



TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com

07.24.25



THE SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT held a program at the Ontario Youth Sports Soccer Boot Camp. Firefighters Richard Metzger (AEMT), AJ Fonner (EMBT) and Paramedic Chris Kohler demonstrated crucial safety tips for the athletes.

Madison School Board working towards tax solution

After several months of collaboration with a financial expert, the Madison Local School Board has completed a comprehensive review of the district's financial strategy and tax structure. The result is a forward-thinking plan designed to maintain high-quality educational services while easing the tax burden on residents — particularly senior citizens and those on fixed incomes.

Through this process, the board confirmed that Madison remains one of the most cost-efficient school districts in the region, offering exceptional value through programs such as career technical education and adult learning opportunities.

Despite the district's relatively low tax rates, the board recognized a growing concern: nearly 42% of Madison residents receive Social Security or retirement income, according to U.S. Census data. This demographic is especially vulnerable to increases in property taxes.

To address this, the board worked with financial consultant Dr. David Conley to develop a long-term taxation policy.

This policy is designed to guide current and future board members in making fiscally responsible decisions that minimize the impact on residents with fixed incomes.

A key recommendation from this policy is a shift from traditional property taxes to an earned income tax model.

Unlike property taxes, earned income taxes do not apply to Social Security, disability, or other retirement income. Instead, they are based on wages earned through employment (W-2 income), meaning many retirees may see a reduction — or elimination — of a portion of their school tax burden.

In addition to this shift, the board explored the potential benefits of converting existing property tax levies into earned income taxes. This approach could provide immediate property tax relief for elderly residents, a goal that aligns with broader statewide efforts to support aging populations.

As a result, the board has developed a plan to replace one of its current property tax levies with a new earned income tax. This proposal will be formally approved at the next Board meeting and placed on the November ballot for community consideration. If passed, the measure is expected to reduce overall taxes for many residents while

ensuring continued funding for the district's operational needs.

"This is a win-win for our community," said Board representatives. "We're protecting our seniors while securing the future of Madison's schools."

The Madison Local School District Board of Education met July 16 in the Madison Middle School Auditoria.

Krista Ferini and Spanish Club Students gave a report on their
(Continued on Page 10)

RCCS welcomes community to Family Summer Dayz Celebration

Richland County Children Services (RCCS) will host the First Annual Family Summer Dayz Celebration on Thursday, July 31, from 3–6 pm. at RCCS, 731 Scholl Rd., Mansfield.

The free afternoon will feature family-friendly activities, live entertainment, food trucks, games, prizes, free giveaways, bounce houses, furry friends from the animal shelter and dance performances by the YMCA Dance Team.

Youths and families will also meet local author of the children's books *Squad Goals*, *Bro Code* and *Money Makers in the Making*, Tena Sykes and student athletes from area high school sports teams.

"When I became the new executive director in February of this year, one of the promises I made was to host an event at Richland County Children Services to give back to the community. This event is open to everyone I hope to see everyone at our First Annual RCCS Family Summer Dayz event," said RCCS Executive Director Tara Lautzenhiser.

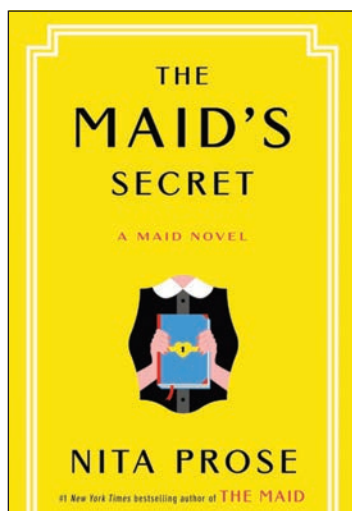
Representatives from local agencies and safety forces will have resource booths providing helpful information at the celebration. RCCS staff will also provide information about adoption and volunteer programs.

For more information or to be part of the Family Summer Dayz celebration call 419-774-4100.

LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review
By Mandy Belczak Gurney



The Maid's Secret by Nita Prose is another Maid Novel.

To know Molly is to love her. She and all her friends at the Regency Grand are all back for another mystery.

Molly finds unexpected fame when a famous antiques appraiser deems her Gran's Fabergé egg a long lost antique worth millions. But things are not always as they seem.

Molly has a lot to learn about the egg and her Gran's history. This is the fourth Molly the Maid story but book three.

Be sure to read the others and the short story *Christina's Special* before this one. The audiobooks are especially good because they are told with a charming representation of Mol-

ly's voice as a neurodivergent person. Four stars.

My rating: ★★★★★
Follow my blog at Green Gurneys at GreenGurneys.com

Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program available

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc., in partnership with the Ohio Department of Aging, has announced the return of the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) for income-eligible older adult residents of Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Richland, Seneca and Wyandot counties.

The program provides income-eligible seniors with \$50 in vouchers to purchase locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs, and honey at participating farmers' markets and roadside stands. All new applicants and past participants must apply online at <https://www.aaa5ohio.org/services/sfmnp-1/>

The fastest and most convenient way to apply for the SFMNP program is through the online application form.

An email address is required to complete the electronic form. Applicants in Ohio who register with an email address will receive a confirmation email once approved and can begin using their \$50 benefit beginning May 15.

For application assistance call 567-247-7101.

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc., located in Ontario, Ohio provides leadership, collaboration, coordination and services to older adults, people with disabilities, their caregivers and resource networks that support individual choice, independence and dignity.



THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —

It has been a long time coming (since 1998 exactly) since a new installment of *I Know What You Did Last Summer*.

The slasher films about a fisherman with a hook who threatens a group of teens after covering up a hit and run were a solid couple of movies with staying power especially by my generation who grew up with them.

This new film, also titled *I Know What You Did Last Summer*, surrounds a group of five friends (four of whom are photocopies of the original cast), that get involved in a similar situation as the original film and a fisherman with a deadly hook pursues them one by one.

Also notable is the fact that original stars Jennifer Love Hewitt and Freddie Prinze, Jr. return as mentors of sort to these young victims.

