443-6519 or email brent@downtown-mansfield.com

The entirety of the Main Street Improvement Project is being documented for posterity, thanks to the photography of Braxton Daniels III, Studio 45 Multimedia, owner of 3RD Cup Tea.

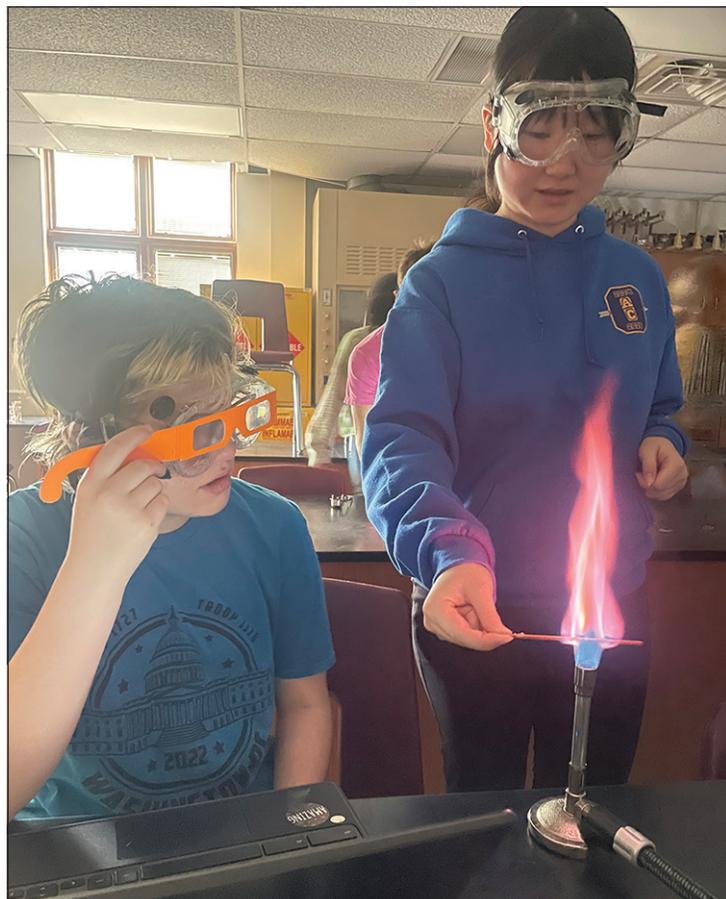


Artist Rendering





ASHLEY SCOTT'S KINDERGARTEN CLASS learned about sea turtles and then had a hands-on experience to compare and contrast sea turtles and tortoises. Scott's daughter, Kaelin (with the help of Mr. Scott), brought their two pet Russian tortoises to visit. Students were able to examine Toby and Tyko.



ONTARIO CHEMISTRY STUDENTS studied how electrons give elements their colorful fingerprints. Students used their knowledge to determine the identities of mystery solutions.

Senators Brenner and Timken meet with Governor DeWine to discuss school cell phone regulations

State Senator Andrew Brenner (R-Delaware), State Senator Jane Timken (R-Jackson Township) and Governor Mike DeWine held a press conference to Senate Bill 158, regulating cell phone use by students in public schools, as well as Braden's law, which has went into effect.

"We have seen a significant amount of learning loss due to student cell phone use in schools," said Senator Brenner. "Previously, legislation has been necessary to reduce the damaging effects of cell phone use, such as Braden's law. Ohio is taking the lead on this issue and I believe this legislation will move quickly through the Ohio Legislature."

House Bill 531, otherwise known as Braden's Law, passed at the end of the previous General Assembly. The legislation was spearheaded by Senator Brenner and creates the offense of sexual extortion and makes it a third-degree felony.

"Our children are more connected than ever to technology but not to each other," said Senator Timken. "The average child student in the classroom is getting over 11 notifications an hour — that adds up to almost 192 notifications during their waking hours. That means they're distracted, they're addicted, they are constantly wondering, 'What am I missing? What notification did I miss?' This does not provide for a conducive learning environment and also has a damaging social effect."

"I say, unplug our children so that they can plug themselves into a brighter future and thrive," concluded the Senator.

"We need to make sure our classrooms are actually cell phone free," said Governor DeWine. "Constant notifications make it almost impossible for students to focus."

The senators and the governor both called the legislation a common sense approach to unplug children from constant distractions. They said Senate Bill 158 will allow effective instruction and facilitate the building of the interpersonal relationships that are so vital to human development.

