



# TRIBUNE-COURIER

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



news@tribune-courier.com

06.26.25



Photo By Traci Little

**THE NEW MISS OHIO**, Olivia Fosson, is crowned on the Renaissance Theatre stage in Mansfield. She won a \$10,000 scholarship and will advance to compete for the Miss America title. *More photos begin on Page 8.*

## Madison makes plans for upcoming school year

The Madison Local School District Board of Education met June 18, in the Madison Middle School Auditoria.

A public discussion was held about the possible re-employment of superintendent Rob Peterson during his STRS service retirement. This will be voted on during a future meeting.

A presentation about technology was given by Curt McVicker and Matt Blankenship spoke about the food services department.

The monthly financial report for May was approved as submitted and temporary appropriations for FY 2026, not to exceed 50 percent of the FY 2025 appropriations at fund level, was also approved.

Blanket and super blanket purchase orders for amounts not to exceed \$500,000 was approved, per order for FY 2026.

The treasurer was approved to make the necessary appropriation modifications, transfers and advances, and to request from the county auditor an amended certificate for the purpose of closing out FY 2025. An insurance quote from Rinehart, Walters and Danner for fleet and liability insurance was approved and the board authorized the execution of accepting coverage from the Ohio School Plan for 2025-'26.

A transfer of \$9,534.63 will be moved from the general fund to the food service fund for the current inactive debt that is 19 years old or greater.

Resignations were accepted from Mary Thomas, Eastview Student Council Advisor; Kara Ohl, kindergarten teacher, Mifflin; Megan Studer, middle school Key Club advisor; Doug Rickert, assistant varsity girls' basketball; Owen Zeiter, seventh grade science teacher; and Owen Zeiter, freshmen boys' basketball.

Hirings for the next school year include Tim Amstutz, high school intervention specialist; Melissa Beverly, ninth grade math; Lukas Mann, grade 5-12 instrumental/general music; Goelena Milano, middle school STEM; Alayna Neal, Middle School ELA (sixth grade); Emma Ruhe, middle school intervention specialist (seventh grade); and Delaney Willis, middle school Spanish.

Volunteers approved include Pat McLaughlin, eighth grade football; and Tim Niswander, girls golf.

Hirings for the next school year include Wendy Caperton, Academic Challenge Advisor (middle school); Krista Ferini, 1/2 Spanish Club advisor (high school); Lindsey Frank, Key Club Advisor (middle school); Jessica Kunz, 1/2 Spanish Club advisor (high school); Lukas Mann, band director assistant (fall) (high school); Chad Metzger, National Honor Society advisor (high school) and math department chair (high school); Julie Skripac, SkillsUSA advisor (high school); and Steve Zellner, eighth grade football assistant coach.

Pupil activity positions were approved for Zach Brandt, seventh

*(Continued on Page 7)*

## Ontario festival opens Friday

The Ontario 4th of July Festival will be held Friday and Saturday, June 27 and 28.

Events will kick-off Friday night with a car show in Marshall Park, from 5:15-8 pm, sponsored by Gates State Farm Insurance Agency. Dash plaques will be available to the first 50 registrants. To register a vehicle visit <https://ontario4thofjulyfestival.com/car-show>. The \$10 fee will benefit Ontario Community Events.

The fair food begins for some vendors Friday night and there will be live entertainment from classic rock group The Rertun, a beer garden, a raffle and a cornhole tournament.

Saturday morning will begin with the 2025 Ontario Liberty 5K Run at 8:30 am, sponsored by Gates State Farm Insurance Agency.

Food vendors will open at noon and the kids inflatable area will be available again this year with security provided by Ontario Police.

*(Continued on Page 5)*

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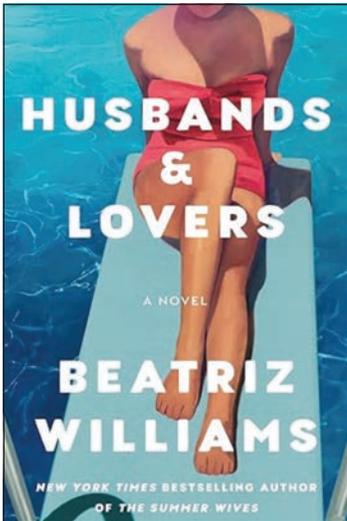
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LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review  
By Mandy Belczak Gurney



*Husbands and Lovers* by Beatriz Williams has two story lines, each with multiple timelines and flashbacks.

I really loved one story line and lacked empathy or care for the other.

This was a story of young artists and their dreams as they fall in love with each other one summer on the east coast. It was about the hard moments that disrupt our plans and shift our lives for good.

The second storyline follows diplomats in Egypt and the struggles between race and class near the time of World War II.

The two story lines converge well in the end, so I'm glad I kept reading. It was enjoyable enough to stick with it for the

one storyline I cared about.  
My rating: ★★☆☆  
Follow my blog at Green Gurney at GreenGurneys.com

Richland SWCD seeks candidates to fill position

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD) is seeking candidates to fill one open position on the board of supervisors for a term beginning Jan. 1, 2026.

Richland SWCD Board of Supervisors are publicly elected by a special general election conducted by the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

Voting for the 2026 term will begin Aug. 13 and end Sept. 11, 2025. Supervisors are elected to a three-year term as a public official and serve without pay. Candidates must be eighteen years of age or older and own or occupy land within Richland County.

The board of supervisors create an annual and long-term plan of operation that protects the district's mission and vision. Supervisors advocate for the district, attend and participate in monthly board meetings, assist with district programs and services and attend area and state meetings.

They are conservation-minded, local leaders who promote conservation of the county's natural resources through education, planning and technical assistance which are key to the success of the district.

Interested candidates should contact Matt Christian, Director, by June 28 at election@richlandswcd.net or 419-747-8684.

RSWCD develops, implements, and assists landowners, government agencies and our partners with a wide range of natural resource conservation programs.

THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER  
— By Ian Stumbo —

*28 Years Later* is the third film in Danny Boyle's zombie series that started with *28 Days Later* in 2002. It has been a long time since the second movie though Boyle and writer Alex Garland have returned with an engaging albeit uneven entry.

A colony of people live off the mainland from the infected. They have their own lives and are guarded to make sure no one comes in that should not be there.

Jamie (Aaron Taylor-Johnson), his wife Isla (Jodie Comer) and son Spike (newcomer Alfie Williams), live on the island.

Spike is brought to the mainland by his father to learn how to defend himself while his mother is sick at home. Soon, events occur where Alfie is forced to leave on his own and ventures in a dangerous world.

Boyle creates a whole new world in this universe and brings what fans of this series want in terms of zombie kills and gory special effects. The family element is very good and Comer

and especially young Williams are stand outs. Ralph Fiennes also pops up as a doctor and is well cast.

As confident as these characters and main plot lines are, the movie veers too much into strange territory. There are flashes of old movies and voiceovers that do not make sense and a whole sequence that ends the movie that seems abrupt and tonally quite different than the rest. Reportedly there will be a second installment within the next year.

Boyle directs the movie quite well, though he shifts from family drama to tragedy to then introducing new characters at the very end which makes the movie as a whole feel inconsistent.

As a fan of this series this movie delivers on some levels though not on others and hopefully the next one will be much more consistent throughout.



Local church changes name to Mansfield 1st Presbyterian

Mansfield 1st Presbyterian Church, 399 S. Trimble Rd., Mansfield, is now a congregation in the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

We are a Bible-believing, confessional conservative and reformed congregation.

As a congregation in the PCA, the church desires to be "Faithful to the Scriptures, True to the Reformed Faith and Obedient to the Great Commission." therefore, we affirm that Jesus Christ is the King and Head of the Church; that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inerrant and infallible Word of God; and that the doctrinal standards taught by those Scriptures are explained and set forth within the Westminster Confession of Faith together with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms.

The church gathers together for a traditional worship service every Sunday morning at 10 am. Everyone is welcome.

Sunday School meets at 9 am for both children and adults, while after worship, they also gather for a time of fellowship to share coffee and fresh treats.

Children are always welcome to remain with their family during worship but for those who prefer, may also be excused for a time of age appropriate Bible lessons and fun.

Visit [www.mansfield1st.com](http://www.mansfield1st.com) for more information or email office@mansfield1st.com.

The church is on Facebook and weekly sermons are posted at <http://www.youtube.com/@mansfield1stpresbyterian>.

For information about the Presbyterian Church in America, visit <http://pcanet.org/>.

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# News Briefs

A Live Auction For Sara Saxton will be held Sunday, June 29 at 1 pm at The River Rock, 7 Main St.. Bellville.

Sara is a bartender/server at The River Rock in Bellville. On June 2, Sara was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. Sara is at The James Cancer Center and has started treatment immediately.

Donations of items to be auctioned off are being accepted with all proceeds going to Sara and her family.

To donate gift baskets, gift cards or other items, drop off at The River Rock by June 29 at noon.

