TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com 11.05.26





LYNDA DITTY'S class at Ontario enjoyed visits from special mystery readers recently. Among the readers was Little Miss Ontario Grace Myers. Students discovered new books, new authors and met guest readers Mrs. Johnson, Bill Signoracci and Mrs. Eckert.

Madison RISE students build confidence, job skills at AK Hair Collective

By Traci Little

MANSFIELD — Three mornings a week, eight Madison Comprehensive High School students trade their classrooms for a different kind of learning environment at AK Hair Collective in downtown Mansfield.

Armed with cleaning supplies, checklists and a willingness to learn, the students are gaining something far more valuable than experience maintaining a salon. They are developing confidence, independence and practical skills that could help shape their futures.

The opportunity is part of Madison's RISE program, which stands for Real Independent Skills for Employment. Now in its second year, the program serves students with special needs, providing hands-on experience designed to prepare them for independent living and future employment.

Karen VonStein, job training coordinator for the RISE program, said the goal is to help students develop skills that extend beyond the classroom.

"We serve students with special needs and give them the skills they need to live independently and have a job," VonStein said.

Through a partnership with AK Hair Collective, located on the square in Mansfield, eight students visit the salon every Monday, Wednesday and Friday to participate in an internship and on-the-job training.

Working alongside their teacher, students follow checklists and complete a variety of cleaning and organizational responsibilities, including wiping down styling stations and chairs, cleaning shampoo areas and waiting spaces, sweeping and mopping floors, organizing shelves and maintaining shared areas.

Although the tasks may appear simple, each presents an opportunity to develop workplace habits that can make a lasting difference.

"Along with cleaning and keeping a shared workplace organized, they practice following directions, working through a checklist, paying attention to detail, finishing a task, and putting supplies away," said Madison Mullen, salon manager of AK Hair Collective. "They also get practice communicating with their teacher and with people in the salon."

For VonStein, one of the most rewarding aspects of the program is watching students develop skills at their own pace.

"Each student takes something different from this experience," she said. "Some are gaining confidence, while others are gaining more independence. Some are learning to follow a routine, pay attention to detail and take initiative."

While each student's progress looks different, VonStein said they share a common opportunity to learn what it means to be part of a workplace.

"They are all learning how to work in the community and how to act while working at a job," she said.

(Continued on Page 9)

YMCA will serve free breakfast to veterans, host Turkey Trot

The YMCA of North Central Ohio-Mansfield Branch will host a free breakfast to honor and thank veterans and active military for their dedicated service.

The annual Veterans and Active Military Appreciation Breakfast will be held Tuesday, Nov. 10, from 8:30 am to 9:45 am in the gymnasium of the YMCA of North Central Ohio-Mansfield Branch, 750 Scholl Rd., Mansfield.

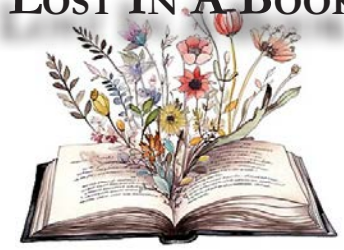
The YMCA of North Central Ohio-Mansfield Branch also announced that the 62nd Annual Turkey Trot will be hosted by the Mansfield YMCA Running Club will be held later this month.

Participants will gather at the Mansfield Art Center, 700 Marion Ave, Mansfield, at 8 on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 26.

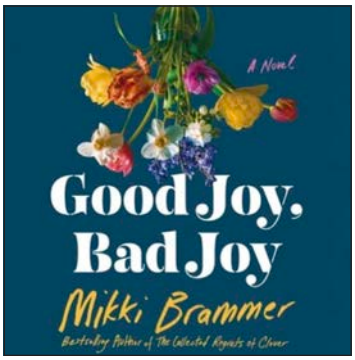
The cost is free and registration is not required. Participants are asked to bring non-perishable food or donations to support a local food bank.

This event is for everyone — seasoned runners or someone just in it for the stroll before the stuffing. Visit https://www.facebook.com/ymcancomansfield for more information.

Lost In A Book



A Book Review
By Amanda Belczak



In the novel *Good Joy, Bad Joy* by Mikki Brammer, Joy is in her final years of life.

She has lived in the same small town for most of those years, while her best friend Hazel has lived a life of adventure.

One event causes Joy to consider how she has lived and she begins to decide what it would be like to stop being so "good" and try being a little bit "bad".

This story has wonderful and endearing characters. I loved the voice and thoughts of Joy. She was so special and reminded me of Tova from Remarkably Bright Creatures and Mad Mabel. It was a story of friendship, and a story about repairing old wounds.

It was a story that reminds us, it's never too late to change.

These characters warmed my heart and I laughed the whole way through. I rate it four stars.

My rating: ★★★★

Follow my blog at amandabelczak.com

Gorman-Rupp receives partnership award

Gorman-Rupp has received the o4a Partnership Award at this year's Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (o4a) conference in Columbus.

The state-wide award recognizes collaborations between Area Agencies on Aging and community partners that improve services and quality of life for older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers.

The award recognizes Gorman-Rupp's partnership with the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. (AAA5), through a pilot project focused on supporting employees who balance the demands of their jobs with caring for an older adult family member or friend.

Funded by the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and the University of Southern California Center for Advancing Family Caregiving Financial and Workplace Security (CACFWS), the pilot uses a caregiver support toolkit to help employers identify the needs of working caregivers, raise awareness, and connect employees with available resources.

Through the pilot, Gorman-Rupp employees may voluntarily complete a survey to help identify working caregivers, better understand their challenges, and increase awareness of services available through AAA5.

The initiative recognizes that employees caring for loved ones often face significant demands while maintaining their professional responsibilities.

As a lead employer partner, Gorman-Rupp will help test the toolkit and provide feedback to inform future efforts. AAA5 hopes to build on the pilot to engage more employers across the region and better support the growing number of employees who provide care for older adults.

