



# TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

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05.21.26



## Mansfield Speedway roars back to life with Comeback Classic

Photos and Article By Traci Little

After years of silence, dust clouds once again rose over Mansfield Speedway last Friday night as fans packed the historic Ohio dirt track for a long-awaited return that many thought would never happen.

Originally opened in 1959, Mansfield Speedway once stood as one of Ohio's premier racing venues, hosting NASCAR and ARCA events while becoming a staple of Midwest motorsports. But after years of decline, the speedway closed in 2019 and sat abandoned for many years.

Now, thanks to former NASCAR driver Matt Tift and his wife Jordan, the iconic facility is officially back. Opening night delivered everything race fans could have hoped for.

The May 15 "Comeback Classic" welcomed roughly 70 race cars across three divisions, including FAST 410 Sprint Cars, Dirt Late Models and Modifieds. Fans filled the grandstands, fireworks lit up the sky, and the roar of engines once again echoed through Mansfield.

"It couldn't have been scripted any better," many longtime fans said as the speedway's revival officially became reality.

For Tift, the moment was deeply personal. The Hinckley, Ohio native built a career racing in NASCAR's Truck Series, Xfinity Series and Cup Series after growing up around dirt tracks with his father.

"I grew up racing go-karts," Tift previously shared. "My dad was the first one that took me to a race. I just got the bug of going to races with him."

A medical issue eventually paused his driving career, but it never ended his love for racing. Instead, Tift shifted his focus to restoring one of Ohio's most beloved tracks.

When he first walked through the abandoned facility after pur-

chasing it in 2025, the condition was overwhelming.

"This place was completely demolished," Tift said. "It looked like it was hit by a meteor."

Since then, the Tift family has invested more than \$5 million into transforming the property into a modern entertainment complex while preserving the spirit of Mansfield Speedway's glory days.

*(Continued on Page 6)*

## Memorial Day events planned

Four rural cemeteries will host brief Memorial Day ceremonies, in a procession, early Monday morning, May 25.

The 10-minute ceremonies will begin at 7 am at Zeiter Cemetery, on Sheets Road, west of North Main Street (Rt. 13) just north of Lahm Airport.

Each event will include a verse of the Star-Spangled Banner, a brief reading, scripture and prayer, and a playing of Taps, to remember all veterans who are buried there, particularly those who have died in service to the country.

Participants will then process east on Richland Shale to Olivesburg Road, then up the former Pavonia West Road to Wolford Cemetery for a 7:20 am ceremony, then east to the Pavonia Cemetery at 7:40 am, then north on Robinson Road to Franklin Township Cemetery for a concluding ceremony at 8 am.

Pastor Paul Lintern of Oakland Lutheran Church has been conducting these processions for about a dozen years.

"Veterans buried in every small cemetery throughout the county should be remembered, and our VA goes everywhere to put flags at

*(Continued on Page 5)*

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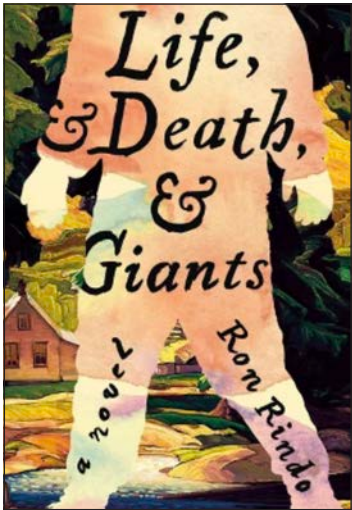
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LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review  
By Amanda Belczak



Life, and Death and Giants is a novel by Ron Rindo that sticks with you and you'll want to keep talking about it.

Gabriel Fisher was born 18 pounds. The sheer size of him took his brother's life during childbirth.

To a small Wisconsin farm town, he grows up to become a local legend for what he can do physically.

Being raised by his Amish grandparents, Gabriel was expected to live a life of humility, but his accolades could not be ignored.