At the event, please wear orange in support of Sara.



Light up the Valley 2025 will be held Sunday, June 29. This annual community firework celebration will include food trucks, activities, live entertainment, prizes, and more — all locally funded and planned. Activities will be held from noon to 11 pm at 119 Hines Ave., Bellville.



The Lexington Area Senior Citizens Inc., invites those 55 and older to attend meetings the third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 am. February through May, the group will meet at New Life Church of Christ (NLC of C), 195 W. Durbin, Bellville. Cost is \$17 for the meal.

Meetings June through December will be held at Der Dutchman, Rt. 96, Bellville. Meals are \$16, with an additional \$2 for pie.

The next meal will be July 16, with roast beef and bingo. Those attending are asked to bring a prize labeled for a man, woman or both.

The group will also meet Wednesday, July 2 at 11 am at O'Charley's, 1335 Lexington-Springmill Rd., Ontario.

For information visit [www.lexasc.org](http://www.lexasc.org). Dues are \$10 per year.



The City of Ontario will host Concerts in the Park at Marshall Park's band shell from 6 to 8 pm this summer.

Concerts are scheduled for:

June 27, Aftermath (4th of July Festival)

July 8, David Perry

July 22, The Return

Aug. 12, Soul Town Live

Aug. 26, Oolong Gurus



Trinity Grace Fellowship Church, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield (Madison area), will hold its annual Vacation Bible School July 20-24 from 6-8:30 pm each night.

The VBS is for children kindergarten through eighth grade.

Entitled "Wonder Junction," children will marvel at the life of Jesus and learn to live for His glory. Registration is available online at <https://trinity-grace.myanswers.com/wonder-junction>.



Richland County Children Services (RCCS) will team up with community partners Richland Newhope, Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Catalyst Life Services, Mansfield Branch-YMCA of North Central Ohio and Richland Public Health for the Together We Move 5K & 1-miler Fun Run.

The event will be Saturday, July 26. The 5K starts at 9 am at the Mansfield YMCA and the 1-Miler Fun Run starts at 10:15 am at Ster-

kel Park. Race day registration opens at 8 am.

Sign up at <https://runsSignup.com/Race/OH/Mansfield/Together-WeMove5K>



Dayspring will host the 6th Annual Hope Run 5K and 1 Mile Walk on Saturday, June 28.

The 5k and 1 mile will step-off at 10 am, beginning and ending at Dayspring, 3220 Olivesburg Rd., Mansfield. The course is cross-country with rolling hills and trails. The event will be held rain or shine unless there is extreme weather.

Race day registration begins at 9 am and is \$20. Prizes will be awarded in every category.

An entry form can be found on the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/DayspringAssistedLivingCareFacility>.

Proceeds will benefit Friends of Dayspring in support of the next Dayspring Levy Campaign. For information call 419-565-3694 or email [Rileyboy0907@gmail.com](mailto:Rileyboy0907@gmail.com).



Lexington Church of the Cross UMC, 236 Otterbein Dr., Lexington, is hosting Wonderful Wednesdays now through July 30, from 10-11:30 am. The Wednesdays will include crafts, snacks, games, music and stories. A fiesta will be held Aug. 3, at 11 am.

For information and registration call 419-884-2150 or visit [www.churchofthecrosslex.com](http://www.churchofthecrosslex.com).



SR 13, between Bangorville Rd. and Smith Rd., closed Monday, June 23 for a culvert replacement.

The detour route for northbound motorists is SR 13 north to SR 546 north to U.S. 42 east to SR 97 east to SR 13 and reverse for southbound motorists. Estimated completion is Thursday, July 3.



Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio will host the Annual Golf Classic on Monday, July 21 at Deer Ridge Golf Course in Bellville. The event supports financial literacy, career readiness and entrepreneurship education for thousands of K-12 students across our rural communities.

Cost is \$600 for a four-person team and the fee includes lunch, snacks, SuperTicket, drink tickets and contests. Cash prizes include awards for first, second, middle of the pack and 24th place. There will be a putting contest, hole-in-one challenge, closest to the pin, longest drive and more.

For information or to register visit <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/shcgo/event/2025drgolffclassi/>



A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, June 28 and 29.

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.



This summer, the 122nd Army Band is hitting the road to celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States Army with a family-friendly concert tour across Ohio.

(Continued on Page 7)

**Planning your future?  
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CONGRATS TO THE CLASS OF 2025.

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# Church Directory

## Clay Memorial Lutheran Church

1601 Amoy East Rd., Mansfield  
419-747-6882  
Pastor Carol Kilgore  
Sunday School 9:15 am • Sunday Worship 10:30 am

## Clear Fork Alliance Church

1008 State Route 97, Bellville  
419-886-4333 • www.clearforkalliance.org  
Rev. Matt Merendino  
Rev. Mike Stine, Associate Pastor  
9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship  
Sunday Evening 6 pm Home Groups  
Monday Men's Group 7:30 pm  
Wednesday evenings: 6:45 pm, Prayer Meeting  
6:30-8 pm and TeamKID and Youth Group

## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

200 West Third St., Mansfield  
419-524-4813 • mansfield1stcc1833@gmail.com  
Rev. David Zerby  
Office Hours: Tu., W., Th. 9 am to 1 pm  
10:30 am Sunday Worship  
Christian Builders, Sunday, 9:30 am  
www.FirstChristianChurchMansfield.com  
FB: FirstChristianChurch,Mansfield,Ohio

## 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)  
10:30 am Monday Morning Bible Study  
7:30 am Wednesday Men's Breakfast

## First English Lutheran Church

53 Park Avenue West, Mansfield  
419-522-0662 • www.felc-mansfield.org  
Pastor Jay Jackson  
9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship  
Call about Prayer Groups, Small Groups, Bible  
Studies, Book Clubs, Pub Theology, Community Meals, Free  
Produce distribution and Senior Boxes.

## Grace Episcopal Church

41 Bowman Street, Mansfield  
419-524-2661  
Rev. Christopher D. Hofer, Priest-in-Charge  
Rev. Daniel Orr, Associate Priest  
Worship: Sundays, 8 am and 10:15 am  
Christian Formation for All Ages: Sundays, 9:15 am  
Food Pantry: Thursdays, 9-11 am  
2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 4-6 pm  
gracemansfield.org • facebook.com/GraceChurchMansfield

## G & M Body & Paint Shop

168g West Fourth St., Ontario • 419-529-2747

## Wappner Funeral Home

Mansfield • Ontario • Ashland • 419-522-5211

## Lexington Church of Christ

230 Delaware Ave., Lexington  
419-884-1532 • www.lccoh.com  
Lead Minister Brandon Bogue  
9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship

## Lexington Presbyterian Church

35 Church St. West, Lexington  
419-884-1330  
Pastor Denny Nezrick  
10:30 am Sunday Worship  
<https://www.facebook.com/Lexington-Presbyterian-Church-117768414915815>

## Mansfield 1st Presbyterian Church

399 Trimble Rd., Mansfield  
419-756-7066 • www.mansfield1st.com  
Rev. Joseph Yerger  
9 am Adult & Youth Sunday School  
10 am Traditional Sunday Worship  
ADA Accessible Nursery & Children's Programming

## Mansfield Baptist Temple

752 N. Stewart Rd., Mansfield  
419-589-5413 • www.mbt.org  
Pastor Rob Kurtz  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am & 5:30 pm Sunday Worship  
7 pm Wednesday Service

## Oakland Lutheran Church

2045 Olivesburg Rd., Mansfield  
419-571-9920  
Pastor Paul Lintern  
9 am Sunday Worship

## 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

68 Park Avenue East, Mansfield  
419-522-2813 • www.stjohnsmansfield.org  
Pastor Faith Proietti  
10 am Sunday Worship  
Office hours: Mon-Fri 9am to 1pm  
AA Meetings M & F 10 am & noon;  
Wed. noon Brown Bag and Sat. 6 pm  
Clothing Ministry by appt: 419-512-9817

## Southside Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

2055 Middle-Bellville Rd., Mansfield  
419-756-3436  
Pastor Paul Lintern  
10:45 am Sunday Worship

## 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

## Golf Scramble will benefit police K9 unit

Hamilton Insurance Group, Inc., in partnership with the Mansfield Rotary Club, has announced the 2025 Golf Scramble benefitting the Mansfield Police K9 Unit, will be held Friday, Aug. 1, at Deer Ridge Golf Course in Bellville.

Registration opens at 8 am, with a shotgun start at 9 am.

The golf scramble raises vital funds for the Mansfield Police Department's K9 Unit — a unit that is not included in the City of Mansfield's general operating budget, but instead depends on donations and community support to operate.

All proceeds from the golf scramble will go directly to the K9 program, helping cover the costs associated with purchasing the dogs, specialized training, medical care, food and vehicle modifications needed for K9 transport.