Located in Ontario, the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. provides leadership, coordination, and services that support older adults, people with disabilities, caregivers, and community partners, helping individuals maintain choice, independence and dignity. Learn more at aaa5ohio.org.



THE OHIO ASSOCIATION of Area Agencies on Aging Partnership Award (o4a) was presented to Gorman-Rupp at this year's o4a conference in Columbus. Pictured are Trae Turner, chief of planning and development at Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. (AAA5); Vic Swisher, general manager at Gorman Rupp's Bellville location; Beth Kowalczyk, chief executive officer of the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (o4a) and Duana Patton, chief executive officer of the AAA5.

Workshop offered for caregivers

The Richland County Youth and Family Council invites caregivers to attend "It's Time To Potty!" a supportive and informative potty-training workshop for individuals of any age and ability level Wednesday, Nov. 18, from 5–8 pm, at North Central State College, Fellarius Building, in room 164.

Led by Emily Carruthers, M.A. of the Collaborative Learning Center, who brings over 25 years of experience using Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) to support learners with diverse needs, the training covers readiness, reinforcement, visual supports, schedules and practical implementation.

Food and refreshments will be provided by Panera Bread. This free training is open to caregivers supporting children, youth, or adults, including those with disabilities. To register contact Brenda Foley at 567-217-3663 or visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf4ArGFKCi9V_HGa4B-q5kgE2eq64UdcRxOwbqYG16A2r5Clw/viewform

Vol. 66
No. 4

Tribune-Courier

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

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

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

BlueScope Recycling
Recycling Today to Improve Tomorrow
Formerly Milliron Recycling
BUYERS OF:
aluminum . stainless steel . brass . all scrap iron
commercial & industrial pick -up
2384 St. Rt. 39 | Monday - Friday 8 - 5 | Sat. 8 - 12
419 - 747 - 6522 | 800 - 921 -0054

News Briefs

The Pioneer Career and Technology Center Board of Education has changed its regular November meeting to Monday, Nov. 23, at 6 pm in the Pioneer Board of Education Conference Room.

The regular December meeting will be moved to Tuesday, Dec. 15, at 6 pm at Table 27 (Previously The Pioneer Room) Restaurant located in the west end of the building at the Pioneer Career and Technology Center, Shelby.

★

A holiday rummage sale will be held at St. Mary Church, 1630 Ashland Rd., Mansfield (Madison area), on Nov. 5, from 9 am to 4 pm, Nov. 6, 9 am to 4 pm and Nov. 7, 9 am to noon. Those attending the sale should enter at the ramp outside the church basement.

★

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 Nov. 11, with roast turkey being served. A representative of the Alzheimer's Association will visit.

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

★

The 33rd Annual Crestview Craft Show will be held Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9 am to 3 pm at Crestview Middle School, 1575 St. Rt. 96, Ashland. Proceeds go to support the music department.

★

The City of Ontario November meeting schedule includes Nov. 16, 4 pm planning commission; Nov. 18, 1 pm civil service commission, 5:30 pm parks committee of the whole, 6:15 pm, caucus and 7 pm council. Meetings are held at 555 Stumbo Rd., Ontario.

★

With too many books to put out for the recent Fall Used Book Sale, the Friends of the Galion Public Library decided to make a special two-day sale featuring biography, vintage and history categories. Other categories will be offered as well.

The event will take place in the community room at the library, 123 N. Market St., Galion, on Friday, Nov. 6 from 9:30 am to 5 pm and Saturday, Nov. 7 from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. All media is offered on donation, and the proceeds go to support programs and materials for the library. For information call 419-468-3203.

★

The first annual chili cook-off will be held Saturday, Nov. 14 at Trinity Grace Fellowship, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield, Madison area, starting at 1 pm. Local churches are invited to compete. All members of the public who attend will be eligible to vote on which chili is the best. Tickets are $5 per person.

★

The Springfield Township Trustees have hired Michael Morton as zoning inspector, effective Nov. 1, 2026. Morton may be contacted anytime at 419-529-4416, ext. 405. Leave a message and the call will be returned promptly to schedule a convenient meeting time and location. All zoning forms will be available online soon at www.springfieldtwprc.org.







ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL held a senior dress-up day last week. Even staff members joined in on the fun.



Leave mortgage anxiety **OFF** your packing list.

Our friendly experts make the process of getting a home loan as simply satisfying as popping your extra bubble wrap. They handle the details—you handle your family mementos with care.

mymechanics.com/mortgages

Mechanics Bank

Member FDIC EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Ashland students donate hundreds of pounds of clothing

Ashland students from OneSchool Global (OSG) recently recognized Make a Difference Day by donating 215 items of clothing, totaling almost 200 pounds, to the local chapter of Volunteers of America.

The Ashland campus joined 16 other localities of OneSchool Global, an educational system with 120+ campuses across 20 countries, to donate more than 1,800 pounds of clothing to different charities, including Goodwill, Volunteers of America, Youth Emergency Services, The Caring Tree, Red Cross, and The Salvation Army.

In Ashland, students say they chose to donate to Volunteers of America because it is a community-led organization with a clear mission for its donations. "This clothing drive was awesome to participate in because it gives the whole school an opportunity to experience the spirit of giving, and it upholds our values of care and compassion," said a student leader at the Ashland campus.

Make a Difference Day is an annual day of community service celebrated on the fourth Saturday of October. Established in 1992, the initiative encourages individuals and communities to take action to help others and create positive change. It highlights the importance of community involvement and demonstrates how working together through acts of service can make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

"It is wonderful to see our OneSchool Global communities across North America come together around a shared purpose," said Jonathon Borys, Regional Head of School at OneSchool Global. "While each campus has its own local community to support, this regional effort demonstrates what we can achieve when we work together."

OSG knows the importance of helping students understand the value of giving back and supporting others as part of their learning. Opportunities like this allow students to put those values into practice, reinforcing the importance of contributing to their communities and making a positive difference in the lives of others.

