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05.08.25



A RIBBON CUTTING was held April 25 to celebrate the opening of the new Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW) exhibit.

OSR debuts new Ohio Reformatory for Women exhibit

Photos and Article By Traci Little

The historic Ohio State Reformatory hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, April 25, celebrating the opening of the new Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW) exhibit at The Ohio Corrections Museum. This compelling new addition is now available for guests during self-guided tours.

Curated by historian Becky McKinnell, the exhibit highlights the rich history of women's corrections in Ohio, featuring artifacts on loan from the State of Ohio, the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, and the Ohio Reformatory for Women. Through personal items, historical photographs, and documents, the exhibit explores the unique challenges and experiences of incarcerated women, from the opening of ORW in 1916 through today.

McKinnell notes that, in many ways, ORW was less restrictive than a typical men's prison — women were allowed to decorate their quarters, which were referred to as "rooms" rather than "cells."

The exhibit offers a multifaceted look at the lives of female inmates and the evolution of correctional practices over more than a century. It invites visitors to consider the deeper human stories behind incarceration — stories shaped by poverty, addiction, violence, and the societal roles of women.

Guests at the ribbon-cutting were especially honored by the attendance of Rita Shoulders, one of the first African American women to serve as a tower guard at the Ohio State Reformatory. Hired in 1976, Shoulders helped break gender and racial barriers in corrections. It was a special honor meeting the delightfully beautiful Rita Shoulders.

"I really enjoyed my time working here. The inmates really looked out for me! My father didn't approve of me working here. He worried about me a lot, but I have nothing but great memories. I left

after five years to work for Ohio Brass," said Shoulders. "When I resigned, I was getting a whole bunch of calls from the parents of the inmates up in arms about me leaving. They sent me a bunch of gifts
(Continued on Page 8)

Free Senior Spring Extravaganza planned for Wednesday, May 21

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. will hold the Senior Spring Extravaganza on Wednesday, May 21, from 10 am to 2 pm at The Richland Mal (The Ontario Center), Ontario.

The free event, hosted by the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, is held in recognition of Older Americans Month, and offers guests entertainment, refreshments, lunch, resources, information about aging in Ohio, and a chance to win door prizes.

The event is made possible through the sponsorship of premium sponsors, ES Consulting and Richland Public Health and lunch sponsor Mechanics Bank, in addition to many other sponsors, community-based organizations and vendors that will be participating in the event.

In celebration of Older Americans Month the theme is "Flipping the Script on Aging" with the glitz and glamour of old Hollywood's golden era. Older adults will be celebrated with an on-site classic car show, entertainment by Randy Velez, a resource fair, BINGO and much more. To register for the car show call 567-247-6487.

Registration is not required to attend. No early birds please. For more information contact the Area Agency on Aging at 419-524-4144. Follow the Facebook page to keep up-to-date on upcoming events at www.facebook.com/aaa5ohio.

MACC

MADISON ADULT CAREER CENTER

OPEN HOUSE : WEDNESDAY, MAY 14 | 5 - 7 PM

MADISON ADULT CAREER CENTER, 600 ESLEY LANE, MANSFIELD, OH

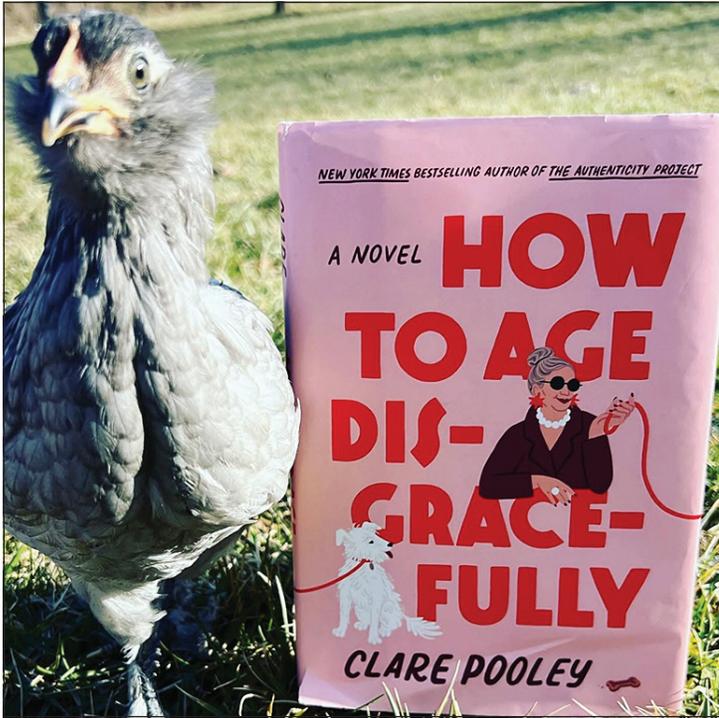


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LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review
By Mandy Belczak Gurney

In *How to Age Disgracefully* by Clare Pooley, a band of unruly senior citizens, a high schooler raising his young daughter and a dog in need of a home all join together in West London for a heartwarming comedy.

Each character is truly flawed and is so endearing. They have hidden secrets and dark habits to outrun. Can they join together to save each other or will it be a dizzying disaster?

Either way, you will be laughing the whole way through.

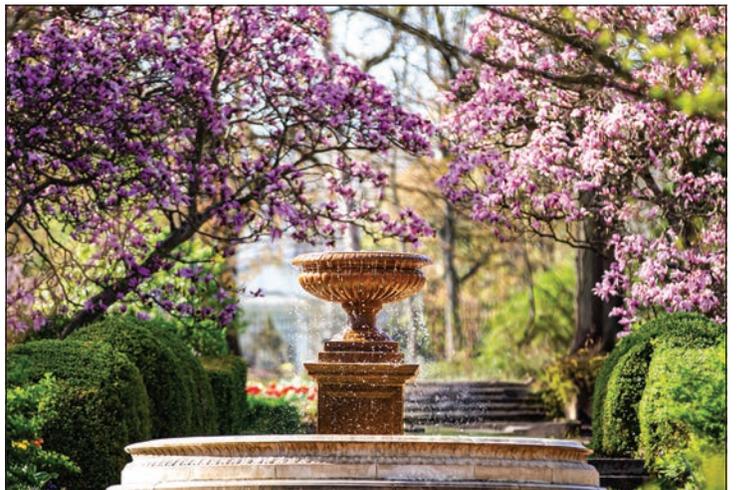
It has always been somewhat a mission of mine to age disgracefully and the characters confirmed, it's the future I'm going for.

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

Scam targets drivers

A scam continues to be distributed through text messaging claiming to be the Ohio Turnpike E-ZPass system. Those receiving the texts should not reply or click the link.

Scammers typically use urgency as a way to compell recipients to click the links provided. These Ohio Turnpike messages are also pushing urgency, claiming fines and other consequences for non-payment. Ohio Turnpike E-ZPass invoices are sent my mail, not by text message.



Photos By Traci Little

KINGWOOD CENTER GARDENS' 47 acres are blooming with color as tulips cover the grounds. Special tours of Kingwood Hall will be held on Saturday, May 10, from 1-5 pm. Those attending will explore all three levels including some behind-the-scenes areas on the guided tour. The registration fee includes same-day admission (members: \$8 /non-members \$12). Register at <https://kingwoodcenter.org/series/kingwood-hall-tour-2/>.

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Serving Ontario, Lexington, Madison, Bellville and Butler Communities in
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News Briefs

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD) will host the annual Native Plant Workshop and sale Tuesday, May 13 from 5:30–7:30 pm at the Longview Center Meeting Room, 1495 W. Longview Ave., Mansfield. The event will feature guest speaker Gale Martin of Natives in Harmony. She will share the benefits of native plants and how to incorporate them into landscaping in addition to answering questions. After the workshop, purchase native plants from Natives in Harmony and Wild Acres. The Native Yard Project will also have an information table. The workshop is free and open to all. Register by Monday, May 12. To register, visit <https://richlandswcd.net/events/> or contact the Richland SWCD office at 419-747-8686. Pictured is last year's presenter, Jordan Keller.

Madison Athletic Booster Club is collecting donations to purchase new wrestling mats. The same mats have been used for decades and the goal is to raise \$10,000 to fund the purchase.

Donate by calling Bryan at 419-632-1896

Madison Local Schools will host a 100 Years of Madison Carnival Saturday, May 17 from noon to 3 pm, behind the Madison Middle School. The carnival will include games, inflatables, food trucks, music and other activities.

First Congregational Church, 640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield, will host a rummage sale Wednesday, May 7, from 9 am to 4 pm and Thursday, May 8, from 9 am to noon. Thursday will feature lower prices. Items include new and lightly used men's, women's and children's clothing, toys, books, accessories, vintage items and linens. There is an elevator in the main entrance for those who cannot use the stairs.

