



TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com

05.15.25



AMONG THOSE ATTENDING the National Day of Prayer Parade on May 1 were Hannah and Pam Hargett, Connie Taylor and Reagann and Josiah Taylor. *(More photos on Page 8)*



Mansfield community gathers for National Day of Prayer

Photos and Article By Traci Little

A spirit of unity, prayer and purpose filled the streets and hearts of Mansfield on Thursday evening, May 1, as community members gathered for the annual National Day of Prayer.

Hosted at the gazebo in Central Park, the event ran from 7–8 pm, and was preceded by a lively “Pray Parade,” which began at the five-way light at Marion Avenue and Park Avenue West at 6:30 pm.

This year’s theme centered around praying for leadership, healing and guidance in every area of public and private life. The event invited participation from elected officials across Mansfield, Ontario, Shelby, Lexington, Bellville and the broader Richland County region.

The parade kicked-off with bagpipes from the Mansfield Royal Scots Highlander led by Harvey McGowan and continued with worship music by Jeremy Shrimplin and the Potters House Worship Team at the gazebo.

MC Scott Sanders of The River Radio led the ceremony, guiding the crowd through an evening of prayerful reflection and musical celebration. Notable local figures including City of Mansfield Mayor Jodie Perry and Richland Commissioner Tony Vero offered proclamations, followed by a series of topic-specific prayers led by area pastors and chaplains.

Pastor Larry Rawls led a collective prayer for local leaders, followed by Pastor Paul Lintern who prayed for national and federal government officials. Pastor Link Briggs lifted up the military, first responders and healthcare workers.

Pastor Aaron Rose called for revival in churches and among clergy. Overseer Renea Collins prayed for those affected by addiction, mental health challenges and family needs.

Chaplain Dave Matos focused on prayer for youth ministries and community outreach and Pastor Jessica Wilging prayed over educational institutions and students.

The evening concluded with Rev. El Akuchie reading Romans 15:13 and delivering the benediction, followed by an extended time of praise, music and individual prayers.

This year’s gathering exemplified the strength and unity of the Richland County community, with a strong message of hope, faith and collective purpose. Organizers Rev. El Akuchie, Pastor Paul Lintern and Amanda Nichols expressed gratitude to all who participated and extended an open invitation for continued involvement in local faith-based initiatives.

Lexington safety corridor project set to begin this summer

The Village of Lexington Council met April 21 with Mayor Jarvis presiding. Attending were council president Wynn Kearns, Keith Bacin, Michael Benson, Rodney Earick, Kim Little, Jeff O’Brien and Todd Wise, as well as law director John Studenmund, administrator Peter Them and Chief Troy Weaver.

Mayor Jarvis read a Proclamation acknowledging April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Administrator Them said the month of March has been balanced

Seven new flags will be presented at Avenue of Flags Ceremony on May 25

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9943 Auxiliary and Mansfield Memorial Park will hold the 54th Annual Avenue of Flags Ceremony Sunday, May 25, at 1 pm at Mansfield Memorial Park, 2507 Park Avenue West, Ontario.

Over 200 flags, donated in the past by families of deceased veterans interred at the park, will be up throughout the park. Seven new flags will be presented during the ceremony.

and a posting error of ten cents was noted. Monies spent in the first quarter were accounted for at the beginning of 2025.

Brennstuhl Construction had the lowest bid for the 2025 street resurfacing project. Council is currently checking bid documents.

Councilman Little asked for sign removals that are in the right-of-way in front of the fire department. Little also noted several lawn services signs were in the right-of-way. He said the grass at the former Buck’s building and Rite-Aid are in need of mowing.

Bacin asked if Buck’s building is in disrepair due to vandalism or deterioration. Them reported it is from age deterioration.

As reported by Mayor Bob Jarvi, the safety corridor project is set to begin mid-summer and be completed by late fall. Councilman Little said it may be wise to tell Mid-Ohio Speedway of the proposed upgrade so they can open a third entry to avoid traffic jams.

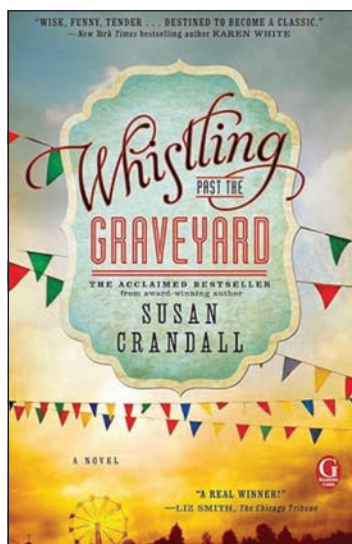
Chief Weaver reported the police department is working on several complaints regarding many motorized pocket (mini) bikes on the road. He also noted there was a surge of criminal activity. This is common when warm weather moves in.

An ordinance was approved providing for permanent budget
(Continued on Page 6)

LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review
By Mandy Belczak Gurney



Whistling Past the Graveyard by Susan Crandall is a cross between *The Secret Life of Bees* and *Bud, not Buddy*, this historical fiction story was a page turner.

The story is told from the perspective of a young child who is running away from home to find her mother. While walking on the road at night, a black woman picks her up. What unfolds is a journey of surprises, tragedies and triumphs.

It's a coming of age story and an odyssey set in southern states during the civil rights movement. It's a story about family, those we are born with and those we choose to keep.

Though a strange start, I quick-

ly came to love these characters and the unique perspective you get when hearing about the civil rights movement through the eyes of a white child.

My rating: ★★★★★

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

NAMIWalks event coming May 31

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 online 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.

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THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —



Thunderbolts seems to have gotten the long running Marvel series back on track. Featuring a rag tag group of wannabe superheroes, this movie works because of the talents of the cast and the genuine humor and emotional moments it provides to the audience.

Florence Pugh stars as Yelena, a Black Widow agent who was introduced in that movie. Yelena is working odd tasks for CIA director Valentina de Fontaine (Julia Louis-Dreyfus).

After being asked to destroy documents in a far away storage facility, Yelena encounters an interesting group of heroes including John Walker (Wyatt Russell), Taskmaster (Olga Kurylenko) and a mysterious guy named Bob (Lewis Pullman) who may be more powerful than they imagine.

Along with David Harbour's hilarious Red Guardian and Sebastian Stan back as Bucky Barnes, they encounter people and events that challenge everything they thought they knew.

Without giving too much away, this is one of the more solid and consistent entries in the Marvel series. The humor works so well between these characters because they all are there to

achieve a common goal. One of the most entertaining sequences comes when Red Guardian picks up the team in his delivery vehicle as they are being chased down by armored tanks.

As the movie progresses and more about Bob's character is revealed there is an emotional tug the movie pulls as these characters must confront their pasts.

Their comradery brings them together for a satisfying conclusion as the movie sets up the audience for *Fantastic Four: First Steps* out this summer.

Thunderbolts is so much fun because of the actors they brought together, and the writing is sharp and engaging as there are several laugh out loud moments. Harbour provides some of the biggest laughs and is not as over the top as he could have been with this character.

After reading that people have stepped away from Marvel (in some ways understandably) in recent years, this may be the very movie to bring them back in as it sets a blueprint for what is to come.

★★★★★

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 Mall (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 at www.facebook.com/aaa5ohio.

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Tribune-Courier



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

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News Briefs

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.

★
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 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.

★
All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Bellville, 25 Church St., Bellville, will host speaker Anthony Brown on Sunday, May 18, at 10:30 pm. The subject will be "The Heart of the Matter: Restoring Dignity to Our Homeless Neighbors."

For more information visit www.allsoulsuohio.org.

★
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.

★
Madison Local Schools will be accepting open enrollment applications from May 1 through May 31 for the 2025–'26 school year.

If a student is considering open enrolling to Madison Local Schools, applications must be turned in by May 31 to be considered for approval for the upcoming school year.

For more information visit www.mlsd.net or contact the board of education office from 8 am to 4 pm, Monday–Friday at 419-589-2600 ext. 65005.

★
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 recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, May 24 and 25. 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.

★
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.

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State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL

State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX

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

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

G & M Body & Paint Shop

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

Wappner Funeral Home

Mansfield • Ontario • Ashland • 419-522-5211

Lexington Church of Christ

230 Delaware Ave., Lexington

419-884-1532 • www.lccoh.com

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 9 am to 1 pm

AA Meetings M & F 10 am & noon;

Wed. noon Brown Bag and Sat. 6 pm

Clothing Ministry by appt: 419-512-9817

Southside Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

2055 Middle-Bellville Rd., Mansfield

419-756-3436

Pastor Paul Lintern

10:45 am Sunday Worship

Trinity Grace Fellowship

1592 Grace St., Mansfield

419-589-5890 • trinitygracefellowship.org

Pastor Larry Carnes

9:30 am Sunday Worship • 11 am Sunday School

Bible Study Mondays 2 pm

Community Dumpster Day returns May 17

The North End Community Improvement Collaborative (NECIC) and the Richland County Land Bank will bring back Community Dumpster Day on Saturday, May 17, from 9 am to 1 pm at the NECIC Community Outreach Center, 486 Springmill St., Mansfield.