Through this initiative, OneSchool Global is demonstrating how meaningful action, no matter the scale, can help make a positive difference in the lives of others and strengthen the communities it serves.

OneSchool Global is an educational system attended by families of the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church with 120+ campuses across 20 countries. For information visit www.oneschoolglobal.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

G & M Body & Paint Shop
1689 West Fourth St., Ontario • 419-529-2747

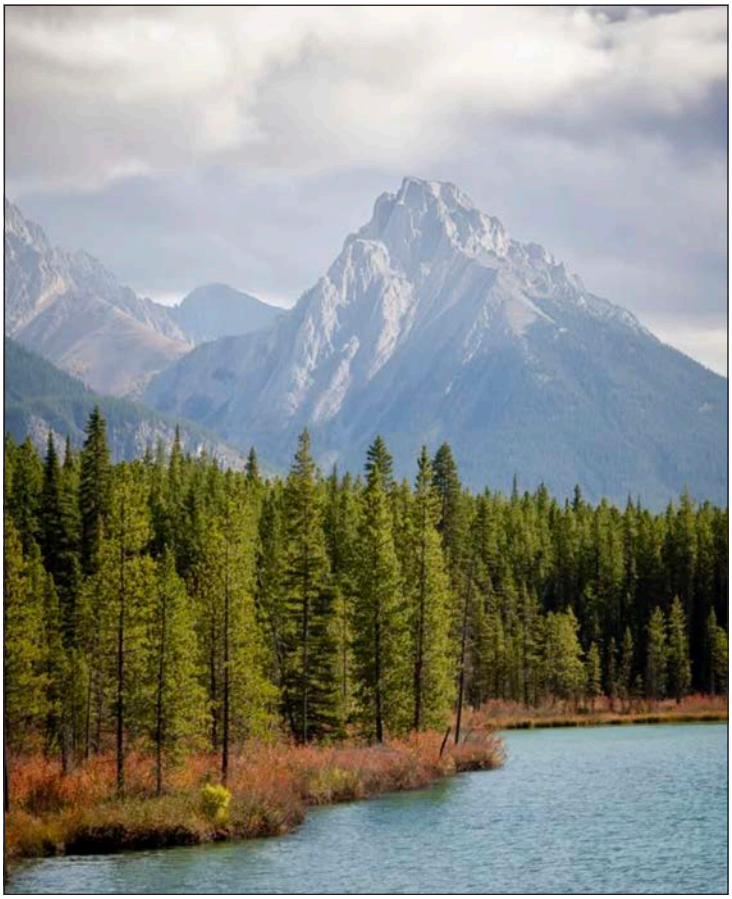
Wappner Funeral Home
Mansfield • Ontario • Ashland • 419-522-5211

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors & Crematory

Dorothy Ann Sams-Taylor, October 21
Barbara Jean Maxwell, October 23
Donald L. Ogle, October 24
Sarah Ann Kirk, October 26
Loren Rennie Lee, October 27
Katharina Morgenstern, October 29
Reed Lawhun Sr., October 29
Jason R. Vanwormer, October 29

View full obituaries at www.wappner.com





Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada
Photo By Mark Shutt

KCCC to host open house and first chance application night

The Knox County Career Center (KCCC) will host an open house and first chance application night on Thursday, Nov. 19, from 4:30–6:30 pm.

The open house is free and open to the public. Business partners, alumni and community members, along with current students and their families, will be in attendance.

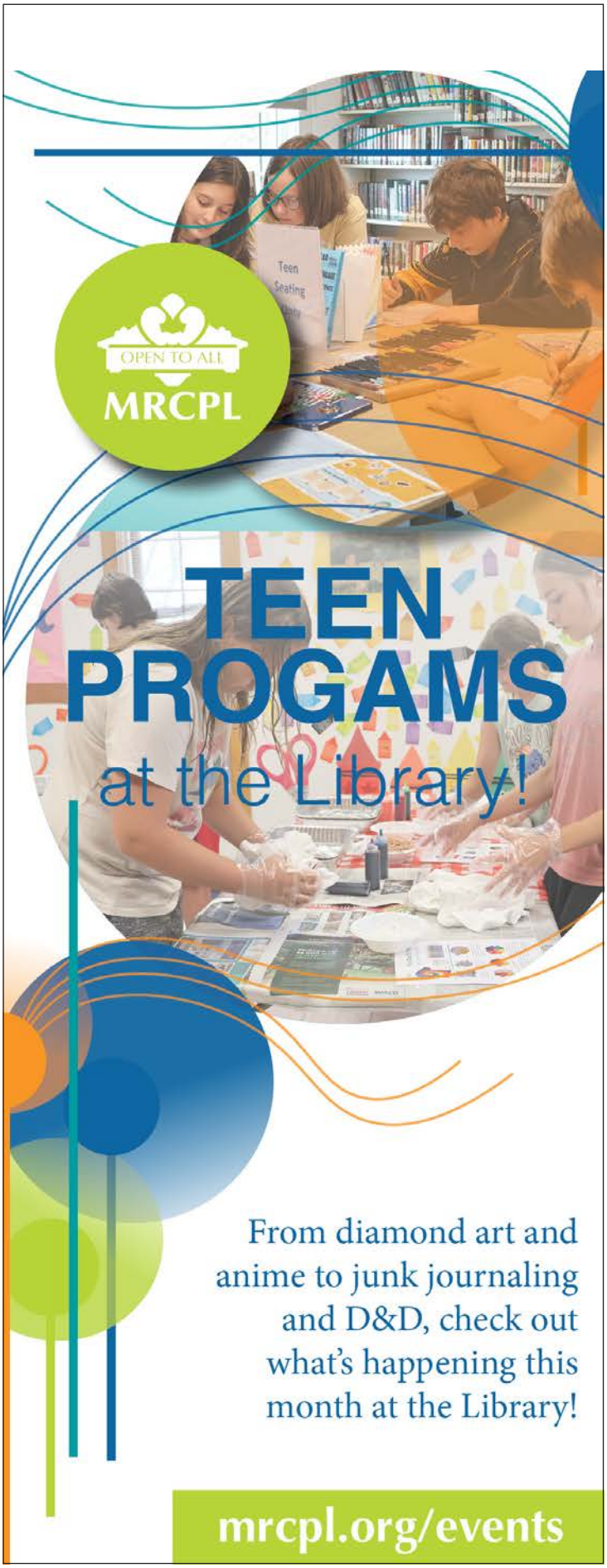
Additionally, current sophomores and juniors from associate schools, along with their families, will have the opportunity to visit KCCC's career tech programs. Sophomores can visit any of the two-year programs. Juniors will have the chance to visit the senior-only program, pre-professional mentorship. Students will have an opportunity to apply in person in the cafe that evening.