The Mansfield K9 Unit plays a crucial role in ensuring public safety, not just within city limits but throughout the surrounding counties.

These dedicated K9 teams assist in tracking missing persons, detecting illegal drugs, apprehending suspects and enhancing officer protection.

All this makes the K9 unit an indispensable resource to law enforcement and the greater community.

"I first learned about the incredible work of the Mansfield K9 Unit during a Mansfield Rotary meeting, and I was immediately inspired to help," said Neil Hamilton, president of Hamilton Insurance Group, Inc.

"These dogs and their handlers put themselves in harm's way to protect all of us. They're an essential part of our safety network, and they deserve our support."

There are still openings for foursome teams, as well as opportunities for sponsorships and raffle donations.

Foursome teams are \$400 and team and hole sponsorships are available for \$500. Donations of gift cards or raffle baskets are also appreciated.

To register a team, donate a prize or become a sponsor, contact Chris Bellamy at [cbellamy@hamiltonins.net](mailto:cbellamy@hamiltonins.net) or 419-526-4700.



Yellow Lady's Slipper • Photo By Mark Shutt

## •Ontario Festival begins Friday

*(Continued from Front Page)*

The Patriotic Pooch Parade will step-off at 3 pm, followed by the Ontario 4th of July Parade at 3:30 pm. A professional skydiving team, Fasttrax, will time their jump with the parade.

The Ontario Lions Club's Frog Jumping Contest will begin at 4:30 pm. The is a bring-your-own-frog event.

Food eating contests are scheduled from 7-8 pm

The Pour One Nine Tents have been adjusted to allow for a family-friendly event. There will be two VIP tents — an adult only tent/business networking tent where everyone must be 21 years old and a tent with reserved tables for families. Adult drinks will be available in both tents for those over 21 and non-alcoholic drinks as well. Both tents include VIP seats and open at 5:30 pm with dinner at 7 pm by Dan Lew Exchange. Both have VIP seating for the concerts and fireworks. General admission opens at 5:30 pm. Tickets are required.

Yellow No. 5's concert will be from 5-7 pm. The Jimi Vincent Band will perform from 8-10 pm, followed by the annual fireworks display.

The annual raffle drawing continues to grow. This year's prizes include TVs, area restaurants and even a car from New Haven Auto Sales. Tickets can be purchased at the festival or at New Haven Auto Sales, Sutton Bank and the studios of WVNO FM/WVNO TV. The raffle will benefit Ontario Community Events.

For information on the festival, tickets to special events and to sign-up to participate in the parade or other event, visit <https://ontario4thofjulyfestival.com>.



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### Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

- Patricia Diana Boyd, June 13
- Dimitra Aivaliotis, June 15
- Harold Swiger, June 17
- Lillie Mae Leitenberger, June 18
- Donald Lee Rudrick, June 19
- Kay Ellen Voelp, June 19
- Daniel Gingerich, June 20
- Lorraine Glass, June 20
- Gary Douglas Winfrey, June 20

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State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL

State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX



**LANDON HICKINBOTHAM, 14**, attaches one of the stars ahead of Sunday's ceremony remembering overdose victims. Also assisting with star hanging on the Jericho Wall are Glenn Davis of Lucas, Keith Markley of Madison Township and John Carter of Mansfield.

## Jericho Wall star dedication ceremony remembers local lives lost to overdose

The Jericho Wall in Mansfield now has a visual reminder of the impact of overdose deaths in Richland County.

Nearly 400 painted metal stars have been attached to the east fence of the Jericho Wall of Remembrance and Recovery. The stars were placed as part of a ceremony Sunday, June 22, with each star representing a life lost in Richland County by drug overdose, since 2016.

The memorial art park, which features the artwork of 10 local artists covering 16 concrete bays on a 190-foot wall, is now in its third summer of existence.

It is located on West Dickson

Ave., east of Bowman Street, between West Third and Fourth Streets, in the Imagination District downtown.

The park, just east of First Christian Church and managed by the ARC Empowerment Center, was dedicated in August of 2023, placing on it 85 names of people who have died of overdose, placed with the request and permission of their families. That is to be an ongoing feature of the wall.

Last year, a pavilion was built, sponsored by the Richland County Mental Health Board. Still to come is signage that will offer education for those seeking

help for mental health and addiction recovery.

The stars were painted by several groups in the area, coordinated by Rachael Justice and Jayne Stahlke, who lead a weekly art program at Mosaic Church. Other groups that decorated stars include a women's group at Fusion Church in Lexington, Julie Parsons and her park art classes, Ignited girls in Shelby, and Community Alternative Center (CAC) in Mansfield.

Those attending the ceremony were invited to place some of stars on the east fence themselves, during a time of worship and music.

## Solo art exhibit features local artist Kristi Berg

La LUNA is hosting "burying the hatchet," a solo art exhibition of local artist, Kristi Berg.

Kristi Berg is a poet and artist who has recently exhibited her stunning creations in Mansfield, and co-creator of "the WELLNESS paper", which was created with the intention of educating and empowering Ward 3 in Mansfield by focusing on health and wellness.

Berg was born and raised in Madison, and currently resides in inner-city Mansfield. She is a mother to two divine humans, two exacting pets, and a jungle of houseplants. Kristi is currently enrolled full-time in the BAAS program at a consciousness-based education university, specializing in Creative Writing.

The "burying the hatchet" solo art exhibition will be Kristi's first solo art exhibition, and will be a visual, literary, vulnerable, and cosmic journey courageously introducing the public to Kristi's life, past and present.

Her art focuses on reducing waste by using recycled materials and creating with what she has on hand. Themes of interconnectivity, philosophy, and spirituality emerge as central points for her collective body of work.

The public can view Kristi Berg's "burying the hatchet" Saturday, June 28, 3-6 pm; Sunday, June 29, 12-3 pm; Saturday, July 5, 3-6 pm; Sunday, July 6, 12-3 pm; and Saturday, July 12, 3-6 pm.

Saturday showings will be accompanied by a musical playlist while Sunday showings will be silent. For more information call 419-417-0717.





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-  **Helps users understand their diagnosis, stay independent and plan for the future**
-  **Connects users to their local Alzheimer's Association chapter for programs and support**
-  **Built with input from people living with dementia and care partners**



# •Madison making plans

(Continued from Front Page)

grade football assistant coach 1/2; Jennifer Drake, Eastview Student Council Advisor; Geoff Eckenwiler, boys' varsity basketball assistant coach; Doug Rickert, head girls' varsity basketball coach; and Matt Stancombe, seventh grade football assistant coach 1/2.

Spring 2024 supplemental contracts not renewed include Tyler Amos, 7/8 track assistant; Mico Castelvetera, assistant varsity softball 1/2; Chris Clapper, assistant varsity softball 1/2; Tommy Hill, boys' varsity tennis; Zac Huff, assistant varsity baseball 1/2; Alec Keen, assistant varsity baseball 1/2 and Julia Litt, assistant varsity softball. An extra 1/8 day and other extended time was approved for employees for the 2025-'26 school year.

Resignations were accepted from Alyse Huggins, MECLC assistant teacher; Brittany Tingley, MECLC assistant teacher; Najee Rawls, MECLC assistant teacher; and Jennifer Swartz, MECLC on-call lead teacher.

Hired as temporary summer help were Stacy Foote, Tyson Hicks, Pat McLaughlin, Gary Purvis, Melissa Vetter and Steve Zellner. Riley Thomas was hired as a MECLC assistant teacher.

EmmaLee Dravenstott was hired as a 1-1 paraprofessional at the high school.

Brayden Spitler, was hired as substitute custodial summer help.

The student fee structure for the 2025-'26 school year, the service agreement between Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center and Madison Local Schools for the 2025-'26 school year and the 2025-'26 K-4 student handbook and the 5-12 student handbook were approved.

The purchase of i-Ready assessment and personalized instruction for math and reading for grades K-8 from Curriculum Associates in the amount of \$69,312 was approved.

An overnight eighth grade student trip to Washington, D.C. May 11 -13, 2026, was approved at no cost to the board.

An Independent Contractor Agreement between Madison Local Schools and the Silver Lining Group for ABA services in the amount of \$6,080 was approved.

The first reading of the Hiring of Administrators Who Are Retired Under State Retirement Systems was completed.

The next regular board of education meeting will be July 16, in the Madison Middle School Auditoria at 6 pm.

# Shiloh Ox Roast is July 25 and 26

The Shiloh-Cass-Bloomington Firefighters Association Inc. will host the 59th annual Fireman's Ox Roast July 25 and 26.

10,000 lbs. of beef will be cooked to sell with baked beans, potato salad, hot dogs, cake and pie at the fire station on Delaware Street.

Friday serving is from 11 am to 9 pm and Saturday serving is from 11 am to 7 pm. The garden tractor pull is Friday at 6:30 pm with fireworks at dark.

There will be live music Friday And Saturday nights. All sales are cash/check and all shows are free admission.

