



TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

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07.30.26



RONDA ROBEY, founder of Quincy's Refuge, visits with Peaches, one of the horses she cares for at the farm in Mifflin Township. Peaches is an eight-year-old Paint Quarter Horse who lost both of her eyes due to malnutrition and neglect. Since coming to the farm, she is often the first to greet visitors.

Quincy's Refuge creates a place for second chances

Photos and Article By Traci Little

The little girl quietly pulled her coat tighter as she stepped toward the fence. Just weeks earlier, grief had left her withdrawn after losing a close family member. She rarely wanted to leave home, let alone spend time around strangers.

Then one of the refuge's rescued horses quietly walked over to meet her.

The gentle interaction lasted only a few moments, but something began to change. Today, the girl eagerly returns to Quincy's Refuge, participating in activities, smiling more often and slowly rediscovering joy.

"It's amazing what these horses can do," founder Ronda Robey said.

For Robey, moments like that are exactly why Quincy's Refuge exists.

The faith-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit near Perrysville provides a place where rescued horses and people carrying life's burdens often find healing together.

Its story, in many ways, began with healing.

Robey retired after nearly 30 years serving families through Werner-Gompf Funeral Services. A licensed funeral director and licensed social worker, she thought retirement might finally slow life down.

Instead, God had other plans.

"I've loved horses my whole life," Robey said. "I got my first pony when I was eight years old, and I've never been without them."

Years ago, Robey and her family began helping another farm that offered children's programs. When that ministry came to an end, families continued reaching out, asking if their children could still come spend time around the horses.

A friend encouraged Robey to become a nonprofit so people could financially support the ministry. She admits she struggled with the decision for quite some time.

"I finally had a talk with God," she said. "I told Him to either take the horses away or use them for His glory to reach others for Christ."

Not long afterward, Quincy entered her life.

The sorrel Quarter Horse gelding had been rescued from a kill pen. Years of being ridden too hard had left him physically broken,

with a painful knee. Emotionally, he seemed defeated.

"He stood with his nose in the corner," Robey recalled.

With patience, gentle care and love, Quincy slowly began trusting again.

"He went from being depressed to my best friend."

After Quincy passed away, Robey found herself reflecting on the refuge he had discovered at her farm.

Then she came across Psalm 91:2.

"I will say of the LORD, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, My God, in Him I will trust.'"

"The name just came together," Robey said. "Everything came together because of Christ."

Today, Quincy's Refuge has become exactly that — a refuge.

Approximately 20 horses, ponies and miniature horses now call the property home, along with about 50 cats, 11 chickens, three dogs, guinea pigs, a duck and several other rescued animals.

Many of the horses were rescued from kill pens through Julie Copper and Copper Horse Crusade before finding permanent homes at the refuge.

Every animal has a story — perhaps none more inspiring than Peaches. The eight-year-old palomino Paint Quarter Horse lost both

(Continued on Page 5)

NCOIM will host retirees lunch

The North Central Ohio Industrial Museum will host its fifth annual retirees lunch on Friday, Aug. 28, honoring the industrial excellence in north central Ohio past and present.

The event is free to the first 200 (max) manufacturing retirees in north central Ohio.

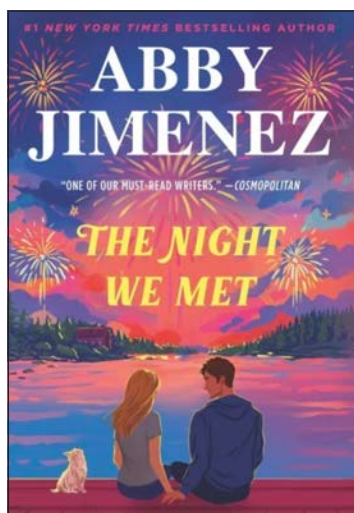
There will be a program and lunch by Port-A-Cook from 11am to noon. From noon to 1 pm, there will be tours in the Ohio State Reformatory lower east diagonal and the NCO Industrial Museum.

The event dress is casual attire. To register visit https://www.nco-im.org/get_calendar_details.cfm?calendarid=1

LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review
By Amanda Belczak



The Night We Met by Abby Jimenez is a complicated love story.

Larissa is not a quitter. Life has handed her some difficult problems and she handles them with the independence and strength of a woman who has learned to rely on herself only.

On a particularly hard day, her boyfriend's best friend, Chris, is sent to help her and a friendship begins.

I liked this book because it was so honest. Dating in adult life means people have work and baggage and history that have to be faced.

Choosing a partner in life is choosing someone who will either hold you together in those messy moments or hurt you

further.

Larissa and Chris find themselves torn between the possibility of something, and the respect and love they have for life long friends.

The writing is classic Abby Jimenez, a summer romance with characters you grow to love for their depth and honesty.

