



# TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com

08.28.25



**RICHLAND ACADEMY OF THE ARTS** staff and instructors were presented with the 2025 Community Service Award by the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging.

## Richland Academy of the Arts awarded Community Service Award

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. has announced the Richland Academy of the Arts has been named the 2025 Community Service Awardee in a ceremony held on Friday, Aug. 15, hosted at Hawkins Corner.

"We are honored to recognize a community partner whose creative spirit and dedication have enriched the lives of older adults for nearly 24 years," said a representative of the agency. "Richland Academy of the Arts has been a valued partner of the Area Agency on Aging, offering programs that inspire movement, creativity, connection and lifelong learning."

"From Yoga for Seniors to Theatre for the Wise and Joy of Movement, they show us what it means to age with purpose and joy. Their music and art offerings — from guitar and drumming to painting, ceramics, and floral arranging — foster creativity and community."

"In Spring 2025 alone, nearly 100 older adults participated in programs — a remarkable 95% increase from last year."

Through off-site enrichment in assisted living facilities, technology classes and collaborative caregiver events, Richland Academy of the Arts works to ensure that art and expression are accessible to all — whether in a classroom, a care center or at home.

Richland County Commissioner Cliff Mears presented a proclamation to the Richland Academy of the Arts in recognition of their outstanding service to the community. An additional proclamation was presented on behalf of Senator Mark Romanchuk.

Each year, the Area Agency on Aging honors senior citizens who demonstrate exceptional commitment to their communities and present a positive image of aging. One honoree is selected from each of the nine counties in the Agency's service area: Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Richland, Seneca and Wyandot.

## Madison receives grants from Richland County Foundation

The Madison Local School District Board of Education met Aug. 20, in the Madison South Library

Sonja Pluck gave a report on the Madison Adult Career Center.

The revision of the May 2025 five-year forecast was approved, as required by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce for compliance with the Precautionary Written Plan.

Three grants were accepted from the Richland County Foundation. These included for Stephanie Bistline, Schoolwide Literacy, \$1,500; Janell Kershner, Science and Social Studies, \$1,381.50; and Amy O'Connell, Madison Market Place, \$890.44.

Petty cash custodians and amounts were approved and set the maximum amount of a single expenditure at \$50 for the 2025-'26 school year. These included Sean Conway, high school, \$200; Jacob Grove, Career Tech, \$100; Sonja Pluck, adult education, \$100; Nicole Cox, South Elementary, \$100; Melissa Wigton, Eastview Elementary, \$50; Nathan Stump, Mifflin Elementary, \$50; Lindi Holfinger, ME-CLC, \$50; and Carolyn Montgomery, board office, \$50.

Resignations were accepted from Bailey Decker, sixth grade math; Craig Green, drama advisor high school (musical); Jennifer Phillips, preschool itinerant, for retirement.

Elizabeth Barr was hired as a third grade English/Language Arts teacher from the 2025-'26 school year.

Goelena Milano will have a delayed hire date as the middle school STEM (seventh and eighth grade) instructor for training purposes.

Mike Wolfe will be the assistant varsity baseball coach.

Donna Goddard was hired as a Certified Nurse Aide for Madison Adult Career Center.

Substitute teachers hired on an "on call" basis, as needed for the 2025-'26 school year include Kathleen Addlesperger, James Adams, Shelly Adams, John Ajian Jr., Pauline Anderson, Nathan Batchelor, Angel Bischak, Gretchen Bobst (long-term sub, 5/6 STEM), Jenna Boliantz, Martin Breitingner, Hannah Bridgeman, Marilyn Burchett, Hunter Burgraff, Bethany Cetinich, William Chinn, Laura Collins, Beth Conn, John Desterhaft, Bruce Desterhaft, Yvonne Dixon, William Dixon, Lily Dowler, Sidney Foltz III, David Gilbert (long term sub, seventh grade intervention specialist), Carlos Villa Gomez, Elizabeth Harvey, Michele Hawks, Chad Hicks, Tyson Hicks, Rachel Hilson, Justice Holmes, Laura Johnson, Jenny Jones, Diana Kelley, William Kepple, Bri Korbass (long term sub, sixth/eighth grade intervention specialist), Debra Kuhn, Daniel Lashley (long term sub, 3/4 cross categorical classroom) Pamela Lehnhart, Julia Litt, Susan Lory, Kerry Montgomery, Tom Nesbitt, Juli Parsons, Caitlin Phillips, Amanda Pifher, Denise Provchy, Laura Rickert (long term sub, sixth grade math), Judith Sadowski, Karl Schuster, Stephen Shaffstall, Victor Skoog, Caitlyn Sneed (long term sub, seventh grade intervention specialist), Dennis Snelson, Laurie Souter, Peggy Stigall, Joseph Stupka (long term sub, sixth/eighth grade intervention specialist), Jadah Thompson, Kimberly Thompson-Barley, James Utt, Tamara Vail, Toni Villers, Lyndsay Williams, Delaney Willis (long term sub, middle school Spanish), Julie Yetzer and Reta Zody.

(Continued on Page 6)

## Soil and water conservation will be celebrated September 11

The public is invited to attend the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD) Annual Celebration on Thursday, Sept. 11 at 11:30 am at the Area Agency on Aging Hawkins Corner, 2131 Park Avenue West, Ontario.

The celebration includes lunch, recognition of the Cooperator of the Year and Volunteer of the Year honorees and accomplishments of the past year. The cost is \$25 per person and reservations are required by September 4. Reservations may be made online at <https://richlandswcd.net/event/annual-celebration-4/>.

From 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, eligible voters may cast their vote for one open Board Supervisor position.

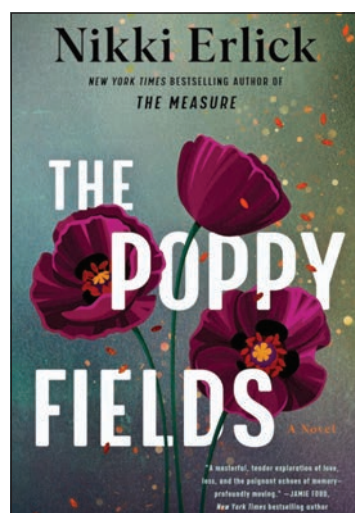
Eligible voters are individuals or businesses who own or occupy land within Richland County and are 18 years of age or older. Absentee voting is also available until Sept. 10 at 4 pm. Visit <https://richlandswcd.net/> for election information.

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District develops, implements, and assists landowners, government agencies and our partners with a wide range of natural resource conservation programs.

## LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review  
By Mandy Belczak Gurney



What if after experiencing tragic grief, you could go to a place called "The Poppy Field" and sleep it away? Nicki Erlick's story of the same title follows strangers catching a ride together to the poppy fields.

*The Poppy Fields* is told through different perspectives and viewpoints forcing us to consider the ways we face grief, or don't. It's about the choices we make in life that fill us with good memories or regrets.

Would you go and sign up and sleep for a month after experiencing tragedy?

At first it was a slow start for me and I wasn't sure if I had the emotional capacity for such contemplation, but the author drew me in with these special charac-

ters and made the story so accessible I didn't want to quit.

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

## Clydesdales will visit Mansfield and Bellville

The world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales will march into Mansfield and Bellville this September.

A single horse will make an appearance for a photo opportunity in Mansfield on Sept. 10, from 5-7 pm, at The Brickyard, 21 W. Temple Ct., Mansfield.

The eight-horse hitch will be harnessed to the iconic turn-of-the-century beer wagon Sept. 12, from 4-6 pm, at the Bellville Street Fair.

The Clydesdales' appearances in Mansfield and Bellville are one of hundreds made annually by three teams of traveling hitches based out of operational headquarters located at the St. Louis Brewery in Missouri. Brought to the U.S. in the mid-1800s as draft horses used for farm work, Clydesdales today are used primarily for breeding and show.

The Clydesdales have been the mascot of Anheuser-Busch since 1933, when a team of these majestic horses was presented to August A. Busch Sr. to celebrate the repeal of Prohibition. Nearly 90 years later, the celebrity horses are staples of fairs, festivals, and sporting events. Most notably, the Clydesdales have marched in two presidential inauguration parades.

The Clydesdales can also be viewed in St. Louis at the Anheuser-Busch brewery and at Grant's Farm, as well as at Warm Springs Ranch, the 300-plus-acre Clydesdale breeding farm located in Boonville, Missouri.



## THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —

*Freakier Friday* is the long awaited sequel to the 2003 Disney hit.

Lindsay Lohan and Jamie Lee Curtis return as mother and daughter. Lohan's daughter and her soon to be husband's daughter are constantly at odds as Lohan and Curtis lead busy lives.

After visiting a fortune teller, all four of them wake up the next morning having switched bodies. This time, Curtis and her daughter's new stepdaughter have swapped and Lohan and her own daughter switched bodies.

*Freakier Friday* works pretty well, but not quite enough to recommend. Curtis is the MVP of this film and really gives her all. It's great seeing Lohan again and the young actresses are good as well as Mark Harmon return-

ing as Curtis's husband.

The concert scene at the end is well done as is a funny scene that takes place in a Walgreens.

The movie's weak moments come from some sequences that seem to move at the speed of light and are almost too fast to be entertaining. As great as the performances and some individual scenes are, there are some missed opportunities with scenes that could have delivered funnier moments.

*Freakier Friday* is a better than average legacy sequel, but doesn't quite make the mark. It boasts great work from Lindsay Lohan and Jamie Lee Curtis and it is nice to see these characters again.



## Springfield Township has third positive West Nile Virus test

Springfield Township has been notified by Richland County Public Health that a third mosquito trap location has tested positive for the West Nile Virus.

The confirmed locations are Millsboro and Home Road; between Lexington-Springmill Road and Alta West Road; and Cypress Drive and Alta West Road (most recent).

This is not a human infection case, but a positive West Nile Virus mosquito sample. The area has been sprayed to decrease the mosquito population and reduce the risk of West Nile Virus transmission.