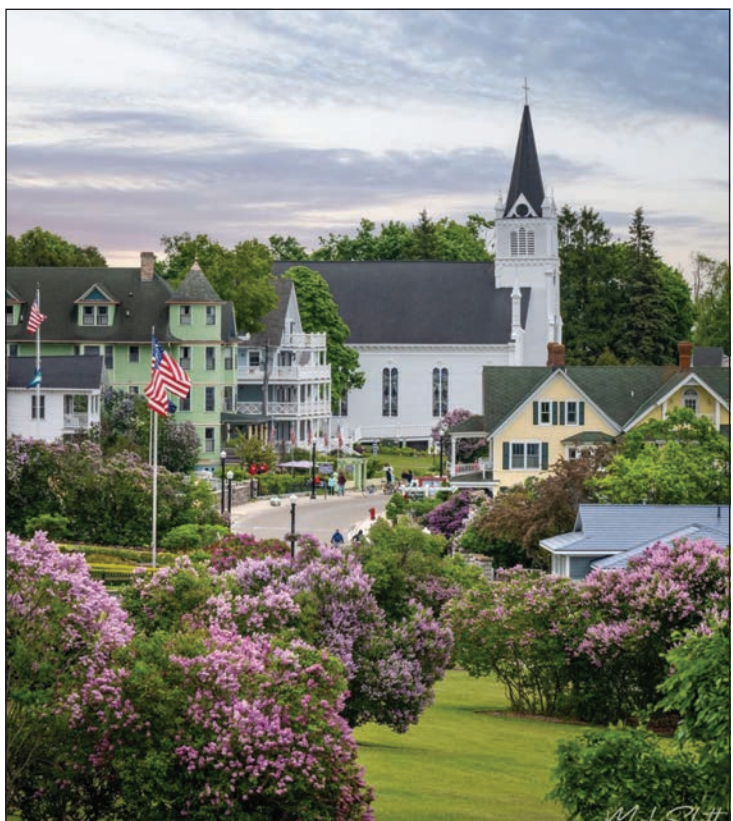
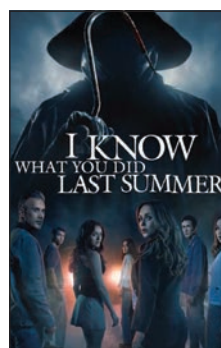
The movie is directed by a new young director who does a

good job capturing the 90s slasher vibe though the movie suffers from a simply terrible script.

The main characters are never fleshed out, the dialogue is ridiculous and even the slasher scenes, while some are good, are pretty standard fair.

Its too bad this movie does not offer anything new or even become the fun horror flick it could be. Also the ending will be very divisive for fans of the series and feels more like a *Scream* movie than a film in this series.

I Know What You Did Last Summer follows in a long pointless line of lackluster legacy sequels. If these filmmakers can't make at the very least a decent, fun slasher that continues the trend of the original films, then it is just as well to leave them alone.



Lilac Festival • Mackinac Island, MI • Photo By Mark Shutt

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Tribune-Courier



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

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News Briefs

State Route 97, between Dill Road and Etzwiler Road, will close Monday, July 28 for approximately 25 days for four consecutive culvert replacements.

The detour route for eastbound motorists will be SR 98 to SR 13 north to I-71 north to SR 39 east to SR 603 south to SR 95 west to SR 97 and reverse for westbound motorists.

The estimated completion is Friday, Aug. 22.

State Route 254, between Fifth Avenue and Piper Road, will close Monday, July 28 for 30 days for a culvert replacement.

The detour route for southbound motorists will be SR 545 to SR 96 east to SR 13 south to SR 545 and reverse for northbound motorists.

The estimated completion is Wednesday, Aug. 27.

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 will be in September.

The Pioneer Career and Technology Center Board of Education will hold its annual goal setting meeting at 9 am, Friday, Aug. 1, in the Pioneer CTC Community Room.

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 Aug. 20, with turkey and entertainment from Olivia Rayburn, music therapist and piano player.

The group will meet for lunch Aug. 6, at 11 am at Red Lobster in Ontario.

For information visit www.lexasc.org. Dues are \$10 per year.

Mansfield Airport Day will be held at Mansfield Lahm Airport on Saturday, Aug. 2, from 2-10 pm.

The lighted drone show is back for a third year and there will be a food truck rally, aircraft fly-in, airplane and helicopter flights, free live entertainment and kids zone. There will also be a car, truck and cycle show.

Admission and parking are free. Lahm is located at 2000 Harrington Memorial Rd., Mansfield. For information call 419-295-2478.

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.

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, July 26 and 27. 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.

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

Remaining concerts are scheduled for Aug. 12, Soul Town Live; and Aug. 26, Oolong Gurus.

The 35th Annual Silver King Tractor Festival and Show will be held Aug. 1, 2 and 3 at Mary Fate Park, 200 Sandusky St. (Rt. 61), Plymouth.

The Silver Kings of Yesteryear Tractor Club will host the event that will include all brands of antique tractors and farm equipment, a parts swap meet for Silver King parts, vendors, entertainment, raffle items and a 50/50 drawing.

Set-up is July 31. For information call 567-275-1105.

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 Sterkel Park. Race day registration opens at 8 am. Sign up at <https://runsignup.com/Race/OH/Mansfield/TogetherWeMove5K>

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Bellville, 25 Church St., Bellville, will Rev. William Humphrey on Sunday, July 27, at 10:30 am. The subject will be "Of Liberal and Liberation, a theological response to fascism."

For information visit www.allsoulsuuohio.org.

Kingwood Walks, hosted By Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, will be held July 8 and Aug. 12, at Kingwood, 50 N. Trimble Rd., Mansfield, from 10-11:30 am.

No registration is required for this Mobility Steps event and gates open at 10 am. Check-in is at the welcome desk and admission is free if participating in the walk. Learn For more information on the walk contact Randy Hutchinson at 567-247-6483.

Mobility Steps meets at The Ontario Center (formerly Richland Mall) from 10 am to noon on the first and third Wednesday of every month (excluding holidays). Walkers meet at the Center Mall anytime between 10 am and 12 pm.

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

Make a difference – Volunteer as a Community Educator



Contact Jennifer Miller (Program Manager)
at jencmiller@alz.org if interested!



What is a
Community Educator?

Volunteer public speakers who deliver Alzheimer's Association programs and raise awareness in their communities.



You'll Need:

A passion for making a difference, Age 21+ with a background check, Strong Communication skills, PowerPoint & Email



Key Responsibilities:

- Present 12 educational sessions per year
- Schedule, promote, and deliver programs
- Help with chapter conferences as a speaker
- Refer individuals to local Alzheimer's Association services and helpline



We Provide:

- Training & Support
- Skill-building in public speaking
- Opportunities to lead and serve locally

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

1689 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 9 am to 1 pm

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

Monthly book sale scheduled for first week of August

The Mansfield/Richland County Public Library (MRCPL) Evergreen Bookshop will be open for the monthly Friends' Used Book Sale on Friday, Aug. 8, from noon to 5 pm and Saturday, Aug. 9, from 10 am to 3 pm.

A preview sale will be held for Friends of the Library members on Thursday, Aug. 7, noon to 5 pm. Memberships may be purchased at Thursday's Preview Sale (\$3 per year for individuals).

Materials (adult, teen and juvenile items) are library discards and public donations offered for sale at extremely low prices. The bookshop is stocked with "new to the store" items each month. All proceeds from the monthly sales sponsor enrichment activities provided by the MRCPL Main Library and its eight branches in Richland County.