The story is told of Gabriel's life through many different character perspectives: the veterinarian who delivered his birth, the grandmother who loved him

deeply, the coach that gave him a sport to shine, the local bar tender who knows all the details of the town. It was fascinating from start to finish. I truly loved these characters.

These special souls, though flawed, captured my heart, as did their little town. There are moments of joy and celebration and there are moments of tragedy and I loved reading about each one of them.

I especially recommend the audiobook as the reader's voice and performance so perfectly added to the tone of the book.

My rating: ★★★★★  
Follow my blog at [amanda-belczak.com](http://amanda-belczak.com)

Walking series begins at mall

The Voices of Richland County Walking Series kicks-off on Wednesday, May 20.

Hosted by Richland County Mobility Management in partnership with the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. (AAA5), this weekly walking series isn't just about exercise, it's about connection, conversation and a whole lot of community spirit.

Taking place every Wednesday through July 1, at the Ontario Center (formerly the Richland Mall), walkers can stop by anytime between 10 am and noon.

Each walk features special guest appearances from some of Richland County's most familiar faces and inspiring voices.

The guest line-up includes May 20, AAA5 CEO Duana Patton; June 3, Richland County High School State Champions; June 17, Richland County Pageant Queens; and July 1, Meet your favorite local media personalities.

This free, all-ages event is designed to get people moving, mingling and making memories.

THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER  
— By Ian Stumbo —

A movie I completely forgot about was the disaster film *Greenland* from 2020.

Released to streaming in the early days of the pandemic, this movie slipped under many viewers radars.

Six years later, *Greenland 2: Migration* was released earlier this year in theaters and is now streaming on HBO Max.

Gerard Butler and Morena Baccarin return as survivors John and Allison Geraty. Along with their teenage son (Roman Griffin Davis), their compound is destroyed and they must set sail to the nearest safe land, which is England.

*Greenland 2* loses a great deal from the first film. The original was a decent enough story of a

family trying to get to safety as a comet hurls towards Earth. This sequel is watchable though

not that interesting because it lacks the urgency of that first film. It moves at a slower pace as the family and other survivors try to find safety. The movie lacks a real through line as it goes from scene to scene following them on their uninteresting journey.

Butler and Baccarin are fine in the film though this sequel is not necessary and becomes more of a post apocalyptic character drama with some tense moments than a fun disaster film.



Monument Valley, Arizona — Photo By Mark Shutt

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# News Briefs

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

This comes with a 30 lb. box of non-perishable food and a two lb. box of cheese. These items are free to those who qualify by age (60+) and low income guidelines. Recipients must have at least one person age 60 or older in the household. The minimum income begins at \$1,995 per month for a one-person household.

These items are available on the fourth Tuesday of each month, year round. The distribution is held in the South Mulberry Street parking lot. The next distribution is Tuesday, May 26.

★

The Madison Ram Marching Band Alumni Football Game will be held Friday, Aug. 28, at the Madison Comprehensive High School and Stadium, 600 Esley Ln., Mansfield.

Practices are held Monday, Aug. 24, from 2:30-4:30 pm and Thursday, Aug. 27, from 6-8 pm, in the high school band room.

Musicians should report to the band room at 5 pm on the night of the event. The game begins at 7 pm.

To sign-up visit <https://forms.gle/Ez93fK7YLoXQvVsk6>. Sign ups close on Friday, July 24.

For information email [kfanning@mlsd.net](mailto:kfanning@mlsd.net) or [Imann@mlsd.net](mailto:Imann@mlsd.net) for the band and [mpoland@mlsd.net](mailto:mpoland@mlsd.net) for Ramettes.

★

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, May 23 and 24. 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 Lexington Area Senior Citizens Inc., invites those 55 and older to attend meetings the third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 am at Der Dutchman, Rt. 97, Bellville. Cost is \$17 for the meal, with an additional \$2 for pie.

The next meal will be June 24, with a speaker from the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging.

The group will also meet at 11 am on Wednesday, June 3 at Olive Garden in Ontario.