A survey is being conducted with its results to be included in the Richland County Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan. The survey can be accessed at <https://www.aaa5ohio.org/services/transportation/mobility-management/richland-county-mobility-management-transportation-survey/>

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 May 21, celebrating the 51st anniversary of

LASC. Entertainment will be the musical group Granny Creek. For information visit www.lexasc.org. Dues are \$10 per year.

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.

First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Ave. West, Mansfield, offers a free produce distribution the second Tuesday of each month, April through November in the west parking lot.

The next free produce distribution will be Tuesday, May 13, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. The church receives over 6,000 lbs. of fresh produce. This is open to lower income households, please bring a state ID, driver's license or proof of residence. This is a drive through distribution in the west parking lot. Volunteers will load the produce into trunks or the back of vehicles. Please have the vehicle empty and ready for loading. For more information call 419-522-0662.

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-f8ab2ebaf63e.pdf?rdr=true>.

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

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

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

(Continued on Page 6)

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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

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

Zoo to host Trike & Bike event in July

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo will host a VeloSano Trike & Bike event of Saturday, July 25, from 7-9:30 am.

The Trike & Bike is more than just a fun bike ride for kids. It's part of the VeloSano movement and empowers young riders to fundraise for pediatric cancer research.

This year, an entirely new Trike & Bike experience is being introduced at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

100% of dollars raised by junior riders supports pediatric cancer research at Cleveland Clinic Children's.

The day's schedule includes 7 am, Trike & Bike Festival begins; 8 am, Elephant Loop (ages 3-4); 8:30 am, Trike & Bike program; 8:45 am, Savanna Loop (ages 5-7); 8:45 am, Wilderness Trek Loop (ages 8-10); and 9:30 am, Trike & Bike concludes and participants/guests can enjoy the zoo.

Register early at <https://velosano.org/trike-bike> for discounted pricing. Space is limited. Cost is \$30 per child until May 15. Price increases to \$40 after May 15.

Each registered child receives two tickets to the zoo on July 26, one for the junior rider and one for a parent/guardian. Additional zoo tickets for family members will be available for purchase in June.

Each participant is encouraged to fundraise, with a suggested minimum goal of \$250 per rider with every dollar going to pediatric cancer research at Cleveland Clinic Children's.

The zoo is located at 3900 Wildlife Way, Cleveland.

Charles Mill Marina to host Kid's Day

Kid's Day at Charles Mill Marina, 1277 State Route 430, Mansfield, will be held Saturday, June 14, from 10 am to noon.

There will be a kid's boating education seminar, free 15-minute pontoon boat rides, face painting, games and prizes, a photo booth, food trucks, llamas and alpacas from Shady Lane Alpaca Farm, animals from Gorman Nature Center and giveaways courtesy of sponsors.



THE MANSFIELD RICHLAND COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY thanked the Shirk family of Planktown Market, winners of the 2024 Endless Possibilities Award. The Shiloh business supports the library by hosting the bookmobile and helps with programs and promotions.

Aquarium to offer free entry for military and first responders

Greater Cleveland Aquarium, Flats West Bank, 2000 Sycamore St., Cleveland, is offering first responders and active-duty military and veterans free parking and complimentary admission over four extended upcoming holiday weekends: Memorial Day Weekend, Friday, May 23–Monday, May 26; Fourth of July Weekend, Friday, July 4–Monday, July 7; Labor Day Weekend, Friday, Aug. 29–Monday, Sept. 1; and Veterans Day Weekend, Friday, Nov. 7–Tuesday, Nov. 11.

“This is a small expression of appreciation for their commitment to the community,” said general manager Stephanie White, noting that the Flats West Bank destination will make a similar offer to classroom educators in the month of September. “These are demanding jobs, and an aquatic adventure is an opportunity to escape and unwind.”

Whether its peering at piranha, observing an octopus, standing under a sandtiger shark or getting nose to nose with native turtles, Greater Cleveland Aquarium adds a splash of wonder to any day. Fresh and saltwater habitats allow guests to explore nearby lakes and faraway oceans, while daily interactive experiences from Sharks & Scuba Underwater Q&As to animal encounters put them in touch with their natural curiosity and the living world.

The Waves of Appreciation Weekends opportunity is open to active-duty military, veterans or reservists, police officers, sheriff/sheriff’s deputies, correctional officers, state troopers, federal law enforcement officers, career or volunteer firefighters, physicians, nurses, EMTs, paramedics and 911 dispatchers.

To redeem, first responders and military should present their parking ticket and valid ID in-person at the Aquarium’s ticket counter on the day of their visit. The offer is valid for the individual only.

Additional guest tickets are available at regular admission rates — \$19.95 (ages 13+), \$13.95 (ages 2–12) and \$0 (passholders, guests younger than two or better than 100).

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.

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Ontario • 100 S. Lexington-Springmill Rd. • 419-529-2323
Ashland • 308 Claremont Avenue • 419-289-1552

www.wappner.com

• News Briefs

(Continued from Page 3)

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.

★

The Marvin Memorial Library, 29 W. Whitney Ave., Shelby, will host a summer Reading kick-off party on Saturday, May 31 from 11 am to 1 pm in the Kerr Garden Room.

Those attending can sign-up for summer reading while listening to music, playing games, participating in a coloring contest and enjoying snacks. Magician Michael Mage perform at 11:30 am.

★

The MRCPL Main Branch will host a plant swap on Tuesday, May 13, from 4-6 pm. Those attending can bring a plant to trade and take a new one home.

★

The Bellville Branch Library, 97 Bell St., Bellville, will host Play-dough Palooza on Tuesday, May 13, from 3:30-4:30 pm. Participants can drop-in for fun squishing, smushing and rolling different creations with play-dough.

★

Western Buckeye Council will host a sporting clay event on Thursday, Sep. 11, at Elkhorn Lake Hunt Club, 4146 Klopfenstein Rd., Bucyrus, from 1-6 pm.

Proceeds will benefit scouting programs.

For more information contact Amy Heller at 330-418-282 or email Amy.Heller@scouting.org or visit <https://www.celebrate-scouting.org/western-shoot>.

★

A Family Prom Night will be held at the MRCPL Main Library on Wednesday, May 14, from 6-7 pm. Those attending can wear their best clothes and be ready to dance. There will be refreshments and fun activities for the whole family.

★

Kid's Day at Charles Mill Marina, 1277 State Route 430, Mansfield, will be held Saturday, June 14, from 10 am to noon.

There will be a kid's boating education seminar, free 15-minute pontoon boat rides, face painting, games and prizes, a photo booth, food trucks, llamas and alpacas from Shady Lane Alpaca Farm, animals from Gorman Nature Center and giveaways courtesy of Outback Steakhouse, State Farm Insurance, Western Southern Bank and Modern Woodman. There will also be booths from Richland Soil and Water Conservation District and Richland County Solid Waste.

★

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 Veteran Pancake Breakfast will be held on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 17, from 8-11 am at AMVETS Post 31, 2943 Park Avenue West, Ontario.

Rosi C Ranch and Awareness 22 welcome active service members and veterans and their families, as well as the public.

Cost is a suggested \$10 donation. Veterans eat free.

★

Ontario Local Schools is accepting applications for the Peanut Butter & Jelly Food Distribution program at Ontario United Methodist Church.

The program gives groceries during the summer months and financial situation does not impact qualification.

Those interested should contact Ontario Schools for an application. The application deadline is May 13 and distribution is June 2 through Aug. 11.



Burano, Venice, Italy • Photo By Mark Shutt

Richland SWCD seeking volunteers

Volunteering with the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD) offers numerous personal benefits, including skill development, increased confidence and a sense of purpose. It also fosters community engagement and strengthens social bonds, which leads to a more connected society.

At Richland SWCD, volunteers are driven by their concern for the environment and a commitment to conserving our planet's natural resources. Richland SWCD currently has 73 individuals who assist in various ways, including precipitation, lake and stream monitoring, office support, participation in workshops and community events, as well as photography. In 2024, their joint efforts saved the county general fund over \$45,000.

Volunteers play an important role in monitoring the health of watersheds by quickly notifying us of any issues. Without the hard work of our precipitation, lake and stream monitoring volunteers, the data needed would be unobtainable. This data serves as a vital resource for the public, governmental bodies and Richland SWCD partners. The more monitoring volunteers, the more complete and accurate the data becomes.

One volunteer is honored each year at the annual celebration. In 2024, Robert E. Donaldson was recognized for his incredible contributions to the volunteer team. An annual picnic is held to show appreciation for all the volunteers. This year's picnic is scheduled for June 3 at South Park in Mansfield.

