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

news@tribune-courier.com

08.06.26



MISS ONTARIO KENNEDY SAPP threw the first pitch of the Akron RubberDucks game at Canal Park on July 22. Attending with her were Junior Miss Ontario Mila Morrison, Little Miss Ontario Grace Myers and Gianna Gallo.

Richland County Fair returns August 9-15

The Richland County Fair returns for its 176th year Aug. 9-15.

Once again, grandstand events will be included with admission to the fair. General gate admission is \$10 and children under 48" are free.

2026 membership tickets must be purchased by 4 pm on Friday, Aug. 7 and 2026 season passes must be purchased by 8 pm on Sunday, Aug. 9. Both passes are \$40 and include seven admissions.

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 in the grandstands on Tuesday, Aug. 11, at 7 pm and this race is open to local dogs and their owners, although registration has closed.

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 and ride wristbands available.

Special entertainment will come from The Pork Chop Revue, a family show featuring pigs and their comedic animal trainers.

In addition to the regular fair schedule, the Richland County Junior Fair has a packed schedule of events. A few highlights include the junior fair king and queen coronation on Sunday, Aug. 9, at 5 pm, in the John Hartz Building; the Bake-a-Rama Awards and Auction at 7 pm Sunday in the John Hartz Building; and the junior fair talent show on Wednesday at 7 pm in the John Harz Building.

The annual Barnyard Olympics will be held in the show arena on Thursday, from 10 am to noon. The public can also attend showmanship judging and livestock auctions throughout the week.

For a full schedule of events visit richlandcountyfair.com.

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LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review
By Amanda Belczak



The Shippers by Katherine Center was fun, predictable and a classic beach read.

I usually love Katherine Center, but these characters weren't as endearing as some of her others. I think I also struggled with the cruise ship setting. Either way it was still a cute summer quick read.

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.

THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —

Spider-Man: Brand New Day is a great new addition to the now almost 20 years of Marvel films.

In this fourth friendly neighborhood hero film, Tom Holland owns this character and possibly gives his best performance.

Following the events of *No Way Home*, the timeline was reset and Peter Parker lives in solitude. He is still saving the day in New York City, though wants to try and renew his relationship with MJ (Zendaya) and his best friend Ned (Jacob Batalon).

A powerful entity that is able to jump from person to person with ease starts to antagonize Parker in his lonlieness as he starts to have physical issues due to years of being a superhero.

What makes this movie stand out is the emotional depth of the characters as Parker tries to balance his personal life and being a superhero.

The powerful entity becomes a great part of the story as there

is an emotional weight with that character. Mark Ruffalo returns as Bruce Banner/Hulk and Jon Bernthal is the Punisher. They make great additions and provide the best action sequence in the movie.

Spider-Man: Brand New Day is a top tier Spider-Man film and one of the best of the four. Marvel has had three great ones in a row with *Thunderbolts*, *Fantastic Four* and now this film all setting up for *Avengers: Domsday* in December.

Spider-Man: Brand New Day features a great performance by Tom Holland and the rest of the cast. The movie pulls an emotional weight and really feels like we have watched this character age these last 10 years. This movie has made huge money at the box office this weekend and deserves to. This is a great Marvel film.



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Rep. John appointed to committee

State Representative Marilyn John (R-Richland County) has announced that she was recently appointed to serve on the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee is made up of 63 members, including 41 legislators, 21 legislative staff members, and one non-voting ex officio member representing international affiliates. The Committee oversees NCSL by providing strategic direction and guiding policies and finances.

"It is an honor to serve alongside Speaker Huffman and House Clerk Young on the Executive Committee for NCSL," said John. "NCSL has given me great guidance during my time in the legislature and I'm excited to serve in this new role."

Established in 1975, NCSL is a bipartisan non-governmental organization designed to serve the members and staff of all state legislatures in the United States.

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.ncoim.org/get_calendar_details.cfm?calendarid=1

Vol. 65
No. 43

Tribune-Courier

Serving Ontario, Lexington, Madison, Bellville and Butler Communities in
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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. Remaining 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.

★

First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Ave. West, Mansfield, offers a free produce distribution the second Tuesday of each month, April through November in the west parking lot.

The next free produce distribution will be Tuesday, Aug. 11, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. The church receives over 6,000 lbs. of fresh produce. This is open to lower income households, please bring a state ID, driver's license or proof of residence. This is a drive through distribution in the west parking lot. Volunteers will load the produce into trunks or the back of vehicles. Please have vehicle empty and ready for loading. For information call the church at 419-522-0662.

★

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 City of Ontario meeting schedule includes:

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.

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

★

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, Aug. 29 and 30. 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.