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

★

The City of Ontario's 2026 Concerts in the Park will be held at the band shell in Marshall Park at 6 pm.

Concerts are scheduled for June 9, Canyon Echoes; June 26, I Told You; July 7, Conne; July 21, Oolong Gurus; Aug. 11, Soul Town; and Aug. 25, Red Ball Jets.

This is event is free to attend. Lawn chairs and blankets are encouraged.

★

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. will host a free Senior Spring Extravaganza on Friday, May 29, from 10 am to 2 pm, at

the Mid-Ohio Education Center, 890 W. 4th St., Mansfield.

The Mardi Gras-style event will be focused on healthy and positive aging. Guests will enjoy resources and information on aging-related topics, along with a free lunch, BINGO, an on-site classic car show, music by Randy Velez and a variety of community vendors.

Register for the car show by calling 567-247-6458. Registration is not required to attend the event. For more information call 419-524-4144 or follow [www.facebook.com/aaa5ohio](http://www.facebook.com/aaa5ohio). Sponsorships are available by visiting [www.aaa5ohio.org](http://www.aaa5ohio.org)

★

All Souls Unitarian Universalist of Bellville, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Dr. Paul Robinson on Sunday, May 24, at 10:30 am. The subject will be "Who and What Should We Remember?" For information visit [www.allsoulsuuohio.org](http://www.allsoulsuuohio.org).

★

A special meeting of the Ontario Board of Education will be held in the Ontario High School Library, 467 Shelby-Ontario Rd., Ontario on Wednesday, June 17, at 6 pm. This will held to discuss the development of tax policy with Rockmill Financial.

★

State Route 61 between Stiving Rd. and Jayne Ave., south of the City of Shelby, will close Wednesday, May 27 for bridge repairs. The detour route will be SR 61 south to SR 96/SR 39 west (Main St) to SR 39 west to SR 598 south to U.S. 30 east to SR 61 north and reverse. Estimated completion: Wednesday, June 17.

★

State Route 98 from Fenner/Preston Road to Kuhn Road closed Monday, May 18 for a culvert replacement. The detour route will be SR 98 north to SR 598 north to SR 61 south to SR 98 and reverse. Estimated completion is Friday, May 22.

★

The Franklin Township Fire Department Ice Cream Social will be held Saturday, June 13, at Crestview Elementary School, 1575 St. Rt. 96, Ashland, from 4-7 pm.

The event will feature homemade ice cream, food, bounce house inflatables, Touch-A-Truck with multiple agencies, kids' activities and more.

★

Springfield Township Fire Department will host its first annual open house and pancake breakfast on Saturday, May 30, from 8:30-10:30 am.

The event will be held at Station #1, 3700 Park Avenue West, Ontario and is brought to the community with the assistance of the Ontario Lions Club. Those attending can meet the trustees, fiscal officer, zoning inspector, fire chief, assistant fire chief and road department crew.

Free breakfast and handouts are available for residents and kids.



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### Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Frances Marie Wojahn, May 8  
Jeannette Louise Holmes, May 9  
James "Jim" Elmer Merchant, May 14  
View Full Obituaries at [www.dignitymemorial.com](http://www.dignitymemorial.com)

## Church Directory

#### All Souls Unitarian Universalist

25 Church St., Bellville  
419-886-3497 • [www.allsoulsuuohio.org](http://www.allsoulsuuohio.org)  
10:30 am Service and Sunday School  
Adult RE Book Club (quarterly)

#### First Congregational Church

640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield  
419-756-3046 • [www.mansfieldfcc.com](http://www.mansfieldfcc.com)  
Pastor Brad Bunn  
8:30 am Chapel • 10:30 am Sanctuary  
10:30 am Sunday School (nursery-high school)  
10 am Monday Morning Bible Study

#### Lexington Church of the Cross

236 Otterbein Dr., Lexington  
419-884-2150 • [Churchofthecrosslex.com](http://Churchofthecrosslex.com)  
Pastor-Rev. Dr. Edna Stahl  
Sunday Worship 9:30 am  
Junior Church for 10 and under • Wesley Class 10:45  
5th Sunday of the month-Do Something Sunday AA, Girl Scouts,  
Yoga, Knotty Ladies and Bible Study.