If students are unable to attend this event, the application window will be open from 4:30 pm to midnight by visiting www.knoxcc.org and clicking on "Apply Now".

Local food trucks, Mama Lupes and Buddy's Local Eats, will be selling food at this event, and WNZR will broadcast on-site and conduct live interviews.

KCCC Alumni are encouraged to stop by the Alumni Booth, share an update, and pick up some KCCC swag. For information email careereducation@knoxcc.org or call 740-397-5820.

Scan to Subscribe to the FREE Weekly Issue
Or Visit http://eepurl.com/hnS9N9



Ontario Lions Pancake Day

Saturday, Nov. 14

6:30 am to Noon
at Ontario High School

Tickets: $7 • Age 6 & Under Free

Proceeds support
local and world-wide Lions projects

Door Prizes donated by local businesses
(Winners need not be present to win)

Ad Sponsored By:

BOB & BOB DOOR CO.
Family owned since 1969
419 • 747 • 2255

Brian R. & Michelle Gates
Insurance Agency
2021 Park Avenue West
Suite 100, Ontario
419-529-3888


StateFarm®

Millie's Music Studio
419-522-7900
Lessons, Tunings, Repairs & More







THE ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL choirs held a concert for family and guests.

City of Mansfield looking for a tree

In keeping with the tradition of using a donated Christmas tree, the City of Mansfield is searching for this year's live Christmas tree.

The ideal tree would be approximately 30 feet tall and must be accessible by truck to allow for safe removal and transportation.

The City of Mansfield will handle the tree removal, grind the stump and re-seed the area with grass following the removal.

Residents or property owners who have a tree they would like to donate are encouraged to contact the City of Mansfield Public Works Office at 419-755-9736 by Nov. 20.

The tree will be part of Christmas Time in the City celebration. A tree lighting will be held at Richland Carrousel Park on Friday, Dec. 5, at 6 pm.

There will be live reindeer, carriage rides, photos with Santa, an ice sculpting demo and Christmas caroling.

Tickets for carriage rides will be available exclusively at www.eventbrite.com. For updates visit Downtown Mansfield Inc.'s Facebook page.

Lifestyle Inspiration

The Joy of Rediscovering Old Hobbies

By Kelley Kovacs, LMT
Comfrey Corner

Winter has a way of slowing life down. The colder temperatures often mean we're spending more time at home. Instead of counting the days until spring, why not use this season to rediscover a hobby you once enjoyed?

Maybe you love getting lost in a good book, baking a favorite family recipe, painting, knitting, woodworking, crafting, or playing an instrument. Life gets busy, and many of the things we enjoy are often pushed aside. Winter gives us a chance to pick them up again.

There's nothing quite like curling up in your favorite chair with a warm blanket and a good book while the snow falls outside. A great story can make the cold days seem a little brighter, and our local library is full of books waiting to be discovered.

Winter is also a wonderful time to try something new. Consider signing up for an art or photography class, taking music lessons, or joining a book club. Not only can you learn a new skill, but you'll also have the opportunity to meet new people, share ideas, and enjoy the company of others who have similar interests.

Sometimes the friendships we make are just as rewarding as the hobby itself.

Hobbies do more than fill the time. They help us relax, spark our creativity, and give us a break from the everyday routine. They also have a way of bringing people together.

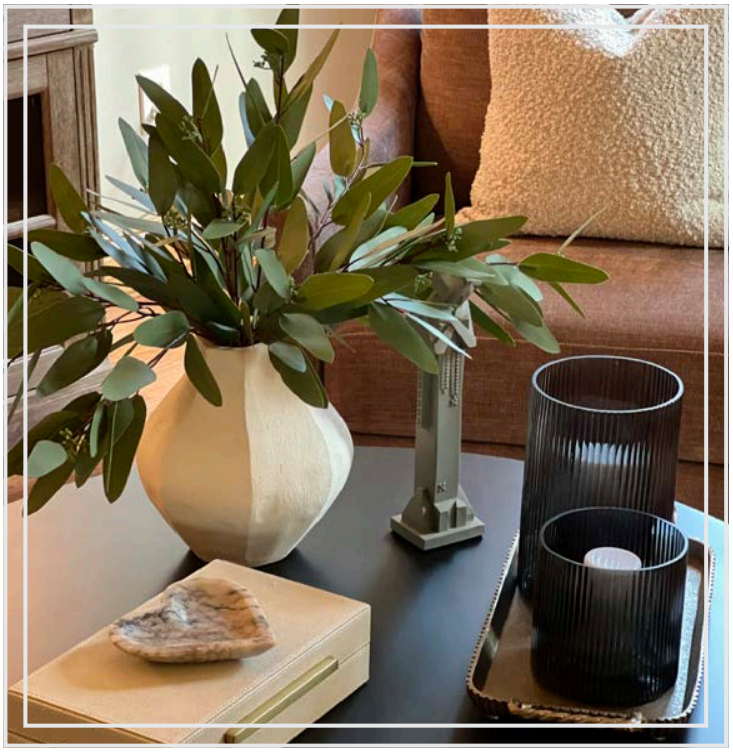
Whether you're swapping recipes with a neighbor, sharing handmade crafts, or talking about a book you've just finished, simple hobbies often lead to meaningful conversations.