A parade will be held Saturday at 7 pm. For information visit <https://shilohfire.net>

# •News Briefs

(Continued from Page 3)

The 122nd Army Band Victory Vibes Concert will be held Saturday, June 28, at 7 pm at Ashland High School, 1440 King Rd., Ashland. The event is hosted by Ashland Visual and Performing Arts. The concert will have a mix of classic rock, pop hits, patriotic favorites and original arrangements.



All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Bellville, 25 Church St., Bellville, will host Margaret Lin with a service created by Rev. William Humphrey on Sunday, June 29, at 10:30 am. The subject will be "Finding purpose in changing times."

For information visit [www.allsoulsuuohio.org](http://www.allsoulsuuohio.org).



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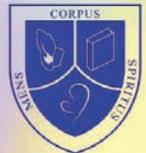
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# MISS OHIO 2025

## Fosson crowned Miss Ohio

The new Miss Ohio, Olivia Fosson, was crowned during a ceremony at Renaissance Theatre in Mansfield on Saturday, June 21. She won a \$10,000 scholarship, sponsored by The Natalie Ruth Plank Memorial Fund, and will move on to comp.

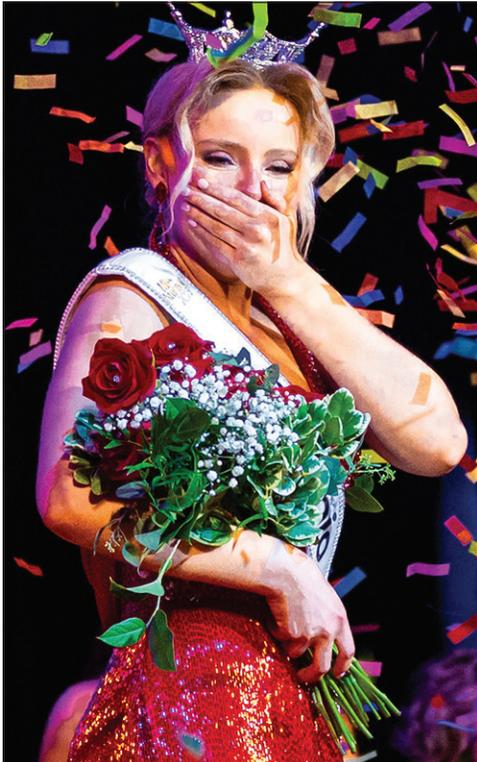
First runner up was Caitlin Seifert, receiving a \$4,500 scholarship sponsored by ArcelorMittal.

The second runner up was Lucabella LaEace who won a \$4,000 scholarship, sponsored by Mansfield Noon Optimists.

Third runner up, Brittney Putman, won a \$3,500 scholarship, sponsored by Mansfield Elks.

Fourth runner up Grace Bryant won a \$3,000 scholarship, sponsored by Avita Health System.

Contestants for Miss Ohio 2025 were Hannah-Grace Rew, Miss South Central; Emily Legenza, Miss Ohio River; Olivia Fosson, Miss Clayland; Brittney Putman, Miss Portsmouth; Madalynn Anderson, Miss Chillicothe; Bryn Hasenaur, Miss Northwestern Ohio; Caitlin Seifert, Miss Central Ohio ; Lucabella LaEace, Miss Northern Ohio; Megan Riehle, Miss North Coast; Olivia Jarrell, Miss Geater Columbus; and Grace Bryant, Miss Ashland.



Photos By Traci Little



491 Lexington Ave | (419) 774-9600



Photos By Traci Little

Jim Heenan

# Kelly's

Dairy Bar

Mini Golf & Driving Range

1280 South Main St., Mansfield, OH 44907

An advertisement for Kelly's Dairy Bar. The background is a vibrant rainbow. On the right side, there is a cartoon illustration of an ice cream cone with three scoops of different colors. The text is overlaid on the rainbow background.



Photos By Traci Little



Little & Junior Miss Pageant



Wednesday, June 25 at 6:30 PM

MISS ONTARIO  
PAGEANT & SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATION

Ontario Middle  
School Auditorium

Tickets are \$5 a person  
Kids 5 and under get in free

Miss Ontario Pageant



Sunday, June 29 at 6:30 PM



Photos By Traci Little

  
Congratulations!

WITH BEST WISHES FROM STATE SENATOR MARK ROMANCHUK

# MISS OHIO'S TEEN 2025

## Allison Payton named Miss Ohio's Teen

The new Miss Ohio's Teen, Allison Payton, won a \$2,500 scholarship and will move on to Miss America's Teen.

First runner up was Miss Maple City's Teen Aly Kramer, earning a \$1,000 Sscholarship.

Second runner up with a \$900 scholarship was Miss Shawnee's Teen Cassie Mattson.

Third runner up was Miss Northern Ohio's Teen Maria Pitchford. She earned \$800 scholarship

Fourth runner up was Miss Buckeye State's Teen Chloe Maybin. She won a \$700 scholarship.

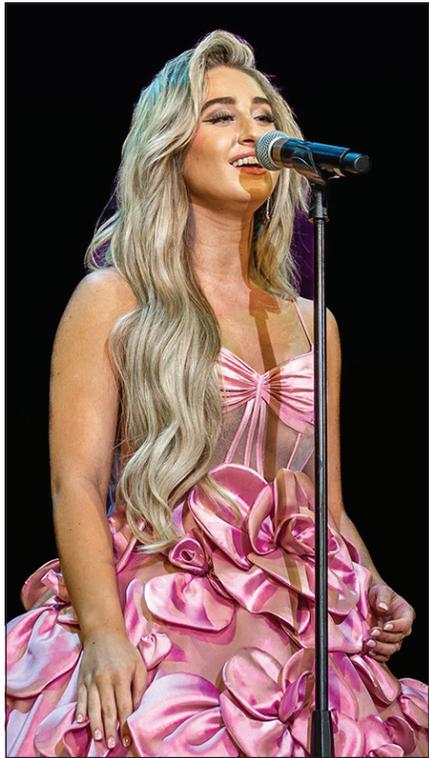
The Talent Award winner, with a \$250 scholarship, was Miss Shawnee's Teen Cassie Mattson.

The Interview Award winner was Miss Shawnee's Teen Cassie Mattson, earning a \$250 scholarship.

The Be Real, Not Perfect Award went to Miss Mansfield's Teen Abigail Kern. She earned a \$100 scholarship.

The Paul Herlihy Memorial Scholarship Award, a \$250 scholarship, was awarded to Miss Chillicothe's Teen Lindi Flaig.

All contestants not in the top five finalists received a \$350 scholarship.



Photos By Traci Little



# ArcelorMittal

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Photos By Traci Little

**65**  
STUDIO

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A group of young people are shown in a line, wearing black blindfolds and holding their hands up to their faces. They are standing in front of a dark background.



Photos By Traci Little

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2025

*Mansfield Christian School Graduates*



**Nicholas Adams**



**Grady Baker**



**Gabriella Barr**



**Alessandra Basilone**



**Elijah Beere**



**Layna Chase**



**Brian Craddolph**



**Dakota Craner**



**Isaac Delp**



**Ruth Echavez**



**Shaniya Gordon**



**Evan Hager**



**Taylor Hahn**



**Kailyn Harris**



**Kaitlyn Hillman**



**Maxwell Hoovler**



**Erin Hope**



**Sania Jefferson**

**Congrats Class of 2025**

*From The Mansfield Christian School Board*



**MANSFIELD**  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# Mansfield Christian School Graduates

# 2025



**Evelina  
Johnson**



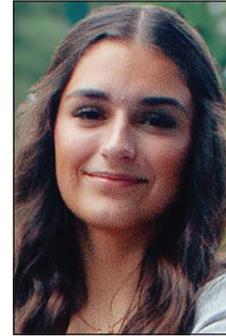
**Lonaki  
Johnston**



**Evan  
Keib**



**Addison  
King**



**Alysa  
Kinton**



**Kennedy  
Klecka**



**Alex  
Maiyer**



**Christian  
Mallery**



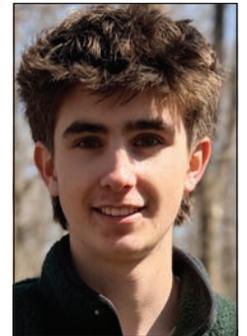
**Caroline  
Martin**



**Everett  
Martin**



**Landan  
McRae**



**Trevor  
Mecurio**



**Victor  
Middleton**



**Nicole  
Miller**



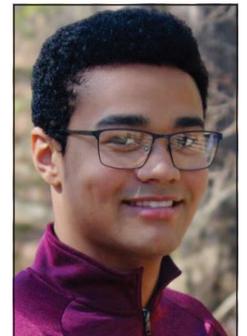
**Claire  
Myers**



**Weston  
Neal**



**Isaac  
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2025

Mansfield Christian School Graduates



Grace Rader



Riley Raspberry



Caleb Ricker



Harjmae Rodriguez



Madison Running



Trinity Shewan



Alexandria Shoemaker



Tatianna Smith



Meagan Them



Gavin Webb



Sarah Williams



Scarlett Ziadeh



Congratulations Class of 2025!

