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08.20.26



Photo By Traci Little

THE RICHLAND COUNTY JUNIOR FAIR COURT was chosen during the fair last week. Westen Rehberg and Kaley Bowman were crowned as the 2026 king and queen. Other court members are First Runners-Up Carson Secriskey and Abigail Secriskey. Pictured with the court are Ohio Fair Queen Edith Solet and the Belmont County Fair Queen First Runner-up.

Flooding cancels Lex festival

It has been announced that the 2026 Lexington Blueberry Festival, scheduled for Aug. 20-23, has been canceled due to flooding and unsafe conditions at Lexington Community Park.

After evaluation of conditions in the park, the City of Lexington and the festival committee decided that the festival cannot proceed in the park due to safety concerns.

Although the festival itself has been canceled, several Lexington Blueberry Festival traditions will still take place.

The 2026 Miss Blueberry Pageant crownings will be held Thursday evening, Aug. 20, at Heartland Church, 2505 S. Lexington-Springmill Rd., in Lexington at 6:30 pm.

The event will officially welcome the new 2026 Miss Blueberry title holders.

The 9th Annual Queen's Luncheon will still take place on Sunday morning, Aug. 23, at The Blueberry Patch. This special tradition celebrates with the newly crowned 2026 Miss Blueberry title holders and invited guests. Please note that this is a ticketed event.

The Sunday Funday Parade will be held Sunday, Aug. 23, at 2 pm.

The community is invited to come out and line the parade route in support of the festival, contestants and volunteers.

Next year the festival will return as it celebrates its 25th anniversary.

Mansfield Fire Museum hosts national seminar

By Traci Little

Mansfield's firefighting history is filled with stories of courage, tragedy and service — and earlier this week, those stories took center stage as fire museum curators from across North America gathered for a four-day celebration of preserving the history of the fire service.

From Aug. 16-19, fire museum curators and history enthusiasts from across the United States and Canada gathered in Mansfield for the 35th anniversary National Fire Museum Network Seminar, hosted by the Mansfield Fire Museum.

For Mansfield Fire Museum President Verne Bickers, bringing the milestone event to the city was both an honor and an opportunity.

"Not only are we honored to host the 35th anniversary, but we hope it will be the biggest one yet," Bickers said.

The National Fire Museum Network rotates its annual seminar among fire museums throughout

the country, giving those responsible for preserving fire-service history an opportunity to share ideas, learn from one another and explore new ways to care for the collections entrusted to them.

The Mid-Ohio Conference Center served as the primary location for presentations and programming, while the Mansfield Fire Museum provided meals and meeting space.

But the museum itself was much more than a backdrop for the gathering.

Its collection tells stories that stretch far beyond Mansfield, including artifacts that are rare — and in some cases one-of-a-kind.

Among them is one of only two retired original Smokey Bear suits. Once a Smokey Bear suit is retired, forestry service rules prohibit it from being worn again; otherwise, it must be destroyed.

The museum also houses a ladder truck containing the one-millionth Detroit diesel engine ever

(Continued on Page 6)

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LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review
By Amanda Belczak



Mad Mabel by Sally Hepworth is spectacular. It was like the female version of *A Man Called Ove*.

Elsie is an older lady who minds her own business and doesn't bother her neighbors. When word gets out about her past, the questions and media attention thrust her and the reader back into the stories of her childhood when everyone knew her as a murderer. But of course, nothing is as it seems.

This story is funny with lovable characters who get to reclaim their lives and the stories that have been told. I absolutely loved it. Sally Hepworth books never disappoint.

My rating: ★★★★★

Follow my blog at amanda-belczak.com

Richland Gives registration is now 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 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.

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THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —

The T.S.I.A. (Third Saturday in August) Comedy Club returned for its 39th year at the Renaissance Theater in Mansfield, Ohio. This is one of the better years in recent memory as all three comedians brought something different but they all three provided huge laughs.

The opener was Josh Sneed, a Cincinnati based comedian who had a sort of dry delivery but very funny material. He opened with a bit about touring a jelly bean factory on his own to very funny observations about things people say and conversations with his wife.

The second comedian was Andy Pitz from Buffalo, New York. Pitz was a more physical comedian and really worked the stage.

His bit about unnecessary sig-

nage in shops and day-to-day life was very good. He was my least favorite of the three, but still a great comedian.

The headliner Don Gavin was absolutely memorable and simply hilarious. He had a rapid fire approach. He was an older man and sat in a chair for most of his set, though that never stopped him from delivering one zinger after another. He kept the audience laughing from the first joke. He is known as the Godfather of Boston comedy and he had such a diverse set, he is a comedian that has to be seen. Gavin is a fantastic, seasoned comic.

