



TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com

03.19.26



Richland Area Chamber to host 19th annual business expo

The Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development is thrilled to invite the public to attend the 19th Annual Business Expo on Thursday, March 19, from 10 am to 4 pm at the Richland County Fairgrounds. This year's Expo, presented by Hamilton Insurance Group, will feature a fun and interactive Monopoly atmosphere with over 100 local businesses and non-profit organizations showcasing their products and services.

A special ribbon-cutting ceremony with local officials will kick off the event at 9:45 am. The Expo offers free admission and parking and is open to the general public. Individual booths will offer samples, prizes, and giveaways throughout the day, with additional prize drawings hosted by the Chamber.

"We're excited to bring back the Business Expo for its 19th year with a theme that's already generating a lot of excitement," said Lisa Duckworth, Chamber Program & Events Director. "This is the perfect chance for the public to engage with local businesses and support our community."

Featured exhibits and activities include a Mansfield Speedway racecar and the Bytchn Kitchen Food Truck.

The Chamber is also hosting a special donation drive to support a local food bank. Attendees who bring nonperishable food items will receive an entry into an exclusive prize drawing.

The expo is made possible thanks to the generous support of nearly 30 local businesses, including Hamilton Insurance Group, American Homestead Exteriors, Heartland Design Concepts, Mansfield Speedway, and New Mercy Outreach. A full list of sponsors and event details, including a prize entry ticket, can be found at <https://portal.richlandareachamber.com/events/details/business-expo-2026-6376>.

The Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development is the largest regional business advocacy organization, representing over 1,100 members in the Mid-Ohio area. The Chamber actively supports local businesses through advocacy, networking, and economic development initiatives that strengthen the local economy.

For more information, visit www.RichlandAreaChamber.com or call 419-522-3211.

Ontario board recognizes swim state champions during meeting

The Ontario Board of Education met March 10 for its organizational and regular meetings.

The board recognized the swim team and its accomplishments including the titles of state champions, state runners-up and the setting of new state records. The teams competed at the OHSAA State Swim Meet in Canton earlier this month.

Chris Miller, middle school principal, and middle school students, Koooper Daugherty and Caleb Barnhart, gave an update on middle school course offerings.

The board approved the employment of Ethan Pensante, athletic director grades 7-12, effective for the 2026-'27 school year for \$83,712.

Contracts were approved for Pat Duffner, director of transportation and maintenance, one-year retire/rehire; Jordyn Eckert, middle school assistant principal, five-year contract; Condrea Mason, food service director, three-year contract; Allison Morrison, school psychologist, 3-year contract; and Deanna Weithman, payroll and accounting specialist, one-year retire/rehire.

Amy Kroll was hired as a high school intervention specialist on a one-year contract retire/rehire contract. Also returning as a retire/rehire employee is Chris Smith, high school principal. Roberta O'Day will return as a retire/rehire bus driver.

(Continued on Page 13)

Roseto Open House & Vendor Showcase welcomes future brides

Photos and Article By Traci Little

MANSFIELD — Couples dreaming of their perfect wedding day gathered Sunday, March 15, at Roseto Event Venue for a relaxed and inspiring Open House & Vendor Showcase in the heart of downtown's Central Park District. Vendors featured were Viva La Strings, Maranda Marie Photography, Studio 45, Twin Luxe Events Co., DJ Maintain Entertainment, Pulse Brands, Wild Bloom & Bubbles, Char Bougie, Studio Vivace, Eighty Eight Catering, Weddings by Zuri and Village Catering.

The afternoon event invited those planning celebrations in 2026 and 2027 to explore the venue's distinctive blend of historic character and modern elegance while connecting with a curated group of trusted local wedding professionals.

Guests were encouraged to tour the space at their own pace, envision

(Continued on Page 14)



THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER
— By Ian Stumbo —

The 98th Academy Awards were held last Sunday night hosted by Conan O'Brien. It promised to be an Oscars full of surprises and really went the way most people thought it would.

Amy Madigan started out the night winning for her terrific villainous performance in *Weapons*. Sean Penn won his third Oscar for another villain role in *One Battle After Another*.

Frankenstein won a trio of tech Oscars and there was even a tie (the seventh in Oscar history) in the live action short film category. *One Battle After Another* and *Sinners* battled it out most of the night. Norway's multiple nominated *Sentimental Value* scored the win for International Feature.

A beautiful moment came during the In Memoriam portion with Billy Crystal honoring

the late greats Rob and Michele Reiner.

Michael B. Jordan won a much deserved lead actor Oscar for playing twins in *Sinners* and Jessie Buckley won for her excellent performance in *Hamnet*.

The acting awards went four-for-four with what the Actor Awards picked a couple weeks ago.

One Battle After Another was the big winner of the night with six wins including three for writer/director Paul Thomas Anderson who was already 14 nominations in without a win.

Overall, there were some terrific films honored as I personally thought 2025 was a great year for movies. *One Battle After Another* and *Sinners* were among my favorites and I also thought *Hamnet*, *Weapons*, *Marty Supreme* and *F1* were terrific as well.

Poll workers needed for primary

The Richland County Board of Elections is seeking dedicated community members to serve as poll workers for the upcoming May 5, 2026, Primary Election. Poll workers are essential to ensuring that all registered voters have a smooth, secure and accessible Election Day experience.

"Poll workers are the backbone of democracy," said Matt Finfgeld, director. "Their service helps make sure every voter can cast a ballot with confidence. We welcome individuals of all backgrounds to sign-up and support their neighbors on Election Day."

Poll workers are compensated for their training and service, with pay ranging from \$170 to \$ 215. Responsibilities will include assisting voters, operating voting equipment, and closing the polls at the end of the day. Training will be provided prior to the election.

To be eligible, poll workers must be at least 17 years old, be a registered voter in Richland County and be able to attend mandatory training prior to Election Day.

Interested individuals should visit vote.richlandcountyoh.gov, call 419-774-5530 or email boardofelections@richlandcountyoh.gov to learn more and complete an application.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Richland County Residents:

I am a grandmother who believes in freedom and science. I want to leave a better world behind for my children, grandchildren and generations to come. I have lived in Richland County my entire life as did my parents, grandparents and great grandparents. My husband and I reared a family of three children in Mansfield. We have seven grandchildren with another on the way. I spent 40 years working in healthcare administration in two large private practice settings.

When I first heard that the Richland County Commissioners were going to vote on whether to allow large wind and solar projects in Richland County, I thought okay, that could be a good thing. We could help harness energy from the sun and the wind to help with the increasing energy demand. We could help lessen extreme heat, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes and wildfires by utilizing clean energy. We could lower energy costs by converting what's above us and readily available rather than dig for what's below us where supply is diminishing.

