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07.16.26



Photos By Jeff Hoffer

RICHLAND EARLY AMERICAN CENTER FOR HISTORY held an open house at South Park, 100 Brinkerhoff Ave., Mansfield, July 11 and 12. Open houses will also be open to the public from 1-3 pm on July 25-26, Aug. 8-9 and Aug. 22-23.

City of Ontario Police Department mourns the loss of K-9 officer

The City of Ontario Municipal Building's flag will fly at half-staff from July 13-20, in honor of K-9 officer Fender who passed away unexpectedly on July 6.



Fender was a member of the Ontario Police Department, serving alongside Officer Mohn with dedication, bravery and distinction.

Fender passed away while boarded at a professional trainer's kennel. At the time of his passing, his handler, Officer Jeremy Mohn, was away on vacation with his family. The cause of death is unknown at this time.

Fender provided the city with exceptional service, not only in the field, but also when appearing as an ambassador during police outreach events.

The bond between a K-9 and their handler is profound, extending far beyond the shift. Fender was not only Officer Mohn's partner on the street, but a deeply loved member of the Mohn family.

"The loss of K-9 Fender is a tragedy that impacts our entire de-

partment and the citizens of Ontario," said Assistant Chief Robert Griefenstine. "Fender served our city with honor and his presence will be deeply missed. We are committed to supporting Officer Mohn and his family through this incredibly difficult time."

Information regarding memorial arrangements or department honors will be released as details are finalized. The Ontario Police Department respectfully requests privacy for Officer Mohn and his family. K9 Fender, Badge #216, End of Watch July 6, 2026

Garage sale will help fund student trip

An Ontario Community Garage Sale will be held Saturday, July 25, in Ontario Middle School's parking lot.

Vendors will sell gently used items and those not interested in selling can donate the day of the sale.

The sale will be held from 10 am to 3 pm. Spaces are limited.

This event is sponsored and hosted by students studying Spanish who will be traveling to Spain in the summer of 2027. All registration fees help support Ontario High School students' trip to Spain.

Those who wish to donate items can bring them the day of the event from 6:30-9 am.



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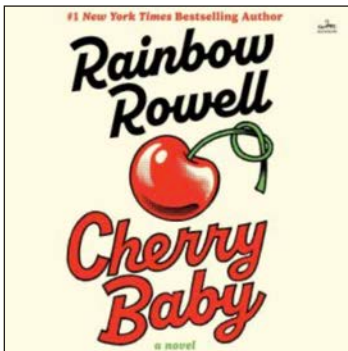
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LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review
By Amanda Belczak



I recently listened to *Cherry Baby* by Rainbow Rowell.

Was it cute and funny? — Yes. Was the audiobook performed well? — Yes. Did I struggle with the ending? — Yes.

Cherry finds herself staring at a future she never imagined. Her once nerdy and artistic husband has been recognized for his comic strip. His fame and move to LA means they are facing divorce.

But Cherry runs into an old crush and finds herself caught up in a romance and her big family of sisters have plenty to say about her life on the family group text.

In some ways the story was original with rich characters. In other ways it was a typical steamy romance focused on second chances. If you read it, send me a message on my blog and tell me what you thought of the ending.

My rating: ★★☆☆

Follow my blog at amanda-belczak.com



Vendor registration open for Community Health Day on July 31

Richland Public Health in collaboration with the Cleveland Clinic, OhioHealth and Third Street Family Health Services will present the annual Free Community Health Day on Friday, July 31, from 9 am to 2 pm in the RPH parking lot, 555 Lexington Ave., Mansfield.

Free/low cost health services will be offered. To ensure community members have the opportunity to improve their eight dimensions of personal wellness (physical, emotional, social, spiritual, intellectual, financial, occupational, environmental) the day, local organizations can register for free as a vendor.

Those interested in hosting a booth or volunteering can register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9TQRHCS> or call 419-774-4761. The deadline is Friday, July 17.



Photo by Damon Callis

Day Trippin' With Damon – The Lake Erie shoreline has been transformed as the Lake Erie Sand Sculpture Tour returns for its second year. Five sculptures are spread over five locations: Lakefront Lodge, Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve & Marina, Headlands Beach State Park, Fairport Harbor Lakefront Park and Bill Stanton Park. Professional sand sculptors Carl Jara and Greg J. Grady hosted the Sand Sculpture Tour Day on Saturday, July 11, along with the Headlands Beach Event & Mystic Market with live music, food trucks and over 80 vendors.

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News Briefs

The Richland County Regional Solid Waste Management Authority (RCRSWMA) announced that the 30-day public review and comment period for the Richland County Solid Waste Management Plan Update will be July 10 to Aug. 10. A public hearing will be Aug. 12, at 2 pm at the RCRSWMA offices, 1125 National Pkwy., Mansfield.