Thank you as always to Sam and Janet Vancura for a great evening of comedy. This was a very memorable year for the T.S.I.A. and I am looking forward to the 40th.



SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT welcomed new full-time firefighters Lucas Morton, AJ Fonner and Cara Kelly. A swearing-in ceremony was held Aug. 7.

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News Briefs

State Route 314, just north of Millsboro Road, will close Monday, Aug. 24 for a culvert replacement.

The detour route will be SR 314 south to SR 309 west to SR 61/SR 309 in Galion to SR 97 east to SR 314 and reverse.

The estimated completion is Friday, Sept. 4.

A town hall meeting regarding funding Ohio's public schools and how vouchers impact public school funding. will be held Thursday Sept. 17, at 6 pm at the Ontario library, 2221 Village Mall Dr., Ontario.

The event is sponsored by Richland County Democratic Women's Caucus. For more information call or text 419-589-2947.

The City of Ontario's 2026 Concerts in the Park continues to be held at the band shell in Marshall Park at 6 pm. The last remaining concert is scheduled for Aug. 25 with the 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. 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 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 Sept. 16. The Mansfield Dulcimer Players will perform and there will be a collection for the Richland County Humane Society. Those attending are asked to bring paper towels, cleaning supplies, newspapers, wipes, disposable gloves, canned food and Purina Cat/Dog Chow.

The group will gather for lunch on Sept. 2, at 11 am at El Campesino in Ontario.

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

Trinity Grace Fellowship, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield, will hold its annual rummage sale Sept. 30 through Oct. 3.

The sale will be open 4-7 pm on Sept. 30, 9 am to 7 pm on Oct. 1, 9 am to 2 pm on Oct. 2 and 9 am to noon on Oct. 3. The kitchen will be open 4-7 pm on Sept. 30 and from 10 am to sale closing time the remaining days.

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 Rev. Dr. Elaine Strawn on Sunday, Aug. 23, at 10:30 am. The subject will be "Don't Just Do Something...Stand There!" For information visit www.allsoulsuuohio.org.

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

This comes with a 30 lb. box of non-perishable food and a two lb. box of cheese. These items are free to those who qualify by age (60+) and low income guidelines. Recipients must have at least one person age 60 or older in the household. The minimum income begins at \$1,995 per month for a one-person household. These items are available on the fourth Tuesday of each month, year round. The distribution is held in the South Mulberry Street parking lot. The next distribution is Tuesday, Aug. 25.

Ontario Youth Sports is hosting pickleball games each Thursday night in August from 6-8 pm at Stowell Park, Ferguson Rd, in Ontario. The games are open to community members.

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

DAR chapter will host traveling exhibit

As part of the America 250 Celebration, the Jared Mansfield Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, are hosting the American Revolution Experience Traveling Exhibit at the Samuel D. Isaly Library of the Ohio Genealogical Society, 611 St. Rt. 97 West, Bellville, from Aug. 18-28 from 10 am to 4 pm and from Aug. 29-Sept. 5 during regular library hours at the Mansfield-Richland County Public Library, 43 W. Third St., Mansfield.

This exhibit is a collaborative project of the American Battlefield Trust and the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

To add to the fun of the America 250 Celebration, Richland County Genealogical Society members will be giving presentations on various historical and genealogical topics at 2 pm on the dates listed below. The presentations are free and open to the public.

Wednesday, Aug. 19, Sunda Peters, Postcards of Richland County

Thursday, Aug. 20, Linda Collins, Beginning Genealogy

Friday, Aug. 21 Jack Johnson, Accoutrements and Clothing of the Early War Militia

Saturday, Aug. 22, Sunda Peters, Mansfield Blockhouse Reconstruction

Tuesday, Aug. 25, Linda Collins, AI and Genealogy

Wednesday, Aug. 26, Sunda Peters, Climbing the Family Tree

Thursday, Aug. 27, Linda Collins, Dreams of Revolution in Philadelphia 1777-'78

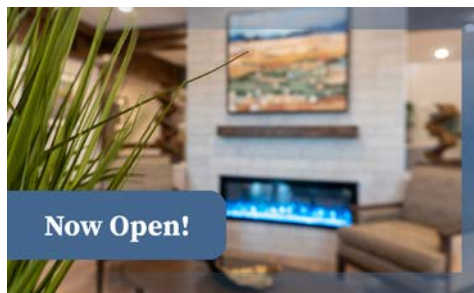
Friday, Aug. 28, Sunda Peters, Richland County History

Questions can be directed to Sunda1960@



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Galion library's Miss Nancy and Waddles will entertain children with new book

Local author "Miss Nancy" Foss and her trusted friend and goose puppet, "Waddles" will be reading her recently published book *Toast and Jam at the Library* to the children and signing books at the Galion Public Library community room at 11 am on Saturday, Sept. 12.