#### Ontario United Methodist Church

3540 Park Avenue West., Ontario  
419-529-4345 • [ontarioumc.com](http://ontarioumc.com)  
Rev. J.P. Snyder  
9:30 am Grace & Eggs  
11 am Sunday Worship and Kingdom Kids

#### St. John's United Church of Christ

2010 Park Avenue West, Mansfield  
(At Hope Lutheran Next to Drug Mart)  
419-522-2813 • [www.stjohnsmansfield.org](http://www.stjohnsmansfield.org)  
[contact@stjohnmansfield.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmansfield.org)  
Pastor Faith Proietti • 11 am Sunday Worship  
Office hours: Mon-Fri 9 am to 1 pm  
AA Meetings M & F 10 am & noon;  
Wed. noon Brown Bag and Sat. 6 pm

#### Trinity Grace Fellowship

1592 Grace St., Mansfield  
419-589-5890 • [trinitygracefellowship.org](http://trinitygracefellowship.org)  
Pastor Larry Carnes  
9:30 am Sunday Worship • 11 am Sunday School  
Bible Study Mondays 2 pm

#### G & M Body & Paint Shop

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#### Wappner Funeral Home

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Photos By Jeff Hoffer

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Theresa Clingan, Mike Jarvis and service dog Naomi

## Local Modern Woodmen members honor hometown hero

Local volunteer Mike Jarvis, of Mansfield, was recognized for countless hours of service to the community during a Modern Woodmen of America member event on May 7.

Jarvis was honored through Modern Woodmen's Hometown Hero program for serving the community with the board at Taking Root Farms and Canine Companions, along with his service dog, Naomi. He also spends one day a week teaching Latin and science to the students at Mansfield Classical Academy. He is an inspiration and a hero to many as they see all he has been able to achieve because he did not let his circumstances define him and relies on his faith.

As part of the Hometown Hero program, members of the Mansfield Modern Woodmen Youth Service Club presented Jarvis with a certificate and a \$50 award grant to be donated to the charitable organization of the honoree's choice. Jarvis selected Mansfield Classical Academy to receive the donation.

"Volunteers form the foundation of a strong community," says Theresa, local Modern Woodmen volunteer leader. "Modern Woodmen's Hometown Hero program gives us the chance to thank those who selflessly give their time to make the world a better place."

Coordinated by local Modern Woodmen members, the fraternal financial services organization's chapters and youth service clubs provide opportunities for members to take part in social and educational activities and volunteer projects to meet local needs.

For information or to get involved, call Clingan at 419-565-0301.

## •Memorial Day events planned

(Continued from Front Page)

every veteran's headstone," said Pastor Lintern. "These ceremonies include the overlooked cemeteries in order to fulfill our commitment to remember as we should on this important day."

All are welcome to attend any or all of the ceremonies.

The Mansfield Memorial Day Parade will step off from Reba Ave. at 10 am Monday. The parade will start forming at 9 am on Reba Avenue, back to Gilbert Avenue and will proceed north on Main Street, then east on Chestnut to the entrance of Mansfield Cemetery. The parade will continue to the back of the cemetery to the Veterans Honor Grounds for the Memorial Day service.

In case of rain, the Memorial Day service will be held at the AM-VETS POST #26 at 1100 W. Fourth St.

## Free community performance of "1776: In Concert" coming to Brickyard

The Renaissance Theatre celebrates our nation's 250th birthday with a performance of *1776: In Concert* at Mansfield's Brickyard. The Renaissance Theatre, the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra and Downtown Mansfield Inc. will join forces to present the one-night-only event, on June 20 at 7:30 pm at The Brickyard in downtown Mansfield. Performers from Broadway and Hollywood, as well as artists and musicians from all over North Central Ohio, will be showcased in the Tony Award-winning musical that inspired *Hamilton*.