The Evergreen Bookshop is staffed exclusively by volunteers in downtown Mansfield at 37 N. Walnut St. (near the corner of W. Third St. & N. Walnut St., next to the main library).

For more information, contact the Evergreen Bookshop at 419-526-4652.

Transportation plan available

Richland County Mobility Management, a program established through a grant from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), and a service of the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, will host a Richland Transportation Advisory Committee meeting on Tuesday, July 29, at 9 am at Hawkins Corner, 2131 Park Avenue West, Ontario. The meeting is open to the public.

The committee meets quarterly to address services and gaps in the local transportation services and develop strategies to better meet local transportation needs.

During the July 29 meeting, the 2026-'30 Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan will be reviewed and considered for approval. The plan is available to review at aaa5ohio.org and public comments will be taken until July 29. Comments or questions about the plan can be directed to Randy Hutchinson at rhutchinson@aaa5ohio.org or by phone at 567-247-6483.

Applications being accepted for Summer Crisis Program

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

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

The Summer Crisis Program assists low-income households or those that have a disconnection notice, have been shut off, are trying to establish new service on their electric bill, require air conditioning, or those with a person 60 years or older living in the home who can provide physician documentation that cooling assistance is needed for their health. Qualifying medical conditions can include lung disease, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, asthma and others.

To qualify for assistance, Ohioans must have a gross income at or below 175 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a family of up to eight members, and 60 percent of the State Median Income for a family of nine or more members. For a family of four, the annual income must be at or below \$56,262.50.

Starting this year, a new, streamlined online portal will be available at energyhelp.ohio.gov. To get started, Ohioans must register for an OHID account, which provides a secure and convenient way to access their HEAP account.

Registration takes less than seven minutes, and can be completed at energyhelp.ohio.gov. Click "Log into the EA portal," then click "Create an OHID," and follow the six-step account creation process. Ensure account security by setting up multi-factor authentication.

To apply for the program, clients are required to schedule an appointment with the local County Community Action Commission. Documents needed at the appointment include most recent energy

bill, a list of all household members and proof of income for the last 30 days or 12 months for each member, proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members, proof of disability (if applicable) and physician documentation that cooling assistance is needed for a household member's health.

For more information call 419-524-4144.

Lex meeting has light agenda

The Lexington Schools Board of Education met Wednesday, July 16. Aaron Hinchcliffe, Central Regional Manager of Ohio School Boards Association was a special guest.

Resignations were accepted from Colin Howell, assistant band director, effective Aug. 20; Sally Giefer, National Honor Society advisor; Sophia Marshall, elementary music teacher; Courtney "Jim" Steele, high school health/PE teacher; and Alex Hertensteiner, junior high science teacher and boys golf coach.

Katie Craig, Central/Western Elementary Guidance Counselor, was granted an extended service contract of 10 additional days.

Hirings included John Davis, Eastern Elementary sixth grade intervention specialist, one-year contract; and Nikole Ringer, Eastern Elementary Cross Categorical Intervention Specialist, one-year contract. Carter Bivens was hired as assistant music director at the junior high for the 2025-'26 school year.

A salary adjustment was approved for Anna Well.

Christy Anthony resigned as the Western Elementary Educational Aide, effective Aug. 15.

Employment was approved for Erika Kovinchick, Assistant to treasurer, two-year contract; and Janet Aldous, 2-hour van route for the 2025-'26 school year. STEAM camp instructors approved are Joshua Mergel, 3 days; and Karli Smith, 10 days.

The board discussed revisions to policies and then went into executive session.

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Brian Prats, July 10
Vicki Lynn Sloan-West, July 10
Dorothy Dodge Lorentz, July 11
Marilyn Ruth Shrader, July 12
James Wilson, July 13
Jeffrey Michael Howell Sr., July 15
Carter Lee Lewis, July 15
David Allen Moore, July 15

View Full Obituaries at www.dignitymemorial.com

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Ashland • 308 Claremont Avenue • 419-289-1552

www.wappner.com

Richland County Fair August 3-9, 2025

GRANDSTAND EVENTS:

Sunday: Harness Racing, 5:30 pm

Monday: Harness Racing, 5:30 pm

Tuesday: Riley Clemmons/Jordan Feliz, 7 pm
(Tickets: richlandcountyfair.com)

Wednesday: Rodeo, 6 pm • \$10 Reserved Seats

Thursday: Truck/County Tractor Pull, 7 pm
\$10 Pit or Reserved • \$20 Back Gate

Friday: Motocross 7 pm
\$10 Pit or Reserved • \$20 Back Gate

Saturday: Demolition Derby, 5 pm
\$10 Reserved • \$20 Back Gate

Monday Senior Citizens \$5

Tuesday Kids Day (\$10 Ride Wristbands 12-4 pm)

Thursday Free for Military & Veterans with ID

General Gate Admission (Includes Grandstand) \$10
Admission for Children 48" and under is free!
Membership & Season Tickets (7 admissions) \$40

Richland Co. Fairgrounds • 750 N. Home Rd. Mansfield
richlandcountyfair.com

Adventures of Mammoth Cave brings outdoor fun to Kentucky

By Jenna Wolford

As we continue our vacation, we leave Kentucky Down Under Adventure Zoo and take a 20 minute drive to Adventures of Mammoth Cave. Our expedition today? A zip lining tour.

As we arrived, we were greeted and soon led to a building where we were outfitted with our harness and safety gear. Our group of nine plus two guides was then off to our first of five ziplines.

We were given our safety instructions and then found ourselves soaring through the trees.

The first zip was a bit of a “warmup” and allowed us to become accustomed to the process. A nice feature of this tour is that the guides do all the work. One guide leads to catch and stop the guests and the other stays behind to send the zippers on their way.

Safety is a priority and special procedures are in place so that zipliners are never at risk of falling off a platform. Guests and guides are always anchored to safety mechanisms.

As we progressed on our one-hour tour, each zip had its own special features — faster, longer, higher. The lines range in length of 300 to nearly 1,000 feet and are as high as 100 feet above the ground. Speeds can reach up to 40 mph.

Along our route we made our way across sky bridges which made this an even more fun hike through the treetops. On one platform we even scaled a ladder to reach a higher launch pad.

The lines span over 60 acres of beautifully wooded area including ridges overlooking mountains in and around Mammoth Cave National Park.

As we reached the final zips we were encouraged to “fly” with hands wide or even attempt upside-down acrobatics.

Kentucky’s first zipline canopy tour, Adventures of Mammoth Cave was a 2022 Trip Advisor Travelers’ Choice Award winner and

has accommodations for children who don’t quite meet requirements for the regular one-hour zipline tour.

A special course with shorter ziplines is available for children who weigh between 35 and 85 lbs. Just the children or the entire group can use the shorter ziplines for the first two line courses.