My rating: ★★★★★

Follow my blog at amanda-belczak.com

Applications being accepted for Ohio History Fund grants

State Representative Marilyn John (R-Richland County) recently announced that the Ohio History Fund grant application is now available.

Grants are used to support local history projects, including the rehabilitation of National Register-listed historic buildings, museum collection storage initiatives, educational programs and more.

Details, guidelines and the application can be found at ohio-history.org/historyfund. Contact information can also be found on the website.

"Richland County has a strong connection to Ohio's history through its historic buildings and infrastructure, and I hope our community will benefit from these preservation efforts," said Rep. John.

Eligible applicants include historic preservation groups, local historical societies, museums, public libraries, genealogical societies, university archives and special collections, archaeological societies, county records management offices, "friends" groups and other non-profit and public entities.

The application deadline is Sept. 8, 2026.



Venice, Italy • Photo By Mark Shutt

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

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Tribune-Courier



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News Briefs

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 Aug. 11, Soul Town; and Aug. 25, Red Ball Jets. This is event is free to attend. Lawn chairs and blankets are encouraged.

★

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 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.

★

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.

★

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.

★

The I-71 southbound exit/entrance ramps at SR 39 will close Wednesday night, July 29, and Thursday night, July 30, from 7 pm to 6 am for resurfacing.

★

The City of Ontario meeting schedule includes:

Aug. 5, 5 pm, Utilities Committee; 6:15 pm, Caucus; and 7 pm, Council.

Aug. 12, 1 pm, Civil Service Commission; and 4 pm, Planning Commission.

Aug. 19, 6:15 pm, Caucus; 7 pm, Council.

Meetings are held at 555 Stumbo Rd.

★

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.

★

To submit a news brief item send an email with information to news@tribune-courier.com. To advertise in the T-C, email Traci at tribune.courier.traci@gmail.com

Residents can apply for Summer Crisis Program assistance

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. are once again offering assistance to help Ohio's families stay cool during the hot summer months.

From July 1 through Sept. 30, income-eligible Ohioans can receive assistance in paying their electric bill, purchasing an air conditioner or fan, or making repairs to their central air conditioning unit through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Service's Home Energy Assistance Summer Crisis Program (HEAP).

The Summer Crisis Program assists low-income households and those that have a disconnection notice, have been shut off, are trying to establish new service on their electric bill, require air conditioning, or those with a household member age 60 or older and/or a household member with a documented medical condition.

Qualifying medical conditions can include lung disease, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, asthma, and others.

To qualify for assistance, Ohioans must have a gross income at or below 175 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a family of up to seven members, and 60 percent of the State Median Income for a family of eight or more members. For a family of four, the annual income must be at or below \$57,750.

Last year, the Summer Crisis Program assisted more than 55,000 households in Ohio, providing a total of \$12.4 million in benefits.

To apply for the program, clients are required to schedule an appointment with your local Community Action Commission.

Clients need to bring copies of the following documents to their appointment: copies of their most recent energy bills, a list of all household members and proof of income for the last 30 days or 12 months for each member, proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members, proof of disability (if applicable) and physician documentation that cooling assistance is needed for a household member's health.

Ohioans enrolled in the Percentage of Income Payment Plan Plus (PIPP) program who meet the above criteria may also be eligible for assistance, or central air conditioning repairs, or may receive an air conditioning unit and/or fan.

For more information about the Summer Crisis Program and what is needed to apply contact Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. at 419-524-4144.

To be connected to the local energy assistance provider visit www.energyhelp.ohio.gov.

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Richland County Fair grandstand events included with admission

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 of events visit richlandcountyfair.com.

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@stjohnmansfield.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

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Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Maria Mantova, July 19

Daniel E. Bottorf, July 20

Wilbur Butler, July 20

Lennon Charles Hayes, July 21

Earl Robert Larck Sr., July 22

Paul Edward Carroll Sr., July 23

Dorothy Grace Mowry, July 26

View Full Obituaries at www.dignitymemorial.com

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•Quincy's Refuge creates a place for second chances

(Continued from Front Page)

eyes after years of neglect and severe malnourishment.

Most people would assume blindness would make her fearful.

Instead, she's one of the first horses to greet visitors.

"When she hears the kids' voices, she comes right to the fence so they can pet her," Robey said.

Peaches has become one of the ministry's greatest teachers. Robey often reminds children, "If she's having a good day without any eyes, we can choose to have a good day too."

"Every one of our animals teaches us something."

Those lessons are especially evident through Quincy's Kids, a program serving children in kindergarten through fifth grade who may be facing autism, ADHD, Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD), abuse, neglect, abandonment or other difficult circumstances.

Children learn to brush, feed and care for the horses while participating in Bible lessons, obstacle courses, crafts and seasonal activities.

But Robey says the biggest changes often happen quietly.

She remembers the young girl struggling with grief who gradually opened up.

She also recalls one boy who barely spoke when he first arrived.

"He was very shy," Robey said. "Now he looks forward to coming. He talks. He gets involved. You can see the difference."