This event is free and open to the public. Miss Nancy has also written a second book, *Caution! Goose Inside!*

These books are available for purchasing before this event online

at lulu.com/shop to bring in for signing. Refreshments will also be provided.

Reservations are not necessary but seating is limited. Call the Galion library for more information at 419-468-3203.

Foss has been a Children's Librarian at Galion Public Library since 2015. Foss also illustrates her books herself.



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
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Bible Study Mondays 2 pm

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Ernest Atkins, August 9
Josef Gerich, August 9
Wendy Jo Wells, August 9
Wanda G. Martin, August 10
Carmela Celeste Lawrence, August 12
Patsy Delores (Quinn) Secrist, August 12
Michael Albert Young, August 12
Darrin Glenn Marsh, August 13
Dorothy Joan Duckworth, August 15
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Ontario Schools ready for students' return

The Ontario Board of Education held its organizational and regular meetings on Aug. 11.

The board recognized Kennedy Sapp who won first place and Rychel Rehberg who won second place at the national FCCLA Leadership competition.

A new community tax policy and permanent appropriations for the 2026-'27 school year, July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, were approved. The financial forecast, 2026-'27 Spending Plan (monthly budget) and three-year agreement with Ontario Federation of Teachers were approved.

An amendment was made to the superintendent contract for the 2026-'27 school year and a five-year contract for Keith Strickler as superintendent, effective August 1, 2027 through July 31, 2032, was approved.

The board also approved the Preschool Compliance and Program Improvement Special Project and the 2026-'27 salary notice for certificated staff personnel.

Jessica Lambert resigned as a bus driver.

Employment was granted to Kathryn Riley, Stingel Playground Aide, \$5,629; and Sarah Woodruff, Stingel Playground Aide, \$5,629. Marlene Garber was hired as a substitute secretary.

Certificated substitute teachers hired for the 2026-'27 school year include Marlene Garber, high school every day substitute; Maya Reeder, Stingel every day substitute; and Joshua Carpenter, high school long-term substitute to cover Meghan Willeke's maternity leave at a rate of \$200 per day. Upon the conclusion of the maternity leave assignment, compensation will revert to the regular substitute teacher daily rate as an everyday substitute.

The board approved the employment of student teacher Jill Taylor as a middle school intervention teacher at substitute pay until she graduates and receives a teaching degree, which at that time she will be placed on a BA, Step 0.

The transportation contract with Heather Ball was approved to provide transportation for her children.

Employment of extracurricular/supplemental staff personnel for the 2025-'26 includes Bruno Vargas, volunteer boys soccer coach, \$0; Dalton Daniel, fall strength coach, \$2,848.50; Dalton Daniel, winter/spring strength coach, \$5,697; Brady Fletcher, OMS Fall activity coordinator, 2 sharing 1 stipend, \$1,147.50; Jaidyn Jordan, Varsity assistant volleyball coach, \$3,503; Mikaela Guegold, eighth grade volleyball coach, \$2,295; Rachel Lane, JV volleyball coach, \$3,503; Ed Cotter, OMS football coach, 6 sharing 4 stipends, \$3,224; Ryan Sowards, OMS football coach, 6 sharing 4 stipends, \$3,257; Dale Stevens, freshman football coach, 3 sharing 2 stipends, \$3,555; Jared Hamm, OHS volunteer football coach, \$0; Jacob Dennison, OHS volunteer football coach, \$0; Tyler Sipes, OHS volunteer football coach, \$0; Jaylon Scott, OHS volunteer football coach, \$0; Mark Genders, OHS varsity football assistant coach, 2 sharing 1 stipend, \$2,848.50; Kevin Click, OHS varsity football assistant coach, 2 sharing 1 stipend, \$2,848.50; and Kim Nothing, OMS cross country coach, 2 sharing 1 stipend, \$1,147.50.

The board approved Title 1 Reading Teachers at a \$25 hourly rate

for the 2026-'27 school year. These were Doreen Givens, Paulette Huber, Jennifer Jarvis and Susan Kurtzman.

The board approved overseeing school district concession operations during the 2026-'27 school year.

Grants coming from the Richland County Foundation were Culinary Arts and History for Danielle Basham, \$1,500; Chick Quest for Holly Hale, \$568; and Life Stories for Kellie Ritchey, \$1,403.

Pat Duffner was approved to act as the superintendent's designee for district transportation purposes as well as determining the location of school bus stops and relocating the bus stops during the 2026-'27 school year.

A \$50 stipend was approved for personnel for attending the new teacher orientation on Thursday, Aug. 13. Recipients of the stipend include Sally Carsner, Emily Clevenger, Brittany Farley, Anthony Harkness, Jordain Jones, Emma Maguire and Jill Taylor.