For guests looking for other outdoor activities, Adventures of Mammoth Cave has something for everyone. Along with ziplining, guests can book horseback riding tours, an aerial challenge course or rent canoes, kayaks or mountain e-bikes.

As part of the aerial challenge course, climbers can progress through 27 challenges including a 30-foot climbing wall and three levels of elevation with the option to experience the “Leap of Faith” from the top of the 70-ft Mammoth Cave Drop Tower.

The horseback rides were voted best one-hour trail ride in the state and is rated for all experience levels.

Adventures of Mammoth Cave is a family owned and operated business which opened as a bed and breakfast offering canoe and kayak trips in 1996. Along with the many adventures it offers, the business has a cottage and rooms available for rent.

For more information call 270-773-6087, email adventuresofmammothcave@gmail.com or visit adventuresofmammothcave.com.

The zipline, horseback and aerial adventures are located at 1994 Roy Hunter Rd., Cave City, KY and the canoe, kayak and e-bikes are located at 1240 Old Mammoth Cave Rd., Cave City, KY.



\$3.00

OFF

Regular Admission
(Ages 7 years+)

TRC3

\$2.00

OFF

Children's Admission
(3-6 years)

TRC2

Valid for up to 6 people with coupon. May not be used in combination with any other offer. Expires 11/30/2024.

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Christian artists will perform at Richland County Fair

The 175th Richland County Fair is coming Aug. 3-9 and among the many activities will be a concert featuring Christian music artists Jordan Feliz and Riley Clemmons on Tuesday, Aug. 5. Gates open at 6 pm with the concerts set to start at 7 pm. For tickets visit <https://app.fairs.com/e/4a69d5626f0f4591>.

Jordan Feliz is known for numerous hits including "Witness," "Never Too Far Gone," "Beloved," "The River" and "Changed."

Riley Clemmons' top songs include "Miracle," "Broken Prayers" and "For the Good."

The fair's opening day is Sunday. At 2 pm there will be a 4-H Dog Agility Show in the horse pleasure arena. A fair opening ceremony and flag raising will be held at the center flag pole at 3 pm. The Jr. Fair King & Queen Pageant and Coronation will be held in the John Hartz Building at 5:30 pm. Harness racing will also be at 5:30 pm.

The Bake-a-Rama Awards & Auction will be in the John Hartz Building at 6:30 pm. Heartland will perform in the Nature Park at 7 pm. They are a contemporary Christian band.

On Monday, the Ageless King/Queen Contest will be held in the John Hartz Building at 2 pm. The Horse Royalty Coronation will be held at 5 pm in the horse arena. Harness racing will be at 5:30 pm, followed by weiner dog racing. The Jr. Fair Dog Fun Show begins at 6:30 pm in the John Hartz Building. The Mid-Ohio Community Band will give a performance in the Nature Park at 7 pm.

On Tuesday, Mason Shane will give a performance of light rock and original songs in the Nature Park at 7 pm.

On Wednesday, a pie auction is planned for 5 pm in the Arts and Crafts Building. Keith Hunter will give an acoustic/easy listening concert in the Nature Park at 7 pm.

The rodeo will be held Wednesday at 7 pm. Grandstand seating is free with \$10 reserved seats available. Also at 7 pm will be the Jr. Fair Talent Show in the John Hartz Building.

At 1:30 pm, the Barnyard Olympics will be held in the show arena on Thursday. The Central Ohio Truck Pull Circuit and County Tractor Pull is also Thursday beginning at 5 pm. Grandstand seating is

included with admission with \$10 reserved seats, \$10 pit and \$20 back gate tickets.

The Johnny Appleseed Squares will meet in the Red Barn from 6-8 pm. The Draft Horse/Pony Under Saddle Fun Show will be in the Draft Horse Arena at 6 pm and the 4-H Style Revue will be in the John Hartz Building at 6:30 pm. The classic rock group Diminished will perform at 7 pm in the Nature Park.

The Light Horses "Easy Gaited Fun Show" will be at 10 am Friday and the Kiddie Pedal Tractor Pull will be in the show arena at 1 pm.

The Jr. Fair Showman of Showmen Contest is at 3:30 pm and Open Free Style Reining is at 5:30 pm. At 6:30 pm will be the Draft Horse/Draft Pony Pull in the Draft Horse Arena and Sweet Umbra will perform older classic rock at 7 pm in the Big Red Barn.

Motocross will begin at 7 pm on Friday. Gates open at 3 pm with practice until 5 pm. This is included with admission. \$10 reserved seats, \$10 pit and \$20 back gate tickets are also available.

The Jr. Fair Livestock Auction will be held in the Show Arena at 9:30 am Saturday. The Jr. Fair Recognition & Awards Program will be in the John Hartz Building at 4:30 pm. Saturday's entertainment will be a demolition derby at 5 pm. This is included with admission with \$10 reserved seats and \$20 back gate seats available. Gone Sovereign, a classic rock and country band, will perform at the Red Barn at 7 pm. General gate admission includes most grandstand activities and is \$10 and free for children under 48 inches tall. A membership ticket (seven admissions) is \$40.

Senior Citizens Day is Monday Aug. 4, with \$5 admission for senior citizens. Armed Forces Day is Thursday Aug. 7, from 8 am to closing. Admission is free with ID to all veterans and active duty.

Kids Day is Tuesday, Aug. 5, from noon to 4 pm. Ride wristbands will be \$10. Sunday through Wednesday, wristbands will be \$20 and Thursday through Saturday they will be \$25. Rides open at noon, Sunday through Saturday.

For the full schedule visit <https://richlandcountyfair.com>.



Richland Academy introduces Salsa for Scholarships

Richland Academy of the Arts (RAA) invites community members to "Salsa for Scholarships," a drop-in energizing, aerobic salsa class on Thursday, July 30, from 5:15-6 pm at 75 N. Walnut St., Mansfield.

For a \$5 drop-in fee, participants will "shake it" with Marden Ramos while learning salsa steps and grooving to Latin rhythms. All proceeds from this special event directly benefit RAA's Scholarship Programs, that supports students of all ages to pursue their artistic passions in dance, music, visual arts, theatre, and martial arts. This event

will kick off an annual series of special fundraising events that will benefit the programs.

The program offers funds that are need-based and merit-based, ensuring that financial barriers never prevent individuals from exploring the arts. Each year, scholarship awards assist students enrolling in classes across dance, music, visual arts, theatre and martial arts.

Since the programs' inception over 20 years ago, the funds have empowered recipients to grow creatively and gain confidence. Last year RAA awarded over \$18,000 to 83 students in

scholarships and received 125 scholarship applications.

Community events like Salsa for Scholarships sustain this support and expand access.

"As an organization committed to nurturing creativity and transforming lives, we believe everyone deserves the chance to explore their artistic potential," said Dr. Michael Benson, executive director of RAA. "Salsa for Scholarships brings our community together in a celebration of the arts."