When I started gathering more information to educate myself, I found that some farmers chose to lease their land for large solar projects to provide a steady income that enabled them to keep their farm and fund their retirement. I found that good paying jobs could be created by building solar panels and installing and maintaining solar fields. I found that communities and schools near the leased land could receive much needed monetary benefits. I found that there is experimentation with growing crops and grazing animals under and between solar panels. I found that there are ongoing technological advancements in solar science that includes returning farm land to farm land and recycling solar panels that have been in service for 20-30 years.

But, the Richland County Commissioners voted to BAN large wind and solar projects in 11 out of 18 townships in Richland County. Landowners private property rights were taken away. The door was closed before we even had a project proposed. Proposed projects would no longer be reviewed on a case by case basis. I left that meeting feeling that a nail had been hammered in the coffin.

I worked at Westinghouse in 1974-'75 when White Consolidated Industries bought the company. I was quickly laid off. I saw many layoffs and buyouts for early retirements. White Consolidated finally closed the factory. The closures of Mansfield Tire, Tappan, Ohio Brass and General Motors followed. Many businesses closed that supported the local factories. We became the rust belt factory, job loss town. White and blue collar job losses were enormous. Many friends and relatives moved away.

There have been some successes to create new jobs but many of our children had to move away or commute long distances to find good paying jobs.

The prospect of large solar projects creating new good paying jobs gives a glimmer of hope. The potential of an influx of new revenue that could benefit our landowners, schools and residents gives a glimmer of hope. New jobs and revenue would help ongoing efforts to rejuvenate our communities.

I hope you will support private property rights and protect our freedom. I hope you will support clean energy and promote science. I hope your support will create new jobs and revenue for Richland County. I hope you will vote no ban on property rights on May 5.

Dorinda Strang

Vol. 65
No. 23

Tribune-Courier



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

PO Box 127, Ontario, OH 44862 • 419-529-2847
news@tribune-courier.com • www.tribune-courier.com
© All Rights Reserved

The Tribune-Courier is published by Stumbo Publishing Co., Inc. Advertisers should check their ad immediately. The Tribune-Courier is not liable for failure to publish an ad or for a typographical error or errors in publication, except that adjustment for Tribune-Courier errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. Marc A. Stumbo, publisher; Frank A. Stumbo, president/CEO (1961-2018); Betty E. Stumbo, co-publisher (1961-2017); Jenna M. Wolford, managing editor, general manager and feature/travel writer; Teresa Vore, office manager; Traci Little, photojournalist/advertising representative; Kris Leiter, sports writer; John J. Kirschenheiter, editor (1961-2008); Linda Fulmer, columnist (2005-2014). By-lined stories are opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the position of this newspaper.

Scan to Subscribe FREE



Or Submit a Form at <http://eepurl.com/hnS9N9>

News Briefs

Special services for Holy Week are planned at Trinity Grace Fellowship, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield (Madison area).

On Palm Sunday, March 29, at 9:30 am, participants will wave palm branches to commemorate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

A Maundy Thursday service will be held April 2, at 7 pm.

On Friday, April 3, at 6:30 pm, there will be a combined service with Lakefork Church, 2115 County Road 175, Jeromesville.

A sunrise service will be held on Easter Sunday, April 5, at 7:30 am, with a children's program, followed by breakfast and then a 9:30 am service with communion.

★

State Route 96 in the City of Shelby, just west of Walnut Street, will close Tuesday, March 17 for railroad crossing repairs. The railroad company is completing the necessary maintenance work. The detour route will be SR 96 (Main Street) west to SR 61 (N. Gamble Street) north to Whitney Avenue west to Sharon Street south to SR 96 and reverse. The estimated completion is Tuesday, March 24.

★

U.S. 42 (East Main Street) northbound and southbound in the Village of Lexington, from SR 546 (Frederick Street) to Castor Road, will have daily lane closures for a roadway and intersection improvement project. The northbound and southbound driving lanes will be closed for sidewalk, signal, and roadway work. Traffic will be maintained with 12' lanes in each direction with barrels. Project work includes adding bike lanes, reconfiguring intersection access and various pedestrian improvements. Estimated completion is May 2026.

★

A special meeting of the Ontario Board of Education will be held in the Ontario High School Library, 467 Shelby-Ontario Rd., Ontario on Tuesday, April 7, at 6 pm to discuss the development of tax policy with Rockmill Financial.

★

The Richland County Genealogical Society will host Eric Johnson presenting, "Researching Ancestors in the Old Northwest Territory, 1788-1803" on Saturday, March 21.

He is the author of several military books for genealogy researchers and chair of the Society of the Families of the Northwest Territory, a lineage society of The Ohio Genealogical Society.

The meeting will begin at 2 pm at The Ohio Genealogical Society Library, 611 St. Rt. 97 West, Bellville. This will be in-person and on Zoom. Contact the chapter by March 19 at rcgs44812@gmail.com for a Zoom invitation.

★

The annual Madison Community Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 3 pm on Saturday, March 28 at Trinity Grace Fellowship, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield. The event is for children through sixth grade and will be held rain or shine.

★

The covered bridge in Mohican State Park, over the Clear Fork Mohican River, will close Wednesday, April 1 for bridge repairs. Mo-

torists will be detoured to SR 97 west to McCurdy Road north to Goon Rd/County Road 3006 east to County Road 939 into the Mohican State Park and reverse. Estimated completion is April 30.

★

Ontario UMC, 3540 Park Ave West, Ontario, will host exercise/walking led by an instructor for various age groups every Thursday at 10 am. This is open to the community at no charge. This will include chair yoga, dance exercise, resistance bands and walking

★

The Lexington Area Senior Citizens Inc., invites those 55 and older to attend meetings the third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 am at Der Dutchman, Rt. 97, Bellville. Cost is \$17 for the meal, with an additional \$2 for pie.

The next meal will be April 15, and will include ham. Those attending are encouraged to wear Easter bonnets.

Dale Powers will sing and a collection of non-perishable food will be taken for the Salvation Army. Can openers, food, hygiene items, paper products and monetary donations will be accepted.

The group will also meet Wednesday, April 1, at 11 am for lunch at Chinatown, 238 Ashland Rd., Mansfield (Madison area).

For information visit the Facebook page at Lexington Area Senior Citizens (LASC). Dues are \$10 per year.

★

Fish fry dinners will be held at American Legion Post 16, 747 S. Main St., Mansfield, (rear of Grotto Hall) on the third Friday of each month starting at 5 pm, until gone.

The dinner includes all-you-can-eat Alaskan pollock, fresh cut fries, coleslaw or pea salad and dessert. Cost is \$12. for adults and \$7 for children under 12.

Chicken tender dinners are also available, but not all you can eat. Cost is \$9 for adults for a three-piece meal and \$7 for children under 12 for a two-piece meal. Carry-out is available.