Residents are asked to eliminate standing water and take precautions to protect themselves and loved ones from mosquito bites. Richland Public Health recommends residents follow these tips to help avoid mosquito bites:

- Make sure that doors and windows have tight-fitting screens
- Repair or replace all torn screens in your home
- Remove all discarded tires from your property
- Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots, or similar water-holding containers
- Make sure roof gutters drain properly. Clean clogged gutters in the spring and fall
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor saunas, and hot tubs. If not in use, keep pools/saunas empty and covered
- Drain water from pool covers.
- Change the water in bird baths at least once a week
- Turn over plastic wading pools, wheelbarrows, etc. when not in use
- Clean ditches of obstructions so they drain properly
- Eliminate any standing water that collects on your property
- Remind or help neighbors to eliminate breeding sites on their properties
- Use insect repellent and follow the label directions

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

Richland County EMA will host its 2nd Annual Community Preparedness Fair in partnership with Avita Ontario and the Ontario Center.

Last year, the Richland County EMA partnered with Avita Health Care and The Ontario Center to host a Community Preparedness Fair, which included 24 community partners. This year, the event has expanded to include not only preparedness information but also other valuable community resources and information.

The fair will be held Saturday, Sept. 20, from 1–4 pm in the Avita parking lot at The Ontario Center, formerly Richland Mall.

★

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Bellville, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Missy Houghton, Richland County Dog Warden, on Sunday, Aug. 31, at 10:30 am. The subject will be “What does the Dog Warden do for our community?” and will include the annual pet blessing. This week’s service will be held at Sacred Stones Mystical Farms, 3072 St. Rt. 430, Mansfield.

For information visit [www.allsoulsuohio.org](http://www.allsoulsuohio.org).

★

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 Sept. 17, with broasted chicken.

Hospice of Western Reserve will be in attendance and a collection will be taken for Richland County Humane Society. Those attending are asked to bring paper/cloth towels, cleaning supplies, newspapers, wipes, disposable gloves, canned food and Purina Cat or Dog Chow.

The group will meet Sept. 3, at 11 am for lunch at Hong Kong Buffet, 333 N Lex- Springmill, Ontario, in the Walmart plaza.

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

★

Trinity Grace Fellowship Church, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield, will hold community prayer meetings from 6:30–7:30 pm, Oct. 12 and 19. The public is invited.

★

Richland Early American Center for History will host the 9th Annual American Heritage Days at Southpark, 100 Brinkerhoff Ave, Mansfield, Oct. 4 and 5, from 10 am to 4 pm.

Living history reenactors will demonstrate life in America in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Throughout the day there will be crafts, trades, demonstrations and activities, including blacksmithing, games and children’s activities, open hearth cooking demonstrations and civilian and military reenactments. Admission and parking are free to the public. A food truck will be on-site.

★

There will be traffic signal upgrades along U.S. 42 at Hanley Road, Kroger, Stewart Road and Eastview/Reiser Drive. Traffic will be maintained by daytime lane closures when necessary. The estimated completion is April 2026.

★

U.S. 42, between Holloway/Eckert Road and Schmidt Road, is closed for 30 days for a culvert replacement. The detour route for eastbound motorists will be U.S. 42 east to SR 314 north to SR 97 east to U.S. 42 and reverse for westbound motorists. The estimated completion is Wednesday, Sep. 17.

★

State Route 603 through Richland and Ashland County, from SR 39 to Mowery Road, and from the village of Mifflin to Franklin Church Road, will have single lane closures for a resurfacing project. Traffic will be maintained by flaggers. Crews will begin at the south end of the project at SR 39 and continue along SR 603 north. The estimated completion is this September.

★

World Heritage Exchange Students are still in need of American host families. Placements can be for the school year, a semester, or even just 2–3 months.

Hosting is about more than providing a bed and meals. It’s about sharing everyday life, laughter, traditions and creating bonds that last long after the program ends. Exchange students can bring fresh perspectives and a spirit of curiosity that not only enrich their schools, but also leave a lasting mark on the families and communities who open their doors to them.

Discover the students’ profiles at [https://host.world-heritage.org/meet\\_our\\_students/](https://host.world-heritage.org/meet_our_students/).

Visit [https://host.world-heritage.org/request\\_more\\_information/](https://host.world-heritage.org/request_more_information/) for more information.

★

Columbia Gas of Ohio urges homeowners and contractors to contact 811 at least two business days before beginning any digging project. This free and simple service helps prevent damage to underground utility lines and promotes community safety.

Calling 811 prior to breaking ground is a free and easy way to help keep you safe and your project on track.”

By calling 811 or visiting [OUPS.org](http://OUPS.org), residents are connected to the state system which coordinates with local utilities to mark underground lines using color-coded flags or spray paint. These markings help identify the location and type of utility lines.



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# Church Directory

## Clay Memorial Lutheran Church

1601 Amoy East Rd., Mansfield  
419-747-6882  
Pastor Carol Kilgore  
Sunday School 9:15 am • Sunday Worship 10:30 am

## Clear Fork Alliance Church

1008 State Route 97, Bellville  
419-886-4333 • [www.clearforkalliance.org](http://www.clearforkalliance.org)  
Rev. Matt Merendino • Rev. Mike Stine, Associate Pastor  
9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship  
Sunday Evening 6 pm Home Groups  
Monday Men's Group 7:30 pm  
Wednesday evenings: 6:45 pm, Prayer Meeting  
6:30–8 pm and TeamKID and Youth Group

## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

200 West Third St., Mansfield  
419-524-4813 • [mansfield1stcc1833@gmail.com](mailto:mansfield1stcc1833@gmail.com)  
Rev. David Zerby  
10:30 am Sunday Worship  
Office Hours: Tu., W., Th. 9 am to 1 pm  
Christian Builders, Sunday, 9:30 am  
[www.FirstChristianChurchMansfield.com](http://www.FirstChristianChurchMansfield.com)  
FB: FirstChristianChurch,Mansfield,Ohio

## First Congregational Church

640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield  
419-756-3046 • [www.mansfieldfcc.com](http://www.mansfieldfcc.com)  
Pastor Brad Bunn  
8:30 am Chapel • 10:30 am Sanctuary  
10:30 am Sunday School (nursery–high school)  
10:30 am Monday Morning Bible Study  
7:30 am Wednesday Men's Breakfast

## First English Lutheran Church

53 Park Avenue West, Mansfield  
419-522-0662 • [www.felc-mansfield.org](http://www.felc-mansfield.org)  
Pastor Jay Jackson  
9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship  
Call about Prayer Groups, Small Groups, Bible  
Studies, Book Clubs, Pub Theology, Community Meals,  
Free Produce distribution and Senior Boxes.

## Grace Episcopal Church

41 Bowman Street, Mansfield  
419-524-2661  
Rev. Christopher D. Hofer, Priest-in-Charge  
Rev. Daniel Orr, Associate Priest  
Worship: Sundays, 8 am and 10:15 am  
Christian Formation for All Ages: Sundays, 9:15 am  
Food Pantry: Thursdays, 9–11 am  
2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 4–6 pm  
[gracemansfield.org](http://gracemansfield.org) • [facebook.com/GraceChurchMansfield](https://facebook.com/GraceChurchMansfield)

## G & M Body & Paint Shop

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

## Wappner Funeral Home

Mansfield • Ontario • Ashland • 419-522-5211

## Lexington Church of Christ

230 Delaware Ave., Lexington  
419-884-1532 • [www.lccoh.com](http://www.lccoh.com)  
Lead Minister Brandon Bogue  
9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship

## Lexington Church of the Cross

236 Otterbein Dr., Lexington  
419-884-2150 • [Churchofthecrosslex.com](http://Churchofthecrosslex.com)  
Pastor-Rev. Dr. Edna Stahl  
Sunday Worship 9:30 am  
Junior Church for 10 and under • Wesley Class 10:45  
5th Sunday of the month-Do Something Sunday AA, Girl Scouts,  
Yoga, Knotty Ladies  
and Bible Study.

## Lexington Presbyterian Church

35 Church St. West, Lexington  
419-884-1330 • 10:30 am Sunday Worship  
Pastor Denny Nezrick  
<https://www.facebook.com/Lexington-Presbyterian-Church-117768414915815>

## Mansfield 1st Presbyterian Church

399 Trimble Rd., Mansfield  
419-756-7066 • [www.mansfield1st.com](http://www.mansfield1st.com)  
Rev. Joseph Yerger  
9 am Adult & Youth Sunday School  
10 am Traditional Sunday Worship  
ADA Accessible Nursery & Children's Programming

## Mansfield Baptist Temple

752 N. Stewart Rd., Mansfield  
419-589-5413 • [www.mbt.org](http://www.mbt.org)  
Pastor Rob Kurtz  
9:30 am Sunday School • 10:30 am & 5:30 pm Sunday Worship  
7 pm Wednesday Service

## Oakland Lutheran Church

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

## Ontario United Methodist Church

3540 Park Avenue West., Ontario  
419-529-4345 • [ontarioumc.com](http://ontarioumc.com)  
Rev. J.P. Snyder  
9:30 am Grace & Eggs  
11 am Sunday Worship and Kingdom Kids

## St. John's United Church of Christ

68 Park Avenue East, Mansfield  
419-522-2813 • [www.stjohnsmansfield.org](http://www.stjohnsmansfield.org)  
Pastor Faith Proietti • 10 am Sunday Worship  
Office hours: Mon–Fri 9 am to 1 pm  
AA Meetings M & F 10 am & noon;  
Wed. noon Brown Bag and Sat. 6 pm  
Clothing Ministry by appt: 419-512-9817

## Southside Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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

## Trinity Grace Fellowship

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



## Donors will receive exclusive Red Cross PEANUTS mystery bag

The American Red Cross asks donors to give blood or platelets now to help maintain a healthy blood supply. Donors of all blood types, especially those with types O positive and B negative blood, are urged to make an appointment to keep lifesaving blood products ready the moment patients need them.

The Red Cross and PEANUTS are once again joining forces and in celebration of the 75th anniversary of PEANUTS, those who come to give blood Aug. 29–Sept. 21 will get an exclusive Red Cross PEANUTS mystery bag with one of four special t-shirt designs.