Adults experience that same joy.

Groups from Dale Roy and local developmental disability programs regularly visit, and Robey says watching them interact with the animals is one of the highlights of the ministry.

Running Quincy's Refuge is rewarding, but it is also demanding. Most mornings begin with prayer and Bible reading before hours of feeding animals, administering medications, cleaning stalls and caring for the property. Summer chores often take two hours before ministry activities even begin, while winter mornings can take twice as long.

"It's a lot of work and the financial needs are equally significant," Robey said.

Veterinary care, medications, grain, hay, bedding, hoof care and routine maintenance require thousands of dollars every year.

The refuge also needs volunteers willing to help with fencing, pasture maintenance, repairs, finishing the tack room and caring for the animals.

Still, Robey says she wouldn't trade this calling.

"My dad was a pastor," she said. "I never thought I'd become a social worker or funeral director. Looking back, I see that God was preparing me for this all along."

She knows not everyone shares her faith, but she doesn't apologize for making Christ the center of the ministry.

"We have Bible lessons and talk about Jesus," she said. "That may not be what everyone wants to hear, but that's what our program is centered around."

Looking ahead, Robey dreams of making Quincy's Refuge increasingly self-sustaining so no horse—or child—ever has to be turned away.

Her vision reaches far beyond the fences of the ranch.

She hopes rescued animals and hurting people alike will continue finding hope together, discovering that brokenness doesn't have to be the end of the story.

If Quincy could see the refuge today, Robey believes he'd be doing exactly what he loved most—wandering the pasture, making new friends and welcoming every frightened horse that arrived.

His legacy isn't a ranch that bears his name.

It's a place where broken horses help heal broken hearts.



DONATING TO QUINCY'S REFUGE:

Quincy's Refuge is a faith-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit horse refuge dedicated to helping both people and equines find physical, emotional and spiritual renewal through meaningful interaction.

The donation-based organization provides programs for all ages while caring for rescued horses, ponies and miniature horses. Quincy's Refuge also participates in community events, including the Ashland County Fair and local fundraisers. Its ponies are available for church activities such as Vacation Bible School, where children can guide them through obstacle courses and participate in hands-on learning experiences.

Donations and volunteer support help offset the ongoing costs of caring for the animals and maintaining the refuge.

Current Needs: Financial donations toward veterinary bills, farrier services, hoof and joint supplements, grain, feed and hay; assistance getting the gravity wagon operational; volunteers to brush hog pastures; help removing small tree stumps and hemlock; assistance installing fencing; help installing a gutter near Buddy and Peaches' area; assistance finishing the tack room

To donate visit <https://www.quincysrefuge.org/donations>

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THE ONTARIO CLASS OF 1964 gathered at the Ontario Senior Center for an 80th birthday celebration on July 11. Eighteen of the original 99 classmates and their spouses and friends attended. This was the thirteenth reunion over the past sixty-two years, with members who traveled from Florida, West Virginia and Texas. The Class of 1964 was the first graduating class to have gone through all four years at the new high school on Shelby-Ontario Road. Doug and Mary Jean Theaker also attended. Doug was a freshman American history teacher. He and his wife have attended most of the class' reunions though the years. Attending were classmates Don Keck, Marilyn Pifer Lamb, Bonnie Carpenter Green, Mick Motley, Cheryl Bonham Vidonish, Ed Schmidt, D'Laura Rosin, Sandra Williams Haas, Dennis Rinehart, Pam Ryan Campe, Jeff Flowers, Louise Morton Hayslip, Sam Nichols, Patricia Pifer Norris, Nancy Boyd Brock, Patti West Nichols, Gail Wilson Daniel and Linda Kurbad McFarland.

Richland Gives registration opens August 1

Registration for Richland Gives, an online giving event hosted by the Richland County Foundation (RCF), opens August 1. It is free, however, Richland County based nonprofits must register each year.

Thanks to the generosity of RCF donors, \$80,000 in incentives will be awarded as grants to participating organizations, beyond what they raise from on-line donations.

Richland Gives is designed to encourage people to contribute to local nonprofits they care about through a single giving website. The Foundation hosts the day to build capacity, grow philanthropy and make the community stronger.

Each organization will have an individualized web page to promote their cause. The success of the event will depend on our collective enthusiasm and implementation.

Leading up to the event, an online toolkit, education, mass media and social media coverage are provided to make it easier for nonprofit organizations to participate.

The Richland Gives donation period is from Monday, Nov. 16 at 7 am through Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 7 pm.

For more details or to donate go to richlandgives.org.

The Richland County Foundation, a not-for-profit 501c3, was established in 1945 as a way for individuals to pool and invest their gifts for the long-term good of Richland County and its residents.



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Congratulations, GRADUATES!

We wish you all the best in your next chapter.