The proposed plan is available for public review at the Mansfield-Richland County Library, Marvin Memorial Library in Shelby, Richland County Commissioners' office, RCRSWMA office and at www.richlandrecycles.com.

Written comments can be sent to the attention of Eddie Hale, 1125 National Pkwy., Mansfield, OH 44906. Comments must be received by close of business Aug. 10. Questions and comments may be made in person at the public hearing. Call 419-774-5861 with questions regarding the plan, the comment period or the public hearing.

Trinity Grace Fellowship, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield (Madison area), will hold its annual Vacation Bible School from 6-8:30 pm July 19-23. This year's theme is Emerald Crossing and is geared for children kindergarten through sixth grade. Children in seventh and eighth grade can volunteer to help teach Bible lessons with Trinity's teachers. The lessons revolve around Psalm 23 and the knowledge that Jesus is our Shepherd.

Adults can participate in an adult Bible study with Pastor Larry Carnes about Psalm 23 and the book, *Traveling Light* by Max Lucado while the children are learning about Emerald Crossing.

Pre-registration is available at trinitygracefellowship.org.

A special meeting of the Ontario Board of Education will be held in the Ontario High School Library, 467 Shelby-Ontario Rd., Ontario, on Monday, July 27, at 6 pm.

The meeting will be held to discuss the development of tax policy with Rockmill Financial.

The City of Ontario's 2026 Concerts in the Park will be held at the band shell in Marshall Park at 6 pm. Concerts are scheduled for July 21, Oolong Gurus; Aug. 11, Soul Town; and Aug. 25, Red Ball Jets. This is event is free to attend. Lawn chairs and blankets are encouraged.

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, July 25 and 26. Acceptable items include steel and aluminum cans, crushed milk jugs, detergent bottles, plastic bottles with number 1 or 2 on the bottom, broken down cardboard, all papers included with the newspaper but no other magazines or paper. Please remove caps from bottles and rinse all containers well.

The 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 Aug. 19, and will include chicken. Joshua Dorae will speak about veteran support dogs.

The group will also meet for lunch Aug. 5, at 11 am at Hong Kong Buffet on Lexington-Springmill Rd., in Ontario.

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

A special council meeting will be held Monday July 20, at 7:30 pm in Village of Lexington Council Chambers, 44 W. Main St., Lexington. The meeting will be held to pass legislation regarding putting the park levy on the ballot.

The Madison Ram Marching Band Alumni Football Game will be held Friday, Aug. 28, at the Madison Comprehensive High School and Stadium, 600 Esley Ln., Mansfield.

Practices are held Monday, Aug. 24, from 2:30-4:30 pm and Thursday, Aug. 27, from 6-8 pm, in the high school band room.

Musicians should report to the band room at 5 pm on the night of the event. The game begins at 7 pm. To sign-up visit <https://forms.gle/Ez93fK7YLoXQvVsk6>. Sign ups close on Friday, July 24.

For information email kfanning@mlsd.net or Imann@mlsd.net for the band and mpoland@mlsd.net for Ramettes.

Mechanics Bank will host Live@Lunch performances in the downtown Mansfield courtyard, 2 S. Main St., all summer long, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Food trucks will also be available.

Upcoming performers and food trucks include July 24, Tom's Kitchen Table, Panchos Tacos; Aug. 7, EKG, Grunt Grub & Cowgirl Creamery; Aug. 21, Jevan Cole, On the Rise BBQ; Sept. 11, SHaK, The Back Porch Food Co.; and Sept. 18, Tom's Kitchen Table, Cub Country. The courtyard is open every Friday over lunch.

All Souls Unitarian Universalist of Bellville, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Rev. Dr. Elaine Strawn on Sunday, July 19, at 10:30 am. The subject will be "Nature as Our Spiritual Teacher." For information visit www.allsoulsuuhio.org.

To submit a news brief item send an email with information to news@tribune-courier.com.



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Representative Romanchuk praises Ohio's ranking as top state for business

State Senator Mark Romanchuk (R-Ontario) applauded CNBC's recent study naming Ohio as the top state for business in the nation.

"By continuing to focus on deregulation and creating a competitive economic environment, Ohio is now a powerhouse for business," said Senator Romanchuk.

"Fostering business opportunity in Ohio has been a priority since I first ran for office, and I'm proud to see our state recognized for its business competitiveness. I look forward to continuing to pursue policies that make Ohio the best place to work, live, and raise a family."

Since 2007, CNBC has scored all 50 states on 138 metrics in 10 broad categories of competitiveness. The study focuses on identifying the factors companies consider when making site selection decisions and where states are focusing their economic development efforts to win jobs and business.

In addition to being ranked as the number one overall state, Ohio also took the top spot in infrastructure as well as in the cost of doing business.

RCCS to host Family Summer Dayz

The first-ever Richland County Children Services (RCCS) Family Summer Dayz Celebration is planned for Wednesday, July 29, from 3-6 pm at RCCS, 731 Scholl Rd., Mansfield.