Additionally, there will be a number of golden tickets randomly in the mystery bags hidden throughout the country. Donors who find a golden ticket when they open their bag will have the chance to redeem it through an online form for all four t-shirts.

Book a time to give by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, or calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

Friday, Aug. 29, 8 am to 1 pm, Medical Office Building, 4th Floor, 335 Glessner Ave., Mansfield

Saturday, Aug. 30, 9 am to 2 pm, The Ontario Center, 2209 Richland Mall, Ontario; and 10 am to 3 pm, Mansfield Senior High School, 124 N. Linden Rd., Mansfield

Wednesday, Sept. 3, noon to 6 pm The Ontario Center, Richland Mall, Ontario; and 7 am to 1 pm, K of C Hall, 208 Vernon Rd., Shelby

Thursday, Sept. 4, noon to 5 pm, Heartland Church, 2505 Lexington Springmill Rd. S., Lexington

Friday, Sept. 5, 11 am to 5 pm, The Ontario Center, Richland Mall, Ontario

Monday, Sept. 8, noon to 6 pm, The Ontario Center, Richland

Mall, Ontario

Wednesday, Sept. 10, noon to 6 pm, The Ontario Center, Richland Mall, Ontario

Thursday, Sept. 11, 8 am to 2 pm, Clear Fork High School, 987 St. Rt. 97, Bellville

Friday, Sept. 12, 11 am to 5 pm, The Ontario Center, Richland Mall, Ontario

Saturday, Sept. 13, 8 am to 1 pm Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1951 Middle-Bellville Rd., Mansfield

Monday, Sept. 15, noon to 6 pm, The Ontario Center, Richland Mall, Ontario

### Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Louise Marie Krutsch, August 13

Kenneth "Kenny B" Brent Stubbs, August 14

Robert Laverne Cavinder, August 16

Trudi Suzette Harman, August 18

Patricia Lucitta Walter, August 18

Dawn Michelle Kirkpatrick, August 19

Mildred "Midge" Ruby Parnell, August 19

Gary Preston Burggraf, August 20

Gerald Lynn Craighead, August 21

View Full Obituaries at [www.dignitymemorial.com](http://www.dignitymemorial.com)



Photo By Mark Shutt

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ALZHEIMER'S**  
ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

## FIGHTING FOR A DIFFERENT FUTURE

SAVE THE DATE : 2025 Walk to End Alzheimer's - Saturday, September 13

**SCAN  
ME!**



[alz.org/nw ohio/walk](http://alz.org/nw ohio/walk)



Richland Carrousel Park 75 N. Main Street, Mansfield

Event Details : Check in 9:00 am | Ceremony / Walk at 10:00 am

# •Madison receives grants from Richland County Foundation

(Continued from Front Page)

Volunteers approved for 2025-'26 school year include David Parks, varsity football; Christopher Reynolds, girls' tennis; Tommy Hill, girls' tennis; Alec Keen, baseball; Robert Johnson, varsity football; and Charley King, transportation of band trailer (no student supervision).

Resignations were accepted from Diane Trackler, bus driver route 2, bus garage, for retirement; Rona Gushard, 4-hour cafeteria, high school; Daniel Lashley, special education paraprofessional, South; Kriss Smith, special education paraprofessional - Mifflin; and Melanie Prater, assistant teacher, MECLC.

Hiring included Lisa Campbell, 4-hour cafeteria, middle school; Marianne Nommay, 4-hour cafeteria, middle school; Becca Huff, 4-Hour cafeteria, high school; Melissa Sayre, 4-Hour cafeteria, Eastview; Tiffany Zellner, 4-Hour cafeteria, Mifflin; Loretta Shaffner, 4-Hour cafeteria, high school; Brittney Mason, special education paraprofessional, South Preschool; Kimberly Hess, MECLC lead teacher, preschool; Angela Wilson, special education paraprofessional, Mifflin; Hannah Schrader, MECLC assistant teacher; and Sarah Brook, MECLC assistant teacher.

Substitute employees hired on an "on call" basis, as needed, for the 2025-'26 school year include Taylor Beasley, library technician, administrative assistant; Elijah Bland, paraprofessional; Maura Boltz, cafeteria; Anne Brinley, cafeteria; Rachel Caldwell, cafeteria; Dawn Chinn, cafeteria; JR Chinn, custodial; Tamara Clapper, cafeteria; Beth Conn, paraprofessional; Ashley Davidson-Smith, cafeteria; Valarie Davis, administrative assistant; Michelle Enix, paraprofessional; Casie French, cafeteria; Carrell Gandy, administrative assistant; Pam Gerich, cafeteria; Pam Jackenheimer, administrative assistant, paraprofessional; Karla Lyons, cafeteria, bus paraprofessional; Dean Maul, cafeteria; Stacy Moore, administrative assistant, paraprofessional; Brenda Nadler, bus paraprofessional, cafeteria; Steven Nadler, bus paraprofessional, cafeteria; Bobby Neal, custodial; David Nikolaus, custodial; James Pasheilich, cafeteria; Dorothy Pugh, administrative assistant; Gary Purvis, custodial; Diana Roub, custodial; Kriss Smith, paraprofessional; KaLeyha Utt, custodial; Shanna Wake, cafeteria, administrative assistant; and Brenda Walker, cafeteria.

The board approved the Teach Arts Ohio Grant in the amount of \$14,000 from the Ohio Arts Council to supplement the high school art courses and staff. Mr. Fred del Guidice will be the visiting artist.

The Staffing Agreement was reached with Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center for staffing services for Mansfield Christian School commencing July 1, 2025, and ending on July 31, 2026.

A list of designated bus stops for the 2025-'26 school year was approved, according to Board Policy 8600.

The board approved the St. Joseph Catholic School Title I Pooling Contract between Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center, Madison Local Schools, Bucyrus City Schools, Galion City Schools, Northmor Local Schools and Wynford Local Schools.

The Title I Nonpublic School Program Pooling Contract between North Central Ohio Educational Service Center, Madison Local Schools and Mansfield St. Peter's School was approved.

The board approved student teacher mentor payments from Western Governors University at no cost to the board. These include Lindsey Grove, \$100.; Brittany Farley, \$400; and Melissa Parish, \$200.

A proposed wage structure and benefit changes for the Madison Early Childhood Learning Center was approved.

The board approved the Independent Contractor Agreement between Madison Local Schools and the Silver Lining Group for ABA services from Aug. 18, 2025 through May 29, 2026.

The next regular board of education meeting will be at 6 pm on Sept. 17, in the Madison Middle School Auditoria.

## OSU-M announces 2025-'26 theatre season schedule

The Theatre Program at The Ohio State University at Mansfield has announced its 2025-'26 season, with performances that cover everything from contemporary issues to the founding of the nation 250 years ago.

"We're very excited about this year's lineup, which includes performances of the new play *MLES2GO*, the Greek tragedy *Medea* and the audience-favorite musical *1776*," said Joe Fahey, professor and director of theatre at Ohio State Mansfield. "All three performances will showcase the talent of our student and community artists with auditions and crew positions open to the campus and the public."

Auditions for *MLES2GO* and *Medea* will be held Sept. 2-3 at 6 pm. Auditions for *1776* are planned for Jan. 13-14 at 6 pm. All auditions will be held in Founders Auditorium.

*MLES2GO* offers a blend of comic moments and serious subject matter in its portrayal of young Jordan Belner, who decides to gamble on his future and hitchhike across the country to figure out who he really is. Along the way, he meets an eccentric collection of people who help him confront reality and come to terms with his true self. Los Angeles playwright Michael P. Adams will work with the production team to enrich the script, which was a highlight of last season's Renaissance Theatre's Emerging Artists Festival. The production offers a workshop-style staging of this provocative, humorous, and deeply moving play with opportunities for audience feedback.

*MLES2GO* is produced in partnership with the Emerging Artist Program and performs in Founders Auditorium Oct. 10, 11 and 13 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, Oct. 12, at 2:30 pm. This performance includes adult language and mature content.

*Medea* focuses on a woman who is cruelly thrown aside by her husband, only to commit an unthinkable act of brutality. Translated by Augusta Webster, a 19th-century scholar, poet and suffragist, this production updates Webster's original text to support her exceptional version of Euripides' masterpiece. *Medea* performs Saturday, Nov. 15, at 7:30 pm, Sunday, Nov. 16, at 2:30 pm, and Monday, Nov. 17, at 7:30 pm.

The season will conclude with the musical *1776*, presented in cooperation with The Mansfield Playhouse. *1776* offers a portrayal of our founders' struggle to declare their independence from England. The performance follows John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson as they attempt to convince the members of the Second Continental Congress to vote for independence and sign the declaration. With its rich variety of great songs and memorable lyrics, this humorous, insightful, and compelling version of one of history's great moments will be performed March 7-9 at Ohio State Mansfield, and March 13-15 at The Mansfield Playhouse.

As a special treat, this season also includes a free screening of *The Farewell*, an award-winning film about love, loss, and family, presented in collaboration with The Bromfield Library and Information Commons and Ohio State's Center for East Asian Studies, on Oct. 29 at 6 pm in Founders Auditorium.

Tickets for *MLES2GO* and *Medea* are \$6 for students, seniors and educators and \$10 for the general public through [mansfieldtheatre@osu.edu](mailto:mansfieldtheatre@osu.edu) or 419-755-4045 or at Founders Auditorium in the 45 minutes before each show. Tickets for *1776* are \$10-12. All tickets for *1776* are \$10 and \$12 through <https://www.mansfieldplayhouse.com> or 419-522-2883 and can be purchased on location the hour before each performance.



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Photos by Damon Callis

**Day Trippin' With Damon** – Blacklick Woods Metro Park in Reynoldsburg is a free area to visit. Owned and operated by Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks, features 652 acres of woods, fields, seasonal swamp ponds, a small prairie and a golf course. It has one of the best remaining beech-maple forests in central Ohio along with a buttonbush swamp. The forest areas are laced with trails that wind through a swamp forest. The Canopy Walk traverses the tree canopy 40 feet above ground.