★

All Souls Unitarian Universalist of Bellville, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Christopher Reynolds on Sunday, March 22, at 10:30 am. The subject will be "It Is the Morning of the Age of Aquarius: Answer to Job." For information visit www.allsoulsuohio.org.

★

First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Avenue West will be offering senior boxes of non perishable food provided by the Greater Cleveland Food Bank from 10 am to 12 pm or until supplies run out.

This comes with a 30 lb. box of non-perishable food and a two lb. box of cheese. These items are free to those who qualify by age (60+) and low income guidelines. Recipients must have at least one person age 60 or older in the household. The minimum income begins at \$1,995 per month for a one-person household.

These items are available on the fourth Tuesday of each month, year round. The distribution is held in the South Mulberry Street parking lot. The next distribution is Tuesday, March 24.

★

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, March 28 and 29. Acceptable items include steel and aluminum cans, crushed milk jugs, detergent bottles, plastic bottles with number 1 or 2 on the bottom,

(Continued on Page 5)

Celebrate Easter with Us

Church of the Cross 236 Otterbein Dr, Lexington

April 2nd Maundy Thursday

Last Supper Dinner - 5pm / Drama 6:30

Adults (\$10) | 12 and under (\$5)

Tickets Required - please call 419-884-2150

March 29th Palm Sunday service at 9:30 am

April 5th Easter Sunday service at 9:30 am



Gribben takes reigns at Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development

The Richland Area Chamber and Economic Development announced that Jessica Gribben has been appointed President & Chief Executive Officer, effective March 16.

Gribben currently serves within the organization and has played a key role in advancing several economic development initiatives and partnerships across the Richland County community.

"The board is excited to welcome Jessica into the President & CEO role," said Jon Pierce, board chair. "Jessica brings strong relationships across our community, a deep understanding of the organiza-

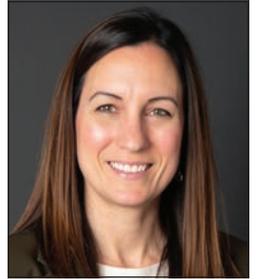
tion's work, and a clear commitment to the mission of supporting business growth and economic development in Richland County."

Following the recent announcement that current President & CEO Ellen Heinz will be stepping down, the executive committee and Board of Directors worked to ensure a smooth leadership transition while maintaining the momentum of the organization's work.

"The Chamber, Richland Community Development Group (RCDG) and the Mansfield-Richland Area Educational Foundation are in a strong place today," said Randa Payne, chair-elect. "We have a talented team, engaged board leadership, and tremendous community partnerships. Jessica is a natural-born leader, and she will help us continue to build on the positive trajectory of the organization already underway."

"It's an incredible honor to serve as President & CEO of the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development," said Gribben. "Having grown up in Richland County and spent the past eight years working alongside our businesses and community partners here, this opportunity means a great deal to me. I'm excited to work with our talented team and board to build on the momentum already underway and continue supporting the businesses, workers, and communities that make this region such a great place to live and raise a family."

Gribben has worked at the organization for the past eight years, serving most recently as Economic & Community Development Director. She is a state-Certified Economic Developer, and has a background in finance and real estate.



Church Directory

All Souls Unitarian Universalist

25 Church St., Bellville
419-886-3497 • www.allsoulsuohio.org
10:30 am Service and Sunday School
Adult RE Book Club (quarterly)

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 am Monday Morning Bible Study

Lexington Church of the Cross

236 Otterbein Dr., Lexington
419-884-2150 • 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.

Ontario United Methodist Church

3540 Park Avenue West., Ontario
419-529-4345 • 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

2010 Park Avenue West, Mansfield
(At Hope Lutheran Next to Drug Mart)
419-522-2813 • www.stjohnsmansfield.org
contact@stjohnsmansfield.org
Pastor Faith Proietti • 11 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

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

G & M Body & Paint Shop

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

Wappner Funeral Home

Mansfield • Ontario • Ashland • 419-522-5211

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

- Margaret "Tuffy" June Muddiman, March 6
- John "Jack" Milford Cowell, March 7
- Velma Clutter, March 8
- Stephanie Lynn Peckham-Vandersommen, March 8
- Scotty Dean Catron, March 9
- Andrew David Kruse, March 9
- Matthew "Matt" Joseph Timmer, March 9
- Judith Ann "WinAnn" Patterson, March 10

View Full Obituaries at www.dignitymemorial.com

Our Family Serving Your Family for Five Generations Since 1872



WAPPNER
Funeral Directors & Crematory

Three Locations to Serve You

- Mansfield • 98 South Diamond St. • 419-522-5211
- Ontario • 100 S. Lexington-Springmill Rd. • 419-529-2323
- Ashland • 308 Claremont Avenue • 419-289-1552

www.wappner.com

• News Briefs

(Continued from Page 3)

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.



All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Church St., Bellville, will host its annual Easter and flower communion service on Sunday, April 5, at 10:30 am.

The service will celebrate renewal, hope and the beauty of community as the shared values of love, justice, compassion, and respect for every person are celebrated. Everyone is invited to bring a flower to share and together they form a bouquet of many colors and kinds, later shared again as a symbol of connection and belonging.



The Community Health Access Project (CHAP) is partnering with the Mansfield/Richland County Public Library to host a county-wide Baby Supply Drive to support new and expecting mothers.

Until March 28, community members can donate new baby care items at participating library locations including Bellville, Lexington, Lucas, Madison, Mansfield (main), Ontario, Plymouth and the library's bookmobile.

The drive is designed to help families who may be navigating financial stress, unexpected circumstances or other barriers during pregnancy and early childhood. Requested donation items include diapers, pull-ups, baby wipes, baby shampoo or wash, baby-safe laundry detergent such as Dreft and safety items, such as outlet covers.

All donated supplies will be distributed through CHAP's programs serving pregnant women, infants and families.



The Mansfield area's March of Prayer is a month-long, city-wide initiative centered on prayer, revival and collaboration.

The schedule continues on March 18, Avenue Church; 19, The River Church; 20, Belmont Community; 21, First UMC/Jesus Outreach; 22, Open Bible; 23, Latter Rain; 24, Paradise; 25, Abundant Life; 26, TBD; 27, Gracepoint Lexington; 28, TBD; 29, MIMA; 30, Southside Christian; and 31, Welcome Home Fest.

Additional city-wide efforts are already in motion, including the National Day of Prayer Parade on May 7, followed by a large community worship gathering known as the Festival of Hope.

Those interested in learning more, participating, or staying up to date on upcoming events can visit www.godsfield.org or follow Godsfield Mansfield at facebook.com/godsfieldmansfield.



The Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD) has announced orders are being accepted for the Pond Fish Sale until April 2. Customers may order Bluegill, Yellow Perch, Largemouth Bass, Fathead Minnows, Channel Catfish, Hybrid Bluegill, Redear Sunfish and White Amur. Pond conditioner, optimal fish food and plastic bags and ties may also be ordered.