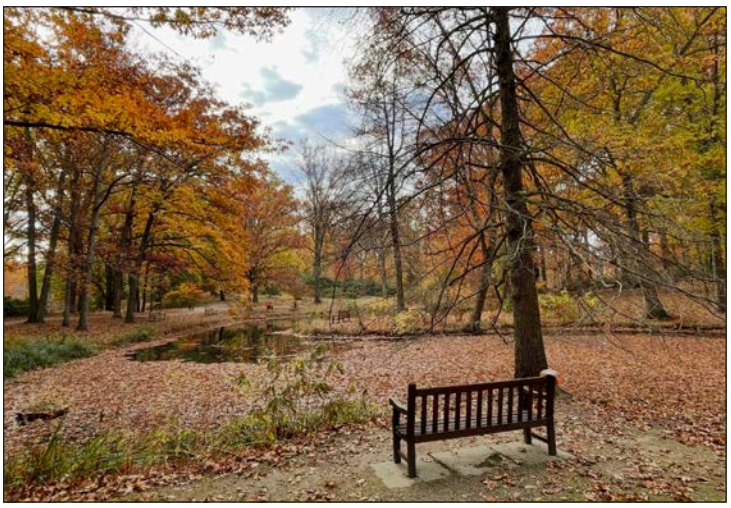
The best part is you don't need a lot of money or hours of free time. Read a few chapters before bed, bake cookies with the grandchildren, finish that puzzle on the dining room table, or spend an afternoon painting just for the fun of it.

Sometimes the greatest joys are the simplest ones. This winter, take a little time for yourself and rediscover something that makes you smile. You may be surprised how an old hobby can warm even the coldest winter day.











Day Trippin' With Damon: Holden Arboretum

Holden Forests & Gardens is made up of two of Northeast Ohio's most important environmental and cultural institutions — the Holden Arboretum and Cleveland Botanical Garden. It is the 12th largest public garden in the country and spans 3,600 acres. For information visit www.holdenfg.org.

Support Local Coffee Shops

Visit a featured location below, then email your order and visit date to tribune.courier.traci@gmail.com for a chance to win a $20 coffee gift card!

Goldberry Roasting Company
1262 Franklin Ave, Ashland
goldberryroasting.com

Bloom Nutrition & Drink Bar
126 East Main Street,
W 2nd St Rear, Ashland

4th Street Coffee House
1996 W 4th St, Ontario

Pump and Grind
586 Park Avenue East,
OH-430, Mansfield

ADVERTISE HERE

Fresh Grounds Coffee House
1621 W 4th St, Ontario

Brew'd Coffee & Donuts
7 Main St, Hayesville

Bubble Bean And Sweets
44 East Main St., Shelby

ADVERTISE HERE

Revive Coffee Bar
1201 Mill Rd, Bellville
revivecoffeebar.com

ADVERTISE HERE

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

•Madison RISE students build confidence, job skills

(Continued from Front Page)

Mullen said the students made a positive impression on the salon team from the beginning.

"When the students first started, they were kind, respectful, and ready to learn," Mullen said. "They were very thorough with their cleaning and always had good manners."

As the students became more familiar with their responsibilities and surroundings, salon employees began noticing greater comfort and confidence in their daily routines.

"They seemed more comfortable with each task their teacher assigned and more at ease speaking with the salon team and clients," Mullen said.

The experience also introduces students to an important aspect of employment that cannot always be taught in a traditional classroom: interacting with customers, communicating with coworkers and understanding how their individual responsibilities contribute to a business.

VonStein said these experiences help prepare students for the expectations they may encounter when entering the workforce after graduation.

Mullen agrees that opportunities outside the classroom provide valuable lessons.

"Getting out of their school environment helps them learn more practical everyday skills for when they are ready to apply for jobs," she said.

But the partnership has become more than an opportunity for students to practice workplace skills. It has also brought an unexpected sense of joy to the salon.

Mullen said staff members look forward to the students' visits, offer encouragement and occasionally surprise them with small treats to show appreciation for their contributions.

The students have also become familiar faces to salon clients.

"I actually look forward to them coming," said Kristi, a nail technician at AK Hair Collective. "They give off such an amazing vibe, and my clients love seeing them too! They really bring me a lot of joy in the mornings!"

For the salon team, the experience has reinforced how impactful it can be to encourage others and recognize their efforts.

"The students have brought a lot of joy and positive energy to our mornings," Mullen said. "They've also reminded us how important it can be to make someone feel welcome, encourage them, and recognize the care they put into their work."

As the RISE program continues to grow, VonStein hopes more local businesses will recognize the difference they can make by offering similar opportunities.

"We are always searching for additional business participation and community partners," she said. "We would welcome the opportunity to partner for student benefit."

For VonStein, helping students discover their abilities and develop skills for life beyond high school is what makes the program so special.

"It is a privilege to work with our students and see them grow and learn," she said.

Mullen hopes the students leave AK Hair Collective with a lasting sense of accomplishment and belonging.

"I hope they leave feeling proud of what they accomplished and more confident in their ability to contribute in a workplace," she said. "I also hope they remember that they were welcomed, appreciated, and an important part of our salon while they were here."

For these eight students, the lessons learned at AK Hair Collective extend far beyond cleaning stations and organizing supplies. Each completed task, interaction and new responsibility represents another step toward greater independence — and a future filled with possibilities.





Photos By Traci Little



Submitted Photo

Madison Mullen, AK Hair Collective Salon Manager, and her family







ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL held the first session of its Career Speaker Series. Students explored the criminal justice field with speakers from North Central State's Police Academy, the Mansfield Police Department, the Air National Guard and the Ohio State Highway Patrol and dispatch. The series gives students opportunities to explore careers and connect with professionals every second and fourth Wednesday.