To volunteer to help Richland SWCD contact Theresa Sutter at sutter.theresa@richlandswcd.net or 419-747-8685, or visit the volunteer opportunities page at <https://richlandswcd.net/get-involved/volunteer-opportunities/>



Photos By Traci Little

TIMBUK FARMS IN GRANVILLE, OH, is a 300-acre farm that offers year-round events. Each spring, Timbuk Farms bursts into color with its annual Tulip Festival, showcasing over 500,000 tulips across four acres, with over 60 varieties in total. The bulbs come from the Netherlands. Visitors can pick their own tulips for \$1 per stem, and enjoy a variety of family-friendly activities, including a petting zoo, bounce pad, bobsled hill slides and playground. Weekends feature live music, food trucks and face painting. Order tickets at <https://www.timbuk.com/timbuk-tulip-festival-2025#ticketsales>. Timbuk Farms also offers locally grown plants and gardening supplies and is located at 2030 Timbuk Rd., Granville. For more information on hours and dates for events throughout the year, visit www.timbukfarms.com or follow on social media.

May 9 forum addresses issue of youths aging out of foster care

More than 250,000 children are placed into the foster care system in the United States every year.

More than 23,000 youth are forced to exit the system annually without having found a forever family, leaving them to fend for themselves.

In Ohio, 14,720 youth are in foster care, and 4,826 will age out in the next five years. They are more likely to endure challenges such as, homelessness, unemployment, academic difficulties, substance abuse and food insecurity.

Richland County Youth and Family Council, in collaboration with Richland County Children Services, is hosting a pivotal event titled "Aging Out of the Foster Care System. What Now?"

This forum, scheduled for Friday, May 9, at 11 am in Eisenhower Hall at The Ohio State University at Mansfield, aims to shed light on the challenges faced by youth transitioning out of the foster care system and explore ways the community can offer support for their successful integration into society.

Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with local leaders, including Michelle Miller, Richland County Youth and Family Council Executive Director; Herbert Ross, Program Director/QMHS/CDCA/Life Coach/Intervention Specialist, Family Life Counseling; Mary Stephan, Independent Living Caseworker, Richland County Children Services; RCCS youths who have aged out of foster care; and Kathy Goodwin, Family Housing Intervention Specialist and Third Street Family Health Services/Safe Program Mansfield City Schools. The discussion will be moderated by Aurelio Diaz, 5th Ward Mansfield City Councilman.

By fostering dialogue and collaboration, this forum seeks to inspire collective action in providing a nurturing environment for these young individuals to flourish.

Doors open at 10:45 am with a free luncheon at 11 am. The forum begins at 11:30 am.

For more information about the forum contact Michelle Miller at 419-774-5442.

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Pat Kracker Breast Cancer Fund
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COMMUNICATION and Behaviors

Find out what Alzheimer's and Dementia is, its risk factors, and how it affects the brain. We'll explore communication changes, common related behaviors, strategies to respond, and available community resources.

CRAWFORD COUNTY | BUCYRUS: Tuesday, May 13 - 2:00 - 3:00 PM

Altercare Bucyrus
1929 Whetstone St, Bucyrus, OH 44820

Space is limited, preregistration is requested. Please call or email 567.302.3610 or JenCMiller@ALZ.org.

OSR debuts new Ohio Reformatory for Women exhibit

(Continued from Front Page)

like a big basket of oranges and grapefruits, and I continued to get a lot of gifts at Christmas and everything. I stayed in touch with some people in Cleveland and Youngstown over the years.” Rita enjoyed working in the mailroom and the commissary.

“Getting from the commissary to your cell was a ‘chore’ however because other inmates would try to bully your stuff from you before you got to your cell.” – Inmate 1985-’87

Her entry into the male-dominated field marked a significant step toward gender equality in corrections. Rita’s presence at the exhibit’s ribbon-cutting ceremony underscored her important role in the institution’s history and progress.

The exhibit tells a deeper story beyond incarceration, offering a look at life inside the prison walls — from farming and weaving programs to arts, education, and motherhood behind bars. It also highlights the progressive leadership of wardens like Marguerite Reilley, who believed that dignity, responsibility, and self-esteem were vital to rehabilitation.

“Women are not natural criminals...” — Warden Marguerite Reilley, 1941

The women who lived within the walls of Ohio’s prisons were once beloved daughters, proud mothers, faithful wives, and tender grandmothers. Their paths to incarceration were often paved by heartbreak, economic hardship, or societal pressures. Warden Reilley observed that when women committed violent crimes, it was usually tied to a relationship with a man.

Reilley instituted the “human being” program with the idea of treating female inmates as women, raising up their moral character and self-esteem. Drab green walls were repainted in cheery pastel colors. The use of makeup by the inmates and beauty parlors were placed within the Reformatory. She encouraged the women to read positive reading material and was sometimes referred to as “Mother Reilley,” due to her running the Reformatory with a strong, but compassionate hand.

Inmates participated in artistic endeavors, putting on skits and musical shows, creating stained-glass artwork that won ribbons at the Ohio State Fair. Recreation ranged from roller skating to softball, tennis, and kickball, all with the goal of lifting spirits and building community.

Under Warden Wheeler, the recreational program came to include softball, tennis, kickball, and wiffleball. Roller skates were also provided under Warden Reiley and continued during Warden Wheeler’s tenure. The philosophies of ORW’s leadership reflected a revolution-

ary belief: prison was not only about punishment, but about transformation.

In defense of the recreational programs, Warden Burkes-Trowsdell said in an interview with the Columbus Monthly in 2019,

“One of my neighbors said to me, ‘You give them too much. You’re supposed to punish them.’ But my philosophy is that their punishment is that they’re sentenced to prison — not how we treat them on a daily basis. When they get out of prison, what type of person do you expect for them to be to you? What type of neighbor, what type of employee, what type of co-worker, what type of friend? Prison should teach them what it looks like to be respected. Give them responsibility and let them know what it feels like to be proud of something. As public servants, we have a responsibility to help them be different, to help them really discover who their true selves are.”

Warden Reilley echoed that sentiment decades earlier by implementing programs to beautify living spaces, allow personal radios, encourage reading (even comic books), and teach weaving as a “wholesome Old American Folk Art.” Prison became a place where dignity could be restored, not erased.

Before ORW opened, women were isolated in a building separate from men at the Ohio Penitentiary from 1837 to 1916. With the founding of ORW, 34 women were transferred to Marysville. That number grew to 129 within a year — and over time, to 1,700 inmates.

The Reformatory quickly earned the nickname “The Farm” due to its acres of crops and livestock. Inmates raised cattle, hogs, chickens, and produced food not just for themselves, but for broader correctional operations. This work echoed the rhythms of life on a family farm, instilling responsibility, skill, and a sense of purpose.

Over the years, opportunities expanded to include hospital training, cosmetology, jewelry making, data processing, dog training, and more — programs aimed at equipping women with skills for life beyond prison walls.

The Ohio Reformatory for Women remains the state’s oldest operating women’s prison, and this new exhibit invites visitors to reflect on the humanity, resilience, and stories of the women who lived there.

For more information about visiting the Ohio Corrections Museum and the new ORW exhibit visit www.mrps.org or explore the Ohio State Reformatory in Mansfield.

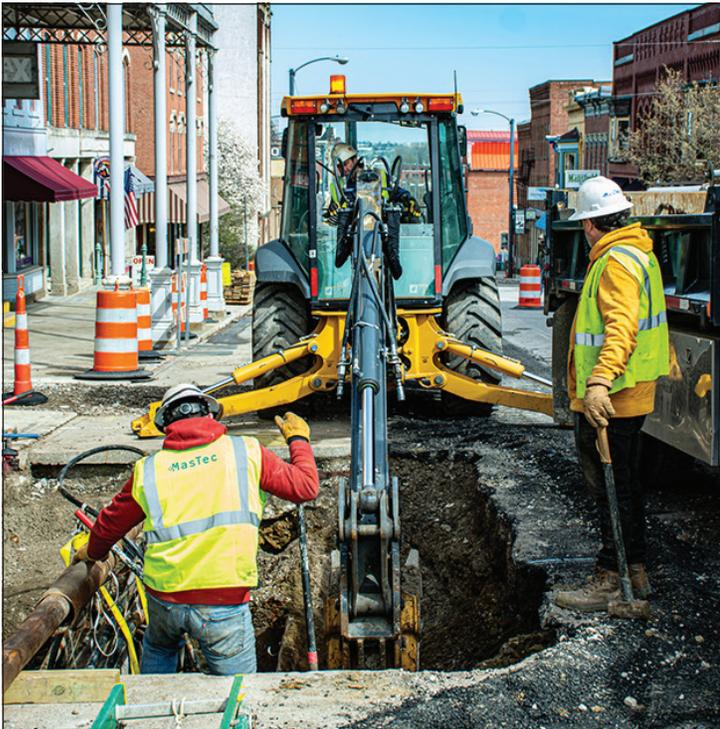
Today, as visitors walk through the new Ohio Reformatory for Women exhibit, they are invited to remember that behind every barred window was a woman — full of dreams, regrets, hopes and humanity.