★

All Souls Unitarian Universalist of Bellville, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Samuel Prince on Sunday, Aug. 9, at 10:30 am. The subject will be "Meeting the Moment-Centering Undivided Love Amid a Fractured Landscape." For information visit www.all-soulsuohio.org.



Burano in Venice, Italy • Photo By Mark Shutt

Area Agency on Aging to host special "Senior Day" festivities

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. will once again welcome older adults, caregivers, families and community members to Senior Day at the Red Barn during Senior Citizen Day at the Richland County Fair.

The agency will have activities and resources available on Monday, Aug. 10, from 9 am to 2 pm, in the Red Barn at the Richland County Fairgrounds. This event is free with paid admission at the fair.

Visitors will have the opportunity to connect with professionals and explore a wide variety of programs and services designed to support healthy, independent aging. Resource tables will feature information on MyCare, the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, Veterans Self-Directed Care Program, the Ohio Attorney General's office, healthy living and wellness resources, caregiver supports, local transportation options, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, volunteer opportunities and the many programs and services offered through the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging.



Come See Us At The

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★ ★ ★

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Free community clothing swap will be held in Bellville on August 15

The Community Call to Action Team at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church invites the public to a Free Community Clothing Swap on Saturday, Aug. 15, from 1–4 pm at 25 Church St., Bellville.

This community event is open to everyone and offers an opportunity to refresh wardrobes while helping reduce textile waste and support neighbors.

There is no cost to participate — simply come, browse and take what you can use.

The Community Call to Action Team welcomes donations of clean, gently used clothing throughout the event. Community members are invited to bring donations at any time between 1 and 4 pm on the day of the clothing swap.

“Our goal is to create an event that benefits both our community and the environment,” said the Community Call to Action Team. “A clothing swap helps keep usable clothing out of landfills while making clothing accessible to anyone who needs it.”

The clothing swap is free and open to the public. Everyone is welcome. For additional information visit www.allsoulsuuohio.org or follow on social media for updates.

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
419-589-5890 • trinitygracefellowship.org
Pastor Larry Carnes
9:30 am Sunday Worship • 11 am Sunday School
Bible Study Mondays 2 pm

G & M Body & Paint Shop

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

Wappner Funeral Home

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Richland Gives registration open

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 online 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.

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Paul R. Mills, July 24

Mary “Polly” Agnes Russo, July 26

Jimmy Ray Carroll, July 27

Edna Louise Cliatt, July 29

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Photos by Jeff Hoffer

KINGWOOD CENTER GARDENS will continue to host **Glass In Flight 2**, an exhibition of larger-than-life glass and steel sculptures until Sept. 7. The exhibit features sculptures celebrating pollinators and the beauty of the natural world. Some are never-before-seen pieces including a new monarch butterfly and bats with six-foot wing-spans. Over 40 sculptures create arches and groupings or are showcased as individual pieces. Artist Alex Heveri, a Tucson, Arizona sculptor, has been creating large-scale steel and luminous Dalle de verre glass sculptures for over 30 years. Her works are all conceived, designed, assembled and welded entirely by her. Garden admission is \$10 for non-members \$5 for 7-18 years, free for children six and under and free for Kingwood members. Learn more at Kingwoodcenter.org or call 419-522-0211.

Mansfield Classical Academy honored for pro-life leadership with statewide award

The Ohio Christian Education Network (OCEN), a ministry of Center for Christian Virtue (CCV), has named Mansfield Classical Academy a Silver Level Recipient of the Mike and Peggy Hartshorn Dignity of Life Award, recognizing the school's commitment to instilling a biblical respect for the sanctity of human life in its students.

Established in 2025, the Hartshorn Award honors K-12 schools that intentionally integrate pro-life values into their educational mission. The award is named in tribute to Mike and Peggy Hartshorn, who have been faithful leaders in the pro-life movement in Ohio and beyond.

Mansfield Classical Academy earned this distinction through its exceptional student activism and community engagement over the past year. Driven by student initiative, a passionate student group established a new, official Students for Life chapter on campus.

The chapter quickly made a significant impact through several key initiatives including:

- **National Recognition:** In March, chapter members participated in a nationwide sidewalk chalk awareness campaign, earning recognition as a finalist for their creative public display.

- **Pro-Life Apologetics and Education:** The student group delivered an educational presentation to their newly formed club, focusing on the harmful mechanics of different abortion procedures, the subtle rise of chemical abortions, and how to effectively shift abortion-minded hearts using compassionate pro-life apologetics.

- **Community Outreach:** The Students for Life club hosted an informational table at the academy's Children's Fair, distributing educational materials from the national organization alongside localized resources on life-affirming options from the Richland Pregnancy Center.