A donation of a combination air hockey and ping pong table was given by Dr. Brian and Heidi Zimmerman and the Gorman-Rupp Company donated \$350 for Ontario High School student activities.

Mrs. Hiner and Mr. Strickler gave the Legislative Liaison Report.

The board of education then entered into an executive session.

The next regular meeting will be held on Sept. 8.



Clear Fork Gorge State Nature Preserve

Photo By Mark Shutt

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•Mansfield Fire Museum hosts national seminar

(Continued from Front Page)

produced.

Another Mansfield fire truck carries a connection to one of the most tragic moments in aviation history. It was the first truck to arrive at the scene of the 1987 crash of Northwest Airlines Flight 255 in Detroit. Its captain rescued the crash's only survivor, a 4-year-old girl.

And then there are the pieces of Mansfield's own fire history.

The museum preserves the story of generations of firefighters who answered calls throughout the city—including those who battled the devastating February 1944 downtown fire that destroyed two landmark buildings on the Public Square and permanently altered Mansfield's Park Street skyline.

Those stories are part of the reason museums like Mansfield's matter. Fire museums don't simply preserve old trucks, uniforms and equipment. They preserve the people, emergencies and moments that shaped communities.

The seminar gave attendees an opportunity to see that mission firsthand.

Participants traveled to the Central Ohio Fire Museum in Columbus and the Ohio State Reformatory, experiencing two very different examples of historic preservation and museum operations.

At the reformatory, attendees had lunch in the prison commissary, where Jerry Miller, president of the North Central Ohio Industrial Museum, discussed the effort to establish the industrial museum and how its mission connects with the broader work of preserving history.

The seminar also brought several memorable moments to the Mansfield community.

On Sunday afternoon, Smokey Bear greeted participants outside the Mansfield Fire Museum with a "Welcome to Mansfield" sign.

Opening remarks followed Monday morning, when Mansfield Mayor Jody Perry and Fire Chief Dan Crow welcomed attendees at the Mid-Ohio Conference Center.

The seminar concluded Wednesday morning at the Ohio State Reformatory with a group photograph. Two ladder trucks were positioned in front of the historic prison with a large American flag suspended between them. Attendees also signed a banner that will eventually become a permanent exhibit at the Mansfield Fire Museum.

It was a fitting conclusion for a gathering centered on remembering.

For 35 years, the National Fire Museum Network Seminar has brought together people dedicated to making sure the history of the fire service is not lost. This year, that mission came to Mansfield—a city with its own deep firefighting history and a museum uniquely equipped to tell those stories.

For a few days in August, the stories preserved inside Mansfield's fire museum became part of a much larger national conversation about the importance of remembering where the fire service has been, the people who served, and the history that continues to shape the communities they protected.



Photos By Traci Little



Families donate new aluminum ram to Madison

The Madison Local Schools Board of Education met Aug. 12, in the Madison Middle School Auditoria.

Kathleen Jansen was recognized for her retirement and Madison Adult Career Center's Sonja Pluck gave a presentation.

A \$2,000 donation was accepted from VFW 9943 for the Rams Care Closet. A donation also came from the Pore/Neron families for a new cast aluminum ram with new concrete work, to be placed at Ram Field. The donation is valued at \$4,750.

The monthly financial report, permanent appropriations for FY27, student activity budgets for FY27 and fall submission of the Financial Forecast for FY27 were all approved.

A requisition for NEONet services in the amount of \$186,777.51 was approved.

Five grants came from the Richland County Foundation for Connie Fitzpatrick, Oral Language and Fine Motor Improvement, \$367.89; Craig Green, The Words and the Song, \$1,053.11; Janell Kershner, Science Exploration and Hands-On Multisensory Phonics, \$1,478.79; Megan Studer, Fresh Prints of Madison Screen Printing and Business Lab, \$1,500; and Dorothy Traynor, Number Fluency, \$1,494.

A bid was accepted from Ambrose Asphalt, Inc. for the MECLC parking lot project. The cost of the project is \$121,700 to be paid out of Madison Early Childhood Learning Center funds.

Ryan MacCredie resigned as the high school art teacher.

Hirings for the upcoming school year include Teyron Canty, high school social studies; and Brianna Korbas, middle school intervention specialist – part time.

Supplemental contracts for the 2026-'27 school year were awarded to Lila Wolfe, band director assistant; Neely Burkholder, junior class advisor; and Megan Studer, BPA advisor.

Amanda Bogue was hired for MACC Dental Assisting.