# 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.



# The Bored Man: Crafting humor, hardwood and a meaningful retirement

By Traci Little

Retirement didn't exactly slow Richard Maidment down. Instead, it opened the door to a hobby-turned-small business that combines craftsmanship, creativity and a sense of humor.

Maidment, better known by his brand name "The Bored Man," handcrafts food-safe serving trays, charcuterie boards, shot glass holders, and propagation stations from Ohio hardwoods. His pieces — sold locally at Grandpa's Cheesebarn in Ashland and at regional shows—have become conversation starters as much as they are functional art.

## A Storm, a Walnut Tree, and a New Path

A derecho — straight-line winds topping 90–100 mph — knocked down a massive walnut in his yard back in 2019. "I tried to sell it, and they offered me \$400—if I delivered it," he recalled. Instead, he decided to mill and use the wood himself. That practical pivot soon became a passion.

The brand was born at a show when Maidment joked that, post-retirement, he was "bored to tears"— while selling boards. The pun stuck.

"My wife came up with it," Maidment explained. "We were selling boards, and I mentioned after I retired, I was just bored to tears. It was like—instantly—the perfect fit."

Spelled both "bored" and "board," the play on words draws reactions wherever he goes. "Most people chuckle," he said. "Sometimes they don't even buy anything, but they'll stop and say, 'Love the name!' It gets their attention, and that's good enough for me."

Later in June of 2022, an EF-1 tornado touched down in northern Richland County, knocking down hickory, oak, maple, cherry, and walnut trees in Richard's yard. Most of the wood he uses for the trays comes from those trees, allowing him to keep his prices very low and affordable.



Richard Maidment • Photo By Traci Little

## Learning from the Amish

"I wasn't raised with wood. Everything I've learned, I've learned since 2019—and I'm still learning," Richard said.

Driving by a small Amish sawmill regularly, he finally gathered the courage to stop. "He just said, 'Bring it on up, I'll cut it for you,'" Maidment recalled. The sawyer sliced the walnut into one-inch boards, opening Richard's eyes to the possibilities.

"About that time another guy had a planer for sale, and I knew I needed one. The price was reasonable, so

I bought it. I'm still using that same planer I started with six years ago," he said with a laugh.

Though his experience was limited, Maidment credits much of what he knows to those early lessons. "Most of what I've learned is what that Amish guy taught me," he said. What began as a simple stop at a sawmill turned into the foundation for his woodworking journey.

## A Collaborative Start: Cutie Board Chick

Early on, Jennifer Harper of Butler, owner of Cutie Board Chick, helped put his work in front of the right crowd. Her charcuterie boards, workshops, and winery events paired naturally with his hardwood pieces, amplifying his visibility with customers who appreciate both craftsmanship and presentation.

"She saw some of my trays in a store one day. Thankfully, I had left a business card on one of them without even thinking about it. She called me back, started buying them, and since then she's literally purchased thousands."

Harper had this to say about Richard and his work, "I started my business about four years ago and was looking for someone local who made charcuterie boards for my workshops. I happened to see one of Richard's boards in La Villa store, and they gave me his name. I reached out, and long story short, we connected — and ever since then, he's been making all of my boards for workshops as well as any custom orders I've needed."

People absolutely love his boards when I bring them to events, and I often have him come along to set up a table so he can sell them directly. He's truly one of the kindest souls I've ever met. He'd do anything for anyone, and I feel very blessed to have him connected to my business."

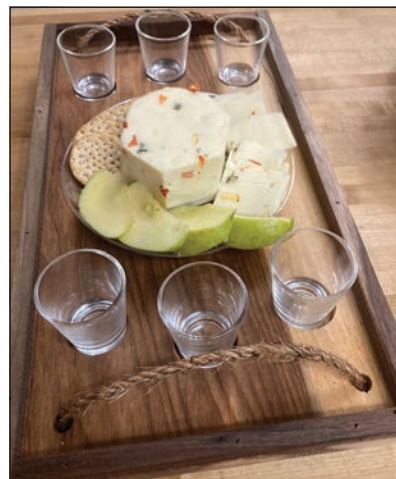
Just this month, Harper used 30 of his boards for her business. You can find her on Facebook at Cutie Board Chick: <https://www.facebook.com/CutieBoardChick>.

Her interest also shaped the direction of his work. "Basically, she's the reason I focused on food-safe serving trays. They had to meet that standard for her to buy them," Maidment explained.

"The shot glass trays were just something I dreamed up on my own, and people liked them — so I stuck with that."

He also credits his neighbor, Jeff Morris, for lending a hand. "He will come over with his loader and load huge logs on my truck for me and has never taken any payment. After the tornado, that was very helpful!" said Maidment.

(Continued on Page 9)





**The Bored Man**  
EST 2019

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**Richard Maidment**  
419.680.4602 | [recycleart1953@gmail.com](mailto:recycleart1953@gmail.com)





## •The Bored Man: Crafting humor, hardwood and a meaningful retirement

(Continued from Page 8)

### Branching Out with New Ideas

Maidment continues to experiment with new products. "I've been doing a few other things like cheese boards, and now I'm making propagation stations," he explained. "They're small wooden stands with a glass tube, so people can start plants in them. It's both a decoration and a plant starter."

The idea is still new, but the response has been encouraging. "I didn't have them ready at one of my earlier shows because the glass tubes arrived late, but both times I've taken them since, I sold out," he said. "So this week I made nine more. It's kind of trial and error—if people show interest, I'll keep making them."

### Retirement at His Own Pace

"I don't want to grow to a point where I have to hire people," Maidment said. "I'm technically retired—it just hasn't quite worked out that way."

For him, woodworking isn't about building an enterprise. It's about creating something with his hands, sharing a laugh with customers, and enjoying the satisfaction of a finished board—all while keeping things small, manageable, and personal.

### Where to Find The Bored Man

You can spot his boards at Grandpa's Cheesebarn in Ashland and at seasonal events, including:

Loudonville – Aug. 30, Mohican Traditions Arts and Crafts Festival from 9 am to 4 pm in Central Park (alongside the Largecars Takeover truck show and the Loudonville Farmers Market).

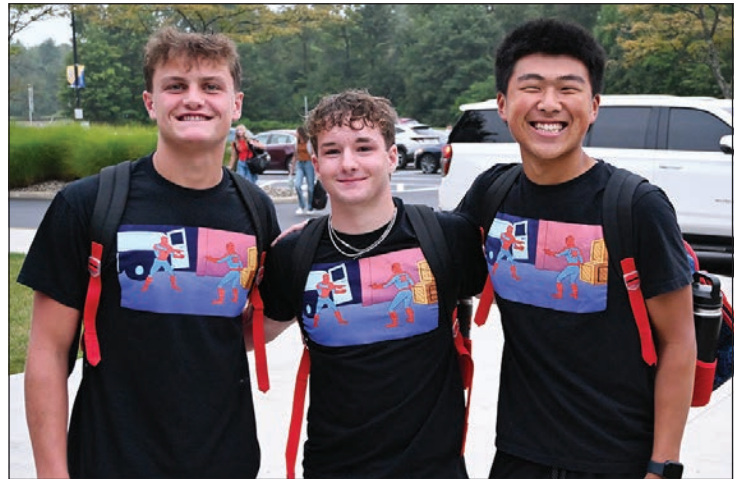
Malabar Farm – Sept. 27 & 28, 48th Annual Ohio Heritage Days from 10 am to 4 pm. This free, family-friendly event features crafts, primitives, antiques, horse-drawn wagons, antique tractors, food, live music, and living history camps. Visitors can also enjoy tours of Louis Bromfield's historic "Big House" and the Ceely Rose House.

Reach out to Richard by phone at 419-680-4602 or by email at recycleart1953@gmail.com.

For shoppers, his pieces offer more than just a tray or board. Each one carries the grain of Ohio hardwood and the story of a man who turned boredom into a new beginning. As Maidment put it simply: "It started with boredom, but it gave me something meaningful to do."



**BRETT HAFNER** stands beside a massive oak that was brought down by the 2022 tornado in Richard Maidment's yard near Pleasant Hill Lake. Measuring 58 inches across, the southern Richland County giant was eventually split using black powder."



**ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL** celebrated the first day of school on Aug. 20.

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**MERRIS WELGE** was named the 2025 Outstanding Senior Citizen for Richland County. Pictures are Ohio State Representative Marilyn John, awardee Merris Welge, Richland County Commissioner Cliff Mears, Ohio Office of the Attorney General Rachel Delaney and Ontario Mayor Kris Knapp.

## Merris Welge named Outstanding Senior Citizen for Richland County

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. has announced that Merris Welge has been named the 2025 Outstanding Senior Citizen for Richland County. Mr. Welge, along with eight other honorees from across the district, were celebrated on Friday, Aug. 15, at a special ceremony hosted at Hawkins Corner.

Merris Welge, for the past three decades, has been a devoted volunteer with the North Central Ohio SCORE chapter — an organization that provides free mentoring and resources to aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners.

Welge donates his time each week, providing guidance to clients, by helping them turn their ideas into successful businesses. He has held key leadership roles at SCORE, including Chapter Chair and Vice Chair.

Welge's contributions to the community extend well beyond SCORE. He has volunteered on the Board of Richland Newhope Industries and the Third Street Clinic. He has contributed to the Richland County Habitat for Humanity and serves on several committees at the Richland Area Chamber and Economic Development.

Welge has been a member of Sertoma for over 35 years, including serving as treasurer. Through Sertoma, Merris has coordinated educational field trips for local hearing-impaired children, including visits to COSI and the Columbus Zoo.

He was recognized not only for his decades of dedicated volunteerism, but for the example he sets in how to live a life of meaning, generosity and service.

Richland County Commissioner Cliff Mears and Ontario Mayor Kris Knapp each presented proclamations to Welge in recognition of his service. Additional proclamations were offered on behalf of State Senator Mark Romanchuk, Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost, and Mansfield Mayor Jodi Perry. Mr. Welge was nominated for this honor by the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development.