They also stressed that eliminating cell phone in classrooms will help improve academic performance, reduce the effects of cyber bullying, and give students the tools they will need to have a successful life academically.

Many school districts have already chosen to ban cell phones after the enactment of a law last year requiring them to implement policies to address the use of cell phones in schools. Many of those school district staff members have already noted improvement in student engagement, attendance, grades, socialization, and communication.

Also attending the press conference were Fran DeWine, First Lady of Ohio, Dr. John Marschhausen, Superintendent, Dublin City School District and Tina Husted, Former Second Lady of Ohio.

NAMIWalks event to be held in Ontario

NAMI Richland County will host a NAMIWalk event on Saturday, May 31, at Ontario Marshall Park, 3375 Milligan Rd., Ontario, lower park.

The event will include a 1-Mile Fun Walk and a 5K Race.

Registration opens at 8 am and the 5k and walk begins at 9 am. Family Fun Day begins at 9:30 am.

NAMIWalks are held to promote awareness of mental health and reduce stigma, raise funds for NAMI's free mental health programs and build community and let people know they are not alone.

There is no fee to register and registering will ensure that participants have access to online fundraising and awareness-building tools and are eligible for incentive gifts. As a registered participant, those who self-donate or raise \$100 or more will earn a 2025 NAMI-Walks event t-shirt and those who raise \$1,000 or more will become a Walk Star and receive a 2025 commemorative lapel pin.

Those attending should park by the soccer fields.

To register visit <https://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=register.start&eventID=1744>. For more information call 419-522-6264 or email Families@namirc.org.



ONTARIO STUDENTS have been learning all about the different forms of Energy in fourth grade science with Mrs. Benavides. Students learned that energy can not be created or destroyed, but can be transferred. While learning about electrical energy, students created their own flashlights by using button batteries, aluminum foil and led bulbs. The biggest challenge was trying to make a functional on and off switch. Later on students learned about light and thermal energy by creating their own heat spinners. They first tested out the kinetic energy of their spinners by blowing and moving the spinners. Then students carefully placed their devices under heat lamps for about 20 seconds to observe thermal energy change to kinetic energy.

Registration underway for Alzheimer's Association walks

The Alzheimer's Association invites the community to register for 2025 Walks to End Alzheimer's® taking place across the region.

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, this inspiring event calls on participants of all ages and abilities to join the fight against the disease. All money raised through Walk to End Alzheimer's benefits the care, support and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association.

"Now is the moment we've been waiting for. With new treatments emerging in the fight against Alzheimer's and all other dementia, now is the time for hope," said Vince McGrail, executive director of the Alzheimer's Association Central Ohio and Northwest Ohio chapters.

"Every step takes us closer to a cure and to achieving our mission of a world without Alzheimer's and dementia. We hope Ohioans will register their team and walk to honor our friends and neighbors facing this disease."

The local 2025 Walk to End Alzheimer's will be at North Central Ohio/Mansfield on Saturday, Sept. 13, at Richland Carrousel Park, 75 N. Main St., Mansfield.

To register as a team or an individual and receive the latest updates on this year's Walks, visit <https://www.alz.org>.

There are 236,200 Ohioans 65 and older living with Alzheimer's disease according to the Alzheimer's Association 2024 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures. A total of 414,000 Ohio caregivers provide 624 million hours of unpaid care each year, valued at \$11.4 billion.

Those concerned about themselves or a loved one can contact the Alzheimer's Association Northwest Ohio Chapter at 419-537-1999 to schedule a care consultation and be connected to free local resources.

Rep. McClain votes to deliver billions in property tax relief

State Representative Riordan McClain (R-Upper Sandusky) voted in support of Am. Sub. House Bill 96 – the House's version of the State Operating Budget. This forward-looking, fiscally responsible budget plan invests in Ohio families and the state's future – approving over \$4 billion in record property tax relief for Ohioans and ensuring that every school district in the state receives an increase in school funding in fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

"I'm proud of the work that has gone into producing this budget which makes great strides to meet the needs and address the concerns of our communities," said Rep. McClain. "The policy updates and spending priorities reflect what I have heard from constituents. Those being property tax relief, school funding support, school choice opportunity, government spending reform, agriculture support and much more. I believe we are sending the Senate a strong budget to consider."