Substitute teachers hired on an "on call" basis, as needed for the 2026-'27 school year include Shelly Adams, Nathan Batchelor, Beth Behrendsen, Jenna Boliantz, Martin Breiting, Amy Brown, Marilyn Burchett, Jennifer (Stancato) Buzzard, Tosha Cameron, Bethany Cetinich (long term sub middle school intervention specialist), William Chinn, Heather Cockley, Laura Collins, Tammy Cook, Laurie Dean, Susan Deel, Bruce Desterhaft, John Desterhaft, Angela Devaney, Janeille Ditlevson, Jennifer Drake (long term sub intermediate intervention specialist cross-categorical ED), Gabriel Eckstein, Kate Fazzini, Sidney Foltz III, David Gilbert, Logan Gray, Jessica Harris, Rachel Hilson, Laura Johnson, Jenny Jones, Diana Kelley, William Kepple, Maleah Kern, Debra Kuhn, Daniel Lashley (long term sub primary intervention specialist cross-categorical ED), Saylor Lee-VanAuker (long term sub intermediate art teacher), Pamela Lehnhart, Lauren McCarron, Paige McCaslin, Kerry Montgomery, Whitley Morgan, Timothy Parsons, Amanda Pifher, Amanda Rader, Paige Ray, Laura Rickert (long term sub 7th/8th grade STEM teacher), Karl Schuster, Tabytha Sidders, Grayce Snavely, Dennis Snelson, Peggy Stigall, Joseph Stupka, Nathan Tarr, Kimberly Thompson-Barley, Daniel Toney, James Utt, Carlos Villa Gomez, Toni Villers, Jason Voelp, Gabriella White, Lyndsay Williams and Reta Zody.

Extended time was granted to Patricia Thomas, 16 days, high-school/middle school specialist.

2026-'27 volunteers include Calvin Gordon, varsity football; and Colby Skrivan, volleyball.

Madison Early Childhood Learning Center resignations were accepted from Hannah Schrader, assistant teacher; Jennifer Drake, building paraprofessional; and Aryanna Penick, assistant teacher. Hirings included Beth Behrendsen, assistant teacher/on-call; and Ashley Graves, assistant teacher.

Substitute employees hired on an "on call" basis, as needed, for the 2026-'27 school year include Shelly Adams, administrative assistant; Mariea Alfrey, cafeteria and custodial; Maura Boltz, cafeteria; Dawn Chinn, cafeteria; JR Chinn, custodial; Beth Conn, paraprofessional; Ashley Davidson Smith, cafeteria; Richelle Deever, cafeteria; Kirra Earley, cafeteria; Michelle Enix, paraprofessional; Cheryl Fisher, administrative assistant; Carrell Gandy, administrative assistant; Dana Hallock, bus driver; Pam Jackenheimer, administrative assistant and paraprofessional; Karla Lyons, cafeteria and bus paraprofessional; Ron Markley, bus driver; Stacy Moore, administrative assistant and paraprofessional; Bobby Mounts, bus driver; Eric Mul-

vane, custodial; Brenda Nadler, cafeteria and bus paraprofessional; Steven Nadler, cafeteria and bus paraprofessional; Bobby Neal, custodial; Todd Newberry, bus driver; David Nikolaus, custodial; Darla Noblet, bus driver; Chelsey Norris, cafeteria and custodial; Amanda Pifher, paraprofessional; Dorothy Pugh, administrative assistant; Terry Rennpage, bus driver; Diana Roub, custodial; Tayler Salser, cafeteria; Kelly Swank, cafeteria and custodial; Paige Wade, cafeteria; Shanna Wake, cafeteria; Melvin Zellner, bus paraprofessional.

A continuing contract was awarded to Olivia Shrader.

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

A list of designated bus stops for the 2026-'27 school year were approved as was the proposed wage structure and benefit changes for the Madison Early Childhood Learning Center.

The board adopted the Special Education Model Policies and Procedures that were released by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce in December 2024, and directs all staff in the district to use and comply.

Changes and revisions were made to the administrative benefits list and the confidential classified employee/confidential classified administrator benefit list and the District Strategic Plan to include goal Areas and goal statements.

The board of education approved the continuation of the District strategic plan mission, vision and beliefs and values.

Students return to the schools starting this week with grades 5-10 beginning their school year on Thursday, Aug. 20; grades 11-12 returning Friday, Aug. 21; grades 1-4 returning on Monday, Aug. 24; and kindergarten students arriving Wednesday, Aug. 26.

The next regular meeting will be held at 6 pm on Sept. 14, in the Madison Middle School Auditoria.

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New inductees join Madison High School Athletic Hall of Fame

The Madison High School Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony was held Aug. 8.

This year's inductees were Kathy Collins, girls basketball, presented by Milly Collins; Dick Flick, football, wrestling and track and field, presented by Cindy McCorkle; Taylor

Huff, girls' soccer, presented by Amy Huff; Jammi McClead, cross-country, girls soccer, girls-basketball, track and field and softball, presented by Jaclyn (Schag) Menendez; Joe Pearce, football and track and field, presented by Connie Pearce; Robert Peterson presented by Morgan

Martin and Brent LaLonde; and the 1970 Madison Rams Football Team presented by Dave Miller and Jeff Schag.