Community Dumpster Day offers a free opportunity for residents of Mansfield and Richland County to dispose of household junk and unwanted debris responsibly and to keep garbage off the streets.

This event is open to all residents of Mansfield and Richland County, not just the North End.

Community members are encouraged to spread the word. The event is free of charge, monetary donations will be accepted to support NECIC's mission.

Prohibited items include tires, batteries, chemicals, explosive or flammable materials, large appliances (refrigerators, stoves, freezers), metal, liquid/liquid waste and drums and tanks.

Those with questions about what they can or cannot bring, can call NECIC at 419-522-1611.

Firelands Symphony Concert is May 24

The Firelands Symphony Orchestra (FSO), under the direction of Maestro Carl Topilow, presents the 2024-'25 season finale concert, "Made in America," on Saturday, May 24, 2025 at 7:30 pm at Sawmill Creek Convention Center.

The performance will be a program of all American composers in celebration of Memorial Day. Highlights include *A Festival Overture on the Star Spangled Banner* (Dudley Buck), *The Patriot* (John Williams), *American Fantasy Prelude* (Anthony DiLorenzo), *Mysterious Mountain* (Alan Hovhaness) and *Cuban Overture* (George Gershwin).

Acclaimed violinist Andrés Cárdenes will join the orchestra to perform Samuel Barber's Violin Concerto.

Tickets are \$35 for general admission and \$5 for students with a student ID. Seating is general admission, and tickets can be purchased at firelandssymphony.com or at 419-621-4800.

Local film, "The Final Contestant," picked up by Amazon Prime

Mansfield film company, Heart of Ohio Films, announces that the full-feature film, *The Final Contestant*, has been picked up by Amazon Prime. The movie, written by Kelby King of Mansfield, is a family-friendly film that follows three individuals who are each victimized by bullying, and who eventually find the strength to overcome. Prime Video, along with Fawcett TV, are the first two streaming platforms to pick up the film.

"We are excited to see the film begin to hit streaming platforms," states Kelby King, Co-Owner of Heart of Ohio Films. "We began working on this film a few years ago with the sole intent of drawing attention to the challenging issue of bullying, especially in schools."

The film currently holds a high rating of 9.3/10 on IMDb. IMDb is a comprehensive resource and trusted source for movies, TV shows, and other entertainment content and provides a vast database of cast and crew details, plot summaries, user and critic reviews, ratings, and more. "We know this rating will fluctuate, however, it's reassuring to know that people out the gate find the film both favorable and relatable," states King.

The film features local and professional actors who bring the story to life. American former professional boxer, Buster Douglas, also made a brief appearance in the film. The three main leads, all from Ohio, are Angela K. Baker of Gates Mills, Breckelle Miller of Mansfield and Melakyi Joseph of Columbus.

"We attracted the interest of actors from Los Angeles to Pennsylvania for this film, which surprised us," states Kimberly Miller, Co-Owner of Heart of Ohio Films. "We weren't sure how the actors would feel about playing a bully, and to be honest, it bothered several of them. By the end of filming, however, they expressed gratitude for being able to participate in something so impactful. We couldn't have told this story without them."

The Final Contestant was directed and produced by Little Chicago Pictures out of Louisville, Kentucky, an award-winning film and video production company. Heart of Ohio Films has recently connected with a movie and book distributor in West Virginia who is working closely with other streaming platforms. "We are hopeful that more platforms will pick the movie up," states Miller.

King spoke of the local film industry. "The interest in film, especially in Mansfield, is growing. I think it's great that films coming out of little ole Mansfield have made their way to bigger streaming platforms," comments King. "The more this particular movie is available and streamed, the more impact we feel it can make. If it helps one person victimized by bullying, then it's all been worth it."

Heart of Ohio Films plans to make the movie available to schools. Several local schools, as well as schools in the Columbus area, have expressed interest. Crestline Exempted Village School District, one of the main filming locations for the movie, has made it accessible for students. "Some of our teachers at Crestline have played the movie in their classrooms," states James Saxer, Crestline Schools Superintendent. "Our students loved the message of the film, and I believe it had a very positive impact. It made them stop and think. It was great to have some of our students and staff featured in the film."

Heart of Ohio Films hopes to have a local screening this summer.



Memorial Arrangements

Sheryl Ann Harriman

Sheryl Ann Harriman, 75 of Mansfield, Ohio passed peacefully on Monday, May 5, 2025, at home following an extended illness.

She was born on Oct. 15, 1949 in Covington, Kentucky. The oldest daughter of the late James and Drucilla Hale. On Dec. 14, 1968 she married Howard J. Harriman at the Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Lucas, OH. Together they shared 56 years.

Survivors include her husband Howard J. Harriman; children Laura and Matt Weyant, Matt and Carrie Harriman; grandchildren Kurt Weyant, Nate and Sam Weyant, Rachel Weyant, Madeline Harriman, Kiley Harriman and Jerod Fulmer, Savanna Harriman, Logan Harriman, Hayden Harriman, Ashley Beard, Austin and Megan Turner, Amber and Curtis Strong; several great grandchildren; sister Teresia and Gary McKenna and brother Jody Hale.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Drucilla, two sisters, Pam and Charlotte, and brother, Jay.

Sheryl enjoyed spending time with family, loved crafting and shopping. Sheryl was a devoted wife, mother, sister, aunt, and grandmother.

The family would like to thank Avita Hospice for their services. All of the family and friends that went to the house to visit and care for Sheryl. We would also like to thank Ohio Cremation and Memorial Society for their services.

Memorial contributions can be made to Howard Harriman at 2765 Springmill West Rd., Mansfield, OH 44903.

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Ha'Santa Kashmir Moore, April 22
Joyce Ann Queer, April 26
Dustin Sherwood Adkins, April 27
Doris Marie Maddox, April 28
Raymond Lee Milum, April 28
Robert Leroy Mitchell, April 28
Victor Junior Hines, April 29
John Matthew Pirman, April 29
Adrian DeLeon, April 30
Frances Jane Smith, April 30
Patricia M. Strine, May 1
David Leon Keith, May 4
Willard Jay McBride, May 4
Minnie Pearl Hunt, May 5
Arlene Susan Fliger, May 6

View Full Obituaries at www.dignitymemorial.com

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richlandcountyfoundation.org



•Safety corridor project set to begin this summer

(Continued from Front Page)

amendments and appropriations for April for parks, administration, general fund, streets, C, M, & R, senior center sewer and water funds.

An ordinance was approved adjusting village water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer rates effective May 1, 2025, and Jan. 1, 2028, and to provide billing on a monthly basis.

Councilman Earick asked if there was anything new regarding the skate park. Mayor Jarvis reported that no new information has been received, only that Mr. Price is currently working on some strong points for fundraising.

Councilman Bacin asked about tougher penalties regarding work done by residents without proper permits. The example given concerned issuing driveway permits.

Attorney Studenmund said the issue is a civil matter. He stated that village officials can act, demanding the driveway be removed due to failure in obtaining a permit. But, as Studenmund warned, it is a costly procedure.

There was a discussion held regarding costs and monies. The planning commission is currently reviewing requirements for all permits and will be told of council's concern.

Many compliments have been heard regarding the new grass meadow on the north-east corner of the square.

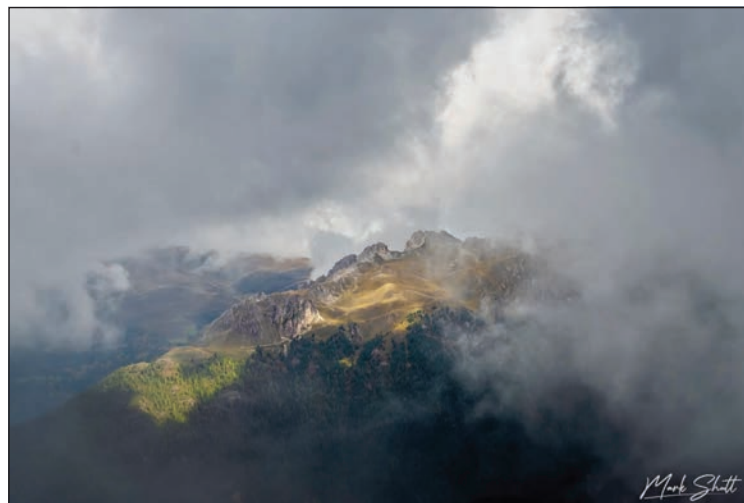


WITH GUIDANCE provided by Mrs. Lana Garberich and Mrs. Julie Buker, several Ontario Middle School staff members received painting Instructions (with lots of positive reinforcement) to create floral designs in less than an hour.