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# Mansfield Christian School Graduates



  
*Congratulations*  
GRADUATING CLASS OF 2025

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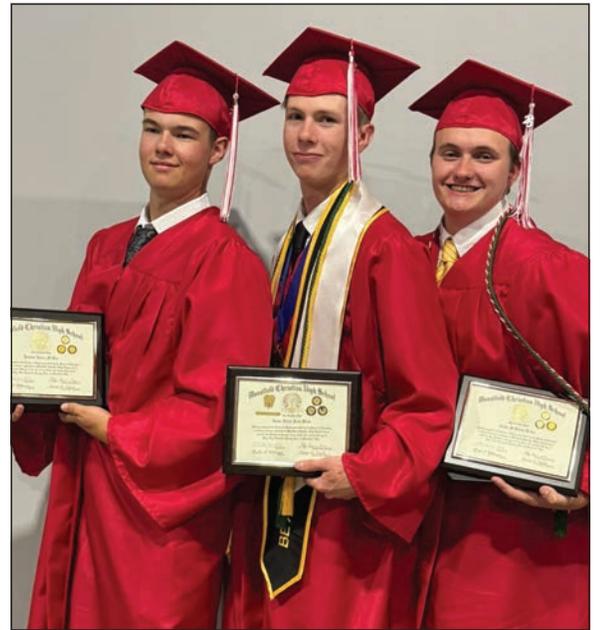


2025

# Mansfield Christian School Graduates



Mansfield Christian Students enrolled from Kindergarten through Senior Year



Happy Graduation  
CLASS OF 2025

# Mansfield Christian School Graduates

2025



## Concert In The Park

Saturday, July 12 @ 6:30pm

Brookside Park in Ashland

Guy C. Myers Memorial Band Shell

Featuring:  
**Evan Craft**

Details at [RiverRadio.com](http://RiverRadio.com)



2025

# Mansfield Christian School Graduates

## MCS Senior Baseball Night



Elijah Beere, Caleb Ricker, Gavin Webb and Landan McRae



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**AFTER**

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- COMMERCIAL
- MUNICIPALITIES
- PROPERTY MANAGERS
- PLUMBERS
- CONTRACTORS



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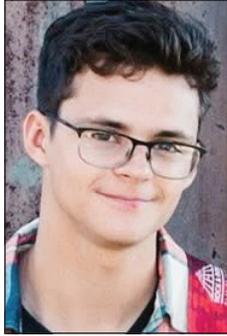
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# MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN ELEMENTARY FIELD DAY



Photos By Traci Little

**2025** *Temple Christian School Graduates*



**Carter  
Adkins**



**Esther  
Ball**



**Evan  
Carroll**



**Malachi  
Keim**



**Ashlynn  
Knepshield**



 *happy*  
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**Class of 2025**



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# Temple Christian School Graduates

## Temple Christian Class of 2025 receives diplomas

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Temple Christian School honored its graduating seniors at the school's 48th Annual Commencement Ceremony held on May 27. Family, friends, faculty and members of the community gathered to celebrate the achievements of five graduates during a heartfelt and Christ-centered ceremony.

The graduating class included Carter Lee Atkins, Esther Sharon Ball, Evan Scott Carroll, Malachi Leo Yezin and Ashlynn Elizabeth Knepshild. Dressed in the class colors of burgundy and medium blue, the students stood proudly as they marked the end of one chapter and the beginning of another.

The ceremony began with a traditional processional to "Pomp and Circumstance" followed by an opening prayer led by Daniel Ball. Ashlynn Knepshild, the class salutatorian, delivered a reflective and inspiring address that set the tone for the evening. She also performed a touching piece titled "Grace" alongside fellow graduate Evan Carroll.

Pastor Robert J. Kurtz presented the Pastor's Award to Evan Carroll and also returned later in the program to share the class address and lead the presentation of diplomas. The audience was especially

moved by the valedictorian address given by Esther Ball.

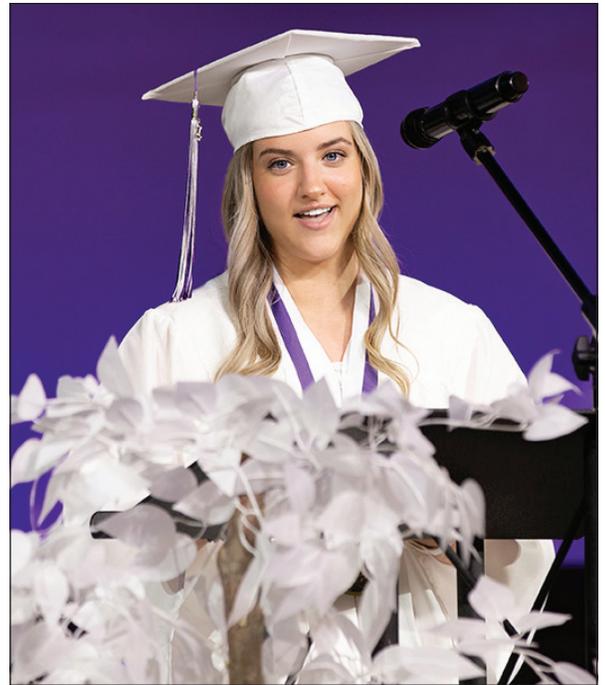
Nicole Boyke, principal of the class, participated in presenting the class and the ceremony concluded with a video presentation of the Class of 2025, showcasing memories and milestones from their time at Temple Christian School.

The evening's message was centered around the class verse, Ephesians 3:20: "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." It was a fitting theme for a class that has demonstrated resilience, faith, and unity.

Class advisor Jenessa Jorgensen, along with attendants Elise Yoxtheimer, Gavin Thompson and Richard Wray, supported the graduates throughout their final year.

The ceremony concluded with a closing prayer from John Carroll, sending the graduates forth with blessings and encouragement for the journey ahead.

Temple Christian School's Class of 2025 leaves behind a legacy of dedication, character and hope — a reflection of the school's mission to develop students academically and spiritually in a Christ-centered environment.



# 2025 Temple Christian School Graduates



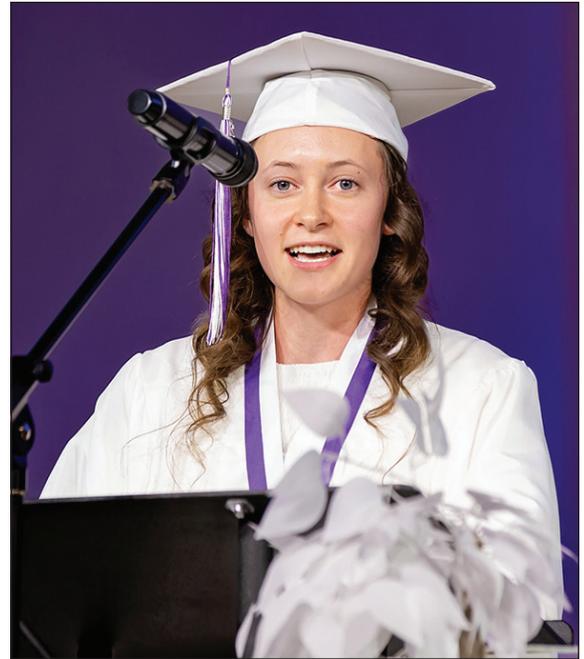
Photos By Traci Little

**Concert In The Park**  
Saturday, July 12 @ 6:30pm  
Brookside Park in Ashland  
Guy C. Myers Memorial Band Shell

Featuring:  
**Evan Craft**

Details at [RiverRadio.com](http://RiverRadio.com)

# Temple Christian School Graduates 2025



Photos By Traci Little

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# 2025 Temple Christian School Graduates



Photos By Traci Little

**Congratulations Class of 2025!**

[www.storysidechurch.com](http://www.storysidechurch.com)

# TCS hosts evening of worship

Photos and Article By Traci Little

The Temple Christian School Spring Concert was held May 13. "It is Well with My Soul," offered an inspiring evening filled with uplifting music and heartfelt messages, reminding the audience that no matter what we face in life — fear, sadness, anxiety, or loneliness — God is always near, ready to carry our burdens.

Through powerful lyrics and passionate performances, students from both the elementary and junior high/high school choirs shared songs that pointed hearts back to the hope found in Christ.

The elementary choir opened the evening with faith and joy. Directed by Alicia Porter, the elementary choir set the tone for the evening with a series of moving and joy-filled performances. Each song was introduced by a student narrator, helping the audience connect personally with the message.

"I Will Fear No More" was narrated by Lincoln Mobley, "Way Maker" was narrated by Eden Huff and "Spoonful of Sugar" was narrated by Joy Stansell, Kaelynn Keim and Megan Evans.