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Photo by Damon Callis

Day Trippin' With Damon – The Mohican Gorge Overlook is a 2.5-mile loop. The trail is rated difficult due to steep inclines, a ladder and a rope bridge. From the stone deck hikers get expansive views of the 300-foot deep valley of the Clear Fork of the Mohican River. For more information visit <https://ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/mohican-state-park>.



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Pioneer accepts donations for scholarship fund

The Pioneer Board of Education met July 20.

The board approved contracted services for the 2026-'27 school year including Performing Arts adjunct instructors Dauphne Maloney, Lori Turner, Nick Ulery, Ethan Kerschner, Taylor Dretzka and Seth Morrison.

The College-Credit Plus courses were approved for the upcoming school year.

An agreement was reached with Lind, Mid-State Multimedia Group and Richland Source for marketing service. Avita Health Systems was chosen as the medical facility site for physicals for van and bus drivers.

An agreement was reached with Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center for preschool screening and English language learner services, as needed.

A MOU was reached for Career Coach programs at district schools and the board approved an agreement with Crestline Exempted Village School District for on board instructor services.

The board approved an agreement with Colonel Crawford Local Schools for food service director services for the 2026-'27 school year.

The board approved a proposal for services with TNA & Associates and various handbooks.

A partnership was reached with Ashland University for Eagle Community Partner Agreement. Revisions to the hourly pay schedule was also approved.

Donations were accepted for the Rene' Burtcher Scholarship Fund from Troy Baker, Shelby, \$500; Fritz and Cynthia Fagan, Crestline, \$400; Jay and Melissa Follett, Plymouth, \$50; Mark and Holly Korbas, Shelby, \$400; Lloyd Rebar Company, LLC, \$500; John and Nancy Medley, Shelby, \$400; James and Marianne Ritchie, Shelby, \$50; and Scot and Kara Rowlinson, Bloomville, \$50.

Donations also came from Brian and

Shannon Artz, Crestline, \$300 for the Crestline FCCLA trip to National Competition; Crestline Railroad Community Center, Crestline, \$77 for the Crestline FCCLA trip to National Competition; Barb Lee, Crestline, \$40 for the Crestline FCCLA Organization; Susie Lory, Shelby, donation of prom dresses with an approximate value of \$400 to be used for the sharing closet; Ohio State Eagles, Shelby #763, Shelby, \$5,000 for the Shelby FCCLA trip to National Competition; Sandra Riggs, Millersport, \$133.92 for the Graphic Arts Program; and Veterans of Foreign Wars of Ohio Charities, VFW Post #2920, Columbus, \$775 for the Crestline FCCLA trip to National Competition.

Salary adjustments were approved for certificated personnel.

Daniel Burtcher, Student Services/EMIS Coordinator, was approved for up to 350 hours extended service, at the per diem rate for the 2026-'27 contract year.

Conference pay was approved for Sandra Grau, horticulture instructor.

Mark Hoover, Success Center Tutor, was hired for up to 20 hours per week, at the hourly rate.

The board hired substitute instructors Juli Adair, Katelynn Ramsey, Cindy Bodkin, Lori Schneider, Laurie Dean, Christine Smith, Michael Dean, Robert Staley, Gail Dick, Dawn Thornsberry, Michael Follett, Art Varga, Cherie Gill, Carlos Villa Gomez, Julie Harless, Jason Voelp, Laura Leach, Lorin Weaver, Steven McLaughlin, Brittany West, Ken Papay, Lisa Yarger and Rene Phillips.

Jerry Mingus resigned as the online Edgenuity monitor/aide.

Grant Sproull will transfer from in-school detention aide to online learning facilitator, effective beginning with the 2026-'27 school year.

Career coaches approved for the 2026-'27 school year are Jim Baue, Mackenzie Klamfoth, Rick Beans, Kelly Leonhardt, Jessica

Cooper, Chris Schaaf, Mike Dean, Pam Stimbert, Michael Follett, Melanie Studer, Kim Haldeman, Kathy Weidig, Vickie Hunt and Aaron Weltlin.

Substitute staff hired include cafeteria/banquet workers James Dunbar, Dala Greenslade, Dawn Thornsberry and Barbara Wade; education aides, Julie Harless, Katelynn Ramsey and Brittany West; early childhood education lead teacher/teacher aide Julie Harless, Katelynn Ramsey, Brittany West and Lisa Yarger; and secretary/office help Katelynn Ramsey, Jennie Stevens and Lisa Yarger.

The board approved employment of part time adult education certificated personnel for the 2026-'27 school year including Charlotte Hatfield, LPN instructor; and Brittany West, adult education career coach.

The board approved an agreement with Catalyst Life Services. A construction change order was also approved.

Mike Grady was named as the official delegate and Bill McFarland as alternate to the annual OSBA business meeting and conference in Columbus in November.