Photo by Damon Callis

Day Trippin' With Damon – The Topiary Park in Columbus is a seven-acre park that recreates the scene depicted in Georges Seurat's famous painting *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*. The Topiary Garden, begun in 1989 was conceived, designed and executed by Columbus sculptor James T. Mason.



Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy • Photo By Mark Shutt

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.

Mansfield's National Day of Prayer



Photos By Traci Little

LUNCH AND LEARN – OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY!



Caring & Navigating Alzheimers

MAY 22 - 2:00 PM

Lunch and refreshments provided.
Kindly RSVP by 5/15/2025
Call Jessica at 419.289.3859

Kingston of Ashland (cafe)
20 Amberwood Pkwy

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Energy policy headed to governor

The Ohio Senate unanimously passed House Bill 15, based in large part upon previous legislation (Senate Bill 2) also supported by Senator Mark Romanchuk (R-Ontario) and designed to become a new 21st Century power policy that would produce reliable and affordable energy for the whole state.

“Updating Ohio’s energy policy for the modern age establishes our state as a strong and reliable energy partner for years to come,” said Senator Romanchuk. “Eliminating riders placed on consumers while increasing power generation allows us to attract leading industries to our state. In passing this legislation, Ohio is placed in the best possible position for affordable and reliable energy generation.”

The House legislation places the focus on projects that generate baseload power, which is the demand needed to power homes, businesses, and industry across the state every day. Additionally, the bill promotes “behind the meter” generation where industries generate their own power and reduce stress on the electric grid.

House Bill 15 keeps intact three major provisions from Senate Bill 2 that are essential to promoting new energy generation:

It incentivizes new baseload generation projects by reducing the tangible personal property tax (TPP) on new electricity generation projects and the infrastructure associated with those projects by 67% starting in Tax Year 2027.

The bill also provides additional accountability to consumers by repealing Electric Security Plans (ESPs), also known as “riders.” This has been a way to charge consumers more without necessarily making the case for why an energy company needed additional funds. The ESPs will be replaced by a fundamental change in the way rates are set. The utility company will be required to fully disclose its financials to the Public Utility Commission every three years before a rate increase would be approved. Utilities will be allowed to continue investing in grid reliability by forecasting expenses for the intervening period but would be required to true up to actual expenses.

HB 15 also repeals all rate payer subsidies for power generation, among other worthwhile provisions.

The bill now heads to Governor DeWine for his signature.



SECOND GRADE STUDENTS at Ontario have been researching animals and creating their first slide shows with all the information they learned. Their teacher, Tonya Winningham, was awarded a TAP grant through the Richland County Foundation and the books they used to research were purchased through the grant. Superintendent Strickler made a slide show to teach the students about owls and share a recent owl encounter he had at his home.



ONTARIO MIDDLE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP STUDENTS provided staff members with a snack cart full of goodies just in time for Staff Appreciation Week.

Mental Health Month recognized with events throughout May

Richland County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board is celebrating this year’s Mental Health Month with the theme, “Turn Awareness into Action.” This theme focuses on bringing awareness to services and providers that are part of Richland Recovery Network. Richland Recovery Network is comprised of several community partners including CACY (Community Partners include Community Action for Capable Youth), Catalyst Life Services, Family Life Counseling, Richland County NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), Mansfield UMADAOP (Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program), Healing Hearts, Ohio Health Psychiatric Services, Akron Children’s Hospital Behavioral Health Center, Richland County Community Alternative Center, Hope 419, 33 Forever, Third Street Family Health Services, Starfish Project, Richland County Youth and Family Council and Project One.

Events continue with:

May 1–31, CACY is distributing free Deterra medication deactivation pouches to properly dispose of unwanted/expired prescription and over-the-counter medications. For packets call 419-774-5683. CACY will also host and facilitate a “Grow Through What You Go Through” lunchtime interactive wall display activity at participating Richland County schools. Students and school staff will write words of affirmation, motivational notes and self-care ideas to be displayed as wall art.

May 17, 11:33 am, 33 Forever will host the 5th Annual 33 Forever Mental Health Birthday Walk which will begin and end at the Richland Carousel. The event includes a 3.33 km (2 mile) family-friendly walk, carousel rides, a balloon artist and an interactive reptile exhibit. Check-in begins at 10:33 am. A \$33 registration fee will be collected from individual walkers and a \$66 fee for each family of walkers. To register visit <https://33forever.life/>.

May 24, 2–4 pm, NAMI will host ‘In Our Own Voice’ at the Connection Space, 879 Park Avenue West, Mansfield. The event is free and is an interactive presentation where Brandon and Laura, two adults living with mental health conditions share their stories and answer audience questions about mental illness. Brandon is also a suicide attempt survivor with a story offering hope and inspiration. For more information, NAMI can be reached by calling 419-522-6264.

May 31, 8 am to 12:30 pm, NAMI Richland County will host the NAMI-Walks event at Marshall Park Ontario. The event will feature a 1-mile walk as well as 5K Race with the goal of raising awareness about mental health and local resources available in the community. There will be food trucks, a DJ, balloon animals, face painting, yard game and more.

May 31, noon to 4 pm, Healing Hearts Counseling Center, in collaboration with Healing Hearts Foundation of Ohio at the 5th Annual Party in the Park. Featuring food, games, kids activities and fun for all ages, the event will be held at South Park, 100 Brinkerhoff Ave., Mansfield. A rain date is scheduled for June 7..

For more information visit www.richlandmentalhealth.com.

Mock Crash docu-drama delivers powerful warning

Photos and Article By Traci Little

As prom and graduation season draws near, Richland County takes a powerful and emotional stand to educate teens on the devastating consequences of distracted and impaired driving.

On Tuesday, May 7, the Richland County 4-H Youth Safety Council, in collaboration with local emergency services and community organizations, presented the 31st annual Mock Crash Docu-Drama and mock funeral at the Richland County Fairgrounds to Clear Fork students.

This impactful event is designed to make teens think twice before getting behind the wheel. Spring is a particularly high-risk season for young drivers, and this sobering simulation brings the dangers to life in a way statistics alone cannot.

Motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of death for youth ages 16–20. The dramatization recreated the tragic aftermath of a fatal crash caused by distractions and impaired driving. Elements like texting, speeding, not wearing seatbelts, and the use of alcohol or marijuana are all woven into the storyline — demonstrating how a single night of celebration can turn into a lifetime of loss.

Local high school and college students portrayed victims, drivers, and grieving family members to show the ripple effects of a deadly crash. The 2025 cast featured Carter King (Clear Fork HS Senior), Kassie Kleman (Shelby HS Junior), Logan Hoffmann (Madison HS Senior), Sofi Johnson (OSU ATI Freshman), and Lexy Pace (Lexington HS Senior), with Maurice King III playing the father of the fatality.

This life-changing program is made possible through the support of numerous community partners, including Fenix Ambulance, Mansfield Fire Department and Rescue, Ohio Department of Public Safety, Ohio State Highway Patrol (Mansfield Post), OSU Extension (Richland County), Richland County Agricultural Society, Board of Commissioners, 4-H Program, 4-H Youth Safety Council, Coroner's Office, Sheriff's Office, Richland County Safety Council, Shelley Smith & Son Towing and Wappner Funeral Directors.

Under the leadership of Dr. Judy Villard Overocker of OSU Extension, who serves as the event's director and producer, the program continues to grow in its impact, thanks to a dedicated team of staff and volunteers.

By vividly portraying the consequences of risky driving behaviors, the Mock Crash Docu-Drama delivers an unforgettable message: one poor decision behind the wheel can shatter lives in an instant.





PIONEER CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER held its annual Community Service Day on Friday, April 25. More than 850 students lent a helping hand in their local communities. Students took part in a wide variety of service projects across 60 different site locations throughout the local area. From cleaning and landscaping to organizing, painting and tackling other important tasks, students spent the day making a difference throughout the community — supporting schools, parks, nonprofit organizations and local businesses.



Buckeye pride shines at OSU Mansfield graduation

Photos and Article By Traci Little

The Ohio State University at Mansfield celebrated its Class of 2025 in a heartfelt graduation ceremony that honored the accomplishments and futures of its newest Buckeye graduates on May 1. The celebration, held in advance of the university-wide commencement at Ohio Stadium, reflected the spirit and dedication of a campus community devoted to academic excellence and personal growth.