House Bill 96 prioritizes the education and well-being of students, ensuring that every school district in the State of Ohio receives an increase in funding over the next biennium. Compared to today, this budget provides public schools with \$207.6 million more in FY26 than they received in FY25, and in FY27, that increases to \$347.6 million above their FY25 support. This equates to a \$555.2 million increase in state aid for public schools over the coming biennium. Under the House's plan, every student in Ohio will receive more per-pupil funding from the state.

In an effort to provide much-needed property tax relief to Ohioans, the bill implements a process for schools that carry forward more than 30 percent in unspent cash at the end of each year to be distributed back to Ohioans in the form of property tax relief, totaling more than \$4 billion. District cash carryovers have increased year over year since tracking began in 2012, from \$3.6 billion then to \$10.5 billion today. In FY24, 486 traditional school districts carried over cash greater than 30 percent of their expenditures for that year.

House Bill 96 continues the state's commitment to school choice by increasing the maximum award for the Autism Scholarship and Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship while also establishing an option for parents whose children attend a non-chartered non-public school to utilize an education savings account to help with the cost of their education.

House Bill 96 includes a provision that will enable high blend ethanol retailers to claim a small rebate per gallon sold. This limited program is based on legislation drafted by Rep. McClain that will be a benefit to corn growers, ethanol refiners, gas retailers, and consumers.

House Bill 96 will continue and enhance various state initiatives that help solidify Ohio as the best place in the nation to live, work, raise a family and start a business. The bill increases funding for Brownfield Remediation, further improves the Welcome Home Ohio program, and helps address the housing shortage across our state.

To help families who need assistance paying for child care, the budget establishes the Child Care Choice program, providing \$100 million each fiscal year for eligible families, helping more Ohioans cover the cost of needed child care services. House Bill 96 also increases funding for the Help Me Grow program, which helps pregnant women, caregivers with new babies, and families with young children and children with developmental delays and disabilities have access to early intervention, developmental screenings, and more.

This budget makes a marked effort to prioritize workforce readiness in Ohio, investing in various higher education programs such as the Governor's Merit Scholarship, the Choose Ohio First Scholarship, and an increase in the State Share of Instruction by 2%, helping lower costs for students at Ohio's state institutions of higher education. The bill also continues support for Ohio's TechCred program, which allows employers to upskill current or future employees at no cost to them.

In an effort to promote transparency in the Medicaid program, the bill works to protect taxpayer dollars and eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse through a number of provisions, creating a variety of new reporting requirements that the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) must provide to the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee (JMOC) for review.

House Bill 96 now goes to the Ohio Senate for further consideration.

Area Episcopal churches announce Holy Week schedule

Grace Episcopal Church of Mansfield, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church of Ashland, and St. Mark's Episcopal Church of Shelby invite the community to participate in the sacred observances of Holy Week. These services commemorate the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and offer opportunities for reflection and spiritual renewal.

Maundy Thursday Observances will be held Thursday, April 17 at Grace Episcopal Church, Mansfield, an Agape meal will be held from 6-7 pm.

The meal, also known as a "Love Feast," is a simple communal meal that recalls the fellowship meals shared by early Christians and expresses the love and unity of Christ's followers.

This meal is rooted in ancient tradition and often includes Mediterranean-inspired foods such as bread, cheese, olives and fruit. It serves as a time for reflection and fellowship before the Maundy Thursday liturgy.

A Maundy Thursday Liturgy with optional foot washing will be from 7-8:15 pm and stripping of the altar will be from 8:15-9 pm.

Good Friday Services will be Friday, April 18 with Stations of the Cross at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Shelby, at noon and an interactive children's Way of the Cross at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Ashland at 4 pm. At 7 pm will be Proper Liturgy of Good Friday at Grace Episcopal Church, Mansfield.

Easter Sunday Celebrations will be held Sunday, April 20.

Grace Episcopal Church, 41 Bowman St, Mansfield, will host services at 8 am and 10 am. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 31 N. Gamble St, Shelby, will celebrate at 10 am and St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 1515 Mifflin Ave, Ashland, will hold a service at 12:30 pm.

For more information about these services or the churches involved, contact Fr. Christopher Hofer at fatherhofer@gmail.com or 516-456-9420.

Home Energy Assistance Program application deadline is May 31

The Ohio Department of Development and the Area Agency on Aging want to remind older Ohioans that assistance is available to help with their home energy bills.

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps Ohioans at or below 175% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of up to seven members and 60% of state median income for a household of eight or more members to pay their heating bills.