Mount Gilead will host recycling day

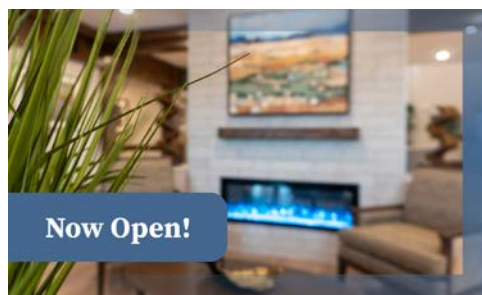
Recycle chemical containers and agricultural tires for free at the Agricultural Recycling Day on Sat., Aug. 1. The event will run from 8 am to 12 pm at the Morrow County Fairgrounds, 195 S. Main St., Mount Gilead.

This joint effort offers local farmers and commercial applicators a single, convenient location to clean out their shops, recycle plastic containers, and safely dispose of old agricultural tires at no cost. No pre-registration is required to participate.

The agricultural container collection is part of the national Ag Container Recycling Council program, which has successfully recycled more than 236 million pounds of agricultural plastic since 1992. To be accepted, containers must be made of rigid high-density polyethylene (HDPE) up to 55 gallons (resin #2 or 7) in size and have previously held crop protection or agricultural products. All jugs must be triple-rinsed (or pressure-rinsed), completely dry, and free of residue inside and out. Caps and booklet labels must be removed and discarded prior to drop-off. Consumer, home, or garden pesticide containers are excluded.

Simultaneously, agricultural tires of any size will be accepted. All tires must be off the rim and reasonably free of mud, water, and heavy debris to be accepted for recycling.

This event is made possible through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ag Container Recycling Council and hosted by Delaware, Knox, Marion and Morrow Solid Waste District, Morrow County Farm Bureau, Morrow County Soil and Water Conservation District and OSU Extension - Morrow County.



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Coffee House**
1621 W 4th St, Ontario

**Brew'd Coffee
& Donuts**
7 Main St, Hayesville

**Bubble Bean
And Sweets**
44 East Main St., Shelby

**The Pickwick Place
Cafe and Market**
1875 North Sandusky
Avenue, Bucyrus

Revive Coffee Bar
1201 Mill Rd, Bellville
revivecoffeebar.com

Marando's Cafe
marandoscafe.com
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330-347-7058

**The Cafe at
Arbor Creek**
Gardens and Floral
3052 Mabee Rd, Ontario

Honey B Express
Coffee Trailer
567-303-5248

**Pronto Pizza
and Coffee**
914 Ashland Rd, Mansfield
419-589-7777

The Green Bean House
230 Main St, Bellville
419-719-6026
@thegreenbeanhouse



SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT had the opportunity to participate in a joint training at Ontario Schools with Ohio-Health athletic trainers. The training focused on the transition of patient care from athletic trainers to the fire department personnel during emergency situations involving student athletes. Crews worked through scenarios including an injured athlete and cardiac arrest management, helping strengthen communication, teamwork and patient care during critical moments.

Richland County residents invited to share feedback about conservation

Richland County residents are invited to share their input on local conservation needs through a survey and during an upcoming planning meeting focused on priorities to shape future programs.

The Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD) in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) is seeking input to focus on identifying agricultural and natural resource issues existing in our community, offering relevant information, feedback, and informed recommendations.

Residents are encouraged to share their input through an online survey found at <https://forms.office.com/r/HmnnSb8UHs>. One winner of a free rain barrel provided by Richland SWCD will be randomly drawn among survey participants.

A public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 19 at 8:30 am at the Longview Center in the Richland SWCD conference room, 1495 W. Longview Ave., in Mansfield.

Discussion topics include soil and water quality, agriculture, erosion, woodland and forestry, and wildlife habitat. Reserve a spot for the meeting by Aug. 14 at <https://richlandswcd.net/event/richland-county-local-work-group-meeting/>.

This locally-led process helps inform Ohio's conservation priorities and strategy across the state.

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

“A Cabinet of Curiosities” exhibition will celebrate artists

The Mansfield Public Art Commission, in partnership with the Mansfield/Richland County Public Library, invites artists to submit work for “A Cabinet of Curiosities” juried exhibition celebrating the wonder, mystery and beauty of the natural world through two-dimensional art.

Inspired by the Renaissance and Enlightenment-era Wunderkammer — or “Cabinets of Curiosities” — the exhibition explores humanity's enduring fascination with collecting, cataloging and marveling at the extraordinary. These early collections brought together remarkable objects from across the known world, blurring the boundaries between science, art, history and myth.

Artists are encouraged to create work inspired by one or more of the five traditional pillars of a cabinet of curiosities:

Naturalia – Wonders of the natural world, including flora, fauna, fossils, minerals, insects and geological specimens.

Artificialia – Human-made objects, artifacts, craftsmanship, and artistic creations.

Scientifica – Instruments and discoveries that reveal and measure the mysteries of the universe.

Exotica – Rare plants, animals, landscapes and cultural objects from distant places.