"We cannot assume that young people growing up in a Christian community will form a pro-life ethic on their own," said OCEN Executive Director Troy McIntosh. "Mansfield Classical Academy is actively and intentionally teaching its students why a respect for the dignity of life is a vital component of a Christian worldview. We are proud to honor their efforts through this award."

As a Silver Level recipient, Mansfield Classical Academy is recognized for taking meaningful steps to cultivate a pro-life culture within its school community through instruction, student engagement, and support for life-affirming causes. The school will receive a digital award seal and a commemorative plaque at CCV's Essential Summit this fall, where 2026 recipients will be honored.

"Mike and Peggy Hartshorn have shown what it looks like to stand up for the most vulnerable," said CCV President Aaron Baer. "Schools like Mansfield Classical Academy are raising up a new generation to do the same — and that's cause for great hope."

The Hartshorn Dignity of Life Award is presented annually to schools across the nation that are making a significant impact in pro-life education and discipleship. For more information, visit Hartshorn.OCEN.org or contact OCEN at ocen@ccv.org.

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OWEN KEITH AND BRYSON BAYS were among Richland County 4-H and FFA members who helped serve at the Taste of Ohio Lamb Booth at the Ohio State Fair. They also helped educate fairgoers about the sheep industry.



Renaissance Theatre completes extensive auditorium renovation

The Renaissance Performing Arts Association has completed its auditorium renovation, featuring new seating, restored flooring, expanded accessibility and new gallery seating areas throughout Mansfield's historic theatre.

The renovation is the centerpiece of the Renaissance's Road to 100 initiative, a long-term effort focused on preserving the historic theatre, honoring its legacy and preparing it for the future.

The theatre's A Seat in Our Story dedication campaign played an important role in the project, inviting individuals, families, businesses, and organizations to leave a lasting legacy through a personalized engraved seat plaque. While the renovation is complete, seat dedications are still available, giving supporters the opportunity to become part of the Renaissance Theatre's next chapter.

More than half of the funding needed for the project was secured by spring 2026 through support from the State of Ohio and early leadership investments, with continued community support helping complete the effort.

Richland County Fair • August 9–15, 2026

Tuesday Kids Day:

**Ride Wristbands \$10, 12–4 pm
48" and Under Free Admission**

General Gate Admission (Includes Grandstand) \$10
Admission for Children 48" and under is FREE!
Membership/Seasons Ticket (7 admissions) \$40

Senior Citizens Day

**Monday, All Day
\$5 for Seniors**

Armed Forces Day

**Thursday, all day
Free with ID to all Veterans
& Active Duty**

Rides Open at Noon (Wristbands: Sun.–Wed. \$20, Thurs.–Sat. \$25)

Richland County Fairgrounds • 750 N. Home Rd. Mansfield

For a full schedule of all events visit: richlandcountyfair.com

FREE GRANDSTAND EVENTS:

Sunday, Aug. 9, Harness Racing, 5:30 pm

Monday, Aug. 10, Harness Racing, 5:30 pm

Tuesday, Aug. 11, Wiener Dog Racing, 7 pm

Wednesday, Aug. 12, Rodeo, 7 pm
\$10 Reserved Seating

Thursday, Aug. 13, Hardin County Tractor
Pullers County Tractor Pull, 7 pm
\$10 Pit or Reserved Seating • \$20 Back Gate

Friday, Aug. 14, Motocross 7 pm
\$10 Pit or Reserved Seating • \$20 Back Gate

Saturday, Aug. 15, Demolition Derby, 5 pm
\$10 Reserved Seating • \$20 Back Gate

Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging announces 2026 Social Isolation & Loneliness grantees

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. has announced the recipients of the 2026 Social Isolation & Loneliness Grants, made possible by the Richland County Senior Services levy. This grant opportunity was extended to organizations and businesses in Richland County that demonstrated effective methods to support seniors (age 60 and older) in combating social isolation and loneliness.

Recognizing the critical need to support and encourage social connections among older adults, the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging partnered with local Richland businesses and organizations to address this issue. Applicants were required to present clear and innovative plans to engage at-risk seniors in group settings. The submitted applications were evaluated based on the number of people served, innovation, sustainability, and compliance with funding and program expectations.

The awarded grants not only support the local economy by distributing funds within Richland County but also emphasize the importance of collaboration with local businesses and organizations. These innovative programs cater to the diverse interests of older adults, allowing them to participate in unique and fulfilling activities with their peers, thereby enhancing their health and well-being.

The 2026 Social Isolation & Loneliness Grant recipients include:

- Dove Candle Bar: Make a candle with refreshments. Events are held monthly on Saturdays.

- Idea Works Kitchen: Cooking classes.