Each year, the Area Agency on Aging honors senior citizens who demonstrate exceptional commitment to their communities and present a positive image of aging. One honoree is selected from each of the nine counties in the Agency's service area: Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Richland, Seneca, and Wyandot.

Nominees must be recommended by an individual or organization involved with seniors. Final selections are based on the impact of their contributions and accomplishments made after the age of 60.

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc., located at 2131 Park Avenue West in Ontario, provides leadership, collaboration, coordination, and services to older adults, people with disabilities, caregivers, and resource networks that support independence, dignity and choice.

## Pioneer accepts donations for memorial scholarship

The Pioneer Board of Education met Aug. 18, and adopted a resolution to participate in Workers' Compensation Group Rating Program. The board approved the cost of cafeteria breakfast and lunch prices for the 2025-'26 school year: breakfast, \$1.25; student lunch, \$3.25; free and reduced, \$0; and adult \$4.

Pioneer will participate in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program for the 2025-'26 school year. Nutrition Standards were approved for the 2025-'26 school year.

The board approved the Local Professional Development Committee (LPDC) and meeting dates for the 2025-'26 school year.

An agreement was reached with Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center (MOESC) for Title IX Services for the 2025-2-'26 school year.

The board approved professional development topics and dates for the 2025-'26 school year. Handbooks were also approved.

A client agreement for E-Rate funding and MOU with Richland Public Health were both approved.

Donations accepted for the Rene' Burtscher Memorial Scholarship Fund include Jennifer Stoops, \$250; Molly Belcik \$50; Jeffrey and Keith Ream, \$100; Michael and Jennifer Walte, \$40; Mark and Peggy McKown, \$50; Ellen and Greg Shifley, \$100; John and Nancy Medley, \$50; Michael and Deidra Paulo, \$25; Dena Kirby, \$100; Charles and Julie Thornton, \$100; Glenn Potts, \$75; Frank and Deborah Benham, \$100; Jeffrey and Nancy Buchanan, \$100; Chad and Brandi Jensen, \$50; Catherine Dodge, \$25; Dale and Peggy Humphrey, \$50; Mark and Karen Harvey, \$25; David and Julie Noggle, \$300; Amanda Snipes, \$100; Cynthia Bodkin, \$50; Larry and Lisa Korbas, \$150; Tiffany and Nicholas Osterwyk, \$760; William and Susan Barbour, \$100; Randy and Cheryl Donnamiller, \$50; Ben and Becki Kimmel, \$50; Rick and Teresa Schuerman, \$100; David and Jodi Mott, \$100; Theodore and Debora Zuercher, \$50; Amy and Dave Burtscher, \$100; Patty Korbas, \$50; Kathleen and Edward Miller, \$30; Brenda and Antonio Salinas, \$100; Jodi Korbas and Christina Downs, \$50; Clifford and Leann Kirchner, \$100; Mark and Holly Korbas, \$100; Deboar and Paul Kistner, \$50; Steven Helbert, \$200; Laurie and Jeffrey Kirk, \$100; Lloyd Rebar Company, \$250; Tim and Debbi Newmeyer, \$100; Phil Downs, \$25; David and Lois Steele, \$20; Annette Smith, \$100; Kraig, Abbey, Eli and Noah, \$100; Mark and Sherry Young, \$50; Marilyn Moore, \$20; Mike, Natalie, Cody and Casey Lantz, \$50; Julie and Ken Ensmann, \$25; Anonymous, \$40; Debbie Long, \$50; Sammy Salinas, \$100; Bertha Salinas Trevino, \$100; James Salinas, \$100; Diane Thurman, \$50; Raphael Family, \$40; Lynette Moritz, \$30; Phil and Laurie Korbas, \$50; Todd Korbas, \$20; Kimberly Kirchner, \$50; Jerry & Donna, Kirchner \$50; Linda Zuercher, \$2,000; Rochelle and Michael Zuercher, \$1,050.

Bill McFarland, Lucas, donated a John Deere lawn tractor with an estimated value of \$500 to be used in the Power Equipment program. Sherri Massie, The Gorman-Rupp Company, gave a donation of \$350 to be used for student activities in the 2025-'26 school year.

Chief Anderson, City of Ashland Fire Department, donated items for the First Responder Program including 12 turnout coats and pants (approximate value \$3,000); 14 structural firefighting gloves (approximate value \$300); miscellaneous firehose items (approximate value \$2,000); and 14 pairs of structural firefighting boots (approximate value \$700).

Chief Jackson, City of Galion Fire Department, gave a donation of six turnout coats and pants (approximate value \$1,500) for use in the First Responder Program and Hayesville Fire Department donated structural firefighting helmets (approximate value \$150).

Chief Elliott, Jeromesville Volunteer Fire Department, donated firehose appliances (approximate value \$2,000) and Chief Metzger, Village of Plymouth Volunteer Fire Department, donated firehose appliances (approximate value \$200), seven HAZ-MAT level B suits with respirators (approximate value \$3,000) and three closet hook pike poles (approximate value \$300).

Chief Finnegan, City of Shelby Fire Department, donated items to be used in the First Responder Program including nine turnout coats and eight pants (approximate value \$3,000) and 16 pairs of structural firefighting boots (approximate value \$800).

(Continued on Page 11)



# •Pioneer accepts donations for memorial scholarship

(Continued from Page 10)

Chief Compton, Troy Township Fire Department, Lexington, donated 20 turnout coats and pants (approximate value \$5,000), seven pairs of structural firefighting boots (approximate value \$500); 14 helmets (approximate value \$1,000); 14 structural firefighting gloves (approximate value \$300); 25 1 1/2 inch x 50 ft fire hose (approximate value \$750); 14 2 1/2 inch x 50 ft fire hose (approximate value \$750) and 3 inch x 50 ft. fire hose (approximate value \$100).

The board approved salary adjustments for administrative personnel Kristopher Kowalski, Director of Business Affairs, from MA + 30 step 10 to MA + 30 step 20.

The board approved a \$25/month stipend for use of private cell phone for school use for Greg Nickoli, Jeremiah Howe, Gavyn Bazley, Daniel Slaughter, Kris Kowalski, Clay Frye, Kevin Vargyas, Donald Paullin, Troy Schwemley and Jolene Young.

The board approved the employment of Nate Ganzhorn, Engineering Design Technology Instructor, on a one-year contract at the BA level, Step 10 with two extended days plus all board approved fringe benefits.

Conference Period Pay was approved for Caleb Alt, Industrial Diesel Mechanics instructor; Joshua Barnett, Home Remodeling instructor; Grant Brocwell, Masonry instructor; Joshua Broughton, IT Support instructor; Terri Crain, Health Assistant instructor; William Dichtl, Graphic Arts instructor; Jeffrey Evans, Auto Tech/Construction Level One instructor; Frederick Fagan, Cybersecurity instructor

Nate Ganzhorn, Engineering Design Tech instructor; Daniel George, Criminal Justice instructor; Sandra Grau, Horticulture instructor; Meghan Haney, Medical Technologies instructor; Rick Harvey, Power Equipment Mechanics instructor; Rebecca Holbrook, Medical Assistant instructor; Christopher Karl, Precision Machining Technologies instructor; Brian Madison, PLTW/Industrial Tech, Shelby HS; Melinda Meisse, ECE instructor; Michael Messersmith, Automotive

Tech instructor; Jesse Meyer, Welding instructor; Michael Millward, Exercise Science/Sports Medicine instructor; Lynette Moritz, Media Communications instructor; Melissa Myers, Dental Assistant instructor; Carey Ransom, Cosmetology instructor; James Rippel, Industrial Electricity instructor; Marianne Ritchie, Electives instructor; Skyler Rose, Collision Repair instructor; Jon Secrest, Welding instructor; Krista Snider, Cosmetology instructor; Michael Thompson, First Responder instructor; Justin Tuttle, Carpentry instructor.

Alan Sears, Success Center Coordinator, was awarded a supplemental contract up to 100 hours, as needed, on days school is in session at the board-approved rate with time reported on an hourly timesheet and approved by the director of operations.

Susan Cooper was granted a \$2,500 mileage (remove mileage from E. Jenkins) for travel to/from performing arts.A

Stipend contracts were approved for certificated personnel.

Bus drivers approved for the new school year are Josh Barnett Karren Rowe, Grant Brocwell, Jon Secrest, Adam Haymaker, Tim Slone, Mike Messersmith, Mike Hompson, Jesse Meyer, Kevin Vargyas, Kenny Owen, Justin Tuttle and Matt Parr.

A bus driver stipend of \$72 was approved for Justin Tuttle.

Certified substitute instructors hired include Lorin Weaver and Rebecca Knipp.

Juli Adair was hired as a part-time ECE Parent coordinator on a one-year contract. Mackenzie Klamfoth was hired as a career coach.

Supplemental contracts were awarded to Caitlin Roub, Early Childhood Education Extra Help; and Molly Kousma, Willard, Early Childhood Education Extra Help.

A cell phone stipend of \$25/month was approved for use of private cell phones for school use. These went to Linda Bellomy, Jeffrey Payne, Timothy Slone, Adam Haymaker, Kenny Owen and Karren Rowe.

The board approved the employment of substitute classified personnel including Substitute Custodial/Security Worker Tessa Slone; substitute cafeteria worker Barbara Wade; substitute bus driver Kip Stevens; and substitute Early Childhood Education lead teacher/education aides Juli Adair, Brittany West and Rebecca Knipp.

The board approved the employment of part-time adult education certificated personnel for the 2025-'26 school year including Nicholas Campbell, Welding instructor.

The board adopted 2025-'26 board goals and approved revisions to existing policy and updates to building rental fees. The board then adopted Resolution 13-25 for the treasurer to continue to prepare 5-year forecasts.

## Bucyrus City Schools hosts employer panel and expo

Bucyrus City Schools brought together educators and industry leaders on Tuesday, Aug. 19, for a professional development day designed to help teachers better connect classroom learning to workforce opportunities.