For information call 419-522-8224 or visit richlandacademy.com.

Free backpacks offered at event

Local Verizon Wireless stores will be giving away free backpacks on Sunday, July 27, beginning at 1 pm.

Verizon authorized retailer, Round Room, is hosting its 13th annual "School Rocks Backpack Giveaway" event.

Occurring at more than 1,200 stores, Round Room will be giving over \$3M worth of backpacks to students across the country.

Any leftover backpacks will be donated to local schools of each store's choice.

Local stores participating are 1443 Claremont Ave., Ashland; 625 Lexington Ave., Mansfield; and 1206 Park Avenue W., Mansfield.

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www.tribune-courier.com**

Christmas in July at Pleasant Hill Lake • Photos By Jeff Hoffer



Mosquitoes carrying West Nile Virus detected in Mansfield

Richland Public Health officials have been notified by the Ohio Department of Health that West Nile Virus (WNV) has been detected in mosquitoes in the City of Mansfield.

"To be very clear, this is not a human infection case, but the first positive WNV mosquito samples in Richland County this year," Joe Harrod, Director of Environmental Health at Richland Public Health, stated. Health Department officials will continue to monitor the WNV positive areas in the City of Mansfield to discourage potential transmission of the mosquito-borne illness to residents.

West Nile Virus is a mosquito-borne virus where human symptoms are generally mild and often mimic the flu. In extreme cases, WNV can cause Encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), Meningitis (inflammation of lining of the brain and the spinal cord) or death. Approximately 80 percent of people who are infected with WNV will not show any symptoms at all. Those who develop symptoms usually do so between three to 14 days after they are bitten by an infected mosquito. There is no specific treatment for WNV infection and care is based on symptom control and/or relief. The best way to prevent West Nile Virus is to prevent mosquito bites.

Richland Public Health's Mosquito Control Program conducts surveillance, treats, and sprays throughout the season to monitor mosquito populations and mosquito-spread disease throughout the county. Residents are asked to eliminate standing water and take precautions to protect themselves and loved ones from mosquito bites.

Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water, which includes puddles, stagnant ditches, and containers such as old tires, buckets, cans, neglected swimming pools and flower pots. Mosquitoes can carry diseases, including West Nile Virus, which can cause serious illness. It is important to apply mosquito repellent when participating in any outdoor activity when mosquitoes are active.

Richland Public Health recommends residents follow these tips to help avoid mosquito bites:

- Make sure that doors and windows have tight-fitting screens
- Repair or replace all torn screens in your home
- Remove all discarded tires
- Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or similar water-holding containers
- Make sure roof gutters drain properly. Clean clogged gutters in the spring and fall.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor saunas and hot tubs. If not in use, keep pools/saunas empty and covered.
- Drain water from pool covers
- Change the water in bird baths at least once a week

Volunteers needed at Flying Horse Farms in Mt. Gilead

By Jasmine Clark

Imagine spending your summer worrying about a brother or sister fighting a serious illness. For many siblings, childhood becomes filled with hospital visits, silent fears and feelings of being overlooked. Flying Horse Farms' Siblings Camp offers these kids one powerful thing: the chance to feel like kids again.

From July 23–27, Flying Horse Farms, 5260 OH-95, Mt. Gilead, is in need of 10–15 more volunteers to make this life-changing week possible.

Roles include cabin counselors, activity counselors and K-crew (kitchen helpers).

Every volunteer helps create a place filled with laughter, games, singing, and campfires — a place where these siblings can set aside worries and just belong.

As one past volunteer shared, "I thought I was coming to give back. I didn't realize how much these kids would change my life too."

Flying Horse Farms is urgently seeking volunteers this month to ensure every sibling has a safe, joy-filled camp experience. Volunteering at camp is more than service — it's becoming part of a child's happiest summer memories.

To sign up or learn more, visit https://flyinghorsefarms.camp-management.com/p/register_staff_m.php

- Turn over plastic wading pools, wheelbarrows, etc. when not in use
- Clean ditches of obstructions so they drain properly
- Eliminate any standing water that collects on your property
- Check trees for cavities that hold water and fill them with soil, gravel, or sand
- Remind or help neighbors to eliminate breeding sites on their properties
- Use insect repellent and follow the label directions

News Briefs in Education

Olivia Workman of Lexington earned dean's list honors at University of Tampa as a Junior in the Spring 2025 semester. Workman is majoring in Applied Sociology BA. Students must maintain a GPA of 3.75 or higher to be eligible for the dean's list.

The University of Tampa is a private university located on 110 acres on the riverfront in downtown Tampa, FL.

★

Julian Davis of Mansfield, majoring in music education — instrumental jazz track, has been named to Youngstown State University's President's List for achieving a perfect 4.0 grade point average in the Spring Semester 2025.

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

★

Youngstown State University students named to the dean's list for Spring Semester 2025. Dean's List recognition is awarded to full-time undergraduate students who have earned at least a 3.4 grade point average for not less than 12 semester hours of credit in the Fall semester.

On this list are Julian Davis of Mansfield (music education — instrumental jazz), Zoe Cannon of Mansfield (primary/primary intervention specialist education; and Michelle Lybarger of Mansfield (respiratory care).

Nominations being accepted for ATHENA, economic awards

The Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development is accepting nominations for the 2026 ATHENA Leadership Award and the RCDG Economic Excellence Awards. Winners will be announced and honored at the Chamber's Evening of Excellence Annual Meeting and Dinner in February.

One outstanding woman in our community will be honored with the ATHENA Leadership Award, sponsored by Park National Bank.

The Richland Area Chamber became the new home for the ATHENA Leadership Award in 2016. It was previously awarded through the TWIN (A Tribute to Women & Industry) Committee in Richland County since 1989. A panel of past ATHENA Award recipients reviews the nominations, which are due Oct. 3.

The Chamber will also honor Economic Excellence Awards winners. The RCDG Economic Excellence Awards are an opportunity to highlight a business, individual, or organization that has significantly impacted the growth and development of the local economy. Economic Excellence Award nominations are also due Oct. 3.

Nominations for these awards can be submitted to the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development at <https://richlandareachamber.com/initiatives/athena-leadership-award/> and <https://richlandareachamber.com/initiatives/rcdg-economic-excellence-award-nomination/>.

The annual meeting will be held on Feb. 11, 2026, at the Mid-Ohio Conference Center, starting with cocktail hour at 5:30 pm, followed by dinner and awards at 6:30 pm. The early bird ticket price of \$50 is good through Monday, Feb. 2.

Sponsorship packages are also available. Call the Chamber office at 419-522-3211 or visit www.RichlandAreaChamber.com for more information.

•Madison School Board working towards tax solution

(Continued from Front Page)

Costa Rica trip and administrative committee reports presented included legislative, athletic board of control, student representative's comments, facilities, board policy, student achievement and the superintendent's update.