The program opened with a musical prelude by Professor Emeritus Thomas Gregory, PhD, whose performance set an inspiring tone for the event. Following the procession of graduates, Dean and Director Jason Cipal, PhD, warmly welcomed attendees, acknowledging the support of families, friends, faculty, and staff in the graduates' journeys.

A highlight of the ceremony was a keynote address by Kris Knapp, MEd, Mayor of the City of Ontario. Mayor Knapp's words resonated with both hope and practical wisdom, encouraging graduates to serve their communities with the same determination that led them to this milestone. He also shared a vulnerable moment about when, just a year into his marriage, his house burned down. Some of the best advice he received during that time was from his wife's grandfather reminding him that even amidst this great loss, "No one can take away your education and your experiences."

"Graduates, you have already made a difference. Your persistence has brought you here today. Your degree is something no one can ever take from you. Embrace this moment. Be present. Know that life will come at you in many unexpected ways—but your path is yours to follow. Remember, we get to learn. We get to graduate. We get to grow. We get to serve. We get to lead. We get to live the life that matters!" said Knapp.

Graduates were individually recognized by OSU Mansfield faculty and staff across several disciplines, including Business, Criminology, Education, Engineering Technology, English, History, and Social

Work. The ceremony also honored those receiving Associate of Arts degrees, celebrating a broad spectrum of academic achievement.

In a stirring musical tribute to tradition, graduates and guests joined in singing Carmen Ohio, Ohio State's alma mater, led by Jamie Stima and accompanied by Dr. Gregory. The familiar lyrics, "Time and change will surely show / How firm thy friendship, OHIO!" served as a poignant reminder of the enduring Buckeye bond.

The celebration concluded with a recessional and reception, allowing graduates to gather with loved ones and faculty for photos and farewells. Commencement exercises for all Ohio State graduates will take place at noon in Ohio Stadium, cementing the transition from students to alumni.

As noted in the program, "You are helping these graduates realize their goals" — a fitting tribute to the collective effort that defines the Buckeye spirit.

Special thanks were extended to student, staff, and faculty volunteers, as well as Black Bird Bakery and B.L. Bishop Photography for contributing to the day's success.





Doc Stumbo with Richland County Democratic Party Executive Committee Chair Larry Weirich



Phil Scott Family

Awards given at legacy dinner

By Chair Larry Weirich

A crowd of over 250 democrats, independents and republicans were on hand Saturday evening April 26, at the Joseph H. Mudra Legacy Dinner to hear a speech by Dr. Amy Acton, candidate for governor of Ohio. Dr. Acton was introduced by 6th District State Representative and Mansfield native Christine Cockley.

Dr. Acton gave a message of aspiration to bring a positive atmosphere back to the great State of Ohio.

In addition to Dr. Acton's inspiring words, Chairman Larry Weirich and Emcee Judge Phil Naumoff stressed that the Legacy of former party Chairman Joseph H. Mudra would continue by promoting the party's basic principles and community service.

Chairman Weirich presented awards to four deserving volunteers. Dorinda Strang received the Democrat of the Year for 2024. Gerald Vega was the recipient of the 2024 Emily Campbell Brown Young Dem of the Year Award. Phil Scott was honored with the John J. Rinehardt Lifetime Achievement Award. Rush "Doc" Stumbo was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his many years of Community Service.



News Briefs in Education

Twelve cadets from Slippery Rock University's U.S. Army ROTC program were recognized for their commissioning as officers with the rank of second lieutenant. They were officially commissioned and took their oaths at a private ceremony on campus, May 9, before a public oath reading at SRU's commencement ceremonies, May 10, when they graduated and received their bachelor's degrees.

Among those recognized was Pamela Manning, a criminology and criminal justice major and a Lexington High School graduate, will serve as a Signal Corps officer, detailed to Field Artillery, on active duty.

Slippery Rock University is located in western Pennsylvania and is a four-year, public, coeducational, regional comprehensive university that offers a broad array of undergraduate and select graduate programs to more than 8,000 students.

★

Cooper Christie of Mansfield presented original academic work April 17 at Ohio Wesleyan University's 2025 Spring Student Symposium.

Matthew Leibold and Cooper Christie presented "Block By Block: The Building of Procedural Terrain Generation," mentored by faculty member Sean McCulloch.

The annual symposium is designed to highlight the breadth, depth, and quality of work produced by Ohio Wesleyan students in their classes and through mentored research, performances and other projects. Learn more about the symposium at www.owu.edu/studentsymposium.

★

In recognition of academic performance, the Office of Academic Affairs at University of the Cumberlands has announced the students named to the dean's list for the spring 2025 semester.

To be eligible, students must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours (a full course load), maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.50 for the semester, and be in good academic standing.

Local students on the list are Karl Etzel of Mansfield, Ohio and Abigail Little of Mansfield.

The University of the Cumberlands is located in Williamsburg, KY.

★

Kelly Wisner of Mansfield was named to the Honors List for the Spring 2025 semester at Mercy College of Ohio. To be named on the list, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.3 or higher and be enrolled for 6-11 credit hours. She is working towards as BS in Medical Imaging.

★

Kennedy Sapp from Ontario High School FCCLA took first place in the state competition and will go to Orlando, FL, in July for nationals. This is her fourth year of competing at nationals. 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.



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL juniors worked together to decorate for prom.



THE ONTARIO ACADEMIC CHALLENGE TEAM went to Primrose Retirement Home for the 3rd Annual Dan "The Trivia Man" Henige Memorial Trivia Challenge. The residents and students had a great time meeting each other and holding a fun trivia competition. Residents beat the young team in all three matches.



THE ANATOMY CLASSES at Ontario High School are learning about the cardiovascular system. Students listened to their heart and pulse and measured their blood pressures before and after running on the track. Students also hooked themselves to an EKG monitor to see what their heart was doing electrically.

Superintendent seeks re-employment

The Madison Local School District Board of Education announced that Rob Peterson, who is currently employed as superintendent, will be retired and seeking re-employment with the district in the same position following his service retirement.

The board will hold a public meeting at a regular meeting June 18, at 6 pm in the Madison Middle School Auditoria.

Blood donors have chance to win free trip

The American Red Cross encourages the public to schedule their May donation appointment before summer gets into full swing.

Make blood donation a priority in May and help accident victims and other patients in critical situations. Schedule a time to give now by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

Those who come to give May 1-18 will receive a \$20 e-gift card to a merchant of choice. Those who come to give May 19-31, will receive an exclusive American Red Cross solar lantern. Plus, all who come to give in May will be automatically entered for a chance to win a U.S. trip of their choice for two.

Bloodmobiles are schedule for: Wednesday, May 14, from 9 am to 3 pm, TC Energy, 2873 Pleasant Valley Rd., Lucas; and noon to 6 pm, The Ontario Center, Richland Mall, Ontario.

Friday, May 16, 11 am to 5 pm, The Ontario Center, Richland Mall, Ontario

Tuesday, May 20, 1-6 pm, Crossroads Church, 1188 Park Avenue West, Mansfield



TONYA WELCH'S biology classes at Ontario High School are learning about molluscs with a clam dissection lab.



Freshmen



Sophomore



Juniors

THE ONTARIO Academic Boosters hosted the annual Academic Banquet Academic Boosters on Thursday, April 24. To qualify for an invitation to the 2025 Academic Awards Banquet, freshmen must have achieved a 3.67 GPA for one semester, sophomores must have maintained a 3.67 GPA for one or three semesters, juniors must have maintained a 3.67 GPA for one, three or five semesters and seniors must have maintained a 3.67 GPA for one, three, five, or seven semesters to qualify for the first, second, third and fourth year awards respectively.



Seniors



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS — Each year, based on donations, a number of scholarships are awarded to Ontario students. Seniors are invited to fill out a general scholarship form provided by the guidance office. These are reviewed by our scholarship committee. The committee looks for academic achievement as well as extracurricular and volunteer involvement. This year's recipients are Claire Morrison, Vanessa Liu, Kennedy Weiler, Evan Ruhe, and Ethan Radojcsics.



WARRIOR LEADERSHIP COUNCIL freshmen and sophomores provided a meal for people in Mansfield as part of the nonprofit People Helping People.

Electronics camps available for high schoolers at OSU-Mansfield

High school students entering grades 9–12 for the 2025–'26 academic year can participate in two free electronics camps being held at The Ohio State University at Mansfield in August.

Both camps are offered in collaboration with the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development and the 179th Cyberspace Wing.