Kathy Collins, Class of 1984, was named Team MVP in 1983 and 1984 for the Lady Rams Basketball Team.

In her career, she scored

945 points and secured 685 rebounds. She graduated as Madison's all-time leading scorer and was selected to play in the McDonald's All-Ohio All-Star Game.

After graduating from Madison, she attended The University of Akron on a full basketball scholarship. During her time at Akron, she was selected as team captain for three years and earned Academic All-American honors.

Following her playing career, she served for one year as a graduate assistant coach and three years as a full-time assistant coach at The University of Akron.

Dick Flick, Class of 1960, was a three-year varsity athlete in football. He was the team MVP in 1959.

He is the first Madison athlete to ever be named to an All-American Team. He went on to play football (quarterback) collegiately at Bowling Green State University.

He was a senior co-captain on the first wrestling team in Madison school history. During his one and only season, his record was 12-2.

He was a three-year varsity athlete in track and field and during his time in high school, he set school records in the 200 meter dash and the 400 meter dash. His 4x400 meter relay team also set a school record.

Taylor Huff, Class of 2021, was a member of the 2020 Division II State Championship Madison Lady Rams' Soccer Team.

She was a four-time member of the "All-American" Team and a four-time Division II 1st Team All-Ohio selection.

In 2020, she was named the National Player of the Year, Ohio "Ms. Soccer," Division II Player of the Year, and Northwest District Player of the Year.

Taylor was a four-time Ohio Cardinal Conference Player of the Year. She set an OHSAA record with 93 Career Assists.

Her 133 career goals scored also set an OHSAA record.

At the University of Tennessee, Huff was named the 2021 Southeastern Conference Freshman of the Year, while also earning second team All-SEC Honors. She was named first team All-SEC in 2022.

At Florida State University, she was a member of the 2023 Division I National Championship Team.

In 2024, Huff was named a United Soccer Coaches First



Dick Flick



Taylor Huff

(Continued on Page 31)



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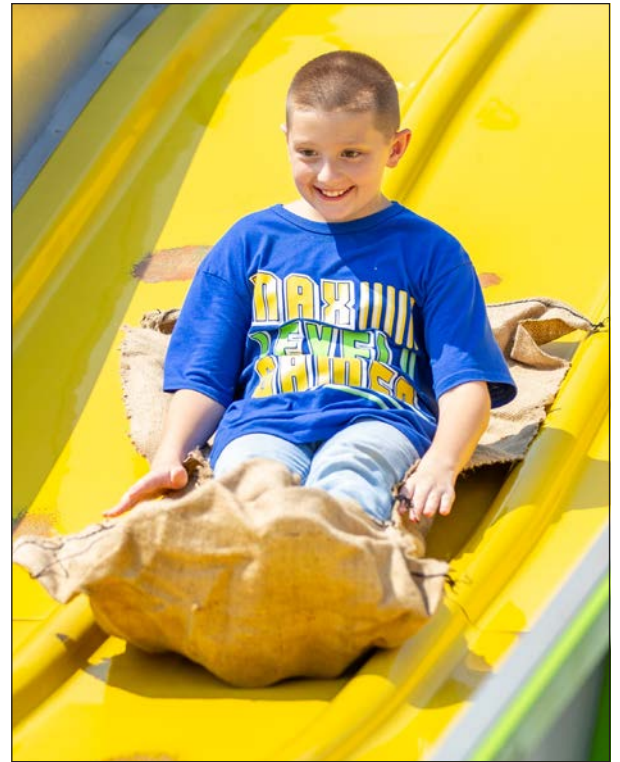


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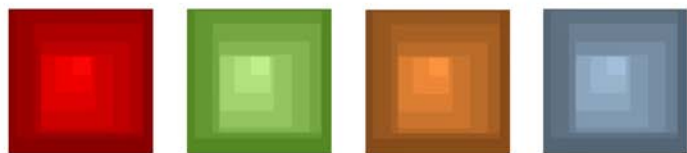
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CHEVELLE HOWARD took home three first prize ribbons from the Richland County Fair for barrels, stakes and keyholes with her horse Holiday. Pictured are Whitney Barrett, 15, from Lexington, and Chevelle Howard, 17, from Crestview.



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Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MANSFIELD SENIOR VS MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN GIRLS SOCCER · AUG. 14
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

•New inductees join Madison High School Athletic Hall of Fame

(Continued from Page 8)

Team All-American, ACC Championship MVP, and a Hermann Trophy Semifinalist.