Orders may be placed online at <https://richlandswcd.net/event/pond-fish-orders-due-2/>. A minimum order of \$30 is required.

All orders must be picked up April 10 from 8:30-10 am at the Richland County Fairgrounds Horse Barn. Customers should bring appropriate containers to transport their fish safely filled one-third full with the pond water the fish will be transferred into. Five-gallon buckets work well, but must have an unscented poly liner to ensure fish have enough oxygen during transport.



The Domestic Violence Shelter in Mansfield has a 24/7 hotline available at 419-774-5840.

Caller safety and well-being are a priority and the hotline is a confidential resource for everyone impacted by violence. The line is not just for survivors. Any family member, friend or loved one of a survivor who needs support, guidance, or someone to talk to, are invited to call the hotline.

The Shelter has positions open at [Indeed.com](https://indeed.com).



The Clear Fork FFA Alumni in partnership with Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (RSWCD) will hold the annual tree seedling sale to support the Clear Fork FFA program and local environmental efforts.

Planting trees not only adds to the beauty of our communities but also promotes biodiversity for future generations.

The sale will be held Friday, March 27 at Richland County Fairgrounds Nature Park from 9 am to 4 pm or until all seedlings are sold and at Planktown Market, Shiloh, from 8 am to 1 pm, or until all seedlings are sold. Seedlings will also be sold at Elzy Milling & Trade, Bellville, from 8 am to 5 pm, or until all seedlings are sold; and Saturday, March 28, from 8 am to noon, or until all seedlings are sold. Seedlings are available on a first-come, first-serve basis, while quantities last. Accepted payment methods are cash or checks. Seedling packs come in quantities of 5, 7 and 10. All packs are \$15 each, except for the American Chestnut seedling pack, which is \$25 each. A wide variety of tree types are available for purchase. Customers may visit <https://richlandswcd.net/event/clear-fork-ffa-alumni-tree-seedling-sale-4/> to view species and descriptions of available seedlings.

Pond Fish Sale
 Order By Thursday, April 2
 Pick-up Friday, April 10

CHOOSE FROM:
 Bluegill
 Channel Catfish
 Fathead Minnows
 Hybrid Bluegill
 Largemouth Bass
 Redear Bluegill
 White Amur
 Yellow Perch

Visit Richlandswcd.net
 to Order Today!
419.747.8686

RICHLAND SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 Nature's Pond Conditioner and Optimal Fish Food also available

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 29	8:30 am (Chapel) & 10:30 am (Sanctuary)
Maundy Thursday Service, April 2	7:00 pm (Chapel)
Good Friday Service, April 3	12 noon (Chapel)
Easter Sunday Services, April 5	8:30 (Chapel) & 10:30 am (Sanctuary)

First Congregational Church, Mansfield | 419.756.3046 | 640 Millsboro Rd.



VISIT TIMBUK FARMS

A DESTINATION
GARDEN CENTER
ON THE FARM

-  **4 acres with over 500,000 tulips**
-  **Fun children's area with farm equipment, jump pad, petting zoo and more!**
-  **Tickets are \$15.95 weekends and \$12.50 during the week, children under 2 are Free**
-  **Tulip Days - Monday through Friday 9-6, Festival days - Saturday and Sunday 10-5**
-  **Pick your own tulips (\$1.25 per stem)**
-  **Visit the garden center before you leave for more flowers, plants and garden supplies.**



PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE OR SOCIALS for updated status on Tulip festival

**Timbukfarms.com | 2030 Timbuk Road
Granville, Ohio 43023 | 740.587.2178**



Photos By Traci Little

TIMBUK FARMS in Granville estimates that its opening week will be in mid-April. The date is dependant on weather and blooms. The farm features four acres with over 500,000 tulips, a petting zoo, playground and a garden center. To keep updated visit Timbuk Farm's social media and website at timbukfarms.com.

Richland SWCD rain garden and barrel workshop planned for April 15

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD) is hosting a free Rain Garden and Rain Barrel Workshop Wednesday, April 15. The workshop begins at 6 pm at The Richland County Fairgrounds Nature Park, 750 N. Home Rd., Mansfield.

At the workshop, participants will learn about the benefits of rain gardens and rain barrels and how they help manage stormwater. Site preparation and seed/plant selection will be discussed for

rain gardens. Tips on how to install and winterize a rain barrel will also be provided.

Although the workshop is free, registration is encouraged due to limited seating. Register at <https://richlandswcd.net/event/rain-garden-and-rain-barrel-workshop-4/>.

Questions about the workshop may be directed to Zoe at 419-774-8986 or Contact@Richlandswcd.net.

Bellville photographer helps readers see the world differently

By Traci Little

BELLVILLE — For local photographer Mark Shutt, the camera has never been just about capturing a destination — it's about learning to truly see.

Tribune-Courier readers have become familiar with Shutt's striking images over the years, from sweeping mountain landscapes, majestic falls, to quiet scenes that reveal beauty in unexpected places. Yet behind the photographs is not a full-time world roaming photographer, but a Bellville-based residential design and build professional who pursues photography whenever life allows.

"I wish I were a full-time travel photographer," Shutt said with a smile. "But in reality, I run a small construction business. Photography is something I do whenever I get the opportunity — and I try to make the most of those moments."

His passion for exploration began long before he ever held a professional camera. Growing up, family road trips guided by a well-worn Rand McNally atlas sparked a curiosity about the world that would later shape both his career and creative pursuits.

During his architecture studies, that curiosity deepened. A used Nikon camera purchased at a pawn shop became his constant companion

— a tool he carried across campuses, cities and continents. A semester studying in Rome proved especially formative.

"It was there that I began trying to capture some sense of what I was experiencing," he said. "I realized photography could help transport others into places they might never otherwise see."

Over time, his relationship with travel and photography has evolved. Once a traveler who photographed what he encountered, Shutt now approaches photography with more intention — seeking not only scenic beauty but meaning.

"A good image is almost always a combination of subject, light and composition," he explained. "When those elements come together, they can evoke emotion and create something memorable."

While many photographers chase iconic destinations, Shutt has learned some of the most compelling images are the ones that

emerge along the journey itself.

"You need a destination, but often the best photos happen along the way," he said. "It's when the light and composition suddenly align and make you stop and pause."

Among the places that continue to inspire him, Utah stands out for its dramatic terrain and ever-changing visual landscape. Yet for Shutt, the greatest lessons in photography often come not from movement, but stillness.

"Sitting still anywhere can leave the greatest impact," he reflected. "Over time, details begin to emerge — the small things we usually overlook."

That perspective has shaped how he views his own hometown. Travel has not diminished his appreciation for North Central Ohio — it has deepened it.