Landon Thompson narrated "What He's Done" and Kayden Harris and Grace Hall narrated "We Will Not Fear."

Student Halina Humble delivered a heartfelt speech titled "He Looked on Me," giving a personal testimony of God's care and love.

The junior high and high school choir sang songs of strength and surrender. Under the direction of Madi Kneppshield, the songs brought depth and intensity with powerful arrangements and strong vocal performances. Introduced by narrator Levi Stephens, the set explored themes of struggle, surrender, and victory through Christ.

Richie Wray gave a solo performance with "Even If" and "Eye of the Storm" was performed by Callen Harris, Halina Humble, Jackson Thompson and Ashlynn Kneppshield.

"I Speak Jesus" featured solos by Evan Carroll, Ashlynn Kneppshield and Halina Humble and "Battle Belongs" was led by soloist Alivia Carroll.

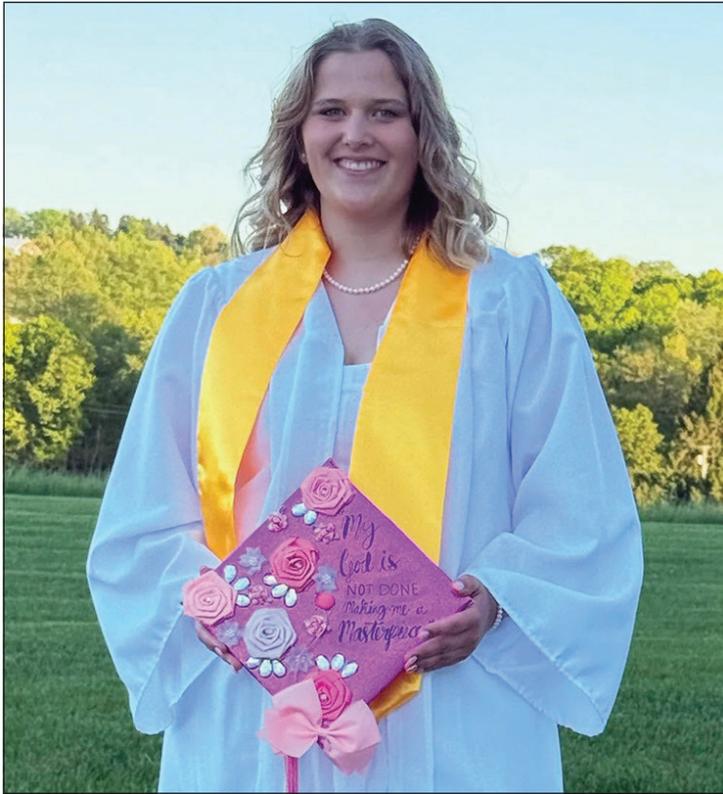
Pastor Rob Kurtz gave a message entitled "It is Well," focusing on 2 Corinthians 4:16-18: "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

Four important takeaways included don't look around, look at the unseen, look up and look forward.

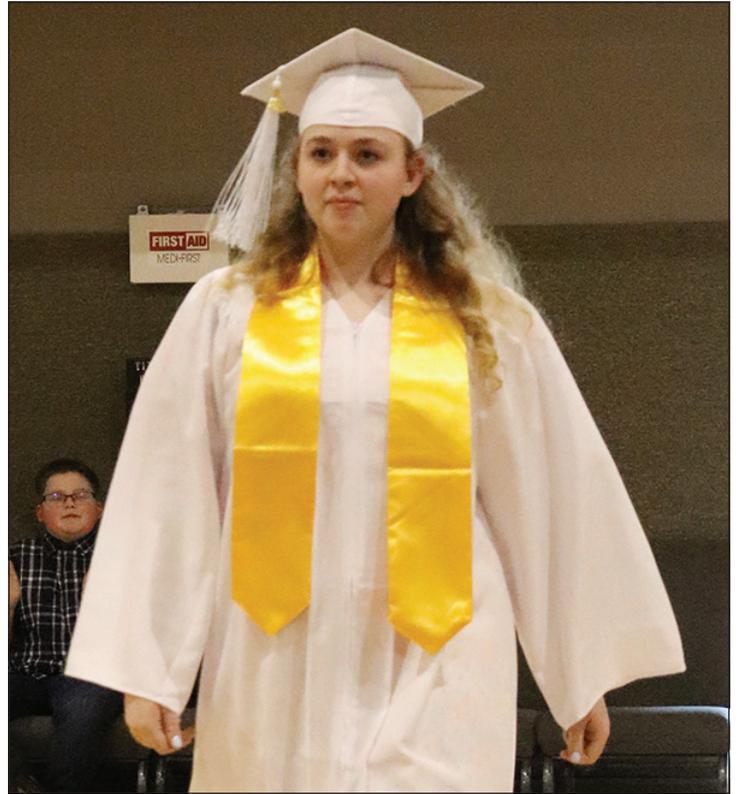
Special thanks were given to those who made the evening possible behind the scenes including Rusty Rissler, sound; Abby McClelland, screens; and Kayla Custer, keyboard.

Music was so important to God that He included an entire book of songs in the canon of scripture. Even in times of heartache, may we all sing with conviction, "It is well with my soul."





**KYLIE POWELL** will be attending Liberty University for a degree in Pre-Law with plans to attend the Law School at Liberty University. She is a student of Richland Academy of the Arts and plans to continue singing and joining the choir while attending and trying out for solos.



**RUIE RUTHERFORD** is a Richland Academy of the Arts student who graduated as a homeschool student. She has been dancing at the academy for the past five years. She loves dancing, being outside and spending time with family and friends.



To Our 2025 Homeschool Senior  
**Kylie Powell**

To Our 2025 Homeschool Senior  
**Ruie Rutherford**

*Congratulations!*



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# Local students graduate from Ohio Connections Academy

More than 480 graduating seniors from 69 counties across the state recently received their high school diplomas as members of Ohio Connections Academy's Class of 2025. There were 285 seniors who traveled to the Ohio Expo Center in Columbus on June 7th to participate in the online public charter school's commencement ceremony.

"While we are a non-traditional school, each year we look forward to the opportunity to celebrate our graduates and this academic milestone with a very traditional ceremony," said Ohio Connections Academy Superintendent Marie Hanna. "These students came to our school in search of a learning environment that met their individual needs. This ceremony is not only a celebration of their achievement, but of their determination to find an academic setting where they could succeed."

More than 35 percent of Ohio Connections Academy graduates indicated they plan to attend a two or four-year college or university including, Indiana University, Ithaca College, The Juilliard School, Miami University, The Ohio State University, Stanford University and the University of Georgia.

Additionally, 45 percent of graduates plan to enter the workforce directly upon graduation, while others plan to receive vocational training, join the military or take a gap year.

Among Ohio Connections Academy's Class of 2025, there is a National Merit Commended Scholar, a College Board National Hispanic Recognition Award Winner, two College Board National African American Recognition Award winners and 23 Governor's Merit Scholarship winners. Several of the graduates have earned full-tuition academic and performing arts scholarships. Several others have earned NCAA athletic scholarships. Overall, the Class of 2025 has received more than \$3.5 million dollars in college scholarships and awards.

Richland County students among Ohio Connections Academy's Class of 2025 are Chase Beam of Bellville, Alexis Desich of Butler, Caylyn Kilgore of Mansfield, Halle Pickel of Mansfield and Vincent Secrist of Mansfield.

The Class of 2025 is the 17th graduating class for the tuition-free virtual school for students in grades K-12. Ohio Connections Academy serves more than 4,800 students across the state and offers a high-quality curriculum taught by state-certified teachers who specialize in virtual education, fostering meaningful connections and a supportive learning environment.

The 2025-'26 academic year will mark the Ohio Connections Academy's second year of its successful College and Career Readiness offering for middle and high school students. Building on last year's foundation, this refined offering integrates traditional academic subjects with industry-leading, career-focused options like IT, business, health sciences and marketing.

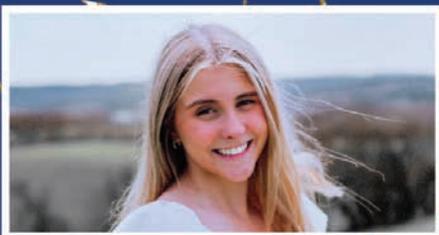
This program equips students with durable skills like leadership, critical thinking and teamwork. Students can participate in career exploration and industry networking opportunities to build confidence, make connections and find direction to prepare for their future.

For information visit [www.OhioConnectionsAcademy.com](http://www.OhioConnectionsAcademy.com).



**CALLINA FRANCIS** will be heading to Millikin University to earn a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance. Her favorite part about being at Richland Academy is the friendship and bond she has made with her instructors. "The one-on-one instructions are great," she said. The voice and piano lessons have helped her to be more confident in everything she does. Callina graduated with the St. Peter's High School Class of 2025.