- NECIC: Special events to bring seniors together through food, farming, creativity activities and community.

- Ohio Social Sports: Participant in sand volleyball, softball league, soccer league and basketball league.

- Renaissance Performing Arts: Tickets for the performances of *Guys and Dolls*, Mansfield Symphony: Game on, *Oliver*, We Wish You a Jazzy Christmas and Holiday Pops.

- The Wishmaker House: Crafts and murder mystery dinners (pressed flower crafts, macrame plant holders).

Participants must be residents of Richland County, be 60 years of age or older, and meet all program eligibility requirements.

For details on each project or to register for activities and classes provided by these organizations contact the Social Isolation & Loneliness Grant recipients directly. For more information on the organizations' social isolation and loneliness programs and a complete list of awardees, visit www.aaa5ohio.org/events/social-isolation-grant-opportunity/.



ONTARIO CITY COUNCIL welcomed the three new 2026 Miss Ontario title holders at the July meeting. Miss Ontario Kennedy Sapp, Junior Miss Ontario Mila Morrison and Little Miss Ontario Grace Myers were crowned during Ontario Liberty Fest and have already been busy representing Ontario by attending special events throughout the area and beyond.

A planned gift is more than a gesture. It's a promise to the people and places that matter most. By including Richland County Foundation in your will, you help lift our neighbors, support essential programs, and ensure that Richland County continues to flourish for years to come.

Add Richland County Foundation to your will and help strengthen our community for years to come.

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revivecoffeebar.com

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

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



RICK BAKER is sworn-in to serve on the Village of Bellville Council by mayor pro-tem Ian Ball. Baker previously served the community as a council member and was appointed by village council to fill the vacancy created by Justin Enix's resignation.

Disposing of grass clippings properly can help with motorcycle safety, prevent flooding

By Zoe Baumberger
District Technician

Richland Soil & Water Conservation District

Did you know that grass clippings can be a pollutant? Or that grass clippings can cause motorcyclists to slip and slide like they're driving on ice?

It's best practice to sweep up any clippings that make it into the road. Large piles of clippings can clog storm drains culverts, and pipes, contributing to flooding.

Remember, only rain is supposed to go down the storm drain! If grass clippings make it to our waterways, they will decompose and release nutrients into the water column. The pesticides and fertilizers we use on our lawns also enter waterways via grass clippings. This addition of nutrients can lead to toxic algal blooms, like the ones seen in the western basin of Lake Erie.

Let's work together to keep our roads safe and our waters clean! It's as simple as sweeping up clippings or mowing in a direction where the discharge chute is aimed at the yard instead of the road.

Sports Highlights



CLEAR FORK LADY COLTS GIRLS GOLF team ended with a team score of 385 at Echo Springs Golf Course July 30 and finished fourth out of 13 teams. The Lady Colts were led by freshman Olivia Heuss with 92, followed by Erika Hollar, 95; Ella Schmidt, 97; Chloee Steward, 101; Aimee Greene, 102; and Millie Chamberlain, 109.

Colts golf season is in full-swing

By Kris Leiter

Longevity can go a long way. Jeremy Riddle is in his ninth year as the head golf coach for the Lady Colts at Clear Fork.

He also performed double-duty last year by adding the boys team to his plate.

Riddle, a 1996 graduate of Clear Fork, is no stranger to coaching, as his accolades also include ringing in a boys baseball state championship title in 2010.

His Lady Colts golf team just recently notched the scorecard with a team score 385 at Echo Springs Golf Course down in Licking County. They placed fourth out of 13 teams in the field.

The team score was actually 78 strokes better than last year! Colts freshman Olivia Heuss had a score of 92. Rounding out the scores were Erika Hollar with 95, Ella Schmid, 97; Chloee Steward, 101; Aimee Green, 102; and Millie Chamberlain, 109.

Riddle said that he feels this year's girls team will be trendsetters. "They are seeking their first conference (MOAC) championship. It would be the first in school history if that happens," he said.

"They are also looking to be first-time qualifiers for districts and will likely accomplish it as well."

Locally GROWN FRESH FRUIT

PEACH SEASON

is Here!

MID-JULY – BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER

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Summer energy assistance available from agencies

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.

Until 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 other health conditions.

To qualify for assistance, Ohioans must have a gross income at or below 175 per-

cent 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 eli-

gible 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 additional details on what is needed to apply, contact Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. at 419-524-4144.

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

Residents are able 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.



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Photo By Jeff Ramey



CHARLES MILL LAKE celebrated with ribbon-cutting ceremonies on Friday, July 31, for the Charles Mill Marina Houseboat Path Renovation Project and the new beach area. The beach area project features a new playground, upgraded beach amenities and improved public spaces and enhancements.



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