Mirabilia – The extraordinary and mysterious, including legendary creatures, folklore, surreal natural phenomena and the unexplained.

While artists are welcome to interpret the theme broadly, works focusing on nature, animals, botanical subjects, specimens, collections, real or imagined creatures and the intersection of science and imagination are especially encouraged.

The exhibition is open to original two-dimensional artwork in all media, including painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, collage, mixed media, and fiber arts suitable for wall display.

Entries are open to all ages (youth, teen, and adult categories) and are due by Friday, Aug. 28.

Artists may submit up to three pieces for consideration. All works must be original and ready to hang. Original art may be listed for sale or not for sale. Any art sales would be communicated directly to the artist, and the Public Art Commission and Library would not take any commission to facilitate the sale beyond providing the artist's contact info.

Artists may submit artwork for consideration digitally by completing the submission form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd9OAEtTW_R8OwcVxVs2kMyomLUUXOvoWyfRJ5QaM-BeojWXhQ/viewform?usp=preview

Please include high-resolution images, dimensions, medium and a short description for each piece.

Selected works will be exhibited at the Mansfield/Richland County Public Library, where visitors will be invited to explore a contemporary interpretation of the historic cabinet of curiosities through the eyes of regional artists.

Notifications of acceptance will be sent the week of Aug. 31.

For Public Art Commission: Guiding Principles, visit <https://ci.mansfield.oh.us/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Public-Art-Guiding-Principles.pdf>

Email Jennifer Pennell, at pennell.jennifer@moesc.net or Luke Beekman at director@mankindmurals.org for more information.

Selected works will be exhibited at the Mansfield/Richland County Public Library, where visitors will be invited to explore a contemporary interpretation of the historic cabinet of curiosities through the eyes of regional artists. Exhibition dates are Sept. 14–Nov. 13.



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News Briefs in Education

Youngstown State University students named to the dean's list for spring semester 2026.

On the list are Zoe Cannon of Mansfield, majoring in Primary/Primary Intervention Specialist Education; Michelle Lybarger of Mansfield, majoring in Respiratory Care; and Katherine Koehler of Ontario, majoring in Graphic Design.

Dean's list recognition is awarded to full-time undergraduate students who have earned at least a 3.4 grade point average for not less than 12 semester hours of credit in the Fall semester.

Katherine Koehler was also named to the president's list for achieving a perfect 4.0 grade point average in the spring semester 2026.

To be eligible for the president's list, honorees must be full-time undergraduate students with a 4.0 GPA for least 12 semester hours of classes.

★

Following the completion of each semester, Ohio University recognizes the academic achievements of its students by publishing the president's, dean's and provost's lists.

The dean's list recognizes undergraduate students who complete a particular semester with a GPA between 3.5 and 3.999 with a minimum of 12 credit hours attempted for letter grades that are used to calculate GPA.

Local students on the dean's list are Dylan Burks, Joseph Callen, Justin Douglas, Rachel Foss, Kendall Guegold, Sammy Hite, Rachel Kocher, Maci Myers, Elizabeth Nagel, Ava Perkins, Evan Porter, Claire Shaw, Paige Thomas, Riley Vavra and James Williams, all of Mansfield; and Charlie Gorman and Emma Odson, both of Lexington.

The provost's list recognition is shared with high-achieving, part-time undergraduate students who exemplify academic success. Qualifying students must possess a 3.5 or greater GPA and between 6 and 11.99 credit hours attempted for letter grades that are used to calculate GPA.

In spring semester 2026, approximately 2,300 of OU's part-time undergraduate students qualified for the provost's list. Local students on the list are Olivia Deel, Leah Hedrick, Stephanie Howard, Jessica Slack, Taylor Thoman and Brooke Williamson, all of Mansfield; and Zoe Yochem of Ontario.

The president's list distinction is presented to undergraduate students who exhibit an exceptional commitment to academic excellence each semester. Criteria for the president's list include a 4.0 GPA for the given semester with a minimum of 12 credit hours attempted for letter grades that are used to calculate GPA.

Local students on the list are Meredith Bise and Haley Carpenter, both of Ontario.

Retirees will return to Madison

The Madison Local Board of Education met for its special meeting in Artist Hall at the Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center on Wednesday, July 22.

James Dillon was re-employed as a high school science teacher retire/rehire for the 2026-'27 school year and Mike Leeper was hired as a high school career-based intervention teacher as a retire/rehire for the upcoming school year.

At a meeting on July 15, the board approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the Richland County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, Family Life Counseling and Psychiatric Services and Madison Local School District for implementation of A Wellness Team in the school district effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

A work session is scheduled for the Madison Board of Education on Wednesday, July 29, at 5 pm. The work session will be held in the Ramble Inn at Madison Comprehensive High School, 600 Esley Ln., Mansfield. The session will be for strategic planning purposes and no action will be taken.