To Our 2025 Senior Callina Francis



 SAINT PETER'S SCHOOL

# Congratulations!



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**HAYLEE HOLMES** plans to continue her education in Business Administration, teaching and helping in her father's business. Her favorite part about being at Richland Academy is the friendship and bond she has made with her instructors. The one-on-one instructions are great. She said the voice and piano lessons have helped her to be more confident in everything she does.

# Pioneer CTC prepares for coming school year

The Pioneer Board of Education met June 16 to approve temporary appropriations for 2025-'26 fiscal year as well as liability, fleet and property insurance coverage through SORSA consortium.

The board approved the online learning plan for the next school year. The local professional development committee was approved as were the administrators as evaluators for Ohio Evaluation System (OES). Clay Frye was approved an evaluator for OES and he and Greg Nickoli were approved as evaluators for Ohio Principal's Evaluation System (OPES).

A transportation agreement was reached between Richland County Transit Board and Pioneer CTC.

The board approved the Career Awareness Use of Funds Plan, a proposal for aervices with TNA & Associates, a phone agreement with NEOnet, a MOU with Ohio Talent Development Network and a MOU with Ashland University Dwight Schar College of Education.

The treasurer was authorized to pay administrators for unused vacation time.

ArcelorMittal, Shelby, donated \$400 to be deposited and used the Shelby FCCLA to help cover the cost of the POW chair at the Shelby football field.

A \$300 increase in mileage was approved for Gregory Nickoli. Kristopher Kowalski retired as the director of business affairs. Daniel Burtcher retired as student services/EMIS coordinator.

Troy Schwemley was hired as a career tech supervisor on a three-year contract. Charles Curren was hired as a math instructor on a one-year contract.

The board approved a large list of supplemental contracts for extended service for the 2025-'26 contract year. Stipend contracts for certificated personnel were approved.

Grant Sproull was hired as an ISD aide on a one-year contract. Joshua Broughton was hired as a field tech from July 1–Aug. 12 2025. Caleb McCain was hired as a summer custodial worker.

# School Bus Safety Act moves to Senate

State Representative Marilyn John (R-Richland County) recently voted in support of House Bill 3 – the "School Bus Safety Act," which establishes new measures to enhance school bus safety, increase penalties for violations, provide grant funding for schools to apply for equipment specific to their school's needs and educate the public about school bus-related laws.

"I am proud to support the School Bus Safety Act which gives schools and law enforcement more tools to keep our children safe as they travel to and from school," said Rep. John.

The act increases penalties for illegally passing stopped school buses, authorizes installation of school bus cameras for the sole purpose of recording violations of illegally passing stopped school buses, develops a School Bus Safety Fund & Grant Program for schools to apply and improve safety features on school buses, creates public education initiatives on school bus safety and designates August as "School Bus Safety Month."

House Bill 3 now moves to the Senate for further consideration.

To Our 2025 Senior from  
Mansfield High School



Haylee Holmes



**richland  
academy  
of the  
arts**

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# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

## Lexington's Kathrein, Harris co-author book

By Kris Leiter

Last week we chatted with Lexington's PGA Associate Mike Kathrein about upcoming golf clinics at Oak Tree Golf Club. Those clinics were the original reason for our interview but I quickly found out there was much more to his story.

As we spoke I soon learned that Kathrein has even more on his plate than the clinics, co-authoring a book with Lexington graduate Jay Harris. The friends may soon become household names in the sports world as the book, *Game Set Life* is set to release in August.

As Mike began telling me about the concept of the book, it really caught my attention.

I would say most sports books mainly focus on a specific athlete, team, coach or sporting event. Their book approaches sports writing in a unique way.

As we learned last week, Kathrein loves to teach the game of golf and his passion is for helping youth. He wants to spread his net wider, beyond Lexington, even bigger than Richland County.

"A couple years ago, I reconnected with my good friend Jay Harris, also a Lexington graduate. We've been good friends since we were little and he was also a coach."

"We would share stories and one night, he says, 'We should write a book.' I thought he was joking."

"About a week later, he emphasized that he was serious and wanted to put the stories down on paper, so we did."

We have all heard coaches talk about sports and life at one time or another, but the book's concept digs deeper.

"The book is divided into three parts. We talk about grit, character and powersports so, we titled it, *Game Set Life*."

"The first chapter is about telling stories, so the whole book is conversational. Jay and I would pick a topic. 'He would write a couple paragraphs, and I would respond to him, back and forth. We just felt like we were interviewing each other.'"

"I'm very excited about it. It was a lot of work and we've got a lot of people that have seen a sneak peek. They love it so far."

"John McEnroe, a former professional tennis player, endorsed it, as did his brother."

After the name McEnroe was mentioned, I had to ask if he had met the legend of Tennis. Kathrein had not but Jay Harris did.

"When he sent us his endorsement, he mentioned my name. It was kind of surreal. I never would have thought it was me that he was talking about."

"The book also has three different perspectives: an athlete's point of view, a parent's point of view and a coach's view. We took the same principle, the

same events and compared how the three perspectives looked from my own life. Jay and I are all three — a coach, parent and athlete."

"Jay wrote from more of a college aspect, being a coach at Brown University and Bowling Green and I reflected on the high school aspect of it. We just kind of hashed it out. They are two different age groups, so you end up with something a little different."

"And then there's a couple of chapters on how to become a college athlete, entailing that process. We also write about the professional level and what it takes to be motivational and how difficult it is to be a professional athlete in any sport."

"McEnroe liked the mindset of the book. He tries to help athletes understand the drive that is needed in order to become a professional. It's not just based on talent, there has to be a certain drive too."

I had to agree with him on that statement. I have seen sports that are so intense to watch because some professional athletes get into fist fights with blood, sweat and sometimes tears.

"I'm a big believer in winning with people. You have to treat people well."

"Sometimes the management will do a player dirty, when the player may be injured and almost deliberately punish him. One player I know had an injured shoulder and they kept rolling them out to the left, making him run the same play over and over, therefore compounding the injury, when they probably had other less severe options as to not aggravate the injury. Why would they do that?"

"So, the book idea turned out to be a good project. I'm very excited about it. We started it maybe three or four years ago and it was a process, because Jay lives in New York and I'm here in Ohio. We just kept sharing it back and forth. Technology really came in handy. I think we only sat down in a room together, maybe once or twice to work on the book. We had lots of phone calls."

"We wanted it to be awesome, so we didn't want to rush it. It's been refined. We sent a copy to the editor, even before we contacted the publisher. We wanted another set of eyes."

"Our book designer, who admits knows nothing about sports, thought it was super cool. She was reading the chapter on grit. She could relate to it as her personal life has been pretty tough going. She said it really helped her. She's not even an athlete, but that's the power of sports and what it can do for you."



Mike Kathrein



Jay Harris



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## Sports Highlights

### OHSAA football playoff format will change this fall

By Kris Leiter

It's a balmy 90 degrees outside and school has been out for a few weeks but many are already looking forward to football season.

Young football, basketball, volleyball and other fall sport athletes are already voluntarily doing conditioning and open gyms in this sweltering heat.

There will be some modifications coming up this fall, including the OHSAA football playoff format, which will have a major change.

OHSAA will revert back to the top 12 teams in each region qualifying for playoffs, as opposed to 2024, when the top 16 teams in each region qualified.

The first three rounds will be hosted by higher-seeded teams.

Also, the top four seeds in each region will earn a first-round bye. In addition, the first three rounds of the postseason will be hosted by the higher seeded team instead of the first two rounds.

This and many other changes were approved as of June 12 by the OHSAA Board of Directors.

Let's rewind a tad bit from previous years and see how we arrived today from where we started years ago.

From 1999 through 2019, the number of schools has gone from eight schools per region qualifying for the playoffs, which was a five-week tournament.

In early 2020, the OHSAA expanded to 12 qualifiers per region, which added a week to the postseason. That year, the Covid-19 pandemic affected high school sports and every school was allowed to participate in the 2020 playoffs, since schools played a varying number of games. The positive feedback from schools that season prompted the expansion from 12 to 16 qualifiers per region from 2021 through 2024.

"For the last few years, we have been pleased that more schools experienced the football playoffs, and there were some lower seeds that won playoff games," said Doug Ute, OHSAA Executive Director.

"But over the last year, we have received feedback from our schools, with a slight majority favoring 12 qualifiers per region, and we had many conversations with stakeholders around the state that led us to make this proposal to our board.

"We appreciate the feedback we received and will continue to gather comments moving forward. Like we do with all of our sports, we want to make sure the student-athletes are our No. 1 priority."

No changes were made to the 2025 divisional breakdowns and regional assignments.