Applied directly to the customer's utility or bulk fuel bill, the benefit can help manage heating costs. Older Ohioans may go to their local Area Agency on Aging office for help with assembling the required documents and completing their HEAP application. They may also visit www.energyhelp.ohio.gov to apply online or to download a copy of the application.

When applying, individuals need to have copies of most recent utility bills, a list of all household members (including birth dates and Social Security numbers), proof of income for the past 30 days for all household members (12 months for certain income types), proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members, and proof of disability (if applicable).

HEAP benefits are applied to an energy bill after Jan. 1, 2025. Applications for the HEAP program must be received by May 31.

For more information or assistance with applying for a HEAP benefit, contact Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. at 419-524-4144 and ask for a navigator or visit www.energyhelp.ohio.gov.



MEMBERS OF ONTARIO'S Warrior Leadership Council hid over 400 eggs and six golden eggs. The golden egg winners won gift certificates to local restaurants.

Auditions announced for 2nd Annual Shakespeare in the Park production

The Mansfield Shakespeare Company has announced auditions for its 2nd Annual Shakespeare in the Park production "Twelfth Night."

Directed by Christopher J. Hartman, this lively Shakespearean comedy is a whirlwind of mistaken identities, mischievous romance and drunken revelry.

Auditions will be held April 29 and 30, from 6-9 pm, at Founders Auditorium, OSU Mansfield Campus. Those attending should park in lot 2.

This year's Shakespeare in the Park production brings "Twelfth Night" to life in a fun and accessible way, featuring love-struck nobles, clever disguises and riotous comedy. Performers of all ages and experience levels are encouraged to audition!

Auditioners will perform readings from the script. No prior experience with Shakespeare is required. For character descriptions visit <https://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/twelfthnight/characters/>. For a synopsis and analysis visit <https://www.folger.edu/explore/shakespeares-works/twelfth-night/>

Performance dates are June 20-22 in Mansfield's South Park.

This is a non-union, non-compensated opportunity to be part of a dynamic community production of one of Shakespeare's most entertaining plays.

Those are unable to attend in-person auditions can email mansfieldshakespearecompany@gmail.com to request specifications for a video audition.

The Mansfield Shakespeare Company is a non-profit organization dedicated to making Shakespeare accessible to the community in a fun and engaging way.

For more information about the Mansfield Shakespeare Company and upcoming productions, visit <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550574027909> or <https://www.instagram.com/mansfieldshakes/>.

Golf outing to benefit Special Olympics

The 4th Annual SPT Charity Golf Outing will be held Friday, May 16, at Twin Lakes Golf Course, 2220 Marion Avenue Rd., Mansfield. Entry includes breakfast, dinner, beverage, snacks, golf, cart and prizes. Cost is \$340 per team and the registration deadline is May 2.

The event is limited to 18 teams. To register visit <https://files.constantcontact.com/5fc06ec5201/1d2cc196-705a-42f0-97cb-f8ab2e-baf63e.pdf?rdr=true>.