Photos By Traci Little



(Left Photo By Jeff Sprang/Mansfield News Journal and Right Photo By Traci Little) **MARY AND RITA SHOULDERS** began working at the Ohio State Reformatory in 1976. They were the first female correctional officers at the institution to work one-on-one with inmates. As women in a male dominated field, Mary and Rita had some challenges at the start of their career but gained respect rapidly as female correctional officers by both staff and inmates. In a 1976 *Mansfield News Journal* article written by Jeff Sprang, Rita commented "I think the inmates have more respect for us because we are women. I haven't had any trouble from them." (Right photo) Rita Shoulders is pictured in front of the Ohio State Reformatory.



WORK IS MOVING FORWARD on the Main Street Improvement Project. Crews have completed installing the new water main between Second and Fifth Streets and are now extending it between Second and Third and along Park Avenue. This work is happening overnight. During the day, another crew is preparing for future stages of the project by installing new traffic signal foundations and reinforcing select areas beneath the sidewalks near buildings with basements to ensure long-term stability. Stage 1 of the project, which includes the water main as well as new fire hydrants and service connections, is on track to wrap up in early June. At that point, work will begin on installing new sidewalks and lighting from Fifth to Sixth Street.



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THE MANSFIELD/RICHLAND COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY (MRCPL) newly renovated Ontario library will reopen at 10 am, Monday, May 19, at the permanent location of 2221 Village Mall Dr., Ontario. The temporary library at the Richland Mall/Ontario Centre permanently closed on Sunday, May 4 at 5 pm. The library return box will remain at the exterior of the mall, near the south entrance facing Stumbo Rd., until May 19. MRCPL will release more information regarding the grand opening of the Ontario branch location. For details about the renovation project visit mrcpl.org.

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.

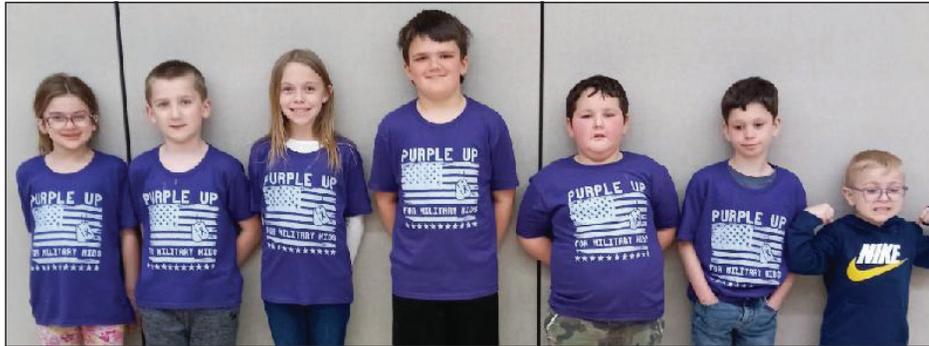
“Now is the moment we’ve been waiting for. With new treatments emerging in the fight against Alzheimer’s and all other dementia, now is the time for hope,” said Vince McGrail, executive director of the Alzheimer’s Association Central Ohio and Northwest Ohio chapters.

“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>.

Call 419-537-1999 to schedule a care consultation.



ONTARIO STINGEL GUIDANCE counselor Tod Petit gave students of military parents t-shirts to wear in support of Ohio Military Family Spirit Week April 14–18. He also accepted donations of hygiene products to box up and send out to our deployed military. They had a handwritten note from the students. The students and Mr. Petit also did a fun activity every day to celebrate their families.



Celebrate
MOTHER’S DAY WEEKEND AT
Kingwood Center
GARDENS





THE 32ND ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT was held at Dayspring Assisted Living, 3220 Olivesburg Rd., Mansfield, on Saturday, April 19. Over 100 kids braved the rain and wind to race for eggs. The bake sale raised over \$700 and will be used to bring a petting zoo to Dayspring for a day for the residents to enjoy. New this year was a “Stuff the Bus” event for the Richland County Dog Shelter. Items collected included dog food, treats, paper towels and cleaning supplies.

Reer to replace Ringler as agricultural educator and FFA advisor

By Plymouth FFA Reporter Adelyn Voorhees

On Monday, April 21, Douglas Reer was hired as the 2025-’26 Plymouth Agricultural Educator and FFA Advisor, his career will start on July 1, 2025 with the Plymouth-Shiloh Local School District. He will replace his former Agricultural Educator and FFA Advisor Mrs. Laura Ringler who has been with the district since 2010.

Reer comes from a background deeply rooted in agricultural and FFA experiences. He graduated from Plymouth High School in 2018. While in High School, Reer was very active in the FFA chapter serving as the chapter President, Vice President and Reporter and being a member of the State Championship Poultry Judging Team.

Following his high school years he attended The Ohio State University, starting in Mansfield and then transferring to Columbus, graduating with a Bachelors of Science in Agriculture. He has a myriad of experience from growing up and working on his family farm, at Civista Bank and from his most recent experience as a student teacher at Buckeye Central High School.



Douglas Reer has been a part of the Plymouth-Shiloh Local School District his entire life. He grew up living and working on his parents, grandparents and Aunt and Uncles farms. After graduating High School, he has and continues to serve as a Crawford County 4-H advisor and has been an active member of the Plymouth-Shiloh FFA Alumni.

During the interview Douglas said, “FFA has played a huge role in my life and I want to share those opportunities with others in order to inspire the leaders of tomorrow.”

Reer claims he is excited for the following school year and cannot wait to share his experiences and the opportunities offered through Agricultural Education and FFA.

Our FFA chapter is excited to see the future of our program’s continued success with Mr. Reer as our new advisor.

Learn more about the Plymouth Agricultural Education and FFA programs and former advisors, award winners and program history at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1C6Hn41vuJ_Vf5npi6Rec6CxcgKh09h6LvZ4fAxwuXv0/edit?usp=sharing



Natalie Allyson Photography

Plymouth FFA hosts annual banquet

By FFA Reporter Adelyn Voorhees

The Plymouth FFA banquet was held Saturday, March 29, at Plymouth High School. The gymnasium was transformed into a banquet hall adorning lights and blue and gold decorations as the chapter celebrated the past year of student success and community support.

The banquet began at 6:15 pm with introduction of the officer team and the Official FFA Opening Ceremonies. Twin sisters, Katelyn and Kristen Swingle, chapter president and vice-president, began the program by thanking attendees for their support.

In attendance from the Plymouth-Shiloh Local School District were Board of Education member Sally Hoak and teaching and support staff members Becky Snyder, Heather Burrer, Diane DeLauder, Bonnie Stine, Stacey Oney, April Isaac, Ashley Bowman, Kate Means, Mariah Carder, Sam Carder, Amanda Rader, Sarah Montgomery and Matt Montgomery. Also in attendance were FFA alumni, supporters, members, parents and members from South Central and Buckeye Central FFA chapters.

Bonnie Stine, Viking pre-school educator and mom to three FFA members, Ava, Mya and Mason, brought greetings on behalf of Joe Morabito, high school principal.

Stine thanked all of our FFA supporters and congratulated FFA members on another year well done. Mrs. Stine expressed Mr. Morabito's thankfulness to Laura Ringler for all she has done for our students and community. She has laid a foundation that will carry on for a long time to come. Mrs. Stine commented on how positive the program has been for her children and the growth she has seen in them.

Each banquet attendee received a free scoop of Rader's Ice Cream, a cup cake, a keychain lanyard, chapstick and holder, a beef stick, FFA mint and FFA air freshener.

The Plymouth-Shiloh FFA Alumni provided smoked pork loin and smoked chicken leg quarters prepared by Nick Laferty, Leonard, Nellie and Vern Felty. Ag Credit Country Mortgages Norwalk branch sponsored napkins and coffee cups, and Natalie and Raegan of Natalie Allyson Photography provided professional photography services free of charge for the banquet.

Following the supper, officer Ava Stine thanked everyone who had taken the time to bring a side-dish or dessert, she also showed gratitude to the crew of students on the banquet committee who had spent extra time outside of school to help with the event. Students received prizes based on the number of nights they spent helping.

President Katelyn Swingle thanked Ag Credit of Norwalk, Gilger Farms-Barb Gilger & Family In Memory of Butch, Plymouth American Legion, Plymouth-Shiloh FFA Alumni, Kranz Farms-Tom & Loren, Surgener Family, Raiders Ice Cream, Natalie Allyson Photography as well as our supporters Leonard and Nellie Felty, Nick Laferty, Megan Caudill, Flynn Reynolds, Raegan Alsept, Vern Felty, and PHS & SMS Staff for financially supporting the banquet program.