The rain date is set for Thursday, July 30.

The afternoon will be packed with free events including live entertainment provided by Jeff Angelini of Nyte Flyte, food trucks, games, bounce houses, raffle prizes and giveaways. Those attending can meet area high school sports teams and see demonstrations by Music Academy of Karate and Empowerment.

Special appearances will include Miss Greater Cleveland Teen MaKayla Lawrence, Miss Ontario 2026 Kennedy Sapp and Ms. Priscilla the Volkswagen Beetle.

Local agencies and safety organizations will be on-site with resource booths offering helpful information.

RCCS staff will also be available to share details about adoption and volunteer opportunities.

For more information call 419-774-4100.

Church Directory

All Souls Unitarian Universalist

25 Church St., Bellville
419-886-3497 • www.allsoulsuuohio.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
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Michael "Mike" Lee Hindman, July 5

Jean S Eglin, July 7

Penny Kelsay, July 8

George William Reece Jr, July 8

C. Ruth Berry-Metcalf, July 9

Linda Lee Stanek, July 10

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MWCD announces launch of \$1 million grant program

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) has announced the launch of its new Connecting Communities Grant Program, a \$1 million initiative designed to expand public access to outdoor recreation across its region.



Iceland • Photo By Mark Shutt

Funded through MWCD's oil and gas revenue, the program represents a strategic reinvestment of natural resource development back into the communities of the watershed to support projects that enhance quality of life and create lasting public benefit.

The program will fund capital projects that create outdoor recreational infrastructure, including trails, playgrounds, waterfront access, and park improvements. The initiative reflects MWCD's long-standing commitment to investing in outdoor spaces that improve quality of life and support communities.

"Connecting people to the outdoors is fundamental to our mission," said Pete Novotny, chief of recreation at MWCD. "This program is about more than building trails or parks, it's about strengthening communities, improving quality of life, and ensuring that every resident in our watershed has access to meaningful outdoor experiences close to home."

The program focuses exclusively on permanent, high-impact projects beginning at \$25,000 that provide measurable public benefit and long-term access to outdoor recreation. Eligible applicants include Ohio political subdivisions such as municipalities, counties, townships, and park districts, as well as 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations located within MWCD's service area. The deadline to apply is Sept. 1, and awards will be announced in November.

In addition to the primary grant program, MWCD will offer a Small Opportunity Grant for smaller, time-sensitive projects. These awards will range from \$5,000 to \$25,000 and will be available on a rolling basis to support immediate community needs.

For additional information and to apply, visit www.mwcd.org/communitygrant

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• Classic Car & Truck Show @ 11:00am
• Pie Auction @ 2:00 pm
• Band (Campfire Ready) @ 5:00 pm, Bring a chair it is outside

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2027 SHOW FEATURE: ALLIS CHALMERS

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The Ohio River Sternwheel Festival celebrates 50 Years in Marietta

For 50 years, the Ohio River Sternwheel Festival has celebrated the rich heritage of river travel while welcoming visitors to Marietta for one of the region's largest and most beloved festivals.

What began as a community celebration has evolved into a nationally recognized event, attracting nearly 100,000 visitors each year to Ohio's first city and the scenic banks of the Ohio River.

Kleerview Farm to host Christmas in July Celebration

BELLVILLE — Christmas is coming a little early this year at Kleerview Farm.

Kleerview Christmas Trees, located at 2454 Baughman Rd., in Bellville, will host a Christmas in July celebration on Saturday, July 25, from 5:30 to 10 pm.

The family-friendly event will feature visits with Mr. and Mrs. Claus, opportunities to visit with the farm's reindeer, farm demonstrations, kids' lawn games, wagon rides to the Christmas House, food trucks, a gift shop and a fireworks display to end the evening.

Admission is \$20 per vehicle, making it an affordable outing for families and groups looking to enjoy a unique summer tradition.

Organizers invite the community to celebrate the spirit of Christmas under the summer sky while creating lasting memories with family and friends.

For more information visit Kleerview Christmas Trees on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063622807295>

Held this year from Friday, Sept. 11, to Sunday, Sept. 13, the festival prepares to celebrate its golden anniversary. Visitors can look forward to a weekend filled with the traditions they have come to love, along with a new attraction designed to inspire future adventures.

The Ohio River Sternwheel Festival has long been known for its gathering of authentic sternwheel boats, a tribute to the vessels that once served as the lifeblood of commerce and transportation along America's inland waterways. Seeing these boats docked along Marietta's riverfront is a highlight for many visitors, creating a scene that reflects the city's deep connection to the Ohio River.

For those who want more than a view from shore, Marietta offers a unique opportunity to experience river travel firsthand.