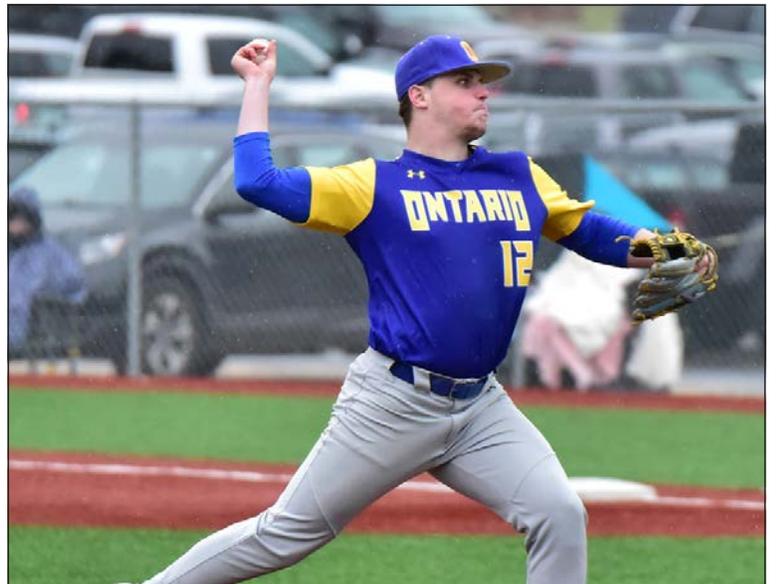
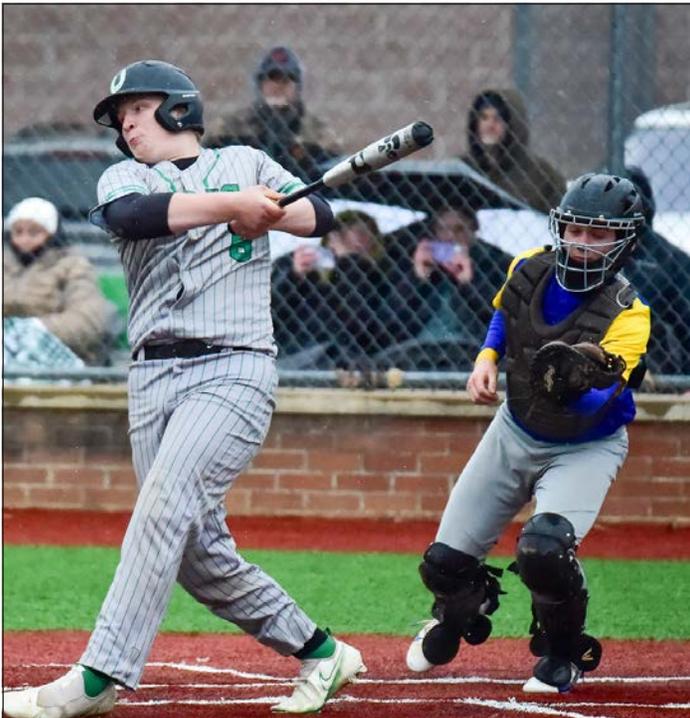
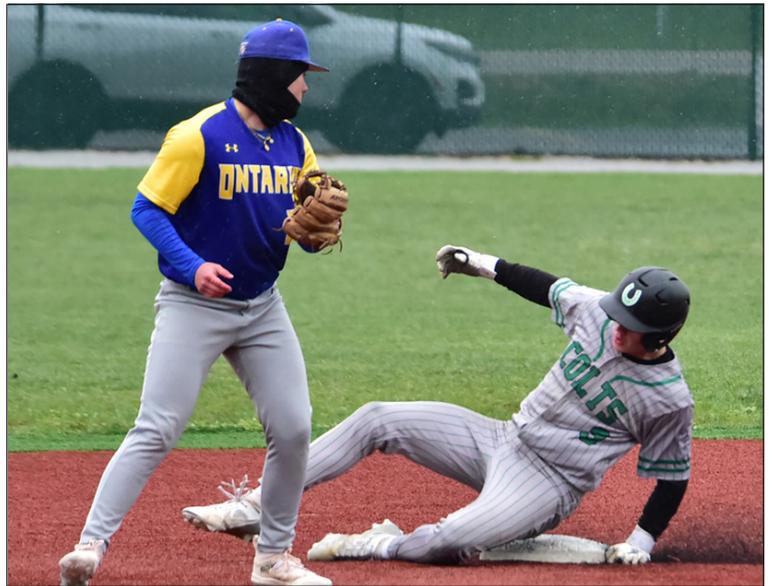
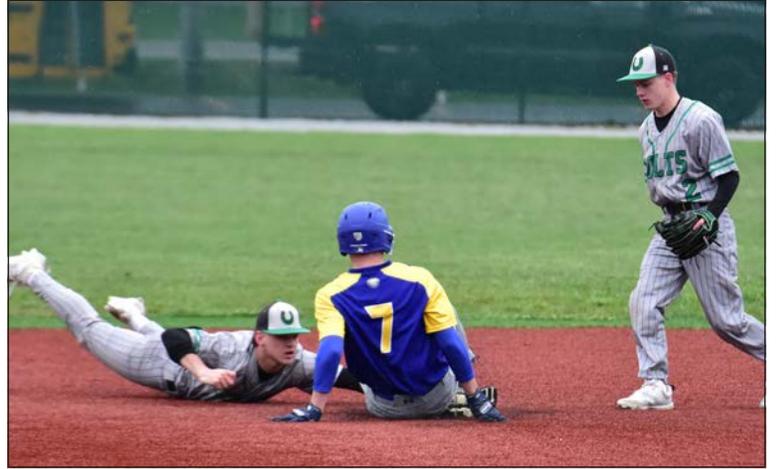
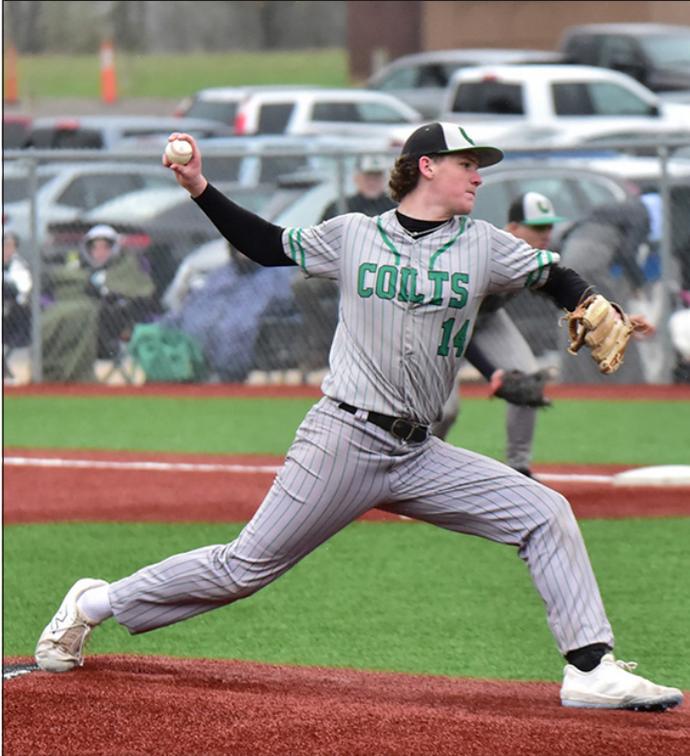
All proceeds benefit Special Olympics Ohio-Richland County. For more information call 419-834-8366 or email aaron@spyo.ohio.com.