"Electronics for Beginners" will take place Aug. 4–7. Students will engage in hands-on learning, exploring the basics of programming in a variant of the C++ language and working with Arduino kits to design interactive systems. The kits will be provided, but students must bring their own laptop with Windows.

"Electronics for Intermediate Users" will be held Aug. 11–14. This hands-on course will push students to integrate sensors, motors and displays while expanding their coding and problem-solving abilities. This camp is tailored for students who have some prior coding experience and are looking to deepen their knowledge.

"This is an exceptional opportunity for high school students this summer," said Cynthia Callahan, associate professor of English at Ohio State Mansfield. "Students will engage in experiential learning led by experienced computer science professionals."

These camps help students interested in technology develop skills and understand educational and career pathways, said Mansfield-Richland Area Educational Foundation Director Angie Cirone.

"It's impressive to see the projects the students create over four days," Cirone said.

Students should apply by Friday, May 23, at <https://richlandarea-chamber.com/initiatives/microsoft-techspark-initiative/youth-technology-camp/application/>.

For more information, contact Cynthia Callahan at callahan.138@osu.edu or 419-755-4242.



FOOD TRUCKS came to Madison High School on Friday, May 9. Madison Lions Club received money from the event but distribute it to Madison schools and for Madison events and to the Madison community.



Local youth compete in 4-H public speaking contest

The Richland County 4-H program recently held its public speaking contest at the Richland County Longview Center. Extension Educator, Dr. Judy Villard Overocker, welcomed youth participants, parents and 4-H volunteers to the event.

Villard Overocker remarked that “Each division of this public speaking contest focuses on refining public speaking skills for the 4-H members. The skills learned and practiced today will benefit all of these youth when they become adults”.

Winners of the 4-H Pledge: 1st, Griffin Howell (Shelby); 2nd, Katie Thompson (Shelby)

Winner of the 4-H Prepared Speaking: 1st, Mariah Barciz (Mansfield); 2nd, Brooklyn Gilger (Shelby)

Winner of the Intermediate Demonstration Contest: 1st, Marissa Barciz (Mansfield). She will be invited to participate at the Ohio State Fair in August.

Outstanding Speaker Awards (special judges awards) for the overall contest included: Griffin Howell, Katie Thompson, Mariah Barciz, Brooklyn Gilger and Marissa Barciz.

Judges were Diane Larrick, Karen Reith and Brenda Dininger.

Major donors were the Greenslade Family, Charles Miller & Associates, Auctioneers, Beverage Family, Richland County Youth Safety Council and Richland County Safety Council.

Public speaking skills are important for 4-H members to learn. Many current 4-H club members go beyond the club level and participate in Richland County’s spring public speaking contest. In addition, some youth will be invited to participate at state level.



STUDENTS IN MR. COLEY’S History of Rock and Roll class at Ontario High School made Hall of Fame displays for genres of 1970s rock — glam, southern, heartland, metal, punk, progressive, yacht, FM hits or underground. Students made displays and featured an artist of their choosing. Students put together playlists, videos and artifacts (pieces of clothing, jewelry, etc). Some brought actual tickets and merch from home. Mitchell Dotson decided to become Gene Simmons. Also pictured is Kaleb Thomas.

Kate Shannon named Artist Laureate for Ohio State

The Ohio State University has selected Kate Shannon, associate professor in the Department of Art at Ohio State Mansfield, as the 2025–’26 Artist Laureate. She will begin a one-year appointment on July 1.

“Kate’s talent lies in empowering community members to share their narratives,” said vice provost for the arts Lisa Florman. “Through her work with historical photographs and community engagement, she has made a profound impact. As Artist Laureate, she will continue to be an exemplary ambassador, enriching people’s lives through her work and cultivating an interest in and understanding of the past across Ohio.”

Jason Opal, dean and director of Ohio State Mansfield, said he’s very pleased with Shannon’s success.

“We’re thrilled and honored to have Ohio State’s Artist Laureate on our campus,” said Opal. “Kate Shannon is the ideal professor, in that she is every bit as generous as she is talented, every bit as humble as she is brilliant. She’s never satisfied with her teaching, and she’s always willing to try new things and new collaborations.”

Recently, she’s been working to integrate AI into her pedagogy and to partner with Ohio State Mansfield biologists and other colleagues while managing the Conard Art Gallery, alongside Professor John Thrasher.

Shannon has dedicated much of her creative research at Ohio State to cultivating lasting, positive community engagement and inclusion through the arts. Her work reflects on early photography as a tangible medium for preserving human experience and explores how digital technology continues to define the ways we create, share and consume images.

As Artist Laureate, she will host a series of hands-on workshops across the state, helping community members of all ages connect with the history of photography and gain a deeper appreciation for its impact on cultural memory. Participants will be introduced to historical photographs and early photographic techniques, examining how the medium has evolved from careful, hands-on processes to today’s quick, easy-to-capture digital images. Shannon intends to engage local archivists, historians and community members, inviting them to share their own photographic materials — from family albums to regional collections — to enrich public awareness of Ohio’s rich visual history. In many of the workshops, participants will also be able to create “camera-less images” of objects unique to their surroundings using the 19th-century cyanotype process, which produces blue-toned prints through a light-sensitive chemical reaction.

By combining image-making with the study of historical works, Shannon aims to help participants connect with the history of photography and gain a deeper appreciation of its impact on cultural memory.

Shannon teaches a variety of courses, including photography, digital imaging and expanded media. Her digitally manipulated photographs have been exhibited across the United States. She recently showcased her curation of 19th-century American photographs at Ohio State’s Rare Books & Manuscripts Library and is now working on a creative project supported by a Funds for Artists grant from the Greater Columbus Arts Council that examines these historical items using digital tools.

Detailed installation view of Kate Shannon’s project, *Lifted and Leaden*, Digital Inkjet Prints, Mansfield Art Center, Mansfield, Ohio, 2021.

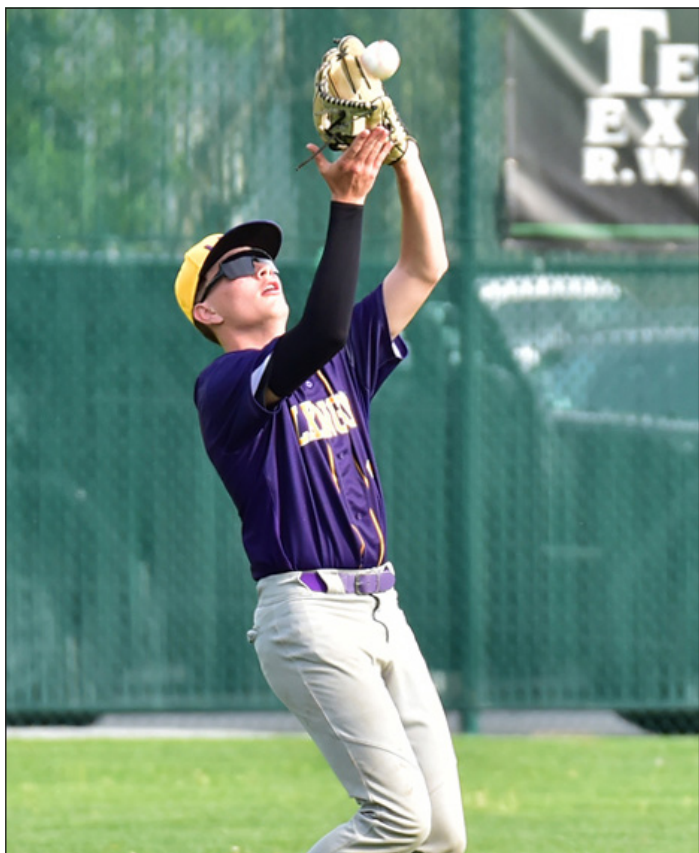
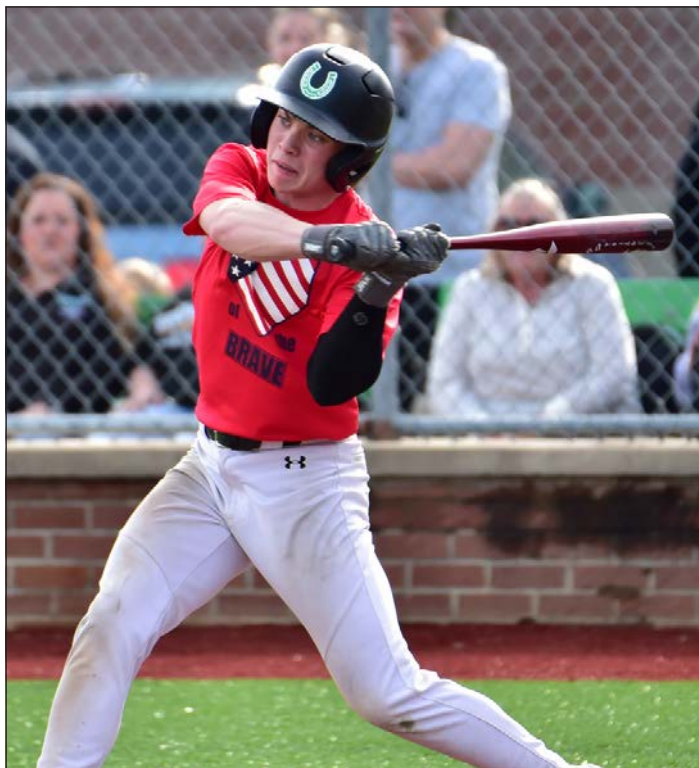
She has been recognized with several awards, including the Mansfield campus’s 2013 award for Excellence in Scholarship and its 2010 Award for Excellence in Teaching. Shannon joined Ohio State in 2009 as a lecturer, after receiving her MFA from the Department of Art that year.