Visitors can board authentic sternwheel boats, including the Valley Gem Sternwheeler and the Major/Riviera, for a cruise along the Ohio and Muskingum rivers. These excursions provide a rare chance to experience the sights, sounds, and slower pace of traditional river travel while enjoying some of the most scenic views in the Mid-Ohio Valley. Information and tickets for riverboat cruises are available at ValleyGemSternwheeler.com.

While the boats remain at the heart of the festival, the event has grown into a full weekend celebration with live entertainment featuring local, regional and nationally known performers.

No Sternwheel Festival experience would be complete without its signature fireworks display. Widely regarded as one of the finest fireworks shows in the region, the annual display illuminates the Ohio River and draws thousands of spectators to downtown Marietta. Against the backdrop of the river and the illuminated sternwheel boats, the fireworks have become one of the festival's most anticipated traditions.

Adding a new dimension to this year's event is the inaugural Travel Showcase, taking place on Saturday, Sept. 12, from 10 am to 4 pm at the Armory in downtown Marietta. The showcase will feature exhibitors from Ohio, West Virginia, and Indiana, offering visitors an opportunity to discover destinations, attractions, and experiences throughout the tri-state region.

Tourism organizations, museums, parks, lodging properties, entertainment venues and attractions will be on hand to share information and travel ideas.

For festival schedules, event information and updates visit www.sternwheel.org.

Summer concert series continues

Kingwood Center Gardens will host its annual free concert series, Live on the Lawn, on Thursday evenings in July. Concerts begin at 7 pm, with free admission beginning at 6:30.

The 2026 concert line-up includes July 9, Lincoln Highway; July 16, Townline 26; July 23, Willie Phoenix; July 30, Tom's Kitchen Table.

Guests should bring their own lawn chairs or blankets. A variety of food trucks will be available at each concert. While Kingwood's liquor license is pending, alcohol will not be available on site and outside alcohol will not be permitted.

Live on the Lawn 2026 is presented by Modern Woodmen of America Fraternal Financial and sponsored by community partners, Brightspeed, Pacific Impressions Landscaping, Inc., and North Central Ohio Media Group.

For additional information, including inclement weather location visit www.KingwoodCenter.org and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

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419-719-6026
@thegreenbeanhouse

Cleveland researchers discover potential new treatment for Parkinson's Disease and other neurodegenerative conditions

Parkinson's disease (PD) is the second most common form of neurodegenerative disease and afflicts more than ten million people worldwide. While current therapies address disease symptoms, they do not prevent the underlying neurodegeneration that drives the disease.

Investigators at University Hospitals, Case Western Reserve University, and the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center previously identified a new and promising drug to treat neurodegenerative conditions, including Alzheimer's disease (AD) and traumatic brain injury in a study published in the scientific journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS).

The collaborative study, co-led by Andrew A. Pieper, MD, PhD, and Sanford Markowitz, MD, PhD, and awarded the 2025 Cozzarelli Prize in Biomedical Sciences, showed that inhibition of an enzyme in the immune system, known as 15-PGDH (15-hydroxyprostaglandin dehydrogenase), was potentially neuroprotective by restraining the production of reactive oxygen species that damage the brain.

Dr. Pieper is the Morley-Mather Chair of Neuropsychiatry at University Hospitals, and the Rebecca E. Barchas, MD, DLFAPA, Professor of Translational Psychiatry at Case Western Reserve University.

He also serves as director of the Brain Health Medicines Center at Harrington Discovery Institute at UH, and psychiatrist and investigator in the Louis Stokes VA Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center.

Dr. Markowitz is the Ingalls Professor of Cancer Genetics and Distinguished University Professor at the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center and Division of Hematology-Oncology Department of Medicine at Case Western Reserve and UH Seidman Cancer Center.

Now, in collaboration with Min-Kyoo

Shin, PhD, former postdoctoral trainee in the Pieper Laboratory and current assistant professor at Seoul National University, they applied this same approach to three different models of PD and observed analogous protection while providing additional mechanistic insight.

Their findings, recently published in the scientific journal *Redox Biology*, suggest that drugs already in development for other conditions could potentially be repurposed to slow or prevent neurodegeneration in PD.

"We were encouraged to see that both human Parkinson's disease brain tissue and the brains of our three mouse models showed abnormally elevated levels of 15-PGDH," explained Dr. Pieper. "Both genetic and pharmacologic inhibition restored redox homeostasis, which protected mice from the neuroinflammation, neuronal cell death, and motor impairment normally seen in these models of PD."

Dr. Markowitz added, "We were excited to find that inhibiting 15-PGDH mediated neuroprotection through downregulating a trio of the dopaminergic neuronal cell death mediator lipocalin-2 (Lcn2), the pro-inflammatory cytokine interleukin-1, and the reactive oxygen generator Cybb/Nox2. This provides new mechanistic insight into how 15-PGDH inhibitors could target and prevent neurodegeneration in Parkinson's disease."