She also earned 1st Team All-ACC honors, was named to the ACC All-Tournament Team and received 1st Team All-Atlantic recognition.

She played professional soccer at Bay FC. In her rookie season, she started all 26 matches and led all rookies in minutes played. She was one of only two rookies in the league to start every game. She recorded four goals and one assist, scored her first professional goal in August, and was named Rookie of the Month for October and November.

Jammi McClead, Class of 1996, was a three-year varsity letter winner, for cross country, a Captain Star recipient and a two-time All-Conference selection.

As a freshman, she was a regional qualifier and set the school record for freshman female runners, which was the 3rd fastest time in school history for a female.

She was a member of the 1992 OHC Championship Cross Country Team.

McClead was a three-year varsity letter winner and two-year team captain for soccer.

She was a three-time All-Conference selection and three-time Area All-Star Team selection. She won the Team Outstanding Defensive Player Award three times and, as a senior, was named Team MVP and won the Coaches' Award.

Her teams won two OHC Championships, two Sectional Championships and a District Championship and McClead was named the Mid-Ohio North/South All-Star Game MVP.

For basketball she was a three-year varsity letter winner and her teams won two OHC Championships, two Sectional Championships and a District Championship.

She was an All-Conference selection and set the school single game assist record.

In track and field she was a three-year varsity letter winner, two-time All-Conference selection and a two-time district qualifier.

She set school records in the 300m hurdles, the 800m run and she was also a member of the record setting 4x800m and 4x400m relay teams.

As a senior in softball she competed and lettered for the Lady Ram Softball Team.

She earned 2nd Team All-Conference, 1st

Team All-District and 1st Team News Journal All-Star recognition. She was also a member of the Sectional Championship team.

Joe Pearce, Class of 1963, set a football school record for 16 career interceptions.

During his senior year he averaged 10.1 yards per carry and set the school record for the longest touchdown run from scrimmage, scampering 98 yards. He was selected to play in the North-South All-Star Classic.

Pearce was a unanimous All-Conference selection on both offense and defense in 1961 and 1962. He was named Team MVP following both his junior and senior seasons.

He went on to play collegiately for Bowling Green State University. During his senior season at BG, he led the Mid-American Conference with six interceptions.

He returned to Madison as an assistant football coach for six seasons and was on the staff in 1970, helping guide the Rams to the first undefeated season in school history.

In 1962, Joe set the Cardinal Conference record for the 100m dash (10.1), 200m dash, and Long Jump (21'1) in track and field. He was named MVP of the Madison Track and Field Team following both his junior and senior seasons. He was also named the Madison Male Athlete of the Year in 1963.

Rob Peterson, Class of 1986, was a member of the 1986 Ohio Cardinal Conference Championship baseball team.

Following his senior season he was named All-Ohio, the Cardinal Conference Player of the Year and the Team MVP.

He played at the College of Wooster, where he was a three-year letter winner and was an all-conference selection as a sophomore and junior, a 1st Team All-Mideast Region selection as a junior, and played in the Division III College World Series as a junior.

Following his junior year he was selected by the Pittsburgh Pirates in the 1989 Major League Baseball Amateur Draft. He played for two years in the Pittsburgh Pirates' minor league system.

He was Madison's head varsity baseball coach from 1992-'98, concluding his coaching career with an overall record of 110-52.

He coached the Rams to five Ohio Heartland Conference championships and a District Runner-up finish in 1998.

He was a member of the 1985 Ohio Cardinal Conference Championship basketball team and the 1986 Sectional Championship team.

Following his senior season he was named Team MVP, 1st Team All-Cardinal Conference, 1st Team AAA Northwest District 6 and All-Ohio Special Mention.

Peterson has spent his entire professional career in education serving Madison Local Schools. He has served Madison as a teacher, attendance officer, high school assistant principal, high school principal and superintendent.

The 1970 Football team made history with Madison's first undefeated season.



Junior Owen Walter, sophomore Jack Rietschlin, junior Mierielle Trumpower, senior Grantham Trumpower and sophomore Colten Montgomery

Ontario swimmers recognized with awards

A number of Ontario swimmers received awards for this past year's accomplishments.

All-Ohio patches were awarded to Joie Simmering, Tessa Crum, Sasha Bulakovski, Ava Zehe, Mierielle Trumpower, Grantham Trumpower, Carson Smith, Jackson Swiatek, Jack Rietschlin, Colten Montgomery, Connor Robinson and Owen Walter.

The boys 200 free relay of Trumpower, Walter, Montgomery and Rietschlin received their state patch as well as rings for their record setting first place finish.

Last month NISCA announced their All-American swimmers. These are the top 100 swimmers in the entire United States. Winning that distinction was Mierielle (100

butterfly), Grantham (50 free) and the 200 free relay. They will be receiving a certificate, a patch and a plaque.