Photos By Jeff Hoffer

THE RICHLAND COUNTY PARK DISTRICT'S Pollinator and Native Plant Festival was held Saturday, July 25 at Gorman Nature Center. A live butterfly exhibit and The Butterfly House were available. There were also native plant vendors, a local artist, informational tables, the MRCPL Bookmobile and HoneyB Express Coffee.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK BOYS ALUMNI SOCCER GAME · JULY 25 PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Travel teams offer athletes year-round play

By Kris Leiter
(Part II)

Last week, we started to learn how the local Ohio Lasers Green Softball Team was formed.

This week, we will learn about modern technology and how it has blazed a trail with the new modern era of travel teams.

Each week on social media I see numerous basketball camps, soccer clinics, 7-on-7 football drills, baseball and softball tournaments and traveling all-star teams.

These teams are growing in popularity year-after-year and is big business, costing roughly \$40–52 billion dollars in the U.S. nation-wide each year.

Things sure have changed since my time growing up in the 1970s. I was a young sprout of about nine growing up a few miles west of Findlay in the Cory-Rawson school district when my little league career was birthed.

I still remember sitting in school waiting for my last class to let out in the third grade so I could practice after school. The field was in view of my classroom, which of course added to my excitement.

My dad was the coach and we played local rural teams. I still have good memories of some of my games. There was no t-ball, coach-pitch or pitching machines.

Back then there were various age levels, minor and major leagues, but no travel teams. At the end of the regular 8–10 game season, there would be a local All-Star team that was selected from the coaches' voting. They would play another week or two, and that would end our season and summer would begin.

As the years progressed, that was the norm for our society. But let's fast forward to the early 1990s which marks the rise of one of the first travel teams in the Richland County area — the Johnny Appleseed Baseball Club (JABC).

Athletes were selected from the local in-house little league teams and played 4–6 tournaments locally after the regular little league season had ended. This gave the kids a few more tournaments to play in and would wrap up a few weeks before school would begin.

Around that time I followed in my dad's footsteps and coached my son when he was nine. We played our typical little league schedule of 10 games.

As the year 2000 was approaching, travel teams became a familiar term as the area now had three travel teams. I was blessed to be able to coach one of them.

Since then, travel teams have grown exponentially and there are now various levels including national programs, which are top teams with professional coaching and national schedules.

The next level down would be regional teams which also have highly skilled talent, with high-level coaching and college prospects.

There are also still local travel teams with good talent in local areas competing at mostly state and local events.

I think one of the most amazing items of interest is the way technology has been integrated into the sports world. Scorekeeping has come a long way.

Back when I was coaching, scoring was kept with paper and pen. Going to the dentist seemed less painful than trying to bribe someone in the crowd to volunteer to "keep the scorebook."

In 2010, electronic scorekeeping came on the scene. The technology was called "GameChanger" and trust me, that's exactly what it is.

The app keeps score and stats in realtime as the game is played. This allows parents, coaches and sportswriters to sign-up to access scores for free or by paying a small fee. The ability to keep score this way helps travel teams immensely.

Travel teams can encounter various tournament formats as opposed to the regular in-house or OHSAA regular season rules. Some tournaments have specific rules for batting order and even substitutions which can vary from the norm of the regular season.

Ohio Lasers Green Softball Team 16 U head coach Chris Clapper, recalled one specific tournament that had a unique pitching rule.

"We played down in Tennessee a couple weeks ago. They have a rule that you cannot step backwards before you pitch. It's not a rule in Ohio, but I think it's a rule in the State of Tennessee, and they just abide by it."

The batting line-ups can vary as well.

"During our OHSAA season in high school you bat only ten. With some travel tournaments, you can bat through the whole order."

Since the travel leagues take place during the summer months, they can serve many purposes. It keeps the players in shape during the off-season and gives college scouts an opportunity to observe players.

As for the scouting benefits, Clapper said one scout came halfway across the country to watch a player on one of the other teams.

"I usually know when they are attending the tournament. They typically give me a call and I can accommodate my line-up accordingly so the scout can observe the player."

"I had a girl going to the College of Wooster and a scout was coming to watch her. The scout asked me what game she was going to pitch and we planned around her visit."

"We also have data for the scouts at the game if they need information on a certain player. We have stat sheets with the player's photos and GPA on it. The sheet has a QR code for each player. If you scan that QR code, it takes you to that player's individual stats."

"We have these hanging up on the fence behind the catcher and the scouts can just grab the sheet."

Travel teams can give athletes a leg-up, not just by keeping them conditioned, but also when they are looking toward the future.

Balderson bill to strengthen grid and protect ratepayers approved

The Energy and Commerce Committee held a full-committee markup featuring Congressman Troy Balderson's (OH-12) latest effort to lower costs for Ohioans and strengthen the long-term reliability of America's growing electric grid.