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Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS ONTARIO VARSITY BASEBALL · APRIL 9 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Caption By Kris Leiter

THE MOAC BOYS BASEBALL standings are running a tight race thus far. It's always a good feeling to win against the team ahead of you. The Clear Fork Colts evened the tally and defeated the second place Ontario Warriors on April 9, by a score of 8-4. The Colts and the Warriors are now tied and both teams are 3-2 overall, 2-1 in the MOAC.

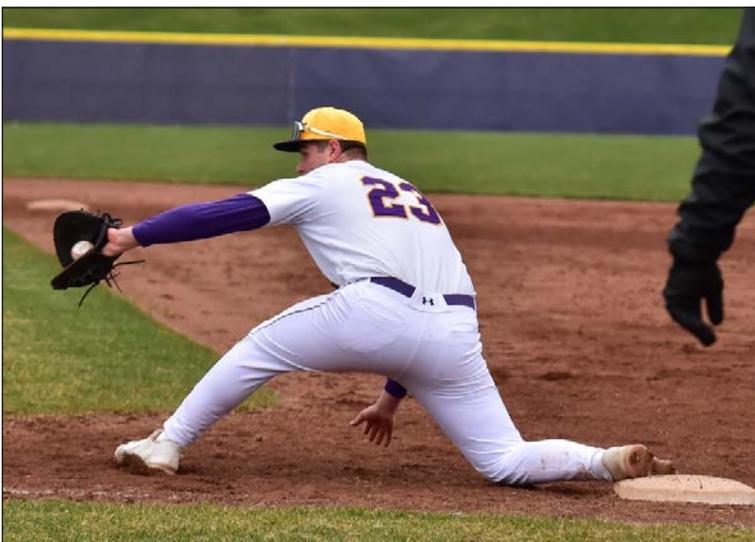
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS ONTARIO VARSITY SOFTBALL · APRIL 9 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS ONTARIO VARSITY BASEBALL · APRIL 11 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Caption By Kris Leiter

THE ONTARIO WARRIORS fell to the non-conference foe Big Lex Baseball team 9-6 on April 11. Lex junior Markale Martin dominated the mound against the Warriors.