Previous work from the research team demonstrated high CNS penetration of the 15-PGDH inhibitor SW033291, that was developed in the Markowitz Laboratory, with sustained drug levels in both brain and plasma for up to six hours, and near-complete ablation of 15-PGDH enzyme activity in the brain. The clinical safety of 15-PGDH inhibition is supported by the absence of toxicity in a recent Phase 1 clinical trial of the 15-PGDH inhibitor MF-300, as well as by findings from humans with biallelic inactivating mu-

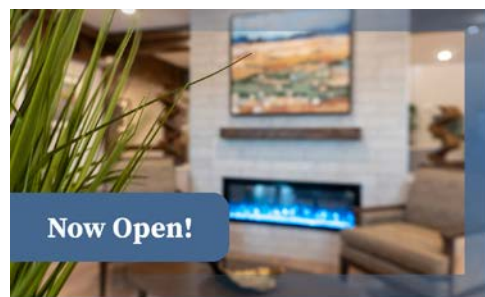
tations of 15-PGDH, in whom the only consistently observed phenotype is congenital digital clubbing.

"Encouragingly, both pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies have initiated development of 15-PGDH inhibitors for peripheral indications, and inhibitor MF-300 has already completed Phase 1 clinical trials. Our results now provide the rationale to repurpose such agents for the treatment of PD," Dr. Markowitz said.

Notably, 15-PGDH-mediated protection in one model driven by pathological accumulation of a-synuclein, that is thought to cause the human disease, was achieved without any change in accumulation of pathologically phosphorylated a-synuclein. This demonstrates that therapeutic benefit can be achieved independently of this aspect of synuclein pathology.

"This work parallels our recent finding that 15-PGDH-mediated neuroprotection in an amyloid-based Alzheimer's disease mouse model occurred independently of changes in amyloid pathology, contributing to a growing body of evidence that potent therapeutic effect can be achieved by targeting the brain's damage and inflammatory response to the primary drivers of disease," said Dr. Pieper.

Next steps in this research will focus on exploring downstream signaling pathways to better understand how 15-PGDH contributes to both normal brain function and neurodegeneration. Dissecting the contributions and interactions of these pathways will require targeted pharmacologic and genetic experimental approaches. Further investigation into the regulatory mechanisms governing Hpgd expression may help clarify the upstream processes that drive 15-PGDH elevation in PD.



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Teachers can receive free admission to LEGOLAND Discovery Center

LEGOLAND Discovery Center is celebrating Teacher Appreciation Days with free entry through July 31.

In addition to free entry, teachers will also be able to bring up to six guests at a discounted rate of 30% off general admission. To redeem, teachers must book tickets online in advance and present a valid school I.D. or paystub upon arrival.

Teacher Appreciation Days is just one of the perks that LEGOLAND Discovery Center offers to educators and schools. The attraction also provides free educational resources, activities and discounted admission for field trips.

Teachers can book their free Teacher Appreciation Days tickets online at <https://www.legolanddiscoverycenter.com/columbus/whats-inside/events/teacher-appreciation-days/>

The Ohio Foothills offer outdoor recreation for visitors

The Ohio Foothills is one of the Midwest's most compelling travel destinations, inviting visitors to wander freely as they explore a region rich in recreational resources. The region is home to more than 140,000 acres of land, rivers and lakes that showcase Ohio's natural beauty.

Ohio State Parks are the best in the nation and four of them are in the Ohio Foothills region. The largest state park, Salt Fork, is located on more than 17,000 acres and includes a lodge and conference center, indoor and outdoor pool, cabins, a campground with an exclusive beach, 20 miles of wooded hiking trails, and an 18-hole golf course. Salt Fork Lake features two marinas, eight launch ramps for easy water access, along with boat rentals and plenty of quiet coves for fishing.

A 2500-foot sand beach is open to the public throughout the Summer for swimming. Other Ohio State Parks to discover in The Ohio Foothills are Barkcamp, Beaver Creek, Guilford Lake, Jefferson Lake, Dillon, and Muskingum River Parkway Lock 9 and Ellis Lock 11, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; it is one of only two hand-operated lock systems left in the county.

Public-access lakes in the Ohio Foothills cover more than 19,000 acres and are a water-lover's paradise. Lakes include Seneca, Piedmont, Atwood and Tappan Lakes, all of which are part of the Muskingum River Watershed, the largest drainage system in Ohio. Its 16 dams and reservoirs provide flood-reduction and water-conservation benefits for property owners, residents, and visitors in the region. The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District manages many of the region's lakes and waterways. Their efforts focus on strengthening the health of the surrounding waters and landscape, protecting these rich resources for the future. Activities include watersports, hiking, pump tracks and mountain bike trails, equine trails, and court sports. Lodging options range from primitive camping under the stars to fully appointed luxury cabins.