Set in Philadelphia, in the days leading up to the American Revolution, the founding fathers come to life as they debate America's future and pen the Declaration of Independence.

Attendees can also enjoy food trucks. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or other portable seating for their comfort.

While admission is free, reservations are encouraged and tickets are available as pay what you can at 419-522-2726 or rentickets.org.

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# •Mansfield Speedway roars back to life with Comeback Classic

(Continued from Front Page)

The renovations include over 5,500 feet of new grandstands, more than 3,000 feet of catch fencing for safety, over 1,000 feet of new concrete walls and one of the largest short-track jumbotrons in the country. Friday night proved the comeback is about way more than upgrades; it's about restoring pride to a racing community.

Emily Walker, Chief Operating Officer of Mansfield Speedway and a lifelong Mansfield resident, said seeing the facility alive again was emotional.

"We're bringing so much more than just dirt track racing here," Walker said. "I've heard so many stories from my parents coming during the NASCAR days. To help bring it back to life is incredible."

Mansfield native Kyle Moore delivered a storybook finish in the Valvoline American Late Model Iron-Man Series main event.

Starting 12th in the 22-car field, Moore charged through the pack before capitalizing on a late mistake by pole sitter Rusty Schlenk to

take the lead on lap 25. Moore held on during a thrilling finish, winning by just 0.394 seconds to capture the \$5,000 prize.

The cheers that filled the grandstands after Moore crossed the finish line brought a wave of nostalgia over Mansfield Speedway fans, many of whom had waited years to hear that kind of excitement at the historic track again.

The victory marked Moore's first win of the season and his third career Iron-Man Series win overall.

"It's wild. I can't believe the track is back," Moore said after climbing from his car. "It's only going to get better."

During the Dirt Sprint Car Feature, Cap Henry fell back early into the FAST, but powered back to the front quickly and, once he got around Danny Sams, he became the first Sprint Car winner back at Mansfield Speedway, taking home \$5,000. He was followed by Danny Sams III and Tyler Street.

Ashland's Ryan Markham was the first Modified winner in the return at Mansfield Speedway, taking home the \$2,000 prize. He was followed by Andrew Hammond and Jason King.

Tiftt couldn't have imagined a more fitting ending for the reopening night. "A Mansfield boy getting it done. It's pretty cool," Tiftt said. "First race back. How about that?"

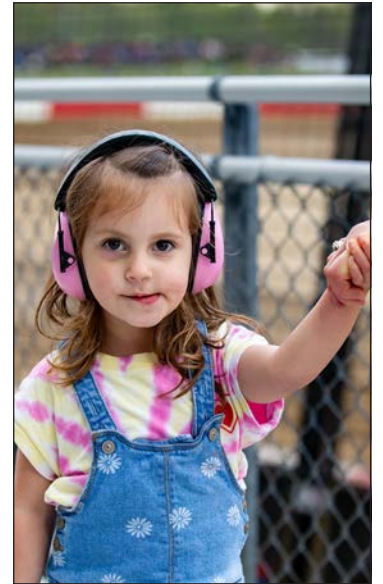
The successful opening night signals what many hope is the beginning of a new era for Mansfield Speedway — one that melds racing tradition with future entertainment opportunities for north central Ohio.

"There's limitless potential here," Tiftt said. "We are aiming to be an entertainment complex that also has an incredible racetrack."

If opening night was any indication, Mansfield Speedway's comeback is already well underway.



Photos By Traci Little



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**The Pickwick Place Cafe and Market**  
 1875 North Sandusky Avenue, Bucyrus

**Revive Coffee Bar**  
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[revivecoffeebar.com](http://revivecoffeebar.com)

**Marando's Cafe**  
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## 2026 MEMORIAL DAY ACTIVITIES:

### PLACING OF FLAGS IN MANSFIELD CEMETERY

Saturday, May 23, at 9 am

Please come help honor our veterans by placing a flag on their grave. Look for our van and trailer at the Veterans Honor Grounds to pick up flags. Starting here avoids traffic congestion at the front gate.