Infrastructure projects pitched for OPWC funding

At the recent Richland County Regional Planning Commission (RCRPC) meeting, local municipalities, townships and county departments took the floor to present their proposed public works projects, vying for vital infrastructure funding through the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC).

The presentations highlighted a variety of essential community improvements, typically ranging from road paving and bridge replacements to critical water, stormwater, and wastewater system upgrades. Because OPW grants and loans are a crucial resource for local governments to stretch their budgets, the application process is highly competitive. These funds often serve as the financial backbone for essential public works projects that might otherwise be delayed.

Following the presentations, members of the commission will evaluate and score each application based on county priority.

The highest-ranking projects will be submitted to the district integrating Committee and then the state for final funding approval. We look forward to sharing updates on which of these vital community improvements receive the green light for the upcoming program year.



HOPE FOOD PANTRY IN MANSFIELD received donations as a part of Make a Difference Day. "We are grateful to have received over 5.5 tons of food and paper items (11,148.2 pounds) and $5,355 in checks from the 23rd Annual Make A Difference Food Drive," said Ian Chambers, HOPE Food Pantry Specialist at Catholic Charities Richland County. "Our shelves are pretty well-stocked now, but we would welcome donations of canned chicken noodle soup and hygiene products." Donations can be dropped off Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 am to 3:30 pm; and Thursdays, 12:30 –5:30 pm. The HOPE Pantry is closed Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. For more information call 419-524-0733.



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL celebrated Red Ribbon Week, the nation's oldest and largest annual drug-use and violence prevention awareness campaign, celebrated every year from October 23–31. Among the themed days was "neon day."

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Local teams headed to OHSAA Week Two Playoffs

By Kris Leiter

Can you believe we are down to the FINAL FOUR already? Two years ago, the OHSAA implemented the "bye" week for the top four seeded teams in each region, giving them a week off.

It makes for good water-cooler talk. It would assimilate to the professional ranks of having the "bye" week the NFL implemented years ago.

Does the "bye" week off help or hamper athletes? It can be a catch twenty-two. Some teams embrace the rest while other teams prefer the normal regiment of playing every week. This is the second full football season that the OHSAA implemented the format.

The top four teams in each region received a bye for the first round of the OHSAA post-season playoffs. They will also have home field advantage for the next two games if they keep winning.

Clear Fork, Ontario and Shelby were three teams that received the time off.

Ontario Head Coach Aaron Eckert shared his thoughts on the "bye" week off and if he thinks it makes a difference in a team's performance.

"It's an interesting thing. I honestly don't know yet. It's only the second year OHSAA has implemented it. I thought we had a good productive week of practice. We're healthy."

This Friday will be week two of the OHSAA playoffs, with some gridiron battles to watch.

It will be go time for Clear Fork, Lucas, Ontario and Shelby!

Division VII — Region 27

Lucas (6–5) 10 seed at Danville (11–0) 2 seed

The mighty Cubs endured the long bus trip last Friday to Southern Ohio, defeating the Eastern Beavers 14–0. The win propels Lucas into the final four!

This Friday will be the showcase showdown against a former Knox County archrival from the Mid-Buckeye Conference, the Danville Blue Devils.

The Blue Devils will defend their home turf, the beautiful Tough Street Stadium, for the gridiron battle! The Blue Devils converted their grass field to turf in 2025 and boy, does it look amazing!

For years, the Blue Devils and Cubs were friendly foes in the Mid-Buckeye Conference. They have had some mighty battles in the regular season as well as post-season. They have locked horns over the years, totaling 10 times since 2010.

The Cubs bring their experience from playoff appearances from the past 13 years.

Cooper Day, Brady Guegold and Anthony Fanello have been on fire for the long-time infamous Cubs "Ground and Pound" offense. They have tallied seven trips to the end zone in recent weeks!

Division IV — Region 14

Shelby (10–0) 2 seed hosting Bellevue (8–3) 6 seed

The Whippets will be ready this Friday, hosting a long-time rival from the Northern Ohio League, the Bellevue Redmen!

Shelby and Bellevue have locked horns for years. They have played each other 83 times, the Redmen holding the upper edge, 41–37–2.

The Whippets bring to the party their "three-peat" by staking their claim with three undefeated 10–0 seasons, as well as a fourth consecutive Mid-Ohio Athletic Conference championship!

Keep your eyes on some notable Whippets. Brady Bowman tallies years of accolades totaling 4,000 yards of catching the pigskin and All-Ohio Honors. Adding to the mix are Michael Shepherd, Gavin Baker and Luke Blevins. They have collectively notched five trips to the end zone in recent weeks.

Clear Fork (8–2, 4 seed) hosting Otsego (8–3, 5 seed)

What happens when you battle a Colt and a Knight? We will find out this Friday night in the infamous Colt Corral.

The Colts received the first-round bye, earning home field turf. The Corral is a beautiful place for the fans of the Colts as the home bleachers are embedded into a hillside for a phenomenal view.

The Otsego Knights will be traveling approximately two hours from the quaint village of Tontogany, located approximately twelve miles northwest of Bowling Green in Wood County.

Otsego, manned by third-year head coach Craig Rutherford, is known for their Winged-T offense. They are members of the Northern Buckeye Conference, claiming second-place accolades in 2026 with a respectable 5–2 conference record.

The Knights moved into the final four by manhandling the Van Wert Cougars last week 63–27.

This game could flip either way, being the number 4 and 5 seeds and you never know who will notch the "W" when the triple zeros light up the scoreboard as the finale.

The Knights' offense has been putting up some remarkably high scores in their eight wins in the regular season.

On the other side of the ball, the Colts' defense has been monumental this year! The Colts have notched three shut-outs and never allowed any opponent to score more than 14 points. The only two exceptions were falling to Ontario, 17–7 and Shelby, 28–21.