The girls team finished seventh at state while the boys were state runner-ups.

This was the highest finish in the school's history.

Proclamations from seven political VIPs were displayed.

Also acknowledged that night were Sasha Bulakovski and Grantham Trumpower, chosen as the *Mansfield News Journal* Scholar Athletes for 2026.

Another scholar award of silver level (3.573) went to the boy's team while the girl's team earned the gold level (3.845).

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS CLEAR FORK GIRLS TENNIS • AUG. 12

PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



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LEGAL NOTICE

The following is a succinct summary of the legislation adopted by the Council of the City of Ontario, at their regular meeting held on August 5, 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. 26-12 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE- SAFETY DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO A WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND (WPCLF) AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO FOR PLANNING, DESIGN, AND/OR CONSTRUCTION OF WASTEWATER FACILITIES; AND DESIGNATING A DEDICATED REPAYMENT SOURCE FOR THE LOAN.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-13 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE- SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR COMPETITIVE BIDS AND AWARD A CONTRACT FOR THE CITY OF ONTARIO ROCK ROAD LIFT STATION PHASE 1 FORCE MAIN REPLACEMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-14 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE SAFETY IMPROVEMENT STUDY FOR THE LEXINGTON SPRINGMILL ROAD AND WALKER

LAKE ROAD INTERSECTION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-15 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE- SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR COMPETITIVE BIDS AND AWARD A CONTRACT FOR THE 2026 CITY OF ONTARIO PAVING PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Cathy VanAuker
 Clerk of Council
 Ontario, Ohio
 (T-C 8-13, 20 '26) 52L

LEGAL NOTICE

Separate sealed bids for the Rock Road Lift Station Force Main Replacement – Phase 1 in the City of Ontario, Ohio will be received by Michael Morton, Service-Safety Director, at 555 Stumbo Road, Ontario, Ohio 44906 until 10:00 AM, local time Thursday September 10, 2026, and then, at said office, publicly opened and read aloud.

The Instructions to Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Plans, Specifications, and other contract documents may be examined at KE McCartney & Associates, 52 North Diamond Street, Mansfield, Ohio 44902 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

In order to be a plan holder of record and eligible to submit a bid, bidders will be required to purchase and download an electronic set of plans and bid documents via the KEM Web Site by visiting <https://kemccartney.com/project-bids/>. All documents become the property of the prospective bidder, with no portion of the payment being refunded.

The project includes the installation of approximately 5,800 LF of 12-inch force main from Rock Road to the State Route 309/Park Avenue split at which point the new force main will be tied back into the existing force main. The estimated cost of construction is \$1,062,325.

Each bid must be accompanied by either an Ohio Revised Code Section 153.571 Bid and Contract Bond in an amount equal to 100% of the bid; or, a cashier's check, certified check, or an irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of 10% of the bid as described in the Instructions to Bidders

This is a prevailing wage project.

No Bidder may withdraw its bid within sixty (60) days after the bid opening. The Owner reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids, to reject any or all bids, and to conduct such investigation as necessary to determine the lowest responsive bidder for each contract.

Michael Morton
 Service-Safety Director
 Ontario, Ohio
 (T-C 8-20, 27 '26) 56L

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Ohio Woodland Stewards Program will host hands-on workshop on growing culinary mushrooms

Ohio Woodland Stewards Program | Ohio State University Extension invites community members to its next Lunch & Learn program, "Growing Culinary Mushrooms on Logs," on Tuesday, Aug. 25. This interactive workshop will introduce participants to the rewarding process of cultivating gourmet mushrooms outdoors using hardwood logs.

During the hands-on session, attendees will learn the fundamentals of growing culinary mushrooms, including how to select appropriate logs, inoculate them with mushroom spawn, and care for them throughout the growing process. Each participant will drill, inoculate, and take home their own shiitake mushroom log to begin growing mushrooms at home.

The workshop is designed for gardeners, nature enthusiasts and anyone interested in producing fresh, homegrown food in a sustainable and enjoyable way. No prior experience is necessary.

Registration and additional program details are available at woodlandstewards.osu.edu.

Participants are also encouraged to mark their calendars for the final 2026 Lunch & Learn program, Non-native Worms, taking place on October 21. The session will explore the impacts of invasive earthworms on Ohio's forests and ecosystems and discuss ways landowners can help protect native woodlands.

"Growing Culinary Mushrooms on Logs" will be held Tuesday, Aug. 25, from 12–3 pm, at The Ohio State University, Mansfield Campus | Ovalwood Hall in room 206.

Classes are \$15/person and includes lunch and take-home materials). The registration deadline is Aug. 20. Register at <https://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/events/lunch-and-learn-growing-culinary-mushrooms-logs>

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