"It's easy to take home for granted," Shutt said. "But when you focus on beauty elsewhere, you begin to see it close to home as well. It's a privilege to remind people what a beautiful place we live in."

Through his contributions to the *Tribune-Courier*, Shutt hopes readers feel both inspired and grounded.

"If you can travel, be inspired to take a leap and explore," he said. "If you can't, there is still ample beauty to be found everywhere close to home."

In an era increasingly shaped by artificial imagery, Shutt believes authentic photography carries new importance.

(Continued on Page 9)



Mark and Cara Shutt



THE MESA ARCH sunrise at Canyonlands National Park in Utah is one of Mark Shutt's favorite photos he has taken. "I like this photo because it reminds me to not be pessimistic. It's been photographed a million times and it was cold, dark and completely clouded over. I almost stayed in my car and would have missed an incredible sunrise."



MOONRISE IN ZION NATIONAL PARK — "I love this photo because it's one that shouldn't have been," said photographer Mark Shutt. "It was getting dark and I had just put all my camera gear away. Driving around a curve on my way out of the park, I saw the moon coming up. I jumped out, grabbing my 600mm telephoto, camera and tripod. In my rush to get set up in time, I barely got the lens mounted but couldn't get it mounted to my tripod. I ended up taking this balanced on the tripod but not mounted. It's incredible how fast the moon moves when you are trying to set up for a shot."



Mt. St. Helens, Washington

•Photographer helps readers see the world differently

(Continued from Page 8)

“With the explosion of AI, documenting reality is critical,” he said. “It’s no longer just about capturing something beautiful — it’s about preserving what is real.”

For those aspiring to follow a similar path, his advice is both practical and heartfelt.

“Have a good job,” he laughed. “Photography is expensive. But more importantly, learn to slow down. See as much of the world as you can — locally or abroad — and take time to truly appreciate it.”

For Mark Shutt, photography is not simply a creative outlet. It is a way of noticing — a way of inviting others to pause, look closer and rediscover the beauty woven into both distant horizons and familiar streets.

Voter registration deadline nearing

The deadline to register to vote, or to change an address or name, for the May 5 Primary Election is Monday, April 6. The Board of Elections office, 1495 W. Longview Ave., Suite 101, in the Longview Center, will be open that evening until 9 pm

After 4 pm, visitors must use the entrance at the lower-level back parking area at the southwest corner of the building.

Qualifications for registering to vote include that voters must be either a native U. S. citizen or a naturalized citizen of the U.S., a resident of Richland County, OH, for 30 days before an election, and be a minimum of 18 years of age on or before the date of the General Election on Nov. 3, 2026.

Registered voters who have moved or changed their name must notify the board office in writing or in person. Voters currently registered in Ohio may change their address online at VoteOhio.gov, but must do so by the April 6 deadline.

In addition to the board of elections office, citizens may register or complete a change of address/name at Richland County locations including any library branch, all city and village hall offices, The Bureau of Motor Vehicles office, the Department of Human Services, the Richland County Courthouse (treasurer’s office) and all area high school offices.

Registration forms may also be obtained at vote.richlandcountyoh.gov or requested by mail by calling 419-774-5530. Completed voter registration forms must be postmarked 30 days before Election Day.

Nominations being accepted for award

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. is now accepting nominations for the 2026 Outstanding Senior Citizen Award. The deadline for nominations is April 3, 2026.

Award recipients from a nine-county area (one awardee from each county) will be honored by the Area Agency on Aging.

Nominees must be at least 60 years of age, a legal resident of Ohio for at least five years, and have made significant contributions to the community. A husband and wife may receive the award jointly when both have been involved in community service. One Outstanding Senior Citizen Award will be presented for each county in the service area (Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Richland, Seneca and Wyandot).

Additional information, including an online nomination form, can be found at www.aaa5ohio.org/events/awards/ or by contacting Sue Montgomery at 567-247-6458 or smontgomery@aaa5ohio.org.



SPIRIT ISLAND at Jasper National Park in Alberta, Canada — “This one is special to me because it’s a place I’ve wanted to visit since I was a little kid,” said Mark Shutt. “It’s been featured on many calendars, but seeing it in person and having it all to myself was an experience I will never forget.”

trusted journalism . affordable options . loyal readership

ADVERTISE HERE

Reach Thousands of Local Readers Every Week
Grow Your Business in Richland & Ashland Counties

 585.764.0321 | tribune-courier.com

Walking Toward the Cross: *BibleWalk offers prayerful journey during Lent*

Photos and Article By Traci Little

MANSFIELD — Step beyond the noise of everyday life, and into a space where the story of redemption unfolds before your eyes. In the stillness of softly lit hallways, the sound of thoughtful narration fills the air. A spotlight illuminates the scene before you — Jesus praying in the garden, a disciple listening at a well, a martyr standing resolute in faith. At BibleWalk, Scripture is not simply read, it’s experienced.

Located at 500 Tingley Avenue just north of Mansfield, BibleWalk is Ohio’s only life-sized wax museum, featuring more than 325 figures portrayed in over 100 biblical scenes.

As the Lenten season invites Christians into deeper reflection, repentance and preparation for Easter, many local believers are rediscovering this unique ministry-based attraction as a meaningful place to pause, pray and remember the sacrifice of Christ.

A Walk Through Scripture

BibleWalk offers several narrated tours, including “The Life of Christ,” “Miracles of the Old Testament,” “Amazing Grace — The Journeys of Paul,” “Heart of the Reformation,” and the “Museum of Christian Martyrs.”

Each display combines detailed costuming, painted backdrops, music and spoken Scripture to guide visitors through biblical history in an immersive way.

The setting is intentionally uncluttered — darkened corridors with focused lighting encourage quiet contemplation. Visitors move slowly from scene to scene, allowing the narrative to unfold in a way that feels almost devotional.

For those observing Lent, the journey through the final days of Christ’s life can be especially powerful. Scenes such as the Last Supper, the Road to Calvary and the Resurrection serve as vivid reminders of the Gospel story at the heart of Easter.

Built by Faith, Sustained by Community

What makes BibleWalk especially unique is its origin story. The museum was created largely through the volunteer efforts of members of the adjacent non-denominational Diamond Hill Cathedral, who crafted props, costumes and scenery with a shared desire to bring Scripture to life.

Since opening in 1987 — originally under the name “The Living Bible Museum” — the attraction has grown into a regional destination, drawing visitors from across Ohio and beyond.

In addition to the wax exhibits, BibleWalk houses the Museum of Woodcarving, a rare Bible collection, and folk-art displays that further expand the educational and spiritual experience.

A Lenten Invitation

Lent is traditionally a season of slowing down — of making space for reflection, repentance and renewed faith. For many, stepping into BibleWalk becomes more than a museum visit, but more of a quiet pilgrimage.