In the final week, the Clear Fork defense notched a safety during the shut-out of 25–0 over Galion in the season finale.

The Colts' defense also notched a pick six for a trip to the end zone! Not a bad way to end the season by defeating an MOAC foe!

This will be another great final four matchup in the Corral!

Division III — Region 10

Ontario 2 Seed (9–1) hosting Tiffin Columbian 7 seed (8–3)

The Warriors had the bye week and will be hosting the familiar Tiffin Columbian Tornadoes. The two teams are no strangers.

The Warriors will be anxiously awaiting at the reservation at Copeland Field for the arrival of the Tornadoes. Copeland Field was named after long-time legendary Coach Roger Copleland, known for his single-wing style of Warrior football. Tiffin will be making the hour-long bus ride into Springfield Township.

Coach Aaron Eckert is no stranger to success as he brings a wealth of experience to the Warriors. His track record speaks volumes, being with the Warriors eight years total — five years leading the helm and three years as assistant.

His accolades span back to at least 2023. They include some amazing, tightly battled games with MOAC rivals Shelby, Clear Fork and others.

While preparing for Tiffin, Eckert said, "We have plays designed to put us in the best position to win. There is really no difference in our preparation. If a certain scenario happens, we may try a specific play. We go through the week and practice running them, and we figure out our best plays."

"We're happy to put ourselves in the position of playing them at our field. It's just good to be playing at this point."

"Tiffin has a really good football team. We had a chance to play them in week three and they shifted some guys around."

Warriors Sean Tanner, Max Ciroli, Mark Porter, Cardae Brown, Cam Powers, Trindon Flenoury and Carson Moritz have a total of 10 trips to paydirt recently.

On the defensive side of the ball are Zane Curry, Maddix Smith and Liam Smith, combining for 16 tackles, four sacks, one fumble, one interception and a safety! What a recipe for keeping the Tornadoes at bay!

Eckert mentioned the Warriors' style of offensive this year.

"We've been able to run the ball and throw it. Our offensive line has been really solid all year. We're going to try to be balanced in what we do. We've been able to do that throughout the entire year."

He mentioned the Warriors will be keeping a close eye on one of Tiffin's major playmakers, senior running back Masen Seitz.

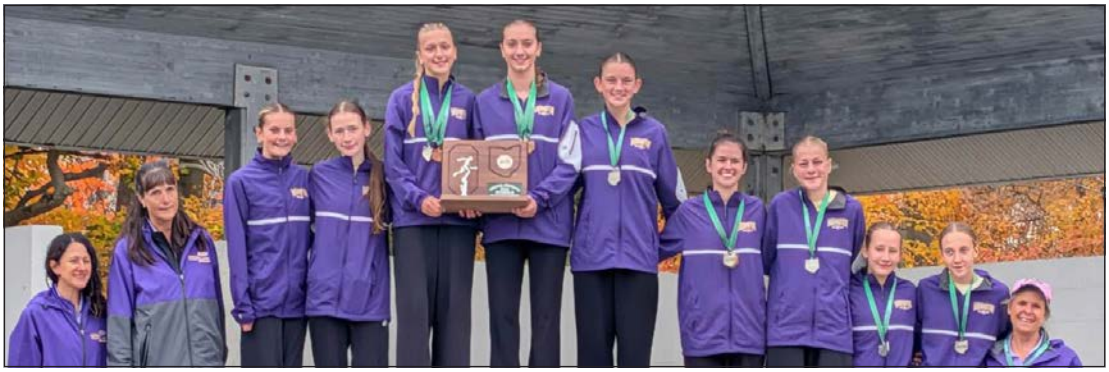
"He has 34 touchdowns on the year."

Seitz recently notched this double-digit, end-zone accolades in his first-round playoff game against Midview 2 weeks ago, tallying a

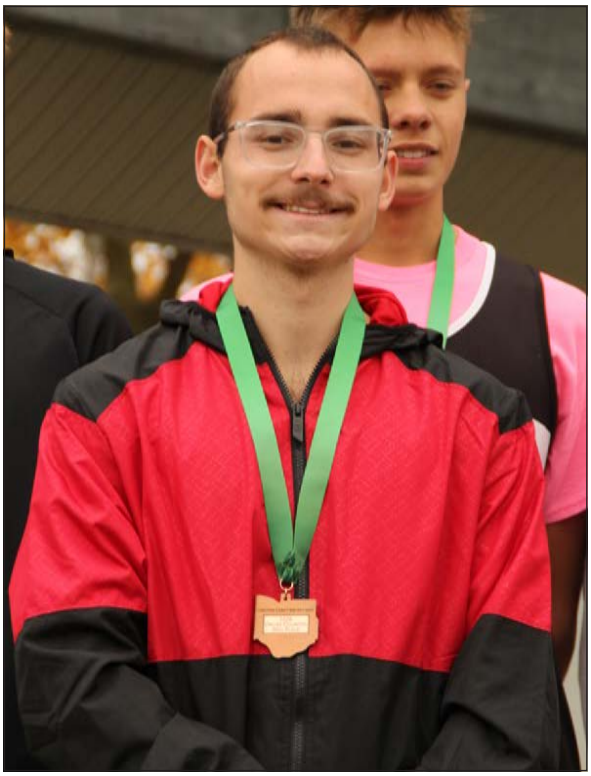
(Continued on Page 13)

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights





LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL'S cross country teams competed at the OHSAA Cross Country Regional Tournament Oct. 31, at Hedges Boyer Park in Tiffin. The boys team was named Division II regional champions and the girls earned the runners-up position. Will Hooper led the boys, placing 4th with a time of 15:37. He was followed by Christian Estep in 5th with 15:40, John Bartone in 10th with 15:50, Mathian Bender in 16th with 16:12, Chidalu Ezike in 42nd with 17:00, Jace Dawson in 44th with 17:03 and Caden Henry in 70th with 17:30. Gabi Twedt led the girls with a 4th place finish at 18:11. She was followed by teammates Jenna Halfhill in 6th with 18:42, Evalynn Adkins in 15th with 19:14, Adria Sharrock in 42nd with 20:15, Nyra Loy in 46th with 20:20, Brynlee Brokaw in 59th with 21:02 and Alexis Neal in 67th with 21:11. Both teams will compete at the OHSAA State Championships Nov. 7.