The Ohio State Artist Laureate program began in 2023 to bring the arts to communities across Ohio. Nyama McCarthy-Brown, associate professor in the Department of Dance, was Ohio State’s inaugural Artist Laureate. Kevin McClatchy, associate professor in the Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts, is the current Artist Laureate.



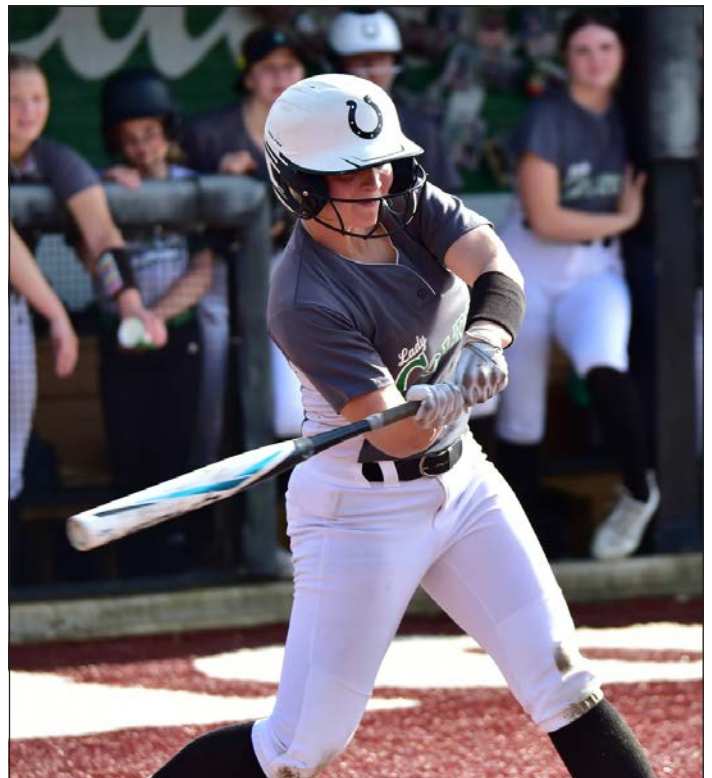
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS LEXINGTON VARSITY BASEBALL · MAY 2 · COLTS WIN 5-4
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS LEXINGTON VARSITY SOFTBALL · MAY 2 · LADY LEX WINS 6-2
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS ASHLAND VARSITY BASEBALL · APRIL 30 · LEXINGTON WINS 10-0
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS ASHLAND VARSITY SOFTBALL · APRIL 30 · LADY LEX WINS 11-1
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights



Photos By Traci Little

THE ASHLAND VARSITY ARROWS lost to the Ontario Varsity Warriors 8-6 on Friday, May 9. An error put Ashland on the board in the top of the second. They added one run in the third as Alex Grissinger singled on a full count, making the score 3-0. Ontario flipped the game on its head in the bottom of the sixth, scoring six runs on three hits to take the lead 8-6. The biggest blow in the inning was a single by Max Ciroli that drove in two. Ciroli earned the win for the Ontario Varsity Warriors. The pitcher gave up two hits and two runs over three innings, striking out four and walking three.



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS WOOSTER TRACK MEET · APRIL 30 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS MANSFIELD SENIOR VARSITY BASEBALL · APRIL 30
RAMS WIN 3-0 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS MANSFIELD SENIOR VARSITY SOFTBALL · APRIL 30
RAMS WIN 22-0 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Ashland Arrows take senior night victory against Mounties

Photos and Article By Traci Little

The Ashland Varsity Arrows rally defeated the Mapleton Varsity Mounties 18-7 on Friday, May 2 at Bud Plank Field at Archer Arrows Park.

The seniors were announced before the game and they threw out a pitch to their parent. Seniors honored were Isaac Abel, Noah Dennis, Michael Franz, Alex Grissinger, Tyler Holt and Justin Kyser.

Ashland Varsity Arrows scored 13 runs in the fourth inning on the way to victory. Jeff Hickey doubled, scoring one run, Tyler Holt drew a walk, scoring one run, Jacob Bryant hit a sacrifice fly, scoring one run, Miles Farnsworth singled, scoring one run, Nick Manges singled, scoring two runs, Michael Franz singled, scoring two runs, Hickey grounded out, scoring one run, Holt singled, scoring one run, an error scored two runs, and Justin Kyser singled, scoring one run.

Carson Little earned the win for Ashland Varsity Arrows. The pitcher gave up three hits and zero runs over three and two-thirds innings, striking out four and walking two.

Ashland Varsity Arrows piled up 11 hits in the game. Franz, Alex Grissinger, and Hickey each collected two hits for Ashland Varsity Arrows. Hickey went 2-for-4 at the plate and led the team with three runs batted in. Ashland Varsity Arrows had patience at the plate, collecting seven walks for the game. Kyser, Holt, and Little led the team with two free passes each.

Mapleton Varsity Mounties accumulated nine hits in the game. Welch and Sanders each collected two hits for Mapleton Varsity Mounties. Welch and Dennison were a one-two punch in the lineup, as each drove in two runs for Mapleton Varsity Mounties.



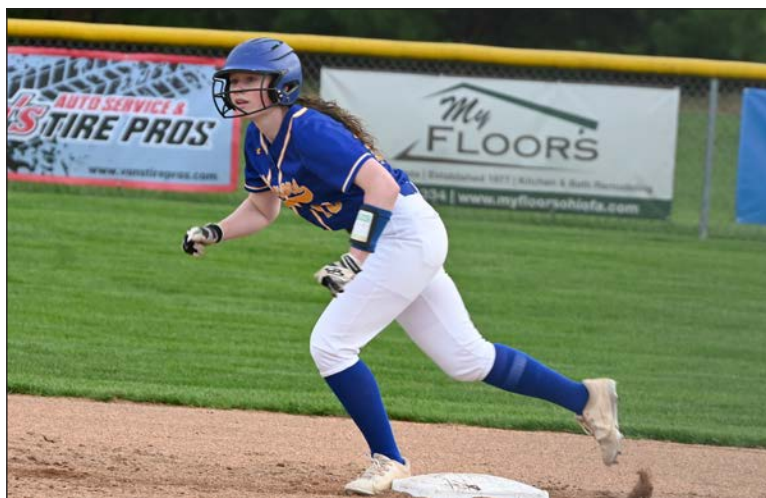
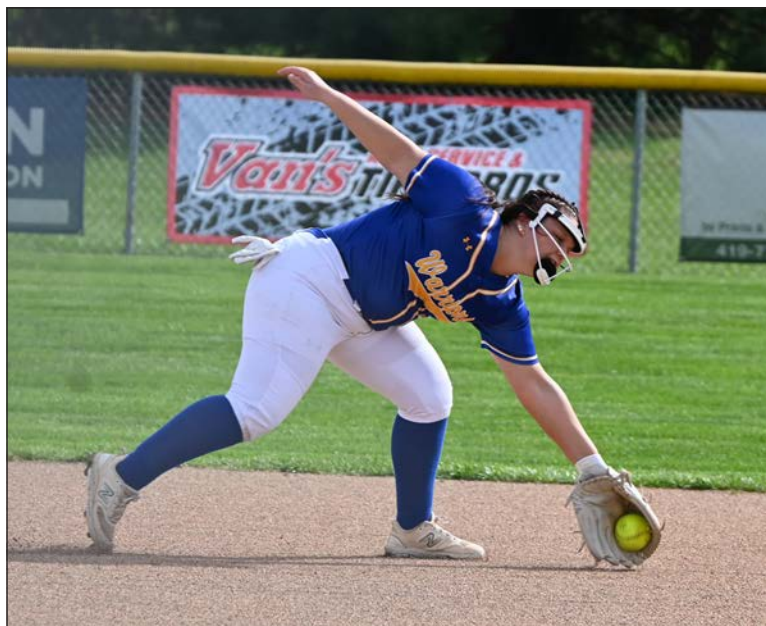
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS CLYDE JUNIOR VARSITY SOFTBALL · APRIL 26



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO SENIOR NIGHT VS MARION HARDING VARSITY SOFTBALL APRIL 29 · ONTARIO WINS 14-0



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL junior Jace Young set his sixth school record by finishing first in the 400m dash running 49.90 at the Marion Harding Night Invite on Friday, May 2. The previous record of 50.38 was set in 2005 (before Jace was born). Jace has now set four relay records and two individual records.