In a world filled with noise and distraction, the simplicity of walking scene by scene through the story of redemption can offer perspective and peace.

Whether visiting with a church group, family, or individually, the experience invites guests to consider the cost of discipleship, the hope of resurrection, and the enduring message of grace.

As Easter approaches, BibleWalk stands as a local reminder that sometimes the most meaningful journeys do not require traveling far — only the willingness to step inside, listen, and remember.

Consider visiting at 500 Tingley Avenue in Mansfield, Ohio. Hours are typically Tuesday-Saturday during the spring and summer. Give them a call at 419-524-0139 or check out their website at biblewalk.us for more information.



Ohio’s Only
Life-Sized Wax Museum
over 325 wax figures and 100 scenes

500 Tingley Avenue, Mansfield, Ohio 44905



Red Cross hosting Richland County bloodmobiles this month

This March, the American Red Cross urges donors to help the national blood supply. Donors of all blood types remain critical to keeping momentum up and the blood supply steady headed into spring.

Book a time to give blood or platelets by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

The Red Cross will perform A1C testing on successful blood, platelet and plasma donations made March 1-31, (one result in 2026). Those who come to give blood, platelets or plasma until March 31, will receive a \$15 Amazon gift card by email. Details on both offers can be found at RedCrossBlood.org/March.

Bloodmobiles are scheduled for: Wednesday, March 18, noon

to 6pm, The Ontario Center, 2209 Richland Mall, Ontario

Friday, March 20, noon to 5 pm, The Ontario Center

Monday, March 23, noon to 5 pm, The Ontario Center

Wednesday, March 25, noon to 6 pm, The Ontario Center; and 11 am to 4 pm, Marvin Memorial Library, 29 W. Whitney Ave., Shelby

Thursday, March 26, 2-7 pm,

Community Building, 21555 Pealer Mill Rd, Butler

Friday, March 27, noon to 5 pm, The Ontario Center

Monday, March 30, noon to 5 pm, The Ontario Center

Tuesday, March 31, noon to 5 pm, Berean Baptist Church, 2145 Middle Bellville Rd., Mansfield

Playhouse asking for donations to reach \$7.5M goal

The Mansfield Playhouse non-profit organization has reached a pivotal moment in its \$7.5 million capital campaign to build a new, fully accessible theater in downtown Mansfield, a project that will mark the Playhouse's 100th anniversary and become the first major downtown construction project in more than 30 years.

The campaign, "Mansfield Playhouse: Building the Next Stage Together," seeks to ensure the long-term future of one of Ohio's most historic cultural institutions.

Founded in 1925, the Mansfield Playhouse is the second oldest continuously operating community theater in the state and a cornerstone of arts, education and economic vitality.

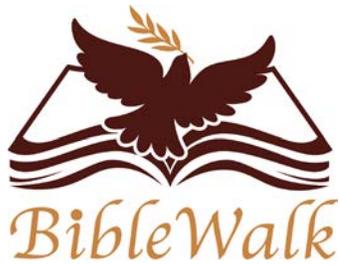
Unfortunately, the Playhouse's old building at 95 E. Third St. is surrendering to age.

For its campaign, the Playhouse has submitted a new \$1 million funding request to a local institution, a transformative investment that would accelerate construction of the new Playhouse building. That request, however, will not be considered until the campaign reaches \$3.7 million raised, creating an urgent call for community support.

The campaign that was kicked off last summer has generated more than \$2.2 million in gifts and pledges.

The new facility will be fully accessible, removing long-standing physical barriers and welcoming audiences, performers and volunteers of all abilities. The project also represents a major investment in downtown Mansfield.

Gifts to support the 100th Anniversary Capital Campaign may be sent to the Mansfield Playhouse at 95 E. Third St., Mansfield, OH 44902 or mansfield-playhouse.com.



Walking Toward the Cross: A prayerful journey during Lent



Photos By Traci Little

Bubble Bean & Sweets celebrates ribbon cutting

Photos and Article By Traci Little

SHELBY — Community leaders, supporters and friends gathered Friday morning at 44 East Main St. to celebrate the official ribbon cutting for Bubble Bean & Sweets, a new café and gathering space bringing fresh energy to downtown Shelby.

Despite the high winds on March 13, the ceremony marked a special milestone for both the business owners and the city's ongoing downtown revitalization efforts.

Local officials praised the entrepreneurial spirit behind the new shop, noting the importance of continued investment in Shelby's historic district.

"This is just another wonderful story of collaboration and partnership that has brought this business to downtown Shelby," Mayor Steve Schag shared during the ceremony. "We truly appreciate your investment and wish you the very best."

Owned by Jennifer Lepard, Violet Burgan and Lynne Burgan, and Rick Moser, Bubble Beans & Sweets grew from friendships formed through previous small business ventures and a shared vision of creating a welcoming community space.

Richland Chamber representatives emphasized the dedication required to bring the café to life, describing the long hours and personal commitment the owners invested in transforming the storefront into a warm and inviting destination.

"They've truly poured their hearts and souls into this place," one representative said. "From early mornings to late nights, their hard work is evident in every detail."

Richland County Commissioner Cliff Mears also extended congratulations, calling the café "a lovely addition to a lovely town," and encouraging residents to stop in and support the new business.

For the owners, the opening represents more than a commercial venture — it reflects the support they have received from the community and their desire to give back.

"This has truly been a community-driven effort," one owner shared, thanking neighboring businesses and friends who assisted with renovations and preparations. "We feel incredibly blessed to be part of Shelby."

The café aims to serve as a safe and welcoming gathering place for people of all ages, particularly students looking for a comfortable space to study or socialize after school. Owners said extended weekday hours were designed specifically to meet those needs — a concept shaped by feedback from local families and young people.

In addition to daily service, Bubble Bean & Sweets plans to collaborate with nearby businesses for special events and community initiatives. Discounts are also offered to seniors, military members and first responders as a way to honor service and strengthen community connections.

The business offers a wide range of beverages including espresso drinks, bubble teas, smoothies, dirty sodas and freshly baked goods, with future plans for expanded menu options and event partnerships.

Bubble Beans & Sweets is open Monday through Friday from 6 am to 6 pm, Saturdays from 8 am to 3 pm and Sundays from 8 am to 2 pm.

As the ribbon was officially cut, the moment symbolized not only the opening of a new café, but the continued growth of downtown Shelby as a place where businesses and community come together. Guests were encouraged to sign the ribbon concluding the celebration.



Rick Moser, Jennifer Lepard and Violet Burgan





ONTARIO Stingel preschoolers were able to enjoy the new adaptive playground equipment at the school recently.

Ontario board recognizes swim state champions during meeting

(Continued from Front Page)

Lisa Barker, Stingel secretary, resigned for retirement purposes. The middle school course offering guide and scheduling form were approved.