Makayla Bowman then took the stage to show appreciation to the farmers that assist with our farm field. Leonard Felty, Nick Laferty, Dave Shepherd and Tom Kranz were recognized with gifts as a thank you for their support.

The chapter took the time to talk about Dave Shepherd's grandson

Weston Montgomery who was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia a few days before the banquet. A donation bucket was set out by Rader's Ice Cream and then a moment of silence, meditation and prayer was said for him.

Next the alumni of the FFA program were recognized. Not all FFA chapters are lucky enough to have an alumni. Plymouth FFA has a great group who goes above and beyond to help provide for their needs. The alumni provide counsel to the advisor, mentor students, and fundraise to support activities. Just this past school year they have invested over \$50,000 into supporting our students. The alumni help purchase fair animals, send students on trips, purchase valuable classroom supplies, provide scholarships to the seniors and recent graduates as they continue their education. Each of the FFA Alumni members in attendance received Plymouth FFA car coasters.

Nellie Felty, Leonard Felty, Nick Laferty, Rosie Reer, Gretchen Huttleston, Sonja Reer, Monica Baxter, Dorothy Runkle, Pam Hugel, Pat Laser, Barb Gilger, Jane Yeager and Meredith Worthington were thanked for putting in the effort to make the food for the event. These cooks received cutting boards.

Additionally, the Plymouth Shiloh Local Schools lunch ladies were thanked for their help in supporting fundraisers, breakfasts and other events. Each in attendance received a jar of salsa.

Custodial staff Blake Felty, Flynn Reynolds, Matt Montgomery, Tim Swartz, Arden Kessler and Fritz Jaquay were thanked for all of their assistance this past year which ranged from helping clean the classroom to unloading fundraisers and helping repair things. They received cheese and meat sticks as a thank you gift.

The topic of Career Development Events (CDE) were brought to attention. These are opportunities for students to gain career skills in a variety of areas from public speaking to livestock judging, ag mechanics, job interview and even dog grooming. Coaches and students were given a custom-made crochet piece handmade by Makayla Bowman as part of her SAE project, Makayla's Crafty Creations.

Jacket donors from this year were recognized. These individuals include the Snipes family, Farm House Creations in Willard and an anonymous donor. Students chosen to be gifted a jacket were recognized.

Following the recognition of jacket donors, the officer team took the stage to thank the honorary members and business. These individuals were chosen based on who has helped to advance agriculture education and FFA and gave many years of service. Selected for Honorary FFA Degrees for the 2024-'25 school year were Barb Gligler and Joe Ringler and the honorary business was Planktown Country Market, owned and operated by the Shirk Family.

First year member, Madison Conley, presented the FFA Creed written by E.M. Tiffany, the first prepared public speech that first year members memorize. Following the creed the eighth graders introduced themselves on stage and shared some information about themselves. Students were, Taylor Beverage, Neveah Branham, Jakob Crosby, Brooklyn DeCapio, Grace Edwards, Clay Gowitzka, Leland Gresh, Alanis Grose, Hemi Hicks, Jensen Kilgore, Landen Laser,

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Bently Meade, Arianna Patterson, Carson Roberts, Carson Slagle, Jax Tackett and Simon Worthington.

The officers and seniors introduced their parents. First year AFNR students and second year Plant and Animal students earning their greenhand degree came up to introduce themselves. These students were Madison Conley, Katie Cook, Jackson Fidler, Xavier Heifner, Karsyn Steele-Adkins, Christopher Whittington, Makayla Bowman, Kensley Burrer, Gwen Cave, Lucas Distl, Kailynn Leroux, Maliyah Leroux, Carson Lewis, Isaiah Miller, Erika Montry, Blake Oney, Hunter Oney, Lance Rowe, Mason Stine, Gus Sutter and Bently Taylor.

The state Food Science CDE team of Ava Stine, Katelyn Swingle, Chiyo Harris and Mya Stine received FFA half zip hoodies. Katelyn Swingle placed fifth overall as an individual at the state competition.

Third year members and chapter FFA degree recipients then introduced themselves. These members being Taylor Dean, Lincoln Distl, Kamryn Hall, Chiyo Harris, Luke Kelbly, Seth Love, Kaylee Martin, Presley Martin, Madison Montgomery, Anthony Moore, Benji Oney, Hunter Shepard, Mya Stine, Kelsey Surgener, Dallas Thompson, and Adelyn Voorhees.

After, Ava Stine and Katelyn Swingle were recognized for being state finalists in the Agriscience Fair which is an agriculturally focused science fair which engages students who like to study agricultural scientific principles and emerging technologies. These two expanded on a project started by Braden Montgomery and Ava last year in the area of social science as they assessed agricultural mental health.

Students receiving the FFA letter must either earn their state degree or be highly involved in the FFA attending activities, taking leadership roles and fundraising for our FFA chapter and overall go above and beyond. First year recipients that received an FFA P were Kendall Oakley, Matthew Gillum, Chiyo Harris, Mya Stine, Adelyn Voorhees and Aly Lewis. Second year recipients receiving an FFA pocket patch were Nicole Beverage Colton Hass, Morgan Follett, Zach Miller and Kyrsten Caudill. Third year FFA pin recipients were Kristen Swingle, Katelyn Swingle and Ava Stine.

Nicole Beverage, Morgan Follett and Ava Stine were recognized for earning their State FFA Degrees as they have participated in numerous FFA events, taken leadership roles, developed profitable SAE projects and more. The State FFA Degree is one of the most valued and is the highest degree an FFA member can earn in the State of Ohio. These students received personalized Plymouth FFA chairs from the FFA and they also received an engraved plate from Kranz Farms, Tom and Loren Kranz. They will also be recognized on stage at the state FFA convention this May.

Madison Montgomery was proud to announce that her big brother, Braden Montgomery, will receive his degree this fall in Indianapolis. It takes even more earnings and dedication to the FFA including coming back after graduation to update records and fill out the award application. Braden has had outstanding SAE projects and remained dedicated with his recordkeeping in order to earn this degree. He earned another personalized chair for his efforts to make a complete and matching set. He also received an engraved plate from Kranz Farms, Tom and Loren Kranz. Braden is the son of Matt and Sarah Montgomery. He was a five-year FFA member and is our former FFA President.

Our FFA chapter hosts a fall fruit sale and spring strawberry sale. Both are critical to supporting the banquet and the multitude of activities the chapter participates in throughout the year. Monetary awards and meat sticks were given for the top sales earners.

Earning the most for the fruit sale were, first, Nicole and Taylor Beverage, \$7,838, breaking the previous record of \$6,869; second, Brooklyn DeCario, \$1,652; third, Alyson and Carson Lewis, \$1,336; fourth, Jack and Luke Kelbly, \$1,168; and fifth, Alanis Grose, \$1,047.

Earning the most for the strawberry sale were, first, Nicole and Taylor Beverage, \$2,304; second, Kelsey Surgener, \$847; third, Aly and Carson Lewis, \$684; fourth, Alanis Grose, \$603; and fifth, Isaiah Miller, \$549.

Junior and senior members introduced themselves and recognized those important to them that have helped and inspired them. Senior members were then roasted and gifted by advisor Laura Ringler. Senior members included Ki Barber, Kyrsten Caudill, Brianna

Flanagan, Matthew Gillum, Colton Hass, Kansas Huston, Jack Kelbly, Zach Miller, Ava Stine, Katelyn Swingle and Kristen Swingle.

Senior officers addressed the crowd. Kansas Huston said, "If I could talk to my eighth grade self, I would say, 'Don't be afraid to try new things. Embrace every opportunity that comes your way.'"

"FFA pushed me to step out of my comfort zone, whether it was participating in public speaking contests, leading meetings, or diving into hands-on projects," he continued. "Each experience taught me that trying something new is not just about the outcome, but about the journey and the lessons learned along the way."

"I realized that growth happens when we face our fears head-on. To my younger self, I would say, It's okay to feel scared. That's how you know you're pushing yourself to grow. FFA has taught me that stepping outside of what feels safe can lead to incredible opportunities and personal development."

"If I could talk to my younger self, I would emphasize the importance of building relationships and reaching out to others by sharing your story and listening to theirs. The bonds I've formed through FFA have provided support, encouragement and a sense of belonging that I cherish deeply."

In Jeremiah 29:11, I am reminded that God knows the plans He has for me, plans to help me prosper and grow. With Him I am protected and have hope in my future, especially as He is already there. I have held on to this belief, and it has inspired me to trust in the journey ahead and know that we are all a part of His greater plan."

Matthew Gillum shared about the opportunities he has been given to travel within and out of the state saying "Philippians 4:13 says 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,' which goes to show us that you should not be afraid to experience opportunities that come your way, rather you should feel confident that you can accomplish what you are called to do."