#### 2025 OHSAA Football Divisional Breakdowns

Div I: 592 and more, 72 teams

Div II: 378 to 591, 104 teams

Div III: 268 to 377, 107 teams

Div IV: 202 to 267, 105 teams

Div V: 157 to 201, 106 teams

Div VI: 112 to 156, 106 teams

Div VII: 111 and less, 106 teams

#### 2025 OHSAA Football Calendar

Summer Period: May 12 through July 31 (13 practices permitted, plus five days for acclimation)

Practice Begins: Aug. 1

Regular-Season Begins: Week of Aug. 18 (first Friday is Aug. 22)

Regular-Season Ends: Saturday, Oct. 25

Playoff Qualifiers Announced: Sunday, Oct. 26

Regional First Round: Friday, Oct. 31

Regional Quarterfinals: Friday, Nov. 7

Regional Semifinals: Friday, Nov. 14

Regional Finals (at neutral sites): Friday, Nov. 21

State Semifinals (at neutral sites): Friday, Nov. 28

State Championships: Dec. 4-6, Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium, Canton

### The Domestic Violence Shelter achieves accreditation

The Domestic Violence Shelter announced its accreditation as a Qualified Victim Services Program for the 2025-'26 year. This honor, awarded by the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV), acknowledges the organization's adherence to the rigorous Ohio Core Rape Crisis Standards and its unwavering commitment to delivering critical, survivor-centered services to the community.

This accreditation highlights shelter's exceptional programs, which include comprehensive support for survivors of domestic violence, shelter services, legal advocacy, case management, child advocacy, human trafficking assistance, and rape crisis advocacy. Key services such as the 24-hour crisis hotline at 419-774-5840 and an accessible website with a chat feature ([www.thedvshelter.com](http://www.thedvshelter.com)) ensure survivors can reach out for assistance at any time.

"We are deeply honored to receive this recognition, affirming the vital work our team does every day to uplift and support survivors," said Colleen Rice, Executive Director of The Domestic Violence Shelter. "Our accreditation reflects our commitment to trauma-informed care, cultural humility, and ensuring that every survivor feels heard, supported, and empowered."

The Ohio Core Rape Crisis Standards emphasize the importance of survivor-centered, accessible, and trauma-informed services. The Domestic Violence Shelter's programming ensures survivors receive compassionate assistance tailored to their unique needs while prioritizing their safety, dignity, and autonomy. The accreditation also recognizes the organization's dedication to serving marginalized and underserved populations, eliminating barriers to care, and fostering inclusive practices.

Beyond its immediate services, The Domestic Violence Shelter plays a key role in prevention and community education, working to raise awareness about sexual violence and foster cultural change. Its outreach efforts, coupled with robust partnerships across the community, provide a foundation for a united response to addressing and ending sexual violence.

For more information about The Domestic Violence Shelter and its services, visit [www.thedvshelter.com](http://www.thedvshelter.com) or contact Colleen Rice for inquiries.

### Scholarship available for college-bound students

The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) encourages 2025-'26 college students, graduate students and their parents in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia to enter to win a \$2,500 no essay scholarship sweepstakes through the Keystone Student Loan Program.

"We're pleased to offer this scholarship sweepstakes to our neighboring states," said Senator Wayne Fontana chair of the PHEAA Board of Directors. "We're incredibly proud to offer the Keystone Student Loan Program, which enables students to cover the gap between financial aid and the cost of tuition with an affordable private loan. The winners of this scholarship sweepstakes will find an even easier way to reduce cost of college at no additional cost to themselves."

Anyone who opts in to receive communications, which will include tips on planning for and paying for college until Dec. 15, will be entered into the scholarship sweepstakes. A total of 12 winners will be selected in August and in December this year.

"We're pleased to offer this scholarship sweepstakes to college students, grad students, and their parents in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia," said James Steeley, PHEAA President & CEO. "There's no essay required so anyone can enter to win a \$2,500 scholarship in just minutes. Perhaps even more importantly, those same entrants will receive information to help them plan for and pay for higher education."

Visit [KeystoneStudentLoans.org/ss](http://KeystoneStudentLoans.org/ss) to enter.

PHEAA also serves millions of students through its loan guaranty, loan servicing, financial aid processing and other programs. PHEAA conducts student loan servicing operations nationally.

# CLASSIFIEDS ODOT construction projects continue

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 June 18, 2025.

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.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-13 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1519 FIREWORKS, SECTION 1519.04 POSSESSION, SALE, OR DISCHARGE PROHIBITED EXCEPTIONS, SUBSECTION (h) PURCHASE, USE, AND LOCAL REGULATION OF CONSUMER-GRADE FIREWORKS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-16 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 509, DISORDERLY CONDUCT AND PEACE DISTURBANCE, BY ADDING SECTION 509.13 LOITERING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Cathy VanAuker  
Clerk of Council  
City of Ontario, OH  
(T-C 6-26, 7-3 '25) 30L

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ODOT construction projects are anticipated to affect ODOT roadways in Richland County. All outlined work is weather permitting and is subject to change.

State Route 13 between Bangorville Road and Smith Road, closed Monday, June 23 for a culvert replacement. The detour route for northbound motorists will be SR 13 north to SR 546 north to U.S. 42 east to SR 97 east to SR 13 and reverse for southbound motorists. Estimated completion: Thursday, July 3.

State Route 13 northbound and southbound, from Hanley Road to Chilton Ave, will have long-term lane closures for a resurfacing project. The northbound and southbound driving lanes will be closed for roadway reconstruction and culvert work. Traffic will be maintained in 10' lanes in each direction with barrels.

The South Main Street entrance ramp to SR 13 north is closed for 60 days for resurfacing work. The detour route to SR 13 north will be South Main St. south to W. Cooke Road west to U.S. 42 north (Lexington Ave.) to SR 13. Estimated ramp reopening: Friday, July 4.

The SR 13 south exit ramp to South Main Street is closed for 60 days for resurfacing work. The detour route to South Main Street will be to continue south on SR 13 to Hanley Road west to South Main Street north. Es-

timated ramp reopening: Friday, July 4.

Access from Chilton Ave to SR 13 will close is closed for 60 days due to resurfacing work. The detour route will be SR 13 to W. Raleigh Ave to Marquis Ave to Chilton Ave. Estimated ramp reopening: Friday, July 4.

The SR 13 north exit ramp to Cook Road is for 60 days for resurfacing work. The detour route for motorists travelling to Cook Road will be to continue on SR 13 north to E. 1st Street to S. Diamond Street to Woodville Road to Cook Road. Estimated ramp reopening: Sunday, July 13.

The Cook Road entrance ramp to SR 13 south is closed for 60 days for resurfacing work. The detour route for motorists traveling to SR 13 south will be Cook Road to S. Main St to Hanley Road to SR 13. Estimated ramp reopening: Friday, Aug. 1.

Estimated completion for the 2025 construction season is November 2025. The estimated completion of the entire project is May 2027.

State Route 39, just south of Leppo Road, will have single

lane closures in each direction for a culvert repairs. A minimum of one 11' lane will remain open in each direction. Traffic will be maintained by flaggers when necessary. Estimated completion this month.

State Route 181 will have single lane closures from just south of Main Street in Crestline, to SR 309. Project work includes pavement repairs and bridge maintenance work. Traffic will be maintained by flaggers. Estimated completion is September.

State Route 314 from the Morrow County line to the City of Ontario corporation limits will have single lane closures for a pavement repair project. Traffic will be maintained by flaggers. Estimated completion is June.

State Route 603 through Richland and Ashland County, from SR 39 to Mowery Road; and from the village of Mifflin to Franklin Church Road, will have single lane closures for a resurfacing project. Traffic will be maintained by flaggers. Crews will begin at the south end of the project at SR 39 and continue along SR 603 north. Estimated completion is September.

## Ashland Balloonfest begins Thursday

Ashland Balloonfest will be held June Thursday through Sunday, 26-29 at Freer Field in Ashland.

The event features a Kids Fun Zone with inflatables and face painting, merchant tents, live music, balloon glow nights, a balloon artist, balloon lift offs, helicopter rides, kite flying, COSI on Wheels and a 5K.

On Saturday, a pancake breakfast and plane fly-in will be held at Ashland County Airport from 8 am to noon. Those attending will have pancakes and sausage with planes and skydivers. Donations will be accepted.

For more information and a full schedule visit <https://ashlandballoonfest.com>.

## LIVE@LUNCH

2025 SUMMER COURTYARD SERIES

	MUSIC	FOOD
JUN 27	<i>Taylor Schlupp</i>	<i>Eshelman's Table</i>
JUL 11	<i>Tom's Kitchen Table</i>	<i>Panchos Tacos</i>
JUL 25	<i>Luke Watson</i>	<i>Grunt Grub</i>
AUG 8	<i>EKG</i>	<i>Mad Meltz</i>
AUG 22	<i>Jevan Cole</i>	<i>Black Willow</i>
SEP 5	<i>Tom's Kitchen Table</i>	<i>Cub Country</i>
SEP 19	<i>Emily Raff</i>	<i>Exclusively Yours</i>

ALL PERFORMANCES WILL BE HELD 11:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M.  
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