Grants were accepted from Cares for the Classroom from Directions Credit Union, \$500, Lisa Secrist; Hands on Exploration of Energy from AEP, \$500, Lisa Secrist.

New and revised board policies were approved as was a revision to the administrative salary and fringe benefit agreement.

Abby Secrist was hired as a substitute cook. The board approved Dr. Achilles Litao, volunteer boys tennis assistant coach, \$0; Rick Remy, volunteer softball assistant coach, \$0; and Isaac Keinath, volunteer baseball assistant coach, \$0.

Temporary substitute teachers hired for the current school year are Seth Dillon, Stingel/middle school/high school; and Rachel Filichia, Stingel/middle school/high school.

2026 summer help for facility and transportation maintenance includes Tim Henige, \$18 hourly; Trenton Maglott, \$13 hourly; and Mason Augustine, \$13 hourly.

The board voted to accept the tax rates as determined by the Richland County Budget Commission authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them with the Richland County Auditor for the tax year 2026 (collectible 2027).

The partnership with Mid Ohio Educational Service Center for Business Advisory

Council for the 2026-'27 school year was approved.

Donations were accepted from Tim Mergel, \$210 for Teacher Appreciation Week; Mechanics Bank, \$200 for Adaptive Track and Field Day; KRF Enterprises LLC, \$100 for Adaptive Track and Field Day; and Milark Industries, \$1,000, Adaptive Track and Field Day.

The next regular board of education meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 14.

The good neighbor for small business

Call or stop in today



Michelle Gates
Michelle Gates, Agent

2021 Park Avenue West, Suite 100
Ontario, OH 44906

Bus: 419-756-5010
michelle@michellegates.com
www.michellegates.com



State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL

State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL

State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX

Roseto Open House & Vendor Showcase welcomes future brides

(Continued from Front Page)

ceremony and reception possibilities, and ask face-to-face questions with vendors specializing in photography, décor, catering and event services. The open-house format created an inviting environment for couples at every stage of the planning journey — from those just beginning to explore venues to others finalizing details.

Located steps from Mansfield’s vibrant dining and nightlife scene, Roseto has quickly become a sought-after destination for weddings, celebrations and creative community gatherings throughout Mid-Ohio. Organizers emphasized the importance of providing couples with an opportunity to experience the venue firsthand while learning about available dates and exclusive booking incentives offered to event attendees.

“Events like this give couples the chance to truly picture their celebration here,” organizers shared. “It’s about creating connections, building trust with local vendors and helping couples move forward with confidence in their plans.”

With a steady flow of guests throughout the afternoon, the showcase reflected both the growing popularity of Roseto and the continued strength of Mansfield’s local wedding industry.

For more information about Roseto Event Venue or upcoming events, visit roseto-events.com.



Wild Bloom and Bubbles • Lori Cline and Kaylee Bowen



Photos By Traci Little

contact us today for \$200 off through April 2026



Let us bring the experience to you!

A mother - daughter Duo - Dry Hire Mobile Bartender

Wild Bloom & Bubbles Mobile Bar 419.605.7212

Greater Northeast Ohio - pendra@vivalastrings.com | 614.636.0590



Viva La Strings
VIVALASTRINGS.COM

Elegant Music for Your Special Occasion

Weddings, receptions, corporate functions, galas, holiday gatherings, private parties, concerts, musicals and more!

Our live ensembles provide the perfect musical entertainment for all occasions.

String Quartet, Trio, Duo & Solo | Acoustic Guitar, Harp, Flute, Piano & Vocals

Ashland celebrates St. Patrick's Day with annual "Turning the Creek Green" event and parade

Photos and Article By Traci Little

ASHLAND — Residents gathered in downtown Ashland on Saturday, March 14, to celebrate the city's annual St. Patrick's Day tradition of "Turning the Creek Green."

Festivities began at Foundation Plaza, where families and community members enjoyed entertainment from local cloggers, the returning Mirror Man, and the Amazing Giants from Columbus. Several attendees arrived dressed in green and Irish-themed attire as the community kicked off the celebration.

Following the entertainment, participants joined a short parade led by a bagpiper and the city's "kilt brigade," making their way down Main Street to Corner Park.

Around 11:45 am, Mayor Matt Miller and his wife Melanie were joined by thirteen local children — winners of a St. Patrick's Day coloring contest — to pour dye into Town Creek, turning the water bright green as the crowd gathered along the banks to watch.

The annual event once again drew families, visitors, and local residents downtown to celebrate the holiday and enjoy Ashland's restaurants, shops, and community atmosphere.

City officials also shared that the creek would be dyed again on March 17 so those visiting downtown on St. Patrick's Day could still enjoy the festive display.



Mansfield Christian School brings laughter and lessons to the stage with “Sound Effects”

Photos and Article By Traci Little

The Mansfield Christian School Theatre Arts Department brought humor, creativity, and meaningful life lessons to the stage this past weekend with its production of Sound Effects.

The performances were held March 13 and March 14 at Founders Auditorium on the campus of Ohio State University Mansfield, where students performed before an enthusiastic audience of family members, friends, and community supporters.

The play follows the Potter family, whose homemade local radio show suddenly gains popularity. As the family prepares for a major dinner meeting with network executives and a national sponsor, chaos unfolds when the executives request to see a live performance of the show before signing a contract. Switched identities, unexpected guests, and comedic mishaps quickly complicate the evening as the family scrambles to hold everything together.

Throughout the story, the production blends classic radio-style storytelling with lighthearted comedy while highlighting themes of honesty, humility, and integrity. The director’s noted that audiences were reminded that true success comes from faithfulness and trusting God rather than compromising one’s character for recognition or financial gain.

Students filled a variety of roles both on stage and behind the scenes. Logan Wilson portrayed Peter Potter, alongside Autumn Nicol as Flora Potter and Eden Cooke as Rose Potter. Gabriel Anderson appeared as Willie Potter, with other cast members bringing additional characters to life throughout the lively production.

The show also featured a dedicated theater arts crew who helped with staging, sound, and technical elements that supported the performance.

Community support played a large role in making the production possible. Organizers extended thanks to local supporters, families, and sponsors who helped encourage and uplift the students’ work.

The Mansfield Christian School theater production once again showcased the talents of its students while delivering both entertainment, laughter and a message about living with integrity.





Cadet Leeam Stoddard, Mr. Dwayne Gray (Regional Director & AFJROTC inspector) and Cadet James Doss.



THE FOURTH GRADE Stingel Academic Challenge team earned 12th place at the meet on March 11 at Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center. Team members are Cameron, Mileah, Abigail and Paisely.