The morning began with an employer discussion panel, moderated by Galion Superintendent Bob Britton, where regional business leaders shared insights on hiring needs, industry trends and how schools can prepare students for future careers. Panelists included Clint Knight, director, Area 10 Workforce Development Board; Ken Auck, operations manager, Forge Fire Company; Gary Lauderbaugh, manager of IT Operations & Infrastructure, Ohio Mutual Insurance; Annie Carter, president, Carter Machine Company and Hydranamics, Inc.; and Adam Weiser, general manager, Advanced Fiber Technology.

Following the discussion, teachers rotated through a manufacturing and technology expo featuring nearly 30 interactive stations. Local employers, higher education institutions, and workforce partners led hands-on demonstrations showcasing electronics, robotics, fiber optics, drones, blueprint reading, quality checks, coding, logistics, and other skills essential to today's industries.

"We are deeply grateful to our partners who invested their time and expertise in our faculty and staff today," said Amy Wood, Project Director. "Their commitment ensures that our educators are better equipped to guide students toward opportunities that align with local workforce needs."

By engaging directly with employers and trying out real-world tools, teachers gained valuable knowledge to bring back to their classrooms, ensuring they can advise students more effectively on local workforce opportunities and needs.

"This was about giving our teachers firsthand insight into the skills our students need to thrive," said Superintendent Britton. "By connecting educators to industry, we're preparing our students for success and ensuring Bucyrus is leading the way in career readiness."

## Baker will lead Mansfield NAACP

The Mansfield branch of the NAACP announced a leadership change following the departure of its current president, Alomar Davenport. Davenport will be stepping down from his role effective immediately, as he has accepted a promotion with his company and will be relocating out of the state of Ohio.

A representative of the organization said, "Davenport has served as president of the branch with dedication and vision, working to advance the mission of equity, justice and civil rights throughout Richland County."

During his tenure, the organization has continued its advocacy for marginalized communities and fostered stronger relationships across the region.

"I am disappointed to leave this important work, but know that the organization will continue to make an impact in the community under the leadership of Dennis Baker," Davenport said. "This is a great opportunity for me to further my career and a meaningful next step professionally."

Effective immediately, Dennis Baker, the branch's current first vice president, will assume the role of President and serve the remainder of Davenport's term.

"I would like to thank the members of this esteemed organization, the members of the executive committee, and the community of Richland County who joined with me to make a change for our citizens," added Davenport.

The NAACP Mansfield branch remains committed to its mission.



# Old Dog Outpost opens in Mansfield with ribbon cutting ceremony, continues mission to serve veterans

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Community leaders, family and supporters gathered on Monday, Aug. 25 at 4 pm for the ribbon cutting and grand opening of Old Dog Outpost, located at 1290 Park Avenue East in Mansfield. The celebration, hosted by the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development, marked the launch of a shop with a purpose that is far greater than retail.

"Quite a unique, really cool and fun place to be," said Jennifer from the Chamber as she welcomed the new business. "Most of all, we are honored for the impact you are making in the lives of those who serve our country. We welcome you with open arms into our community."

Chamber president Ellen Heinz added, "Small businesses are the heart and soul of our community, and we wouldn't be here without you. You make Richland County stronger — not only through entrepreneurship, but through the impact you're making in the lives of veterans."



## A Home for Service Dog United

The opening of Old Dog Outpost also established the first physical home in Richland County for Service Dog United, a nonprofit founded in 2022 by veteran Ian Robinson and his wife, Holly. The organization is dedicated to procuring and providing highly trained service dogs to veterans, first responders, and Gold Star families. They breed yellow and black labs who go through a year's worth of training!

Robinson shared that Service Dog United currently places about ten dogs per year, with hopes of gradually expanding to serve more. What makes their program unique is its partnership with the Chillicothe Correctional Institution (CCI), where inmates — many in a veterans diversionary unit — train the dogs. Since implementing the program, CCI has reported zero inmate incidents in over a year, underscoring the rehabilitative value of the training.

"We wanted to make a difference," Robinson said. "I served in the Air Force from 1998 to 2010, spending four of those years training dogs in Afghanistan and Iraq as part of a counter-IED task force. That experience not only taught me how to train dogs but also showed me how life-changing they can be. Too often, though, there are hurdles and barriers that make service dogs almost unattainable for the veterans who need them most."

Every day, we lose 22 veterans to suicide. A service dog isn't just a companion—it's a 360-degree safety plan. It gives veterans, their spouses, and their children the chance to rebuild, to live positively and productively, and to reconnect with their communities."

In addition to his work with Service Dog United, Robinson also leads Awareness 22, an organization offering a crisis line and resources to veterans dealing with suicide ideation, financial literacy challenges and counseling needs. Find out more by visiting

their facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/22Awareness>.

## Family and Community Support

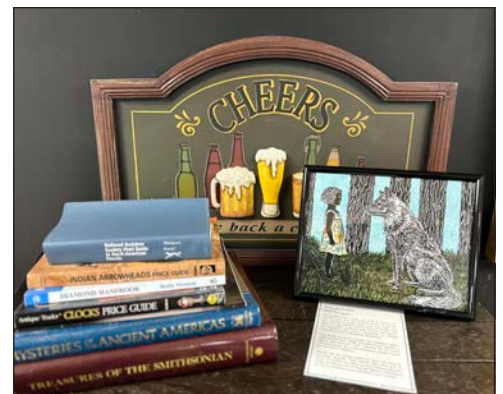
Robinson credited his wife Holly and his mother with keeping the mission on track. "Without her," he said of Holly, "none of this would have ever happened."

The new store, he explained, will help sustain their nonprofit's mission. Every purchase directly supports their work with service dogs and veterans. The shop is packed with fun and unusual items you won't find anywhere else. Make time to stop by—you'll definitely want to see the Ohio State Reformatory pieces!

## About Old Dog Outpost

Old Dog Outpost is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm at 1290 Park Avenue East, Mansfield. Beyond shopping for vintage and antiques throughout the store, they also specialize in oddities, and curiosities, while offering a welcoming space to relax, browse, and learn about the mission. Updates are shared on their Facebook page.

"Not only is it a wonderful place to shop," Chamber representatives noted, "it's a place that feels inviting and uplifting — and every purchase supports a greater cause."





# Ontario receives Ohio Auditor of State Award

The Ontario Board of Education met for an organizational and regular board meeting on Aug. 12.

Tina Ludwig from AOS presented the Ohio Auditor of State Award for the fiscal year 2024 audit to the district.

The girls 4X4 team was honored for their state championship win and Kennedy Sapp was recognized for winning second place in the nation at the national FCCLA competition.

Alex Hertensteiner was hired as an eighth grade science teacher, effective with the 2025-'26 school year, \$45,712, replacing Charlie Ridenour who retired.

Bambi Glasener resigned as a Stingel 2 1/2 hour cook.

Katie Hiser was hired as a Stingel Playground Aide at \$13.61 per hour. Lana Garberich was hired as a middle school art teacher on a one-year contract as a returning retire/rehire for the 2025-'26 school year.

Substitute teachers hired for the school year are Tracy Byrd, middle school every day substitute; Ethan Pensante, high school every day substitute; Samantha Gear, Stingel every day substitute; and Stephanie Mills, Stingel every day substitute.

David Wolbert was approved to perform consultation/coaching services for the instrumental music program, at a daily per diem (\$328), not to exceed 36 days for the 2025-'26 school year.

Jerry King will perform consultation/coaching services for vocal and elementary music, at a daily per diem (\$328), not to exceed 36 days for the 2025-'26 school year.

Melanie Ferguson resigned as the Key Club Advisor and Maggie Love resigned as the freshman cheer advisor and junior varsity cheer advisor (50% stipend).

Additional hirings included Morgan Eckert, OHS Golden Girls coach, \$1,783; Maggie Love, volunteer cheerleading advisor, \$0; Gianna Gallo, OHS Varsity Cheer advisor, \$2,050; Gianna Gallo, OHS JV Cheer advisor, (50% Stipend), \$1,025; Bret Simmermacher, Varsity Head Baseball coach, \$5,804; Michael Thoma, OMS Football Volunteer assistant coach, \$0; Ryan Sowards, OHS Football volunteer assistant coach, Salary \$0; Chris Miller, OHS Volunteer Football assistant coach, \$0; Joe Baumgard, OHS Volunteer Football assistant coach, \$0; Kevin Click, OHS Volunteer Football assistant coach \$0; Alan Miller, OHS Volunteer Football assistant coach, \$0; Chris Harris, OHS Volunteer Football assistant coach, \$0; Whitney Fanello, OHS JV Volleyball coach, \$3,570; Taylor Heiby, OHS Volleyball Asst. coach, \$4,675; Paige Patton, OMS 8th Grade Volleyball coach, \$2,228; Addison Sandru, Girls Soccer assistant coach, \$3,401, Mike Ellis, Girls Golf Head coach, \$4,081; Rebecca Gregg, OHS Volunteer Cross Country assistant coach, \$0; Logan Leitzky, After School Club, Salary \$1,290; Tonya Winningham, resident educator coordinator and facilitator, \$1,800; Melissa Fittante, mentor year 1, \$1,050 (Grace Reven and Mallore Guillereault); Tyler Coley, mentor year 1, \$750 (Carter Keinath); Lynda Ditty, mentor year 1, \$750 (Emily Gerak); Kelli Eddleblute, mentor year 1, \$750 (MacKenzie Stoner); Morgan Schneider, mentor year 1, \$750 (Emma Ruhe); Aubrey Cardwell, mentor year 1, \$750 (Lily Rockwell); Michelle Laymon, mentor year 1, \$750 (Sarah Sherck); and Annalee Stover, mentor year 1, \$750 (Addison Sandru).

The board approved the employment of Jesse Hoffman as the permanent substitute bus driver at a rate of \$18.42 per hour worked for the 2025-'26 school year.

The board approved the HB33 Remote Day Learning Plan and Title 1 Reading Teachers Doreen Givens, Paulette Huber, Jennifer Jarvis and Susan Kurtzman. One extended day was approved for Doug Basham, at his per diem rate.