Scenic Water Trails can be found on many rivers in the region, including the Kokosing, Mohican, Muskingum, and Tuscarawas Rivers. Water Trails are designated by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to promote awareness of public paddling access while increasing safety. Trails are developed through partnerships with local communities. Access points along these trails are located about every 10 miles and offer free parking. Maps for each trail can be found on the ODNR website.

Opportunities for fishing, kayaking, canoeing and tubing are also abundant, and boat rentals are available in many locations throughout the region. Commonly caught fish include large and small-mouth bass, trout, catfish and bluegill.

Some of the best hunting, trapping, birding and wildlife observation opportunities in Ohio occur in state wildlife areas. There are more than 67,000 acres designated as Wildlife Areas in the Ohio Foothills, including the state's largest, Woodbury Wildlife Area. Like other designated wildlife areas, it includes ponds, wetlands, grasslands, and forests. Other wildlife areas in the Ohio Foothills include Egypt Valley, Clendening Lake and the Killbuck Marsh. These areas are managed by the Ohio Division of Wildlife, whose mission is to

conserve and improve fish and wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainable use and appreciation by all. Their duties include fish and wildlife management, land use, and education. More information can be found by clicking here.

With its winding backroads and welcoming people, the Ohio Foothills is the perfect place for an outdoor adventure. The ten Appalachian Ohio counties that comprise the region are Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Muskingum and Tuscarawas. Defined by rolling hills of the Appalachian Mountain region, the landscape features rivers, hills and valleys, and wooded areas ideal for hiking, biking, fishing, birding and paddle sports like kayaking and canoeing. Learn more about The Ohio Foothills at visitohiofoothills.com.

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SAVE THE DATE - NEW LOCATION at the Mansfield Speedway Saturday September 19

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alz.org/walk



Mansfield Speedway: 400 Crall Rd E, Mansfield

Event Details : Check in 9:00 am | Ceremony 10 am / Walk at 10:20 am



Photos By Jeff Hoffer

The Mansfield Block House, South Park

Richland Academy of the Arts planning three fundraising events

Richland Academy of the Arts (RAA) invites community members to three special fundraising events being held at 75 N. Walnut St., Mansfield.

The series of events begins with "Salsa for Scholarship," a drop-in energizing, aerobic salsa class on Wednesday, July 22, from 5:15 to 6 pm. For a \$10 drop in fee, participants will "shake it" with Marden Ramos while learning salsa steps and grooving to latin rhythms.

On Thursday, July 23, from 7–8:30 pm, a "BYOB Paint and Sip" event will be held with Elisabeth Madore. A \$30 pre-registration fee

is due by Monday, July 20. Participants will paint a special piece of art and are welcome to bring their favorite refreshments.

Finish the week off with "Yoga for Scholarship" with Erin Wolford on Friday, July 24, from 9–9:45 am. For a \$5 drop in fee, participants will start the day with a 45-minute gentle flow yoga class for students of all strength levels who are looking to increase mobility, strength and flexibility.

All proceeds from these special events benefit RAA's Scholarship Programs, supporting students of all ages to pursue their artistic passions in dance, music, visual arts, theatre and martial arts. This event will kick-off an annual series of special fundraising events that will benefit RAA's Scholarship Programs.

RAA's Scholarship Programs offer funds that are need-based and merit-based, ensuring that financial barriers never prevent individuals from exploring the arts. Each year, scholarship awards assist students enrolling in classes.

Since the program's inception over 25 years ago, the funds have empowered recipients to grow creatively and gain confidence. Last year RAA awarded over \$16,000 in scholarships to 79 students. Community scholarship events like Salsa, Paint and Sip and Yoga are essential to this scholarship program.

To register or to learn more about the special events call 419-522-8224 or visit richlandacademy.com.

Richland County Fair August 8–15, 2026

GRANDSTAND EVENTS:

Sunday: Harness Racing, 5:30 pm

Monday: Harness Racing, 5:30 pm

Tuesday: Wiener Dog Racing, 7 pm
(First Place \$500) Registration: richlandcountyfair.com

Wednesday: Rodeo, 7 pm • \$10 Reserved Seats

Thursday: Hardin County Tractor Pullers County Tractor Pull, 7 pm • \$10 Pit or Reserved • \$20 Back Gate

Friday: Motocross, 7 pm
\$10 Pit or Reserved • \$20 Back Gate

Saturday: Demolition Derby, 5 pm
\$10 Reserved • \$20 Back Gate

Monday Senior Citizens \$5

Tuesday Kids Day (\$10 Ride Wristbands 12–4 pm)

Thursday Free for Military & Veterans with ID

General Gate Admission (Includes Grandstand) \$10

Admission for Children 48" and under is free!