Approved by a vote of 47–0, the Load Forecasting Enhancement Act strengthens electric grid planning by giving states and utilities the tools they need to better project future power demand. Accurate load forecasting helps prevent the underbuilding of the electric infrastructure and generation needed to maintain grid reliability. Just as importantly, this bill also helps prevent the overbuilding of unnecessary electric infrastructure for speculative projects that can ultimately increase costs for ratepayers.

The act would direct the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to convene regional joint boards with state public utility commissions to study and identify best practices for electric load forecasting. The legislation would also require FERC to report its findings and recommendations to Congress and require states to consider adopting improved forecasting procedures to support reliable, affordable electric service.

"Our nation is using more electricity each year, and for our grid to meet that growing demand, we need to know where infrastructure investments are needed to keep the lights on and keep America moving forward. By giving states and utilities the tools they need, we can ensure we expand and improve our grid as efficiently as possible — saving Ohio families money while boosting our nation's energy security," said Congressman Troy Balderson (OH-12), Chairman of the House Energy Action Team (HEAT).

"As the electric grid faces increased demand for the first time in decades, it's so important we have engagement across all levels of government to ensure consumers, utilities, grid operators and policy makers have the best and most accurate information," said Jenifer French, Chair of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE

The following is a succinct summary of the legislation adopted by the Council of the City of Ontario, at their regular meeting held on July 15, 2026.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 26-09 – A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX REVENUE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF ONTARIO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2027, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-10 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RICHLAND COUNTY ENGINEER'S ROAD SALT PROGRAM FOR THE AWARD OF ROAD SALT NEEDED DURING 2026 AND 2027 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-17 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A FARMLAND LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ONTARIO AS LESSOR AND GARRETT NIGH AS LESSEE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-18 – AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING REVISED RULES FOR THE USE OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO SENIOR CENTER, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-19 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TAX CREDIT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND CHARTER NEXT GENERATION, INC., ALLOWING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE AMENDMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-20 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A SEWER EXTENSION EASEMENT GIFT AGREEMENT WITH 20 LEXINGTON-SPRINGMILL INVESTMENTS, LTD. AND 55 LEXINGTON-SPRINGMILL INVESTMENTS, LTD. AS OWNERS AND THE CITY OF ONTARIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-21 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A REAL ESTATE GIFT AGREEMENT WITH 65 HOME ROAD INVESTMENTS, LTD. AS GRANTOR AND THE CITY OF ONTARIO AS GRANTEE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Cathy VanAuker
Clerk of Council
Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 7-23,30 '26) 66L

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE

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

Items available for auction include, but

are not limited to:

- Miscellaneous office equipment
- Traffic lights and related accessories
- Power tools
- Tablets

The City of Ontario reserves the right to reject 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-C 7-30 '26) 19L

Flying Horse Farms will host annual fundraiser

Flying Horse Farms (FHF), Ohio's medical specialty camp for kids with serious illnesses and their families invites the community to its annual Campfire event, taking place on Friday, Oct. 2.

Campfire is an immersive experience dedicated to raising funds that make it possible for kids to discover the freedom of just being kids, always at no cost to families.

Community members and businesses are invited to purchase tickets or become event sponsors for an evening of inspiring stories, connection, and joy found only at camp.

The Bonfire Circle Ticket includes access to the VIP Reception and costs \$1,000. General admission is \$250.

Every dollar raised through the annual Campfire event supports unforgettable and medically safe experiences for kids at no cost to families.

The impact generated at Campfire will spark hope that lasts long after the evening ends.

To purchase tickets or learn more about sponsorship opportunities, visit flyinghorsefarms.org/events/campfire.

Campfire is presented by Abecrombie & Fitch Co. and the Cardinal Health Foundation and other supporters, with delicious bites from Cameron Mitchell Premier Events.

Flying Horse Farms is located at 5260 State Route 95, Mt. Gilead. For more information call 419-751-7077.



Charles Mill ribbon cuttings planned

Two major improvement projects at Charles Mill Lake Park will be celebrated with ribbon-cutting ceremonies on Friday, July 31, showcasing recent investments that enhance recreation and the visitor experience.

A ribbon cutting will be held for the Charles Mill Marina Houseboat Path Renovation Project at 1 pm. The ceremony will celebrate the completion of the renovated houseboat path at Charles Mill Marina, improving accessibility and enhancing the experience for houseboat owners and marina visitors.

The second ribbon cutting will be held at 2 pm at the new Charles Mill Beach area.

Immediately following the marina ceremony, MWCD will officially open the newly renovated Charles Mill Beach. The project features a new playground, upgraded beach amenities, improved public spaces and enhancements designed to provide families with an even better outdoor recreation experience.

The beach grand opening is part of a full day of celebration leading into the annual Charles Mill Lake Park Fireworks event, which begins at dusk on Saturday, Aug. 1. Visitors are encouraged to spend the day at the park enjoying the new amenities before the evening fireworks display over the lake.

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