OHSAA Basketball State Tournaments will return to traditional Final Four

Next March, the Ohio High School Athletic Association girls and boys basketball state tournaments will return to the traditional format of the Final Four, with all state semifinalists converging in the same area in one weekend for the state tournament.

The University of Dayton Arena will continue to host all seven state championship games, along with several semifinal games, but UD Arena cannot host all 21 games of the state tournament with the new seven division format in basketball.

Additional sites in the Dayton area will be announced as host sites for some state semifinal games. The OHSAA Board of Directors approved the change at its April meeting.

"We looked at several options on how to conduct this year's state tournament with seven divisions, because UD Arena is not available to host all 21 games," said Doug Ute, OHSAA Executive Director. "We settled on the football model, with the state semifinals held on the weekend prior to the state finals. The feedback we received from the coaches at this year's state tournament led us to make this proposal to the board to go back to the traditional final four model, which will require additional sites. There are some great options in that area and we are already working on those details."

Last fall, the girls volleyball state tournament, which also had 21 contests, utilized three additional sites to supplement Wright State University. This coming June, the baseball state tournament will use one additional site. Firestone Stadium in Akron is available that week to host the 21 games of the softball state tournament.

Last fall, soccer expanded to five divisions for girls and boys, with the state semifinals taking place mid-week and the winners advancing to Historic Crew Stadium for 10 championship games over four days.

The specific state tournament schedule and additional sites will be announced at a later date.

OHSAA announces 2025 football divisions and regions

The Ohio High School Athletic Association has announced the new divisional breakdowns and playoff regions for the 2025 football season. The 2025 divisions and regions are posted at <https://www.ohsaa.org/Sports-Tournaments/Football/Football-2025>. No schools in Divisions II through VII opted to move up to Division I.

Twelve additional schools moved up a division due to the OHSAA's competitive balance process that analyzes data from roster information provided by each school from the previous season. Those 12 schools join 34 schools that remain in a higher division this year due to competitive balance, for a total of 46 schools that were moved up a division from the base male enrollment count.

Schools can have up to 13 days of practice without pads during the summer, beginning May 12. An additional five days are permitted beginning July 15 for schools to complete the mandatory five-day acclimatization period. The OHSAA does not set a limit on physical fitness and conditioning workouts in the summer.

The OHSAA recently conducted a survey with member schools regarding the format of the postseason tournament. More information on those results will be released at a later date.

2025 OHSAA Football Divisional Breakdowns

Division	Adjusted Enrollment	Number of Teams
I	592 and more	72
II	378 to 591	104
III	268 to 377	107
IV	202 to 267	105
V	157 to 201	106
VI	112 to 156	106
VII	111 and less	106

2025 OHSAA Football Calendar

Summer Period: May 12–July 31 (13 practices permitted, plus five days for acclimation)

Practice Begins: Aug. 1

Regular-Season Begins: Week of Aug. 18 (first Friday is Aug. 22)

Regular-Season Ends: Saturday, Oct. 25

Playoff Qualifiers Announced: Sunday, Oct. 26

Regional First Round: Friday, Oct. 31

Regional Quarterfinals: Friday, Nov. 7

Regional Semifinals: Friday, Nov. 14

Regional Finals: Friday, Nov. 21

State Semifinals: Friday, Nov. 28

State Championships: Dec. 4–6, Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium, Canton

Tournament divisions announced

The Ohio High School Athletic Association has announced the new divisional breakdowns for the upcoming fall sports of golf, girls tennis, soccer and girls volleyball. The divisions and regional assignments for football will be announced on Thursday. The divisions for cross country were announced last Thursday.

Earlier this month, schools were given the opportunity to move up to Division I. The divisional breakdowns linked below reflect any schools that opted up to Division I in that sport.

For golf, the official start date for tryouts, practice and competition is July 28. For all other fall sports, tryouts and practice can begin on Aug. 1, followed by staggered season start dates by sport. State tournament host sites and formats will be announced in August.

Golf: <https://www.ohsaa.org/Sports-Tournaments/Golf/Golf-2025>

Girls Tennis: <https://www.ohsaa.org/Sports-Tournaments/Tennis-Girls/Girls-Tennis-2025>

Soccer: <https://www.ohsaa.org/Sports-Tournaments/Soccer/Soccer-2025>

Girls Volleyball: <https://www.ohsaa.org/Sports-Tournaments/Volleyball-Girls/2025-Girls-Volleyball>

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO TRACK SENIOR NIGHT · APRIL 30 · WARRIORS WIN



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS MARION JUNIOR VARSITY BASEBALL · APRIL 30 · WARRIORS WIN



Tribune-Courier Sports

Lady Lex takes 6-2 win over Clear Fork in non-conference play

By Kris Leiter

This non-conference game between Clear Fork and Lexington never seems to disappoint. These two teams have had quality softball programs for years.

The Lady Colts fell to defeat to Lady Lex 6-2 on May 2 in the Valley of the Colts.

The Lady Colts started things off with a bang and tallied two runs in the first inning. Lady Colt Miley Shafer brought the firepower from the mound to keep Lexington from scoring for the first three innings. Clear Fork held a lead of 2-0 going into the fourth inning.

As Lady Lex came to the plate to start the fourth inning, they added their first two runs of the game.

Entering the bottom of the fourth, Lexington's pitching kicked it in gear as Makeree Chapman kept the Colts scoreless in the bottom of the fourth inning.

It was 2-2 after four innings and heading into the fifth, Lady Lex was held scoreless at the top of the inning.

At the bottom of the fifth, the Colts went on offense with the bats, and they too would be held scoreless. The fans were definitely getting their money's worth!

Lady Lex rallied four runs at the top of the sixth inning, pushing the game total to 6-2!

With Clear Fork coming to bat in the bottom of the sixth, it was Lexington's Chapman and the Lady Lex defense that held the lead and would not allow the Colts to score in the sixth.

With one inning left to play, Clear Fork would hold Lexington, again, to no runs.

Clear Fork would come to bat in the bottom of the seventh, needing four runs to tie the game. Who would be the winner of this nail-biter?

Both teams were scoreless in the seventh with Lady Lex toppling the Colts 6-2.

Offensively, Lady Lex sealed the deal with Quinn Patrick, Makeree Chapman and Kylie Thorton all going 2-4 at the plate to contribute 6 of the 8 hits on the day. Chapman tallied a home run as well. Addy Williams was 3-3 and a double with the lumber, and moved the runners across the plate with 3 RBI's.

Hats off to Makeree Chapman as she would seal the deal and have a huge part in the victory for Lady Lex with a daunting 15 strikeouts and one walk for the contest.

Clear Fork Lady Colts (13-9 overall, 9-3, third, MOAC)
Lexington Lady Lex (19-2 overall, 9-2, second, OCC)

Renaissance announces summer Broadway camps

Registration has opened for the Renaissance's annual "Broadway Camp" summer theatre program for students ages 8-13. The popular summer theatre camp sessions will be held as in-person classes, during the weeks of June 16-20; and June 23-27.

Broadway Camp options include the traditional three-hour morning camp (June 16-20, with no session on June 19th), as well as the day-long, six-hour "Broadway Camp Showz!" camp (June 23-June 27). All "Broadway Camp!" sessions are designed to be sensory-inclusive; with tuition set at \$110 for the June 16-20 camp, and \$125 for the June 23-June 27 session. Full and partial scholarships are available for all Broadway Camp sessions.

Added in 2022, the day-long "Broadway Camp Showz!" allows participants to further explore the opportunity to present a fully staged Broadway Kids-style production.

The camp production, designed specifically for young actors, will use a script and score adapted from a popular Broadway musical. To participate in Broadway Camp Showz!, students must previously have completed a session of a two or three-hour Broadway Camp, or Broadway Camp, Too.