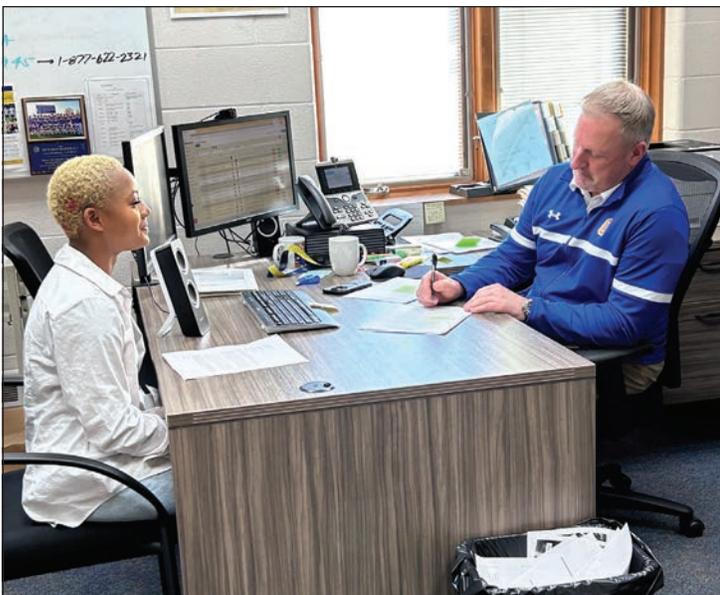
KCCC's AFJROTC Unit recognized

Knox County Career Center's Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC) Unit was recognized during the annual Air Force inspection. KCCC's AFJROTC unit scored an impressive 98.5% (A) and earned an overall rating of "Exceeds Standards" for the unit assessment, the highest rating attainable.

Cadet Leeam Stoddard and Cadet James Doss were recognized as AFJROTC Top Performers for their unit.

"This outstanding achievement reflects the dedication and leadership of Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Christopher Salvucci and Master Sergeant (Retired) Richard Primm, who deserve special recognition for mentoring and guiding KCCC's cadets," said Dwayne Gray, Regional Director and Inspector, AFJROTC.

Gray added, "The instructors and cadets exceeded the standard on nine assessment checklist items and had zero discrepancies — a noteworthy accomplishment."



STUDENTS IN MRS. RHODES' career and leadership readiness class at Ontario High School completed a mock interview for a team member position at Wingstop with the hiring managers being our administrators. Each student completed an application prior to the interview, and each student brought their updated resume and cover letter with them to the mock interview. After the interview, students wrote a thank you email and thank you card to their hiring manager.



ONTARIO ACADEMIC CHALLENGE had its last meet of the year at Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center in March 12. Most of the students have competed on the team for two years now.



Scan to Subscribe to the FREE Weekly Issue

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



THE ONTARIO SYMPHONIC BAND competed in the Ohio Music Education Association District Ten Large Group Contest in Class B and received a superior rating on Friday, March 6. This is the highest rating awarded in the contest.



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL held a career day on March 11 with special guest speakers. Juniors and seniors chose from five different sessions, each lasting 20 minutes. Speakers included OhioHealth, Nursing; OhioHealth, PT, OT; Charles Marlow of Charter Next Gen; Emerson; SFC Milenkovic of the Army National Guard; Ryan Sowards, business and entrepreneur; Sgt. Burkhardt of the Marines and construction; and Brian Weaver with WMFD Sports.



THE ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL BAND went to Stingel to spark the younger students' interest and get them excited to join the band program.



TWO PIONEER COLLEGE-NOW students were nominated and selected as Franklin B. Walter Scholarship Award recipients. Jesse Halfhill of Lexington High School was nominated by Pioneer Career and Technology Center and selected College-NOW instructor Rita Wienen as his positive impact educator. Jillian Weaver of Crestview High School was nominated by Crestview. Both students are enrolled in Pioneer's College-NOW program, representing their schools with excellence. This recognition highlights each student's academic achievement, leadership, and commitment to their community.



WARRIOR LEADERSHIP COUNCIL at Ontario High School had a treat for all those wearing green (or willing to get a little pinch) on St. Patrick's Day. There were also four-leaf clovers and pots of gold hidden throughout the building. The lucky people who found them won gift cards to Buffalo Wild Wings and Starbucks.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

OHS Wrestlers compete at state

Ontario High School held a send-off state wrestling qualifiers Gavin Miller, Aiden Ohl and Tyler Turnbaugh who competed in the OHSAA State Championships at the Schottenstein Center at The Ohio State University, March 13-15.

Ty Turnbaugh got his first victory on the state floor and Gavin Miller became a two-time wrestling All-Ohioan.

Aiden Ohl became the fifth Ontario Wrestling State Champion in school history — the first in 27 years!





CRESTVIEW HIGH SCHOOL'S Naomi Gearheart was crowned an OHSAA State Champion. She struck first but found herself down by five points in the third period. She battled back with a huge reversal and four back points to seal the victory and claim the state title.



THE TRICERATOSS GAME at the Ontario Stingel Carnival was a popular stop for students on Saturday night. The student worker for the game was Tanner Winningham.

Reverse job fair returns March 24

The traditional job interview is getting a high-energy makeover.

On March 24, from 10 am to noon, Richland County high schoolers won't just be looking for jobs, they'll be auditioning the workforce of the future at EmployMEpalooza 2026.

Hosted at the Richland Academy of the Arts, 75 N. Walnut St., Mansfield, this high-impact "reverse job fair" flips the script on hiring. Local sophomores, juniors and seniors will host their own displays, pitching their unique skills, creative portfolios and career aspirations to employers.

Spearheaded by the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development and OhioMeansJobs (OMJ) Richland County, this event bridges the gap between local classroom talent and industry needs.

Mentors and faculty are currently coaching students to build professional resumes and curate table displays. Employers can scout for seasonal help, part-time staff, interns or full-time graduates.

The event is free for both employers and students. Registration is required for employers at <https://portal.richlandarea-chamber.com/events/details/employmepalooza-2026-employer-registration-6398>

View & Print Past Issues at www.tribune-courier.com

CLASSIFIEDS

PROBATE COURT OF RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO, Kelly L. Badnell, Judge, IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTION OF Grace Renee Hoskins CASE NO. 20255052.

JUDGEMENT ENTRY SETTING HEARING AND ORDERING (R.C. 3107.11)

On the 20th day of November, 2025, Aaron James Hoskins and Erica Ann Hoskins filed a petition to adopt Grace Renee Ziegelhofer and to change the name to Grace Renee Hoskins.

It is ordered that the Petition for Adoption will be heard on the 6th day of May, 2026, at 10:00 o'clock A.M. and that the notice be given as required by law.

Attorney Kristin Brown.
40 N. Main Street
Mansfield, Ohio

Scan to Subscribe to the FREE Weekly Issue



Or Fill Out the Form At: <http://eepurl.com/hnS9N9>

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



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

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



Lisa Anderson
NMLS 618735
Branch Manager - Loan Officer