Presentations were given by Mike Yost, transportation supervisor; and John Neron, operations supervisor. Treasurer Bradd Stevens also gave the June 2025 financial/annual board report.

A resolution was adopted declaring the necessity of raising an additional \$6,271,368 annually for school district purposes, specifically, current expenses of the school district.

If the additional income tax is approved by voters on the Nov. 4 ballot, it will be effective for five years, commencing Jan. 1, 2026.

A resolution was also adopted declaring the intent to cease collection of a 7.50 mill current expense levy upon approval of a 1.50% income tax on earned income only which will raise the additional \$6,271,368.

The board approved to return the FY24 Self Insurance fund advance of \$355,000 and the FY Self Insurance fund advance of \$865,000 for a total return of advance of \$1,220,000 from Fund 024 to Fund 001.

Resignations were accepted from Mary Jones, tutor, St. Mary's; Emily Hager, kindergarten; John Foust, eighth grade girls' basketball; Brian Lowe, ninth grade football assistant; and Mark Reed, fifth and sixth grade STEM.

Abbey Gray has been awarded the kindergarten position at Mifflin, replacing Kara Ohl who resigned.

Hirings for the 2025-'26 school year include Bonita Rice, tutor, St. Mary's; Bailey Decker, sixth grade math; John Foust, assistant JV girls' basketball; Jayson Stone, head varsity baseball coach; Brian Lowe, Head ninth grade football coach; Joseph Stupka, assistant ninth grade football coach; Victor Skoog, assistant varsity football coach ½ contract; Cody Helbig, equipment manager; Britany Winger, eighth grade volleyball coach; Chad Hutcheson, assistant varsity wrestling coach; Kyle Conkle, assistant varsity wrestling coach ½ contract; Mike Thomas, assistant varsity wrestling coach ½ contract; Jenna Hendershott, assistant varsity wrestling coach ½ contract; Bryan Mosier, head varsity wrestling coach and stipend for additional head varsity wrestling coach duties, \$1,950; David Gilbert, head middle school wrestling coach and stipend for additional head middle school wrestling coach duties, \$1,200.

Madison Adult Career Center hirings for the 2025-'26 school year included Crystal McMillen, financial aid advisory/transitions coordinator; Jennifer Taylor, student advocate/community health worker; Jennifer Taylor, job placement/outreach coordinator; Marie Williams, CNA coordinator/substitute instructor for CNA, medical assisting, & first aid/CPR; Denise Brown, Ohio Means Jobs resource center representative; Melinda Williams, cosmetology program coordinator; Melinda Williams, cosmetology lead instructor; Kim Mincieli, cosmetology instructor; Laurie Dean, cosmetology instructor; Leslie Pope, cosmetology instructor; Stacey Fairchild, cosmetology instructor and nail technician instructor; Cody Holmes, precision machining/CNC technology instructor; Douglas Wilson, precision machining/CNC technology instructor, customized machining instructor and basic welding and cutting instructor (Industrial Maintenance Technology); Daniel Meadows, basic welding and cutting instructor (Industrial Maintenance Technology); Kim Davidson, CNA Instructor and first aid/CPR instructor; Nicole Williams, CNA instructor and first aid/CPR instructor; Wendy Poland, CNA substitute and clinical assistant instructor; James Utt, Phlebotomy/EKG & Medical Assisting Technologies instructor; Tim Stahle, Phlebotomy/EKG instructor; Antoinette "Toni" Shaum, Phlebotomy/EKG instructor; Antoinette "Toni" Shaum, Phlebotomy & Medical Assisting Technologies Externship coordinator; Joe Currati, Industrial Maintenance Technology instructor; Tim Dean, Industrial Maintenance Technology instructor; Jason Phelps, Industrial Maintenance Technology instructor; Jesse Plushnik, Industrial Maintenance Technology instructor; Mike Wagner, Welding Technology instructor; Mike Wagner, Customized Welding instructor; Dalas Roberts, Welding Technology instructor; Cierra Spiller, Dental Assisting instructor; Samantha Brenes, Intro to Spanish instructor; Mike Montry, Heartsaver First Aid/BLS instructor; John Fort, Small Engine Repair instructor;

April Gregory, Customer and Office Support Technology (Microsoft Applications); John Blubaugh, Customer Support And Sales; Rachel Ahrens, Painting Beach Scenes; and Shelly Barr, Certipoint testing administrator.

The board approved volunteers Jesse Walker, boys' soccer; Matt Rickert, baseball; Marc Harris, baseball; Rob Siwek, baseball; Mike Goad, boys' golf; John Pavlansky, middle school boys' basketball; and Dryden Durbridge, cross country.

Lillie Southerland resigned as the assistant teacher at Madison Early Childhood Learning Center (MECLC) and Rebecca Schoonover resigned as MECLC Program Coordinator.

Tina Clark, custodial, was hired as a substitute employee on an "on call" basis for the 2024-'25 and 2025-'26 school years. Amanda Pifher, paraprofessional, was hired as a substitute employee on an "on call" basis, as needed, for the 2025-'26 school year.

Maria Black was hired as an on-call lead teacher for MECLC.

The board approved the Educational/Special Services Contract and Employment Services Contract between the Tri-County Educational Service Center and Madison Local Schools for the 2025-'26 school year.

A Memorandum of Understanding was approved between the Richland County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, Family Life Counseling and Psychiatric Services and Madison Local School District for implementation of A Wellness Team in the school district effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

The NEOnet fee schedule for the 2025-'26 school year, in the amount of \$211,492.46, was approved.

Board policies were read and discussed.

An amended contract with EJ Therapy for the 2025-'26 school year was approved and the 2025-'26 K-4 student handbook and the 5-12 student handbook were also approved.

Changes were made to the administrative benefits list and the confidential classified employee/confidential classified administrator benefit list.

The resignation of Rob Peterson was accepted, submitted for purposes of initiating earned retirement benefits, effective as of the end of the work day on July 30, 2025. Peterson will return as superintendent, beginning Aug. 1, 2025 for three years.

The board voted to renew the employment of Bradd Stevens as treasurer, effective Aug. 1, 2025 for three years.

The next regular board of education meeting will be Aug. 20, at 6 pm in the Madison South Library

The board went into executive session.

The board approved the payment of \$401.25 in salary to Chad Metzger for providing College Credit Plus instruction remotely during the second semester of the 2024-'25 school year to students from South Central Local Schools at no cost to the Madison Local School District Board of Education.

Airport welcomes veterans Aug. 9

The Ashland County Airport is has announced a special Veterans Appreciation Day on Saturday, Aug. 9, from 10 am to 10 pm, dedicated to celebrating and supporting veterans and their families.