Membership & Season Tickets (7 admissions) \$40

Richland Co. Fairgrounds • 750 N. Home Rd. Mansfield

richlandcountyfair.com

Youth win frog jumping contest

The Ontario Lions Club sponsored the Ontario Liberty Fest Frog Jumping Contest on June 27.

Deaken Neutzling, age six, of Shelby, was the overall winner with 12' 1" as his best jump and a grand final jump of 10' 3".

Emmy, age 2, of Mansfield, won for her age group with a jump of 12' 9" and a grand final jump of 8' 5".

Hayes Thompson, 11, of Ontario, had a jump of 10' 5", a grand final jump of 8' 10" and a tie-breaker jump of 8'.

Andrew Coley, age 13, had an official jump of 11' 10" and a grand final jump of 9' 8".

Eric Honneffer to speak at OGS meeting

Preserving Your Family Heirlooms is the title of the July 18 meeting of The Richland County Genealogical Society. The program will begin at 2 pm at The Ohio Genealogical Society Library, 611 St. Rt. 97 W., Bellville. The presenter will be Eric Honneffer, conservator at BGSU Center for Archival Collections Preservation Laboratory. The public is welcome and can bring a family heirloom to ask Honneffer about. This will be an in-person meeting only without Zoom.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Everyday People Doing Extraordinary Sports:
Marathon Runner Kayla Marshall

By Kris Leiter

I thought I would mix things up a bit this week since high school sports have taken a break. I'd like to share a positive story about an extraordinary person — Kayla Marshall.

Kayla Marshall is a 2008 graduate of Mansfield Senior High School and is someone I have known personally for roughly a year. The more I have chatted with her, the more I discovered her love of running.

I'm not talking about a lap around the neighborhood after work. It's not a casual hobby, it's her passion. She inspires me whenever she talks about running and she always has a smile on her face.

Some have run for many years including since their youth, but for Kayla, it was never really her desire until recently.

"I never really liked to run in high school, but started doing it regularly during Covid," she said.

Since then she has competed in around 30 races.

"I've ran the OhioHealth Capital City Half Marathon in Columbus, which is 13.1 miles. I also completed Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Half Marathon this past October. It was my best time at 2 hours, 10 minutes.. There were thousands of runners and I finished somewhere near the middle of the pack."

"This past race wasn't as good because I was nursing a hip injury. It was freezing, raining and hailing with 40-mile an hour winds. It was rough, but I finished it."

As with most sports, family support is a key ingredient.

"Sometimes our whole family goes to the race and my husband always goes. I've run with my 18 year-old son during his first 5K."

"He went all out the first mile, and then he died down because he wanted to show off," she chuckled. "He did pretty good — he wasn't too far behind me."

"I have also ran with my ten-year-old. She's done a couple of 5K with me. She's completed a few without even stopping. It depends on her mood. This past race, my two youngest ran with me."



To keep her running her best, she has around 20 pairs of shoes.

"When I first started in 2020, I was wearing tennis shoes from Walmart. I didn't know which brand would be good, so I asked my brother, who runs as well. He suggested Brooks, so I went with that. I have a bunch of Brooks, but then I switched to HOKAs. Those are my go-to shoes now."

"I've done a few races on grass but for the most part my races are on the road."

"Sometimes runners will dedicate a race in memory of someone. I dedicated the Nationwide race to three different people."

"The first person was my nephew who was born at 25 weeks. He lived at Nationwide for a while. The second person was a family friend, whose son passed away of cancer. I think he was five years old."

"The third was for my adopted sister who also went to Nationwide."

As exhausting as running can be, I wondered if the thought of just calling it quits during the race ever crossed her mind, especially during a half marathon.

"I have always made it whole way. There's been some where I've had to speed walk. I'll stop to take a breather, but I've never had a DNF (did not finish)."

(Continued on Page 12)



KAYLA MARSHALL and her husband, Andrew, at the Shelby Whip-pet Run 5K on July 11. Andrew comes to support her at every race.



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CLASSIFIEDS

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

PUBLIC AUCTION

The City of Ontario will hold a public auction on Thursday, August 13, 2026 at the Ontario Service Building, 3375 Milligan Road, at 10:00 a.m.

Items to be auctioned, but not limited to, include items no longer needed for the operation of the City. The City of Ontario has the right to waive any and all bids.

Method of payment is check only. No credit cards or cash will be accepted.

Cathy VanAuker
Clerk of Council
Ontario, Ohio
(T-C7-16 '26) 15L

LEGAL NOTICE

The Madison Local School District is seeking bids for a paving project at the Madison Early Childhood Learning Center, located at 1035 Grace Street Mansfield, Ohio 44905.

In providing a bid, it is expected that "best practices" will be used in the performance of the work. The bid is to include all labor and materials to complete the projects.