The board approved a policy overseeing school district concession operations for the 2025-'26 school year.

Grants accepted from Richland County Foundation include Experience Culture with Food for Danielle Basham, \$1,499.75; Project Based Learning for Zack Canfield, \$296.82; Intervention for Paulette Huber, \$1,444.42; Steam Club for Michelle Laymon, \$1,365; Reading Intervention for Kellie Ritchey, \$1,429.50; and I'm Done. Now What? for Tonya Winningham, \$939.51.

Permanent appropriations for the 2025-'26 school year, July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, was approved.

Pat Duffner was approved to act as the superintendent's "desig-

nee" for district transportation purposes as well as determining the location of school bus stops and relocating the bus stops during the 2025-'26 school year.

A \$50 stipend was approved for personnel attending the new teacher orientation on Thursday, Aug. 14. Stipends went to Aaron Akers, Emily Gerak, Mallore Guillereault, Alex Hertensteiner, Matt Lautanen, Susan McBride, Rosa Minnear, Kelsea Noblet, Grace Reven, Lily Rockwell, Emma Ruhe, Addison Sandru, Sarah Sherck and Mackenzie Stoner.

An \$875 stipend was awarded to Jodi Cooper Wentz for starting a new CCP class in 2024-'25 per ODEW instruction.

A payment was approved for required coursework for Melissa Fittante to teach CCP classes in the amount of \$1,757.67 payable upon completion of coursework.

Donations were accepted from Strategic Turf Systems, \$4,000, athletic field topdressing; Stingel PTO, \$22,000, new equipment for Stingel playground; Jeremy and Renee Yeager, \$30, girls soccer; Chasity and Jerry Moton, \$40, girls soccer; Aaron and Rachel Samuels, \$20, girls soccer; anonymous, \$5,000, boys soccer; and OHSAA, \$1,250, general athletics.

The Ontario Booster Club donated \$1,120 for track, \$1,290 for girls golf, \$1,270.50 for girls tennis and \$617.93 for boys tennis.

Donations also came from the Auditor of Richland County, AED Devices and Accessories Reimbursement, \$2,922.32; and NAEIR, miscellaneous tools.

Buckeye Car Wash, Shelly Knapp, Ontario Police Department and Texas Roadhouse were recognized for appreciation for the "Stuff The Bus" back to school supply campaign.

The OSBA Capitol Conference and the softball field project were discussed.

The next board of education meeting will be Sept. 9.

## OSU-M professor's book launch is September 2

An academy professor emeritus in the Department of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology at The Ohio State University at Mansfield will hold a public book launch Sept. 2 for his latest book, *The Peopling of Polynesia: From Taiwan to Easter Island*.

Tim Berra, of Bellville, will answer questions about the early people of Polynesia, including who the early inhabitants were, where they came from, when they arrived and when the last uninhabited land was colonized.

The lecture will feature maps and photographs, plus excerpts from his book, published by Acclaim Press, of Missouri.

This is the perfect book for anyone interested in the people of Polynesia and the last major period of human expansion, from Taiwan to Hawaii, Easter Island and New Zealand.

During the discussion, Berra will explore ancient evidence from linguistics, archaeology and biology.

"The Austronesian language family will be discussed in relation to nearby Papuan languages," said Berra. "The Lapita Culture and its unusual pottery will reveal pathways through Melanesia into Polynesia."

The discussion will include Polynesian Pacific rats, pigs, dogs, chickens, sweet potatoes, etc. along with parasites, genetic studies and the Polynesian genetic motif.

"Special attention will be given to Rapa Nui (Easter Island), with its fantastic statues known as moai," said Berra.

"We will explore what instigated its population collapse, including hypotheses about ecocide caused by deforestation, and genocide caused by European interference."

The event is open to the public and will be held at 5 pm in the John and Pearl Conard Performance Hall inside Riedl Hall, located on the Ohio State Mansfield campus.

Copies of his book will be available the day of his presentation. For more information, Berra can be reached at berra.1@osu.edu or 419-755-4310.



## Lexington approves hirings of substitute educational aides

The Lexington Board of Education met Aug. 20.

Gorman-Rupp Company donated \$350 for student programs and activities. Salary adjustments were approved for Melanie Stilson, Jennifer Brane, Bruce Dewey and Michelle Dreibelbis.

Bret Simmermacher was hired as an Eastern Elementary sixth grade intervention specialist for the 2025-'26 school year on a one-year contract. Kaitlyn Swartzmiller was hired as a junior high intervention specialist for 2025-'26. Also hired were Mark Reed, junior high science; and Abigail Masi, high school long-term physical education substitute.

Resignations were accepted from Sheila Winters, food services department; Valerie Hunter, Eastern Elementary librarian; and Ashley Smith high school educational aide.

Vicki Collins was hired as a Western Elementary Educational Aide on a one-year contract. Hannah Whitney was hired as the Eastern Elementary Librarian.

Substitute educational aides hired for the 2025-'26 school year are Julia Jungeberg, Erica Bauer, Liz Brant, Seth Cole, Theresa Clingan, Sandra Deluca, Angela Devaney, Sharon Fesmier, Virginia Jordan, Justice Holmes, Jennifer Lamp, Heather Logan, Bethany Mueller, Geoffrey Newland, Hannah Price and Patty Smith.

Suzanne Fackelman was hired as a long-term substitute for general music at Central and Western Elementary for the first semester of the 2025-'26 school year.

Substitute educational aides (Renhill) hired include Kaily Vitullo, John Murray, Angela Lynch, Tammy Pitt, Sharon Fesmier, Chelsea Clingan, Scott Hartge, Haylee Hershner Autumn Snow, Crystal Creameans, Melanie Walker, MiKayla Christman, Aubrey Ream, Maranatha McKinney, Megan Strickler, Kyna Sherer and Jessica Sutter.

Coaching resignations came from Michelle Smith, head girls' track coach; Valerie Hunter, run club advisor; and Michael Moore, football assistant coach.

Hirings included Montrell Caldwell, assistant football coach (1/2 stipend); Anthony Harkness, volunteer assistant football coach; Nick Teglovic, volunteer assistant football coach; Greg Owens, JV boys golf coach; Melanie Walker, freshman cheer advisor; and MiKayla Christman, junior high cheer advisor. Scott Hamilton, Tricia Brown and John Davis were approved as athletic department assistants for the 2025-'26 school year at \$15 per hour.

Cassidy Dillon will teach STEAM camp for three days.

The board approved Terriaun Hammock as a tuition student.

Susan Clewell was approved as a parent volunteer for Western Elementary for the 2025-'26 school year and parents approved to volunteer at Central and Western Elementary for the 2025-'26 school year include Carrie Grund, Ashley Harwell, Somer Hittinger, Jena Thompson, Melissa Ott, Jill Coward and Charlotte Davis.

The board approved an increase in the food service substitute pay from the current amount (\$10.70) to the base pay similar to other classified department substitute rates. The board ratified the tentative agreement for LSA for the period Sept. 1, 2025 through August 31, 2028.

Salary and insurance adjustments were made for administrative/supervisor/non-union staff positions for the 2025-'26, 2026-'27 and 2027-'28 school years, to follow the salary adjustments agreed to with LSA. Updated administrator/supervisor/non-union salary schedules were also approved.

The board voted to authorize the superintendent and treasurer to approve, as needed, change orders up to \$75,000, as well as any necessary time extensions, for the duration of the current PK-6 OFCC facilities project. The board approved the 2025-'26 pay schedule and the substitute lists as provided by MOESC dated Aug. 15, 2025



## KCCC students earn BT Elite status

The Knox County Career Center Building Trades program recognized ten students who earned the status of "Building Trades Elite."

"Building Trades Elite" (BT Elite) is a program generated by Colby Clippinger, former KCCC Building Trades instructor, and the KCCC Building Trades Advisory Council that began in 2019-'20. Joe Stallard, KCCC's new Building Trades instructor, will continue the BT Elite program. The program's criteria centers around attendance, discipline, industry credentialing, and extracurricular activities. A point system is set up where students earn points for attendance, grades, industry credentialing, and extracurricular activities. Students can lose points for being tardy, absent, and for discipline issues. In order to earn "BT Elite" status, students must earn 250 points and must maintain 250 points or higher until graduation to keep the "BT Elite" status.

The "BT Elite" program is completely company-sponsored. Students who earn "BT Elite" status are awarded a hoodie and an interview shirt. The companies pay for the hoodies and interview shirts. The hoodie has the Building Trades Elite crest on the back along with the company sponsors. The student's name and "BT Elite" are on the front of the hoodie. The interview shirt has "BT Elite" and the student's name on the front.

Clippinger and Stallard commented, "We appreciate the companies who have partnered with us on the "BT Elite" program.

Students (pictured L to R) Preston Nyhart, Ethan Hull, Syllas Lamneck, Carson Penney, Porter Nyhart, Galen Ruprecht, Brianna Goodman, Truman Chester, Madysen Cochrun, and Gage Cook all earned BT Elite at the end of the conclusion of the fourth quarter last school year. Seventy-two students from the Building Trades program have now earned "BT Elite" status since its inception.

Stallard added, "We look forward to continuing the BT Elite program here at KCCC. The BT Elite program gives students something to strive for each day. Our industry partners will continue to benefit from hiring a well-rounded and industry-prepared student."

KCCC & the Building Trades program would like to thank the companies who sponsor "BT Elite". Thank you to J & B Acoustical, Ohio Contractors Association, ProTech Basement Solutions, LiUNA! Local 1216, Kokosing, Corna Kokosing, Brennstuhl Construction, Modern Builders, Gray Mechanical, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Local 735, Holmes Rental & Sales, Meade Roofing Services, Small's Sand & Gravel, Ellis Brothers, Igel, Ruhlin, Knox Concrete, ACP, Mack Industries, and Rietschlin Construction

## Local students on Capital University lists

Capital University has announced its president's list honorees for the spring 2025 semester. Local students on the list are Abby Bechstein of Mansfield, Elizabeth Corn of Ontario and Theresa Dzigan of Ontario.