The Renaissance Broadway Camp programs provide students of all ability levels with the freedom to explore the world of musical theatre and the elements of performance through theatre games, improv, and dramatic play, as well as staging and singing. The 4 and 5-day camp sessions allow every child the opportunity to benefit from the opportunity to learn, grow and perform as a part of an all-inclusive experience. Each camp session culminates in a special performance for parents, friends, and other guests.

Renaissance Broadway Camp is coordinated and led by Renaissance teaching artist Dauphne Maloney, well-known for her work with youth theatre in the North Central Ohio area. Mrs. Maloney is also the founder and director of Mansfield Youth Theatre (MY Theatre), former Resident Director for the Renaissance Youth Opera Theatre (RYOT) and youth theatre director at The Ohio State University-Mansfield.

She has directed and costumed over 300 productions and served as the Youth Theatre Director for the Mansfield Playhouse for more than 20 years. Participating students will work directly with Maloney, as well as seasoned youth theatre actors.

Registration is limited. To register for either of the Broadway camp weeks, visit www.rentickets.org. For more information or to ask questions regarding the camp, including information for those with sensory sensitivities, those seeking scholarships or other needs, contact dauphne@mansfieldtickets.com. Broadway Camp! is presented as a part of the Mechanics Bank Education Series; with support from the Richland County Foundation Summertime Kids fund; from Sharon Granter, in memory of her late husband, Don; and in memory of Euthymious Gheissouras.



JEREMY BARRETT'S SPANISH CLASS at Ontario High School took a trip to Pancho's Taco with a challenge for them to only speak Spanish.



2025 BYRON H. CARMEAN AWARD NOMINEES are pictured with Pioneer CTC Superintendent Greg Nickoli and Mr. Carmean.



LITA FROST, Ontario senior, received the 2025 Byron H. Carmean Award. She is pictured with Pioneer CTC Superintendent Greg Nickoli and Ontario Superintendent Keith Stricker.



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL students hosted a cleanup day to celebrate Earth Week.

Excellence and Dedication take stage at Pioneer Awards Night

Pioneer Career and Technology Center celebrated student success in a big way at its annual awards ceremony held Wednesday, April 23. Students, families and staff came together to recognize outstanding achievements, commitment to education and the bright futures ahead for Pioneer students.

A highlight of the evening was the announcement that students had earned over \$1.1 million in scholarships to further their education. In addition to scholarship awards, students were honored with the prestigious Director's Attitude Awards, Citizenship Awards, and recognition for those who have enlisted in the military.

The evening's highest honor, the Byron H. Carmean Character, Dedication, and Service Award, was presented to Lita Frost, a senior from Ontario High School.

Lita has excelled in Pioneer's Homeland Security program under the leadership of Commander Eric Winbigler. The Carmean Award recognizes a student for outstanding character, dedication, and service to education. During her time at Pioneer, Frost has been an active member of the SkillsUSA Pioneer Chapter, served on Student Council, and represented the school as a Student Ambassador. She has earned numerous certifications and was recognized with the Statesman's Award and the Scholastic Award from the Mansfield Rotary Club.

At Ontario High School, Frost has also distinguished herself by earning the Citizen of the Year Award, being named Most Improved Performer in show choir, and consistently achieving Honor Roll and Merit Roll recognition. Her accomplishments reflect a strong commitment to excellence as she continues to build an impressive foundation for a successful future.

Pioneer Career and Technology Center honored students who exemplify dedication, leadership, and a passion for learning.

This year's other nominees for the Carmean Award who also received a scholarship with their nomination:

- Cerlyn Beverhoud – Dental Assisting, Willard
- Abby Evans – Graphic Arts, Northmor
- Chevelle Jones – Exercise Science & Sports Medicine, Northmor
- Katie Keffalas – Exercise Science & Sports Medicine, Mansfield Senior
- William (Will) Naylor – Precision Machining, Northmor
- Josie Rank – Early Childhood Education, Plymouth
- Brennen Reber – Industrial Electrical Technician, Colonel Crawford
- Grace Rietschlin – Horticulture, Shelby
- Angel Shelton – Home Remodeling, Wynford
- Chloe Sturts – Welding, Lucas
- Brianne (Bri) York – Medical Technologies, Northmor

Pioneer Career and Technology Center has provided career-technical education to high school juniors and seniors for over 50 years. It serves over 1,100 students representing over 35 Career Tech Programs and 14 partner schools and offer adult education programs. Visit www.PioneerCTC.edu for information.

Ontario High School Prom



THE 2025 CABARET was hosted by the Ontario Music Club with performances by the jazz band and show choir Rhapsody in Blue.

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE

The following is a succinct summary of the legislation adopted by the Council of the City of Ontario, at their regular meeting held on April 30, 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. 25-06 – AN ORDINANCE APPROVING REVEILLE TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF PART ELEVEN (ZONING CODE) OF THE CITY'S CODIFIED ORDINANCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Cathy VanAuker
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, OH
(T-C 5-15, 22 '25) 21L

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that the Madison Township Board of Trustees will accept bids for the 2025 resurfacing Road Improvement: 422 Chip & Seal program.

Based on specifications prepared by the Madison Township Board of Trustees.

Sealed Bids will be accepted at the office of the Madison Township Trustees, 817 Expressview Drive Mansfield, OH. 44905 until: **May 24, 2025 9:30 AM Eastern Daylight Time** at which time they will be opened and read aloud. Bids shall be in a sealed envelope and clearly marked **"BID FOR Madison Township 2025 Road Improvements: 422 Chip & Seal"** along with the company name.

Bidders may secure copies of the specifications and project at the Madison Township Hall 817 Expressview Dr. Mansfield, OH. 44905, by calling 419-589-9999 or visiting our web site

to download documents @ www.madisontwp.us. For questions contact Road Superintendent Larry Weirich 419-565-5014 or email madisonroaddept@gmail.com, not later than 72 hours prior to the date fixed for the opening of bids.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid guaranty in accordance with Section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code, by a Bid Bond in an amount of 100% of the total Bid or a cashier's check, or a certified check equal to 10% of the bid to be duly executed by the bidder. All Bids shall be on company letterhead and be signed by an authorized representative of that company.

The attention of bidders is directed to the special statutory provisions, RC 4115.03 etc. seq., governing the prevailing rate of wages to be paid to laborers and mechanics employed on public improvements, and also, to RC 153.59 regarding nondiscrimination.

The Board of Madison Township Trustees have the right to reject any or all bids, and to accept the lowest responsive responsible bid, which best fits the needs of the Township.

By the order of the Madison Township Trustees

Leanna Rhodes
Madison Township Fiscal Officer
Mansfield, OH
(T-C 5-15 '25) 60L

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By the order of the Madison Township Trustees

Leanna Rhodes
Madison Township Fiscal Officer
Mansfield, OH
(T-C 5-15 '25) 57L

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 May 12, 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. 25-11 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND CHARTER NEXT GENERATION, INC., ALLOWING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE AMENDMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Cathy VanAuker
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, OH
(T-C 5-15, 22 '25) 22L

American Stroke Month recognized in month of May

May is American Stroke Month, and University Hospitals Neurological Institute is offering the community peace of mind with free stroke screenings, educational events and health talks with neurologists.

It's important to know the warning signs of stroke. Each year, more than 795,000 people in the U.S. have a stroke. About 610,000 of these are first or new strokes, but few people know the signs. Use of the acronym **BE FAST** to help remember the signs of stroke, and actions to take if someone near you is experiencing them.

B.E. F.A.S.T.

Balance: Balance off

Eyes: Blurry vision

Face: Face droops

Arms: Arm drifts downward

Speech: Words slurred

Time: Symptoms, call 9-1-1

"A stroke occurs when an artery in the brain is either blocked or ruptures, intervening with blood flow to the brain," explained Cathy Sila, MD, Chair of the Department of Neurology at University Hospitals and Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, and the Gilbert W. Humphrey Endowed Professor of Neurology.

"The best way to treat a stroke is to prevent a stroke. It's important to know your risk factors — high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol and heart disease. Making healthy choices, such as quitting smoking, watching your weight and exercising regularly can help with stroke prevention."

The stroke risk screenings include an assessment of blood pressure, blood glucose, cholesterol and body mass index. Pre-registration isn't required.

The screenings and education events will be offered:

Wednesday, May 14, from 9:30 am to 1 pm at UH Samaritan Medical Center, Ashland University Convocation Center, 638 Jefferson St., Ashland

Tuesday, May 20, 6-7 pm, Stroke 101 Virtual health talk presented by Amanda Opaskar, MD, Stroke Medical Director, University Hospitals St. John Medical Center, Assistant Professor of Neurology, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

For more information visit UHhospitals.org/StrokeRisk

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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

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Lisa Anderson
NMLS 618735

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