He further reminded the audience to take the time to be thankful. "Be thankful for those around us, whether it's your friend that asked you if you wanted to come join them in ag class or maybe Mrs. Ringler reminding you to attend an event for the class points. We can all find something to be thankful for, even at a time where you feel that you are being forced to do something you don't want to do, you can always take time and reflect, to think maybe you could benefit from this situation."

Ava Stine shared that she was "filled with a mix of emotions — gratitude, happiness, sadness and a deep sense of purpose."

"It's hard to believe that my journey with FFA is coming to an end. This program has been more than just an activity for me; it has been a foundation upon which I have built my life, my values, and my dreams." She said, "I truly believe that God has blessed me with the ability to work hard and serve others, and I've sought to honor that in every project I've undertaken."

"One of the most important lessons I've learned is the value of leadership. God calls us to lead by example, to serve others and to uplift those around us. Through FFA, I've had the privilege of stepping into leadership roles that challenged me and helped me grow. I've learned that true leadership is not about being in charge, it's about being a servant to others, listening to their needs and inspiring them to reach their full potential."

"I am forever grateful for the mentors who guided me, showing me what it means to lead with integrity and compassion. As I reflect on my experiences, I am reminded of the countless hours spent with friends, working side by side in the fields, preparing for competitions and volunteering in our community. Each moment was a testament to the power of teamwork and the bonds we formed." And reminded fellow students, "that you are never alone on this journey; God is with you every step of the way. In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you — my friends, mentors, family, and especially Mrs. Ringler. You have shaped my life in ways I cannot fully express. As I move forward, I will carry the lessons, the love, and the memories of FFA in my heart. This isn't a goodbye; it's just the beginning of a new chapter."

Kristen Swingle shared her inspiration from her older cousins who were in the Crestview chapter, "I was a kid who kind of struggled to find a place outside of just being Katelyn's twin sister. I was always

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•Plymouth FFA hosts annual banquet

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nervous and worried to try news things or what people would think of me if I failed at something but that all changed the day I stepped into the ag classroom. It suddenly sparked my curiosity, gave me a sense of belonging and was a lot of fun outside of my regular school classes.”

“My eighth grade self couldn’t imagine how much FFA would have impacted her and has grown her into the person she is standing in front of you all this evening. Most of you know me and my sister’s story is far from normal than other kids growing up, we didn’t have a lot of family that were close to us and we lost our parents during our freshman and junior years, but throughout all of that, I still had FFA to count on.”

“FFA isn’t just some class or organization to me it’s a lifelong family and friends that will always be there and have your back at any moment in your life. It has helped ground me and keep me going through the times and adversities I have faced all five years I’ve been in AG. FFA has taught me many life lessons that I will carry throughout my college experience and future career. It has helped me with time management, work ethic, responsibility, and accountability. Without being in FFA I know I wouldn’t have had the same opportunities and experiences.”

“If I had to go back and talk to my eighth grade self I would say thank you because FFA has changed my life for the better and I couldn’t imagine my life without it. To the younger generation coming up into FFA, just try ag your eighth grade year, you may not know how much it’s going to change your life for the better. Take all the opportunities that are handed to you, don’t be afraid to try new things, and if you fail at something at least you know you gave it your all. One thing is to show up to things and work hard because we need young leaders to guide and make our chapter better.”

FFA President Kately Swingle wrapped up the night sharing her retiring address. “Looking back at these last five years there was so much that was accomplished I can’t even imagine where I would begin but I do know for sure that it has truly changed my life for the better. Looking at my eighth grade self I hardly recognize the person I look at back in pictures. I am truly grateful that I made the decision to join Ag because I now can’t imagine my life without it.” What started from shy and nervous grew into the confidence “to speak in front of huge crowds and rooms full of people I don’t even know. I truly owe this growth to the FFA. Not only that I grew more confident in myself but it truly allowed me to find my place in life. Through all the experiences that FFA has given to me and with the guidance of Mrs. Ringler it allowed me to become the person that I am today. I have become more determined, have a better self esteem, and have become a more well-rounded person all through FFA. Mrs. Ringler has been an incredible influence on my life. She has pushed us out of our comfort zone, and while I can admit it was frustrating at times, I knew that she always had my back no matter what I was going through. As most of you know I have had a rough couple of years and life hasn’t always been the easiest but I knew that I could always run to my FFA family whenever I needed help. With losing loved ones it feels like you are losing a part of yourself but FFA helped me regain that part of myself that I thought I had lost.”

“In the Bible, James 4:14 states ‘Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.’”

“This verse holds a lot of truth: you don’t know what is going to happen the next day or how our lives might change in an instant.” Further urging younger members “to not take things for granted and cherish the moment like it is going to be your last. You will have many opportunities that will arise in FFA and I encourage you to jump head first and embrace them. You don’t know how that single event could affect your life. You are our next generation and sadly to say there aren’t many people that are willing to get their hands dirty and jump at opportunities that arise.”

Following Katelyn’s retiring address she was presented with the 110% Award by Ms. Carrie Schlechter and Mrs. Laura Ringler followed by Mrs. Ringler introducing the 2024-2025 outstanding and most involved students: Madison Conley, Morgan Follett, Luke Kelbely, Kendall Oakley, Chiyo Harris, Kailynn Leroux, Maliyah Leroux, Makayla Bowman, Taylor Beverage and Arianna Patterson.

Nellie Felty, FFA alumni secretary/treasurer, and Douglas Reer, former scholarship recipient, presented the Plymouth-Shiloh FFA Alumni Scholarships, the Red Cross Scholarships and the Stanley Caudill Memorial Scholarships.

The Plymouth-Shiloh FFA Alumni invest \$50,000 in our students and community each year and reminded everyone that the annual tool fundraiser will be held at the Shiloh Cass Blooming Grove Fire Department Pavilion, across from the Shiloh Legion, on Saturday, Sept. 6. Part of the funds raised at the tool fundraiser will go toward the student scholarships, purchasing fair animals, supporting student events, providing meals and many more opportunities to our FFA students.

2025 Plymouth-Shiloh FFA Alumni Scholarship recipients are Katelyn Swingle, Haley Felty, Braden Montgomery, Sarah Hoak, Kristen Swingle Zach Miller and Ava Stine. Red Cross Scholarship recipients are Ava Stine and Ki Barber. Stanley Caudill Scholarship winner were Kyrstyn Caudill, Kristen Swingle and Kansas Huston

Ava Stine, Kansas Huston and Nicole Beverage were recognized for having state level gold rated officer books. Arden Kessler of the Plymouth American Legion joined Mrs. Ringler on stage to award the old and new officer teams.

The 2024-’25 officer team members were parliamentarian, Adelyn Voorhees; historian, Matthew Gillum; student advisor, Dallas Thompson; sentinel, Isaiah Miller; reporter, Nicole Beverage; treasurer, Kansas Huston; secretary, Ava Stine daughter; vice president, Kristen Swingle; and president, Katelyn Swingle.

The 2025-’26 officer team took their new positions at the banquet, they include student advisor, Dallas Thompson; sentinel, Hunter Oney; reporter, Adelyn Voorhees; treasurer, Aaliyah Grose; secretary, Makayla Bowman; vice president, Kendall Oakley; and president, Nicole Beverage.

After closing ceremonies, a group photo was taken and clean-up ensued. Thank you again to everyone that supports the Plymouth FFA Chapter.



MRS. WELCH'S ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE CLASS at Ontario High School completed the construction of 3-D sustainable cities as part of their Urban Development unit.



FIVE FCCLA STUDENTS from Ontario High School competed at regionals with their projects back in March and all qualified for state competition in Columbus on Thursday, April 24 and Friday, April 25. Isabella Deel and Aadilynne Kightlinger qualified with "Focus on Children" which recognizes participants who use Family and Consumer Sciences skills to plan and conduct a child development project that has a positive impact on children and the community. Eva Hadsell and Amelia McCoy qualified with "Repurpose and Redesign" recognizing participants who apply recycling and redesign skills learned in Family and Consumer Sciences courses and create a display using a sample of their skills. Participants select a used fashion, home or other post-consumer item to repurpose into a new product. Participants create a brand-new product, not simply embellish an old one. Kennedy Sapp qualified in "Event Management" which recognizes participants who apply skills used in Family and Consumer Sciences courses to plan an event for an educational institution, community or non-profit organization, business or government institution.

Arianna Morris earns Ohio Wesleyan Theory-to-Practice Grant

Arianna Morris of Mansfield has been awarded a spring 2025 Theory-to-Practice Grant from Ohio Wesleyan University. Part of the OWU Connection, the competitive, university-funded grants support research, internship, service and cultural-immersion opportunities.