Each bid must include the following:

1. Front Parking Lot

• Asphalt Tear Out:

1. Excavate all deteriorated asphalt from the front parking lot (approx. 33,000 sq. ft.)
2. Haul off site
3. Fine grade and compact the stone base as needed

• Paving:

1. Install one layer of 301 base asphalt, rolled and compacted to a depth of 2.5 inches (est. 460 ton)
2. Install one layer of #448 type 1 asphalt rolled and compacted to a depth of 1.5 inches (est. 220 ton)
3. Layout and restripe parking lot, per Director updated layout plan

2. Rear Playground

• Crack Fill Repair Prep:

1. Mill out approx. 775 ft. of cracks at 2 inches in depth
2. Haul off site
3. Clean the milled areas

• Paving:

1. Apply a layer of #448-1 asphalt totaling 2 inches of thickness to the cleaned area

It is the contractor's responsibility to verify all existing conditions, utilities and any other items that may interfere with the completion of the work described above.

Any questions regarding the project can be directed to Lindi Holfinger, MECLC Director at 419-589-7851 or lholfinger@madisonrams.net.

Bids should be submitted sealed via postal mail or in person delivery, no later than July 24, 2026 to the Madison Local Board of Education; attention Bradd Stevens - Treasurer at 1379 Grace Street Mansfield, Ohio 44905.

Bradd Stevens, Treasurer
Madison Local Schools Board of Education
Mansfield, Ohio
(T-C7-16 '26) 58L

•Everyday People Doing Extraordinary Sports: Marathon Runner Kayla Marshall

(Continued from Page 11)

As for food and water, Marshall says, "5Ks aren't bad, because it's just 3.1 miles. 'I'm fine until the end.'"

"During the half marathon (13.1 miles) every couple of miles they have tables set-up with Gatorade, water and snacks and at the end, they give you granola bars."

Her craziest race was the Donut Run.

"You wouldn't think it would be bad because it's only a mile, but you do three loops and after every loop, you eat a huge donut. You can't start running until you have finished it."

"I didn't make it without getting sick. I didn't eat donuts for a while after that."

To prepare for a race she usually does around 12 miles and starts prepping a month before.

She also prepares herself for the weather, because in a two-hour race things can change quickly.

"Some of the long races are in the morning or night, so it's often dewy and cold. This past race, I was wearing an old rain jacket because it was raining and cold. Then before I got to the first mile marker, I ran to the side and took it off."

To fuel her race she has found what works for her.

"Everyone's different, you've got just kind of got to test it out before race day."

"I usually eat a Pop-Tart, because it's carbs. One time, before

Nationwide. I don't know why, but I had Chipotle and it didn't settle. You're supposed to have pasta the night before a race."

"After a race I usually go home and take a very nice long nap. When I wake up, I feel a lot better. There's nothing like an nap after race."

Everyone skips a training day every now and then.

"Sometimes you're just happy with your schedule or you're actually too tired. Sometimes with the kids in school, life gets in the way."

As races begin, some are narrow and some leave you trying to dodge other runners.

"As the pack clears, I'll see people ahead of me, and my goal is to just catch up to them."

Richland County Fair returns August 8-15

The Richland County Fair returns Aug. 8-15.

Once again, grandstand events will be included with admission to the fair. Cost is \$10 for adults with children 48" and under free. Membership tickets (seven admissions) are available for \$40

Senior Citizens Day will be Monday, Aug. 10, with \$5 admission for seniors.

The Mid-Ohio Band will perform Monday at the Nature Park at 7 pm,

Among the many events and activities will be the second annual wiener dog race with a grand prize of \$500.

The race will be held Tuesday, Aug. 11, at 7 pm and this race is open to local dogs and their owners.

A total of 40 canines will be allowed to participate and all must be pre-registered prior to July 25. To register visit <https://richlandcountyfair.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Weiner-Dog-Race-Registration.pdf>

Also on Tuesday is kids day with \$10 ride wristbands from noon to 4 pm.

The 33rd Annual Pie Auction is scheduled for Wednesday in the Arts & Crafts Building. Judging begins at 2:30 pm and the sale will begin at 5 pm.

Another highlight of the week will be the rodeo on Wednesday,

Aug. 12, at 7 pm. Grandstand seating is free with admission to the fair and special reserved seating is available for \$10.

Armed Forces Day will be held on Thursday, Aug. 13. Admission is free with military ID to all veterans and active duty.

The Hardin County Tractor Pullers County Tractor Pull is scheduled for Thursday at 7 pm, followed by Motocross on Friday at 7 pm.

The crowd-pleaser demolition derby in Saturday, beginning at

5 pm.

Derby classes include V8 Stock Class, FWD Windshield Class, Compact/Midsize Car - Light Weld, FullSize Car - No Protector and MiniVan & MiniTruck.

Grandstand seating is free with reserved seats for \$10 and back gate entrance for \$20.

Rides open at noon Sunday-Saturday with single tickets or ride wristbands available.

For more information and for a full schedule visit richland-countyfair.com.

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