Photos By Jenna Wolford

CRESTVIEW HIGH SCHOOL junior Isaac McFarland placed 16th at the OHSAA Cross Country Regional Tournament in Tiffin on Oct. 31, securing a spot in the Division IV state tournament race. McFarland finished with a time of 16:38. He will compete at Fortress Obetz near Columbus this Saturday.



Photo from Shelby, Ohio Sports Updates

SHELBY HIGH SCHOOL senior Anna Will qualified for the OHSAA Cross Country State Championships to be held this Saturday, Nov. 7, at Fortress Obetz. Will qualified for the Division III race with a fifth place finish of 19:13.

Mansfield United Lions Club hosting annual Strides for Diabetes Walk and Health Fair

In recognition of National Diabetes Awareness Month, the Mansfield United Lions Club invites individuals and families throughout Richland County to participate in its annual Strides for Diabetes 1-Mile Walk and Community Health Fair on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 10 am to noon at the Ontario Center (formerly Richland Mall), 2209 Richland Mall, Ontario.

Participants are encouraged to enter through the food court entrance.

This free, family-friendly event brings together community members, healthcare professionals, and local organizations to promote diabetes awareness, encourage healthy lifestyles, and connect residents with valuable health and wellness resources.

The indoor event features a one-mile awareness walk, opportunities to explore health information and diabetes education, low-carbohydrate food samples, free vision screenings, and door prizes donated by local businesses and organizations.

Attendees do not need to participate in the walk to enjoy the health fair. Everyone is welcome to visit participating organizations, learn about available resources, and connect with others in the community.

"Diabetes affects countless individuals and families throughout our community and we believe that awareness, education, and prevention can make a lasting difference," said Tim Kershner, president, Mansfield United Lions Club.

"Our Strides for Diabetes Awareness event is about more than taking a one-mile walk. It's about bringing our community together, empowering individuals to make healthier choices, and providing resources that can improve lives."

"Through the dedication of our Lions, community partners, and generous sponsors, we are demonstrating that when we work together, even small steps can lead to life-changing results. We invite everyone to join us on Nov. 14 as we take steps toward a healthier future."

Diabetes is one of Lions Clubs International's global causes, and the Mansfield United Lions Club is committed to supporting awareness, education, and community involvement through events like Strides for Diabetes.

Lion Dr. Cynthia Dorsey, a local endocrinologist and advocate for diabetes awareness, encourages individuals and families to take advantage of the opportunity to combine physical activity with education.

"The Strides for Diabetes event is a great opportunity for people with diabetes and prediabetes, along with their friends and family, to enjoy some camaraderie during a one-mile walk at the Ontario Center," said Lion Dr. Cynthia Dorsey. "Walking is great exercise and a wonderful way to improve physical fitness and help control blood sugar levels. There will also be samples of low-carbohydrate foods to taste, and participants may discover some new and interesting ideas for meals and snacks. I hope many people will enjoy a walk and some education along the way."

Participation in Strides for Diabetes is completely free, and individuals and families are encouraged to register in advance at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe536-06LbxvWU-Lus_W2hRfd2qqQAPELfJpNX-W5UBEBW8dIvA/viewform

The Shelby Lions Club has donated a gift basket for the door prize drawing, while the Ontario Lions Club will participate in the health fair by providing vision screenings.

•Local teams headed to playoffs

(Continued from Page 11)

colossal 242-yards with five trips to the end zone!

Be prepared for an incredible final four battle at Copeland Field!

Take note of format and ticket information for the next few weeks. Exciting football ahead!

Tickets for regional playoff games (first four rounds) will go on sale every Monday at noon at www.OHSAA.org/tickets.

Regional playoffs will follow bracket format. Neutral sites will be used beginning in the fourth round (regional finals). Regional and state semifinal playoff games will be played on Friday nights at 7 pm.

Classifieds

LEGAL NOTICE

The following is a succinct summary of the legislation adopted by the Council of the City of Ontario, at its regular meeting held on October 21, 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. 26-21 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND AWARD CONTRACTS FOR VARIOUS MATERIALS AND SERVICES NEEDED DURING THE YEAR 2027 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Abbey Beaver
Clerk of Council
Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 10-29, 11-5 '26) 22L

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of voluntary dissolution of Richland Engineering Limited, an Ohio limited partnership association. To all creditors and claimants of Richland Engineering Limited.

Notice is hereby given that Richland Engineering Limited, an Ohio Limited partnership association, whose principal office is located at Richland County, Ohio, has filed a Certificate of Dissolution and is winding up its business.

Jerod M. Them,
Attorney, Weldon, Huston & Keyser, L.L.P
Mansfield, Ohio
(T-C 10-22, 29, 11-5, 12, 19, 26 '26) 16L

Receive the Tribune FREE!
Fill Out the Form at:
http://eepurl.com/hnS9N9

trusted journalism . affordable options . loyal readership
ADVERTISE HERE
Reach Thousands of Local Readers Every Week
Grow Your Business in Richland & Ashland Counties
585.764.0321 | tribune-courier.com

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

First Federal Bank of Ohio
THE RIGHT LOAN. THE RIGHT BANK.
LISA ANDERSON
Branch Manager/Loan Officer, NMLS 618735
landerson@firstfederalbankofohio.bank
1728 W. Fourth Street
Mansfield, Ohio 44906
Phone: 419-529-4687
Fax: 419-529-4154