This uplifting, community wide event will feature a full day of complimentary activities, live entertainment, and tributes to the men and women who have served our country.

Event Highlights include a formal opening featuring local military honors, flag raising and heartfelt speeches; Veterans group picture taken right after opening ceremonies; performances by bands and artists throughout the day; an historic aircraft display with L5, PT26, BC12D, Stinson 10, T6 and a TBM Avenger.

There will also be face painting, bounce houses, a foam bash for children of all ages, food trucks, vendors and booths from veteran service organizations offering support and networking opportunities. Huey and Cobra rides will be available and free haircuts will be available for veterans from 1-3 pm.

Three hundred drones will take the air at 9:30 pm.

The event will be held at Ashland County Airport 700 TR 1102, Ashland. Admission is free for everyone. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/A.C.V.A.D> for more information.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course – Life on the road as a race team

By Kris Leiter

Last week we learned about the origin of Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course and the founding father, Les Griebing, who fulfilled his dream in 1962 by seeing the track come to life.

This week, we will learn about what it's like to live the dream of being part of a race team — from the "9-5" racing family to a professional racing team.

We start with local Mansfield racer Scott Oliver, a familiar name in the *Tribune* after his feature article last year. Scott is making his way up in the racing world and a few weeks ago at the Sportscar Vintage Racing Association (SVRA) at Mid-Ohio, his father, Keith, was kind enough to take me around in a golf cart to track down some race teams for an interview.

As we were skimming through the upper paddock, Keith spotted a family they met last year while racing in Pennsylvania — the Chilson family from Wellsboro, PA.

Mid-Ohio offers a wide spectrum of racing genres, ranging from the weekend warrior to the professional race teams that live on the road year-round. The Chilson Family fits the "9-5 weekend warrior" category, only being able to race a few times a year.

"As for the SVRA schedule, they have 16 major events a year and a race almost every weekend all over the country. There's two races a year I can swing right now. We've got a seven, eight and ten-year-old, as well as teenage kids in school," said Chris Chilson. "The 10-year-old races dirt bikes and my daughter's in dance so we have a pretty busy schedule and just try to make racing trips a family vacation once in a while."

As with most racing pit crews and staff, they are usually close knit, but with the Chilson family's closeness is the key to success, as the whole family jumps in and joins in on the fun.

"We bring all my family. My wife and kiddos are here, as well as my dad and mom. My dad is the crew chief."

"We're here at Mid-Ohio this weekend for the SVRA, running in group one. I've been running SVRA for about two and a half years now. This will be my sixth time at this track. I ran a champ car series before. We got second in class today."

When he isn't racing he has a regular day job.

"I work for a commercial woodworking company, Hermance Machine Company. We sell and maintain commercial woodworking equipment for flooring, windows, anything you can imagine."

Chilson has some unique wheels for these races, a 1962 Mini-Cooper that has long history.

"The cool thing about this car is, I've actually known this car since I was two years old. Bob, the previous driver, started racing this

in 1990, and we got to see him race over the years. I grew up taking pictures from the start."

"When Bob was thinking about retiring, he considered selling the car. 'With the history we had, we became good friends so he decided to sell it to us.'"

"It came with a .997 (cubic inches) and has a .998 motor in it now. The .997 was the biggest motor you could get in a Mini-Cooper in 1962."

So why would a family from outside the great Buckeye State choose Mid-Ohio for one of only two races a year.

"I love the elevation changes on the track," said Chilson. "I like that it's a mixture between the tight corners, but also the long straights." We definitely do a lot better in the corners with the Mini than the long straightaways. But it's just a great track to be at."

"The people that run the track are always awesome and just very friendly and help us in any way they can. It's just really fun to see all the people and get to know everyone. It's been a blast for me and my family."

"We try to use the brakes as little as possible. That's where we really make up the time, it's on the corners. The car probably does 90 to 95 mph down the back straight-away. We try to just maintain that high speed through the corners."

"During previous Mid-Ohio races, the keyhole always been a real challenge for me. The 'S' curves are always a lot of fun, but the car gets really light over the top, so it's hard to keep maintain that traction. I feel like I got that dialed in pretty good for this race."

On another day I was put in touch with engineer Robin Roemig who came to the O'Reilly Auto Parts Four Hours of Mid-Ohio, a four-hour International Motor Sports Association (IMSA) race, on June 4.

Roemig, from Denver, Colorado, has been an auto racing engineer for 15 years and does consulting workshops as well throughout the year.

He joined his current #5 team a year ago which takes in about 11 races a year — pretty much a full-time job.

"I love this place. It's one of my favorite race tracks to drive, although the weather never cooperates," said Roemig.

"It's very challenging and always puts on a good show. It's got a real rhythm to it. Every single corner leads to another one. There's really no time to take a break. You have to link the whole thing together and get that rhythm down. It's really, really satisfying. If you got the rhythm, you will finally get the hang of it."

So how do you get started in IMSA racing and what is the process of obtaining a car?

"The cars are painted white before we purchase them and they are basically almost ready to race. Once we receive the car at our shop, we put radio and other components in it to make it legal for the series."

"Then they sell you a spare parts kit, and add some telemetry, data and transponders to the car."

We chatted about tires, and since rain was a possibility this particular weekend, there were specific procedures for tire changes.

"It's going to be wet tomorrow, so tire choice is going to be really important. If it was raining the whole race. It would be easy, but it's not supposed to."

(Continued on Page 12)



Chris Chilson and Family



Robin Roemig

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

•Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course – Life on the road as a race team

(Continued from Page 11)

"If it starts to rain, we will go to the wet set of tires. If things start to dry out, we go back to slicks. If it dries out, it's going to be a challenge."

"The rain tires are great in the rain as they come up to operating temperature quickly. But if it stops raining and it gets dry, they immediately start to physically fall apart."

"We will probably pit about three, maybe four different times during the race, depending on what the weather does. We obviously want to pit as few times as possible."

"We are always communicating with whoever's in the car about what exactly is going on. We will ask what the track looks like. It's a guessing game. You don't want to change too soon while it's wet, but also don't want to be too late, and that's the whole strategy of the race. The track has a lot of run-offs, so the water will run across the track. So, even after it dries, there's still some wet spots."

Mid-Ohio is a classic old-school track. When they built the track they didn't come in and flatten everything out. It's natural and the terrain was put here when the track was made, and that's kind of an American thing."

"Most of our tracks have big hills with some going uphill and some headed down, so that makes this series so much fun. It's not just a standard right hand turn. It's a little bit like golf. — there's no such thing as too hard or too easy."

I was also able to catch up with a full-time racing team during the Permco Grand Prix of Mid-Ohio, which took place June 20–22.

Crew Chief Jeffrey Holley manages a team of two drivers, the Number 7 and 57 of the Silver Hare Racing teams, out of North Carolina.