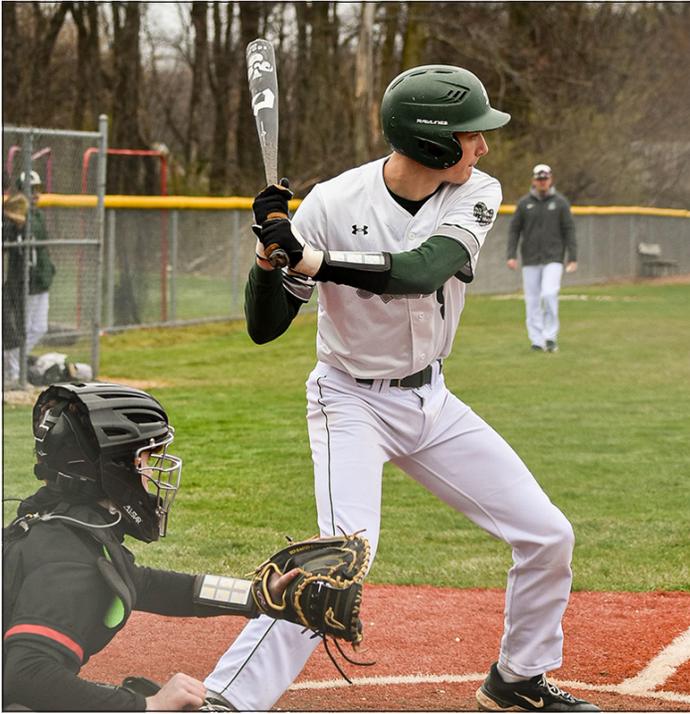
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS RIVER VALLEY JV SOFTBALL · APRIL 7



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS NEW PHILADELPHIA VARSITY BASEBALL · APRIL 9
PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN · NEW PHILADELPHIA WINS 0-16



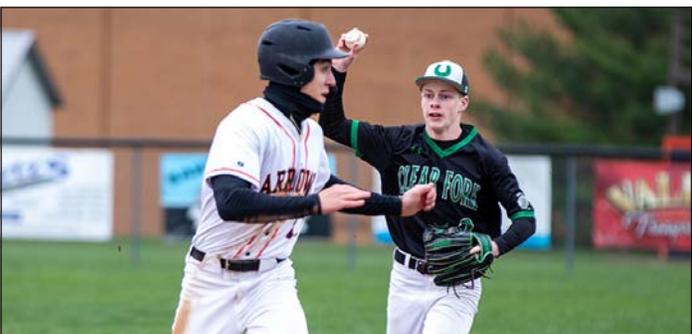
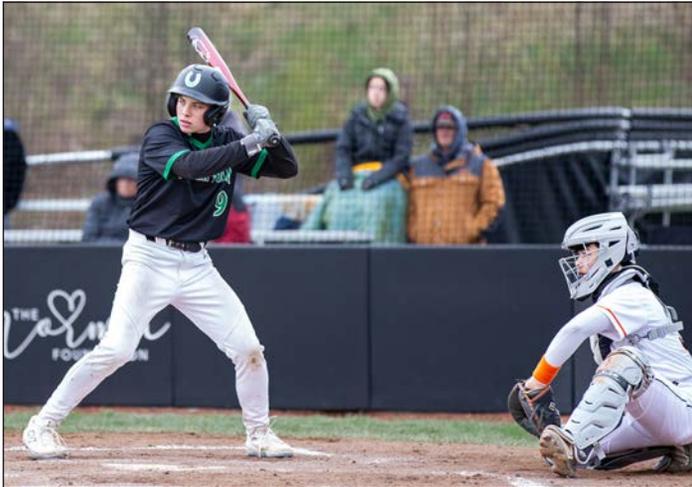
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS NEW PHILADELPHIA VARSITY SOFTBALL · APRIL 9
PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN · MADISON WINS 6-3



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ASHLAND VS CLEAR FORK VARSITY BASEBALL · APRIL 11 · PHOTOS BY TRACI LITTLE