Local students on the provost's list for the spring 2025 semester are Liam Paxton of Mansfield and Thomas Secrist of Ontario.

Dean's List honorees for the spring 2025 semester are Ryan Brophy of Ontario and Jayden Dechert of Mansfield.

In order to be named to the dean's list, full-time, degree-seeking students must have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.69.





## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

## Lucas routs Plymouth Big Red 51-0 in home opener

By Kris Leiter

Looks can be deceiving. An innocent bear cub can look sweet and cuddly, but ask anyone from the quaint village of Lucas and they will tell you how fierce their football team has become.

Sweet and cute couldn't have been further from the truth Friday night as Coach Jim Sweat, in his second year manning the mighty Cubs, derailed the Plymouth Big Red at Bob Wine field in Lucas 51-0.

Plymouth, known for building locomotives for years could not get the train started on the offensive track.

Lucas started the shutout by kicking-off. Plymouth, started on offense at their own 22-yard line to gain less than five yards in their first series. They would punt with 10:57 remaining on the first quarter clock.

At 10:48, the mighty Cubs started their first offensive series of the night, capitalizing with runs by Tim Daly and Brady Guegold and notch a first down at 8:53 on the clock.

The end zone saw the first Cub as Tim Daley, senior, at 8:29, put Lucas on the scoreboard with six points and junior Brady Guegold scored the 2-point conversion to put the Cubs on top 8-0.

You may hear the name Guegold quite often, as there are three Guegold brothers that will be contributing to the Lucas gridiron this year. Brady, a junior who notched phenomenal yardage last year as a sophomore, will be handling duties in the backfield this year as well as kicking.

Mason, the oldest Guegold sibling, has two years of varsity experience and Owen will be playing JV and may possibly see some playing time on Fridays.

The Cubs offensive continued to sizzle and so did the score as they notched another touchdown and 2-point conversion to put Lucas on top 16-0 with 6:58 in the first quarter.

At 1:37, first quarter, the Cubs scored another six points and again, Daley would see paydirt and Anthony Fanello would score on the 2-point conversion, bringing the tally total to 24-0.

The Lucas score would continue to grow and at 6:45 in the second quarter, Brady Anschutz scored on a 12-yard run to add the Lucas total to now read 30-0, the extra point would not succeed, but Lucas was sitting in the drivers seat with a commanding lead.

The Cub offensive continued as did their defense. At 5:09, junior Joey Desterhalf intercepted the Plymouth pass.

Cooper Day had a quarterback sack at 2:51 in the second quarter.

The Cubs added another six points at 1:19, second quarter, now making the score 37-0 including the extra-point kick by Brady Guegold.

At 10:06, third quarter, Brady Guegold "The Toe" does it all, as he scores the touchdown and kicks the extra-point to make the score 44-0!

As the fourth quarter began, Lucas would notch another touchdown at 5:06 with Bentley Rannigan, freshman, contributing to the scoring frenzy of 51-0, including the successful extra point.

As the final horn would sound, the Cubs would seal the deal!

Next week, Lucas will travel to visit the Hillsdale Falcons at 7 pm. As you may remember, Hillsdale and Lucas have had some very competitive games in recent years and I'm sure this will be one to see as well! Go Cubs!



Photos By Kelli Sweat



## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS LEXINGTON FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL · AUG. 22  
PHOTOS BY TRACI LITTLE

**LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL** kicked off its season with a 36-16 win over Ontario on Aug. 22 at home. The Minutemen jumped out to a 13-6 lead in the first quarter and held a 22-16 edge at halftime. After regrouping, Lexington pulled away in the second half, outscoring the Warriors 14-0 to secure the victory. Quarterback Caudill led the way with a balanced attack, while receiver Seven Allen added a big-play spark. The win avenged last year's loss to Ontario and gave Lexington an early boost heading into next week's matchup at Shelby. Ontario will look to rebound against Norwalk.





# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS LEXINGTON FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL · AUG. 22

PHOTOS BY TRACI LITTLE





## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS ONTARIO VOLLEYBALL · AUG. 21 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER





## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS WEST HOLMES VOLLEYBALL · AUG. 19 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER





# CLASSIFIEDS

## OFFICIAL NOTICE TO CUT HIGH GRASS/WEEDS

Date: August 21, 2025  
To: BROWN CORINNE or Representative  
At: PO BOX 270 ONTARIO OH 44862

RE Parcel ID Number:  
0386015106000, 3448 Park Ave West,  
Ontario, Ohio 44906

Please be advised that Chapter 557 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Ontario requires that the owner or person in charge of any parcel of land of less than three (3) acres shall cut all grass, noxious weeds and other vegetation to a length of no greater than eight (8) inches above the ground. A recent visual inspection of the above-referenced property indicates that a probable violation of Chapter 557 presently exists.

Please be advised that unless within ten (10) business days of receipt of this notice you come into compliance with this Ordinance, one or both of the following may occur:

1. The City will cut the grass/weeds on this property and certify the cost to the County Auditor for collection along with your real estate taxes.

2. You will be cited into Ontario Mayor's Court with a criminal charge as follows:

a. A first (1st) offense of Codified Ordinance 557.02 in a calendar year is a minor misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of a \$150.00 fine.

b. A second (2nd) offense of Codified Ordinance 557.02 in a calendar year is a 4th degree misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of a \$250.00 fine and 30 days in jail

c. Each subsequent violation of Codified Ordinance 557.02 in a calendar year is a 3rd degree misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of a \$500.00 fine and 60 days in jail.

You may review the Code on the City's website ([www.ontarioohio.org](http://www.ontarioohio.org)).

It is required that you come into compliance with this Ordinance within ten (10) business days of the date of receipt of this notice and remain in compliance at all times throughout the growing season. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact the undersigned.

### THIS IS THE ONLY NOTICE YOU WILL RECEIVE.

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of this Notice was served on the property owner listed above by ☐ personal service, ☐ leaving it at the premises (photo on file), ☐ certified mail, ☐ regular mail on this 21 day of August 2025.

Benji Hall  
Ontario Zoning Inspector  
City of Ontario, OH  
(T-C 8-28 '25) 69L

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held before Village Council of the Village of Lexington at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at the Village Hall, 44

West Main Street, Lexington, Ohio upon the following proposed zoning variance request:

A change of zoning at 65 South Mill Street in Lexington, Ohio from I1 - Light Industrial to T - Transitional Zoning.

All residents are invited to attend and express their views on this request.

Brenda Barton  
Clerk of Council  
Village of Lexington, OH  
(T-C 8-21, 28 '25) 17 L

#### LEGAL NOTICE

The following is a succinct summary of the legislation adopted by the Council of the City of Ontario, at their regular meeting held on August 20, 2025.

The complete text of this Ordinance may be viewed and copies obtained at the Office of the Clerk of Council, Ontario Municipal Building, 555 Stumbo Road, Ontario, Ohio, during regular business hours.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-08 - A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO KYLE WEBB FOR HIS SERVICE OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS TO THE CITY OF ONTARIO, OHIO.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-17 - AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING WAGES AND SALARIES FOR NON-COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT EMPLOYEES OF THIS CITY, REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 24-30, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Cathy VanAuker  
Clerk of Council  
City of Ontario, OH  
(T-C 8-28, 9-4 '25) 26L

#### PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS (ORC 3313.46)

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received at the office of the Treasurer, Madison Local School District, 1379 Grace Street Mansfield Ohio 44905 11:00 am local time, on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 and will be publicly opened and read aloud immediately thereafter for furnishing all material and performing all labor necessary for the High School Boiler Replacement Project according to the scope of work below. Any prospective bidder may also view the site of the work by calling 419-589-2600 during regular business hours.

The project consists of the following Scope of Work:

Design and install a fully functional heating system including the following:

- 4 - Lochinvar FTX850N-M9
- 1 - TH5 519A-1G150-143 plate and frame heat exchanger to create separate loop for boiler only
- 1 - Caleffi NA546100AM 4" flanged ASME air dirt magnetic separator 400 GPM max
- 1 - Caleffi 574151A backflow combination auto fill station
- All supply, return, and drain piping required for a fully functional system
- All intake and exhaust piping
- All warranty per Lochinvar specifica-

tions

•Permits and factory start up

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids or parts of any or all bids to waive any irregularities in the bids received which do not impair the competitive nature of the bidding process. The Board reserves the right to choose among alternative

bids for different materials, methods, and systems if within local state and federal requirements. The Board also reserves the right to seek clarification of bids after opening.

By Order of the Board of Education  
of the Madison Local School District  
Bradd Stevens, Treasurer  
(T-C 8-28, 9-4 '25) 51L

## Teachers of Tomorrow opens applications for annual scholarship

Teachers of Tomorrow (ToT), the nation's largest Educator Preparation Program (EPP), today opens applications for its annual New Teacher Scholarship for aspiring educators.

Twenty applicants will be awarded scholarships to cover up to \$6,000 in program fees each across nine states where ToT has programs, including Texas, Florida, Arizona, Indiana, Michigan, North Carolina, Nevada, Ohio and South Carolina.

The deadline to apply is Aug. 31.

To qualify, applicants must be fully enrolled in a ToT program by Sept. 30, 2025.

Scholarship recipients will be announced in October.

"As the education landscape evolves, we remain committed to helping passionate individuals become the teachers their communities need," said Dr. Heath Morrison, CEO of Teachers of Tomorrow. "This scholarship is just one way we're removing financial barriers and building the next generation of life-changing educators."

With more than 85,000 teachers certified since its founding, Teachers of Tomorrow continues to play a critical role in addressing the national teacher shortage and strengthening the educator pipeline through accessible, high-quality certification pathways.

The 2025 New Teacher Scholarship application is available at [https://www.teachersoftomorrow.org/new\\_teacher\\_scholarship/](https://www.teachersoftomorrow.org/new_teacher_scholarship/).

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY



**Slone's Mobile Grooming**  
419.565.0691

Scan to book

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[slonesmobilegrooming@gmail.com](mailto:slonesmobilegrooming@gmail.com)



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

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

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