Morris will complete a project titled "Japan: Fostering Global Connections, Cultural Engagement, and Community Building," submitted by Jun Kawabe, part-time lecturer of World Languages & Cultures – Japanese, in collaboration with juniors Ava JoÛson of Delaware, OH; Abigail Kidd of Delaware, OH; Musa Rehmatullah of Rawalpindi, Pakistan; and Holly Robinson of Olmsted Township, OH; and senior Maja Todorovic of Chicago.

The group will travel to Tokyo, Japan, in December, to engage in in-person dialogues without translators, share experiences through joint cultural activities, and potentially establish small-scale institutional learning exchanges between OWU students and local students in the coming years.

"My passion is for my students to gain lifelong skills through learning Japanese, contributing to their quality of life and career achievements," Kawabe said.

For the spring grant cycle, Ohio Wesleyan awarded grants totaling nearly \$88,000. Fully incorporated into the university's curriculum, the OWU Connection requires all students to complete at least one project that requires them to Think Big (complete undergraduate research), Do Good (participate in community-engaged learning, including student leadership), Go Global (complete off-campus study), or Get Real (explore their future careers through meaningful internships and externships).

After the students complete their OWU Connection experiences, they will prepare reports and presentations based on their objectives and experiences, with many presenting at the university's annual Spring Student Symposium.



THE ONTARIO PRE-K classes visited Gorman Nature Center recently. They visited with animal residents of the center.

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Intern helps Richland SWCD

By Richland SWCD Intern Kayla Mitchell

My marketing internship with the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD) was an incredible experience.

Throughout my internship, I had the opportunity to help with social media management, content creation and community outreach.

I assisted with marketing campaigns, designed promotional materials and helped create visual content used on social media as well as during community events.

The projects I assisted with not only helped strengthen my skills in digital marketing, branding and public relations, but it also deepened my knowledge of environmental conservation and its impact on the community. One of my favorite moments from my time with Richland SWCD was when I had the opportunity to work with everyone in person at the Soil Open House. It gave me the chance to see a lot of my work come to life, and seeing first-hand how marketing plays a role in raising awareness for conservation efforts was both rewarding and inspiring.

Overall, my experience with my internship has been instrumental in my professional growth, and I am very grateful to have contributed to the mission of Richland SWCD.

Note: Kayla is a student at Bowling Green State University where she is majoring in communication and minoring in journalism.

Richland SWCD is looking for a summer 2025 marketing intern. For more information contact Theresa Sutter at sutter.theresa@richlandswcd.net or call 419-747-8685.

FRIENDS of the Galion Public Library will hold spring sale

The semi-annual book sale of the FRIENDS of the Galion Public Library (FGPL) will be May 8, 9 and 10 in the community room at the library, 123 N. Market St.

Hours for the sale are Thursday, May 8 from 9:30 am to 8 pm; Friday, May 9 from 9:30 am to 5 pm; and Saturday, May 10 from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm.

FRIENDS members have special early shopping privileges on Wednesday, May 7 from 6 – 8 pm.

Books and other media are by donation and proceeds go to the operation of the library and its programs.

Denise Iden, president of the organization points out that “for years now, we have been able to help the library buy computers, children’s programs and even furniture that the library does not have the pockets to afford.”

This sale is the mainstay of our revenue, and it’s the support of Galion and the surrounding community that helps us by generously donating to this sale. Of course in turn, many find the perfect books to fill their summer reading!”

For more information call Denise Iden at 419-366-5740.

USDA ensures illegal aliens do not receive federal benefits

At the direction of U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services John Walk issued guidance to all state agencies directing them to enhance identity and immigration verification practices when determining eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This guidance is one of many steps toward fulfilling President Trump’s Executive Order 14218, which directs USDA and other federal agencies to “enhance eligibility verification systems, to the maximum extent possible, to ensure that taxpayer funded benefits exclude any ineligible alien.”

“President Trump has made it clear that American taxpayers will no longer subsidize illegal aliens,” said Secretary Rollins. “We are stewards of taxpayer dollars, and it is our duty to ensure states confirm the identity and verify the immigration status of SNAP applicants. USDA’s nutrition programs are intended to support the most vulnerable Americans. To allow those who broke our laws by entering the United States illegally to receive these benefits is outrageous.”

On Feb. 25, 2025, Secretary Rollins directed USDA-FNS to review the administration of SNAP benefits to make necessary changes to align with Executive Order 14128. As discussed in a recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, a staggering \$10.5 billion in improper SNAP payments were made in FY 2023 alone—about 12% of total SNAP payments that year. The inadequate verification of an applicant’s identity and citizenship by states is specifically highlighted as contributing to the improper payments of SNAP funds.

The guidance requires states to obtain more reliable documents to prove identity, take additional measures to deter fraudulent use of social security numbers, and better use the Department of Homeland Security’s Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system. Important to note that last week, Secretary Noem advised Governors that SAVE is now available to States for free, making it easier to verify immigration status. The guidance also encourages best practices including adoption of an identification proofing process and requiring more in-person interviews.

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.

Registering is free and will ensure participants have access to on-line fundraising and are eligible for incentive gifts. Registered participants who self-donate or raise \$100 or more will earn a t-shirt and those who raise \$1,000 or more will receive a lapel pin.

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.

Dayspring will host Hope Run

Dayspring will host the 6th Annual Hope Run 5K and 1 Mile Walk on Saturday, June 28.

The 5k and 1 mile will step-off at 10 am, beginning and ending at Dayspring, 3220 Olivesburg Rd., Mansfield. The course is cross-country with rolling hills and trails. The event will be held rain or shine unless there is extreme weather.

Cost is \$20 before June 2 and includes a guaranteed shirt. Race day registration begins at 9 am and remains \$20 but does not guarantee a shirt. Prizes will be awarded in every category.

An entry form can be found on the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/DayspringAssistedLivingCareFacility>.

Proceeds will benefit Friends of Dayspring in support of the next Dayspring Levy Campaign. For information call 419-565-3694 or email Rileyboy0907@gmail.com.



Coshocton offers visitors free activities and events

Coshocton, OH, an hour and a half drive southeast from Mansfield, offers free activities throughout the area.

For outdoor enthusiasts, a variety of options for adventure and relaxation are available year-round. Exploring the county's scenic water trails by canoe or kayak is a great way to get some exercise and fresh air, and may even offer a glimpse of the many Bald Eagles and Osprey that use the rivers to hunt for fish.

Visitors can explore the 18-hole Eagle Ridge Disc Golf Course, which is free and open year-round. It features multiple levels of play and obstacles. Walkers are welcome to explore the scenery and more than 11 miles of pathways throughout the course.

Geocaching is a free and fun way to see new sights. The Coshocton Ring Trail offers 45 caches hidden across the county, all of which are Lord of the Rings themed. Find and log caches by using navigational skills and solving puzzles. Record the secret words to complete the passport and earn a free collectible coin. Find out more at www.visitcoshocton.com/geotrail/.

Coshocton is also home to Clary Gardens, which is free and open daily from dawn to dusk. Its 20 scenic acres include trails, a rose garden, ponds, a children's garden and storybook trail, an outdoor amphitheater, a brand-new open-air event pavilion, and an adjacent water garden. Bring a picnic and find a spot to relax. Please note that throughout the summer and fall, the gardens close on Saturdays at 2 pm for weddings. Family events, including the Birds of Prey Falconry on June 3, are held regularly.

The shops and restaurants of Historic Roscoe Village are open year-round in a mid-1800s era neighborhood. Add a self-guided living history tour and visit interactive exhibits housed in the 1830s era buildings that once were the homes and shops of tradespeople and townspeople who lived there.

Be sure to include a visit to the nationally accredited Johnson-Humrickhouse Museum, which will feature "Pushing the Surface," and international Quilt Arts show beginning on May 7. The museum also features East Asian Art, Ohio history, and Prehistoric Art and artifacts. The Monticello III Horse-drawn Canal Boat Ride opens Saturday, May 24, and runs throughout the summer on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday afternoons.

The Coshocton Flint Festival & Knap-In is held annually on both Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends at the Coshocton County Fairgrounds. Talented artisans and collectors share their expertise through demonstrations in flint knapping to create arrowheads and spears. Browse unique vendors selling flint and related tools and discover the history and techniques behind this remarkable art form. The Coshocton Flint Festival & Knap-In, hosted by the Flint Ridge Knap-In Flint Ridge Lithic Society, is a perfect opportunity to connect with others who share a passion for archaeology and artistry.

Coshocton also hosts many events, concerts and festivals. Details for the Coshocton Hot Air Balloon Festival, Corvette Cruise In, Roscoe Village Block Party, Rock Coshocton Music Festival, Roscoe Food Truck Festival, Coshocton Dog Festival and the Summer Concert Series may be found at VisitCoshocton.com.

Request a free visitor packet at VisitCoshocton.com.



THE STINGEL KINDNESS CLUB at Ontario picked up trash for Earth day.