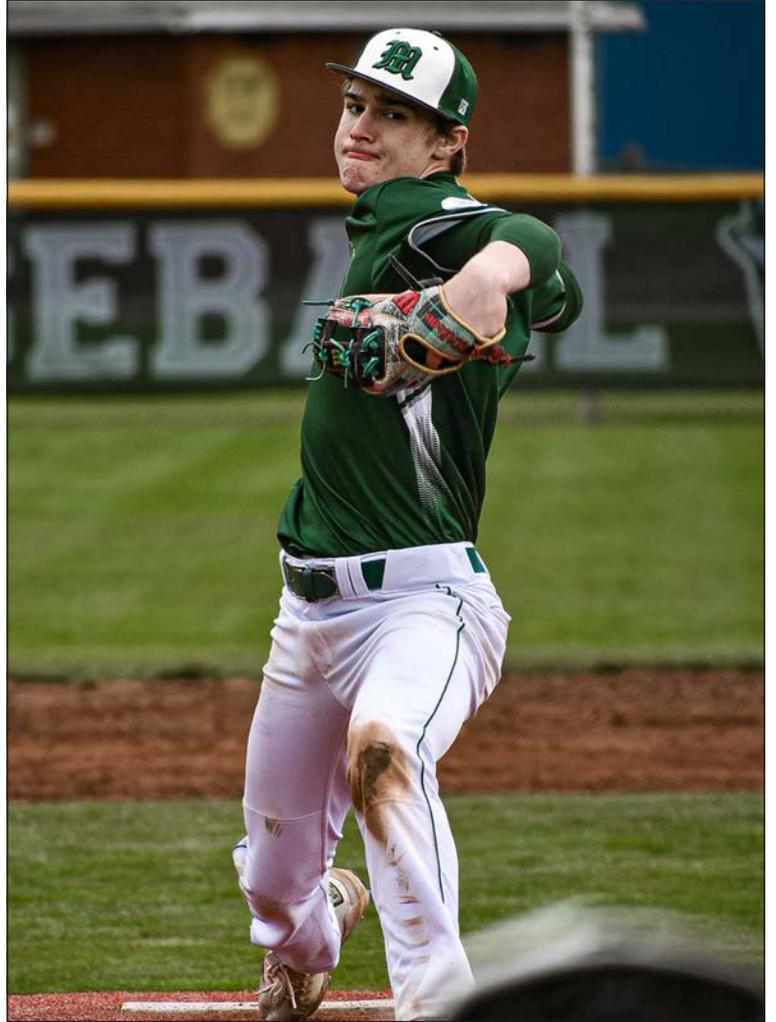


Caption By Kris Leiter/Traci Little

ON APRIL 11, the Clear Fork Colts fell to non-conference foe Ashland Arrows 12-2 at Bud Plank Field at Archer Arrows Park. The Colts were only able to score two runs in the fourth inning. Ashland kept the runs going most of the game, including two runs each in the first and third innings. The Arrows also had a seven-run rally in the fourth inning. The Arrows improved to 6-1 (2-1 OCC).

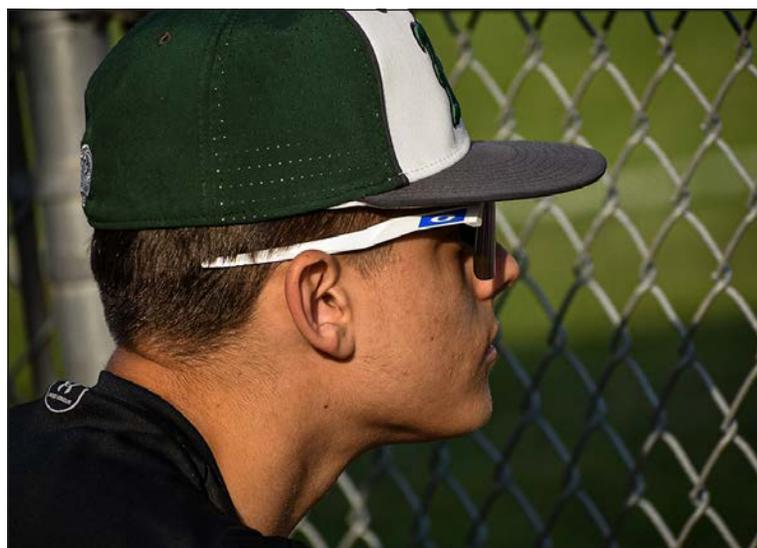
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS COLUMBIAN VARSITY BASEBALL · APRIL 12
PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN · COLUMBIAN WINS 7-5



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS CLYDE VARSITY BASEBALL · APRIL 14
PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN · MADISON WINS 11-0



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

Teachers can apply for grants

Local educators are invited to submit grant applications to the Richland County Foundation.

Education grants are selected by a community committee for creative and innovative supplemental programs not covered by school funding.

The grants are given to K-12 teachers in public or private Richland County schools to encourage them to develop new programs for their classrooms.

The committee will prioritize requests which emphasize: attendance, literacy, mathematics and/or career advising.

Items not eligible for funding include storage containers and rugs, substitute teacher costs, seating and furniture and physical technology items (cameras, printers, tablets, etc.).

The applications are available at richlandcountyfoundation.org with a May 1 deadline.

For additional information contact Community Investment Officer Bobby Rhea at brhea@rcfoundation.org or 419-525-3020.

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.



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL celebrated March Madness. Bracket winners were first place, Briella Hall; second place, Adison Viers; third place, Gavin Wagner; and staff winner, Tim Henige.

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