Also part of the team is Lawrence Easley, the hauler driver. Easley, with 35 years of experience, is responsible for driving the semi-truck with all the equipment is needed for an entire race week.

"He's been driving for us, AND he cooks," said Holley. "He cleans and takes care of the hauler and he maintains it as well. He changes all the tires, polishes and keeps us going because he's our heartbeat on the road."

"Lawrence usually gets to the track a day ahead of the rest of the team, just to prepare for anything he may encounter on the road."

"When we arrive we set up our equipment and we'll get the cars out. We set scales up and get the weekend started."

"Lawrence comes in and fixes us breakfast and lunch, he takes really good care of us and makes sure we're hydrated. He's kind of the little engine that could that keeps us going and motivates us."

"If you're taking two cars to the racetrack, you need two spares of

everything rotors, pads, motors, rear ends lines — anything that you think could go wrong, we have to put it on the hauler."

Holley was excited to share about the teams' driver mentorship program.

"We had Connor Zilisch since he was 14 and he just got signed by Trackhouse Racing. He is now in the Xfinity Series, and he's doing the Cup Series."

"He just won his first ever oval race yesterday in the NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Pocono Raceway with Dale Junior Motorsports. It is very awesome!"

"We've done a really good job of taking 13–14 year olds and sending them to the next level. That's kind of what we do."

What does someone who travels around the country think

about the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in Lexington?

"Mid-Ohio is probably one of the best road courses in the world. There are usually 30 to 40 cars in the field."

He spoke about their current race, "We were coming from the back in ninth place, kind of creeping up from ninth to second. It's always a total team effort — from the tire guy to each individual — everybody has a purpose."

"I'm the assistant owner, and they trust me to make the right decisions to put us at the top. There's a lot of responsibility."

"All my crew guys have been away from their families for two weeks. We'll go home for a week and turn right back around and go to Watkins Glen. And then we're off for a month or so."

"We'll go to Canada, then we'll come back to race in our hometown. That will be about November and that will end our season."

"The season starts in February with the West Coast and then Florida. We just won at Laguna Seca and rank second in points right now. We're right there within striking distance after this weekend. We set our team up for success at the end of the year."



Silver Hare Racing took second place at the Permco Grand Prix at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course with driver Rafa Matos.



Crew Chief Jeffrey Holley



AJ BLUBAUGH from the Houston Astros came down to Marshall Park in Ontario to talk to the Ontario Youth Sports team recently.

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE

The following is a succinct summary of the legislation adopted by the Council of the City of Ontario, at their regular meeting held on July 9, 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-06 – A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX REVENUE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF ONTARIO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Cathy VanAuker
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, OH
(T-C 7-17, 24 '25) 20L

Heritage Ohio Advocacy helps secure \$15 million in extra funding for preservation in state budget

The Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit program will receive a \$15 million increase in annual funding — raising the total to \$75 million — following targeted advocacy efforts led in part by Heritage Ohio. The expansion is one of several key improvements secured in the state's newly signed biennial operating budget, reflecting growing statewide recognition of preservation as a tool for economic development.

Heritage Ohio played a direct role in advancing these reforms through testimony before both the House and Senate and a direct appeal to the Governor's office.

The organization's advocacy efforts helped elevate preservation policy during the budget cycle and ensured the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit program remained a priority in final negotiations.

Along with the funding increase, the budget removes the program's sunset provision, eliminates the outdated vacancy scoring rule, and boosts the credit percentage to 35% for communities under 300,000 in population.

Governor Mike DeWine signed the budget into law on July 2, formalizing one of the most substantial preservation policy shifts

in more than a decade.

In a letter supporting the reforms, Heritage Ohio wrote: "Our story is rooted in the belief that leaning into our history, protecting the irreplaceable and reinvesting in the historic fabric of our communities, is a vital economic development tool. It not only drives tourism and investment but also attracts and retains the next generation who are seeking unique, vibrant places to call home."

Projects made possible by state and federal historic tax credits have helped transform communities across Ohio. Past recipients include the Dayton Arcade, Cross Country Mortgage Campus in Cleveland, LeVeque Tower in Columbus, Music Hall in Cincinnati, ProMedica Headquarters in Toledo, the Onesto Hotel in Canton, Spooky Nook Sports Complex in Hamilton, Van Wert Forward, Fort Piqua Plaza, the Wren Building in Springfield, the Bowery Building in Akron and the Newark Arcade.

These redevelopments create jobs, stabilize neighborhoods, and preserve the character that defines Ohio's cities and towns.

Independent studies show the state recoups its investment in historic tax credits within five to 10 years through increased tax revenue and long-term economic activity.

Heritage Ohio continues to advocate for a full set of tools — including the Transformational Mixed-Use Development Credit, the Film Tax Credit and Opportunity Zones — that keep Ohio's development pipeline active.

Heritage Ohio promotes economic growth through the preservation and revitalization of downtowns and neighborhoods across Ohio.

It is the coordinating agency for the Ohio Main Street Program and is the designated statewide Ohio preservation partner with the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Ohio Disabilities Council seeking new members

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council membership is recruiting new applicants interested in serving on the statewide Council that advocates on behalf of and funds initiatives to improve the lives of Ohioans with developmental disabilities.

The 30-member council is appointed by the Governor of Ohio and currently meets six times per year.

Members are reimbursed for lodging, meals and mileage to attend meetings. Applicants should have first-hand knowledge about developmental disabilities in Ohio as well as experience in serving on committees, boards, or organizations.

Applicants should fit into one or more categories listed in the federal Developmental Disabilities Act that include and individual with a developmental disability, a parent or guardian of a child with a developmental disability, an immediate relative or guardian of an adult with a mentally impairing developmental disability who cannot advocate for themselves, an immediate relative or guardian of an institutionalized or previously institutionalized individual with a developmental disability or an individual with a developmental disability who resides or previously resided in an institution, a representative of a local and non-governmental agency concerned with services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

There are immediate openings available for three individuals with a developmental disability and one parent or guardian of a child with a developmental disability. To apply to become an Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council member, complete the online application. One term on the Council is three years and appointees are eligible to be reappointed for a second term.

Questions about the application or serving on the council can be sent to DDCInfo@dodd.ohio.gov. For information visit <https://ddc.ohio.gov>.

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NMLS 618735

Branch Manager - Loan Officer

Stuff the Bus to benefit Madison students

The 2nd Annual Stuff the Bus will be held at Frenchie Roast, 1262 Ashland Rd., Mansfield (Madison area), on Sunday and Monday, Aug. 3 and 4, from 8 am to 1 pm.

There are also drop off locations at Caliber Collision, 892 Park Avenue E., Mansfield, and VFW Post 3494, 853 Ashland Rd., Mansfield. An Amazon Wish list is available at <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/JR8ZMDAVN3M3>.

The event will benefit students in Madison Local School District.