OHSAA announces cross country divisions and contract with Obetz

With cross country expanding to four divisions this fall, the Ohio High School Athletic Association has announced the new divisional breakdowns, along with a new three-year contract with Fortress Obetz and Memorial Park to host three OHSAA cross country events each fall.

Since 2020, the OHSAA has annually held three cross country events at Fortress Obetz and Memorial Park in Southeast Columbus, including the early season invitational in mid-August, the seventh-eighth grade invitational in mid-October and the high school cross country state championships on the first Saturday in November. The contract extension with Obetz is for the 2025, 2026 and 2027 seasons.

"Obetz has been such a great host for our three cross country events," said Doug Ute, OHSAA Executive Director. "The stadium and park have proven to be a fantastic venue for our student-athletes to compete. We appreciate all the work that goes into all three events and are excited to be there for the next three years."

As announced in January, the OHSAA will expand cross country from three to four divisions this fall. The breakdowns for the new four-division format were approved by the OHSAA Board of Directors at its April meeting on Thursday. The 2025 divisional breakdowns are posted at <https://www.ohsaa.org/Sports-Tournaments/Cross-Country/2025-Cross-Country>.

Locally, teams from Mansfield Christian, Plymouth, Crestline and Crestview move from Division III to Division IV.

Event dates include early season invitational at Obetz, Aug. 16; seventh-eighth grade invitational at Obetz, Oct. 19; district tournaments, Oct. 18; regional tournaments, Oct. 25; and state championships at Obetz, Nov. 1.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MANSFIELD SENIOR VS CRESTLINE VARSITY BASEBALL · APRIL 23
TYGERS WIN 3-0 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS · APRIL 23 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



LOOKING BACK • THIS WEEK IN TRIBUNE-COURIER HISTORY



May 11, '90

Marc Stumbo

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH have been chosen recently at Eastview Elementary School. Pictured are (front) Holli Hershner, Doug Klein, Ryan Ginter, Josh Glorioso, Michael DeVenny, Michael Wiles, Jeremy Prosser, (middle) Tonya See, Markeeta Lloyd, Alexis Hieatt, Anne McDaniel, Cindy Scott, Ryan Nelson, Peter Jun, Donald Morr, (back) Joshua Owens, Heather Blaising, Megan Hamm, Natalie Rader, Crista Stinehour, Shaan Woodruff, Heather Kasper and Lesley Mann. Not pictured is Candice Uzunoff.

May 8, '80



SPEAKERS FOR THE MAY 1 MEETING of Lexington Kiwanis Club were Madeline Scott and Greg Frankenfield from the Ohio State Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation. They are shown here at the meeting pictured with the Lexington club's president, Curt Oberrath.

This Day in History — May 8, 1886: The first-ever Coca-Cola is served at Jacob's Pharmacy in Atlanta, Georgia as a health tonic, originally laced with coca leaf extract. It sells slowly at first — about nine glasses a day — but soon becomes the pick-me-up of choice. Coca-Cola was invented by Dr. John Stith Pemberton, a local pharmacist. Thinking that “the two Cs would look well in advertising,” Dr. Pemberton’s partner and bookkeeper, Frank M. Robinson, suggested the name and penned the now famous trademark “Coca-Cola” in his unique script. The first newspaper ad for Coca-Cola soon appeared in *The Atlanta Journal*, inviting thirsty citizens to try “the new and popular soda fountain drink.” Hand-painted oilcloth signs reading “Coca-Cola” appeared on store awnings, with the suggestion “Drink” added to inform passersby that the new beverage was for soda fountain refreshment. It was one of the first brands to devise a modern way of bottling its product. Coca-Cola introduced the six-pack in 1923 to facilitate carrying multiple bottles at once. Coca-Cola was the first soft drink in space in 1985 and was the first company to become an Olympic sponsor.

Mansfield Symphony Youth Orchestra, Youth Strings to Present combined concert

Area youth who make up the Mansfield Symphony Youth Orchestra (MSYO) and Mansfield Symphony Youth Strings (MSYS) will perform a combined spring concert at the Renaissance Theatre under the direction of Stephen Domka (MSYO) and Alora Eyerly (MSYS) on Sunday, May 18, at 3:30 pm.

Two MSYO Seniors will be featured as soloists with the orchestra. Logan Bartlett (viola) will perform *Concerto* by Cecil Forsyth. Bartlett is a senior at Lexington High School. Adam Policz (trumpet) will perform Haydn's *Trumpet Concerto*. Policz is a senior at Ashland High School.

MSYO members are primarily in high school and the MSYS is composed of string musicians in middle and junior high school.

A vital part of the Mansfield Symphony's Education initiative, the MYSO gives high school students an additional opportunity for musical growth by rehearsing and performing with other student musicians from the area, particularly if their high school is unable to offer a full orchestra experience.

By participating in the MSYO program, students get the chance to perform a wide variety of fine orchestral music within a full symphony orchestra. Respectively, the MSYS gives middle and junior high school students a similar opportunity to rehearse and perform with fellow student musicians, allowing them the chance to perform a wide variety of music.

Tickets are available at the Renaissance Box Office, by calling 419-522-2726, and online at rentickets.org. Adult tickets are \$10 while student tickets are \$5. Mansfield Symphony Youth Orchestra performances are presented as part of the Mechanics Bank Education Series with additional support from the Russell and Mary Gimbel Foundation.

This season's Mansfield Symphony Youth Orchestra includes flute, Madeline Saltzgeber, Rachel Hassinger, Shaylee Oakball and Debra Primm; oboe, Eliana Fittante and Julianna Boliantz; clarinet, Kaitlyn Lendman and Blake Gregory; horn, Maja Seibel and Emily Bogner; trumpet, Adam Policz, Katie Schultz, Chris Pickard and Chris Manley; trombone, Chayton Winters and Parker Brown; tuba, Cameron Fullen and Daulton Mangas; percussion, Grace YeicÜer, Carter Anderson-Tharpe, Addison Cyrus and Yanna Obringer; violin I, Iris Prifti, Owen Garver, Emma Tingley, Andrew Hooper, Willow Roberts; violin II, Randy Domka, David Winans, Jenna Halfhill, Elliott Christie, Piper Wallace, Gage Devaney, Ariel Liu, Genevieve Tommelleo and Sophia Layman; viola, Logan Bartlett, Chidalu Ezike, Alexis Foster, Celine Bradley, Ben Wiltanger, Annie, Hostettler, Sylvia Secrist, Natalie Badnell, Roland Bruce, Deacon Barrow; cello, Elyssa Van Langevelde, Eliada McFadden, Melody Smith, Collin Kitzler, Finn Devaney and Ava Worcester; and bass, Kolton Clever, Charles Jimenez and Toby Newland.

The 2024-'25 Mansfield Symphony Youth Strings group members are violin I, Ezra Anderson, Kiera Lynch, Eliana Selvage, Odin Sombrio, Gabriella Van Langevelde and Rian Walker; violin II, Simon Domka, Madeline Erlenbach, Eva Galuzny, Mallory Gilbert, Atticus Gray, Cacie Norton, Jacoby Rapp and Aiden Schmitt; viola, Olivia Casto, Sydney Miley, Layvin Padisak and Charlize Plogstead; cello, Gabriel McFadden, Harrison Rice, Jonah Wilson and Layla Wehr; and bass David Secrist.

Breakfast will benefit FFA and 4-H members

The Crestview Buyer's Club will have a pancake breakfast Saturday, May 10, from 6:30-10:30 am at Savannah Town Hall, 12 S. Main St., Savannah.

All proceeds will benefit the Crestview Area Buyers Club and community youth.

The Crestview Area Buyers Club is a group formed to support the Crestview youth exhibiting at the Richland and Ashland County Fairs.

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/427074275921320> for information on events and how to donate.



ONTARIO'S SCIENCE CLUB tested the effectiveness and water solubility of different formulations and SPFs of sunscreens. Students used a black light with a UV index of 19 and a UV meter.

Parks will host ribbon cuttings

New amenities will open at both Seneca and Tappan Lake Parks this Memorial Day Weekend.

The grand opening of the new splash pad, storybook trail and activity zone at Seneca Lake Park's swim beach area will be held Friday, May 23 at 1 pm at Seneca Lake Park, 22172 Park Rd., Seneca. The event will include a ribbon cutting ceremony, ranger-led storybook trail walk, pickleball demonstration, OuterSpatial trails app sign-up and raffle, free books for the first 100 attendees and a visit from the Guernsey County Library bookmobile.

A Tappan Lake Park ribbon cutting ceremony will be held for a bike pump track and activity zone. A grand opening will be held near the Welcome Center at Tappan Lake Park Saturday, May 24 at 10 am at 84000 Mallarnee Rd., Deersville. The event will include a pump track demonstration, bike helmet giveaway and safety talk, pickleball demonstration and OuterSpatial trails app sign-up & raffle.





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