### AVENUE OF FLAGS CEREMONY AT MANSFIELD MEMORIAL PARK

Sunday, May 24, at 1 pm

### ANNUAL PARADE

Monday, May 25, at 10 am

The Mansfield Memorial Day Parade will step off from Reba Ave. at 10 am. The parade will start forming at 9 am on Reba Avenue, back to Gilbert Avenue. It will proceed north on Main Street, then east on Chestnut to the entrance of the cemetery. The parade will continue to the back of the cemetery to the Veterans Honor Grounds for the Memorial Day service.

In case of rain, the Memorial Day service will be held at the AMVETS POST #26 at 1100 West Fourth Street.

### PICKING UP FLAGS IN MANSFIELD CEMETERY

Saturday, May 30 at 10 am

We will have 2 locations to drop off flags - at the Veterans Honor Grounds and by the Vasbinder Monument near the Old Soldiers Ground.  
All volunteers are welcome!

*“Caring For Those Who Served”*

### Richland County Veterans Service Commission

597 Park Avenue East, Mansfield, Ohio 44905

419-774-5822

[www.richlandcountyvets.org](http://www.richlandcountyvets.org)

# Retirees recognized during Madison BOE meeting

During the Madison Local School District Board of Education meeting on May 13, recognition was given to the women's chorus and Mr. Green and the College Credit Plus Published Writers Brady Gretzinger, Samantha Crist, Jaxson Shaffer, Gabriela Vega-Wieland and Trenton Ford.

The board also recognized retirees Lori Camillo, James Dillon, Leann Hall, Mike Leeper, Kim Miller, Holly North, Goldie Spencer and Stacey Wampler.

The Middle School Purple Star Award was presented.

Curt McVicker, director of school improvement, assessment and federal programs, gave a presentation.

A donation of hygiene and household items and gloves, hats and scarves for the Rams Care Closet was accepted from Alyse Huggins, a 2025 Madison graduate. A donation of household and hygiene items for the closet also came from Julie Skripac.

A donation of \$453.07 was accepted from All Souls Universalist Church – Social Justice Committee to cover outstanding lunch debt for students in the Class of 2026 who receive free and reduced lunches.

The board approved the monthly financial report as submitted by treasurer Bradd Stevens. A transfer of \$15,000 was permitted from General Fund 001 to Permanent Improvement 003-9014 for future turf replacement.

Resignations were accepted from Jeff Burkholder, assistant varsity football coach; John Foust, assistant varsity girls' basketball coach; Jeffrey Keener, intervention specialist; Jeffrey Keener, eighth grade boys' basketball coach; Nicole Cox, Madison South Principal; Kyle Gordon, Madison South Assistant Principal; Tara Kemp, intervention specialist; Emily Richter, fifth grade science/social studies teacher; and JoAnna Burk, kindergarten teacher.

Resignations were also accepted from Kimberly Hess, MECLC teacher; Margaret (Miller) Carmichael, MECLC assistant teacher; Mari Medina, MECLC assistant teacher (summer only); Shannon Hardy, custodian, middle school; and on Markley, bus driver, route 22.

Hirings for the 2026-'27 school year include Laura Boccio-Correa, intervention specialist, CC MD, Madison Intermediate School; Wendy Caperton, fifth grade science/social studies teacher, middle school; Sloan Kiser, fourth grade ELA/social studies, Madison Intermediate School; Abbey Gray, first grade teacher, Madison Primary School; and Adolph Hathaway, intervention specialist, CC ED, Madison Intermediate School.

Supplemental positions approved for the 2026-'27 school year are Craig Green, high school drama advisor (musical); Casey Perry, SkillsUSA advisor; Danielle Wentworth, intermediate ELA department chair; Jennifer Branstetter, high school yearbook advisor; and Julie Kirkpatrick, junior class advisor.

Pupil activity positions for the 2026-'27 school year were approved for John Neron, head varsity boys' golf coach; and high

school summer school teachers Troy Schulz, Neely Burkholder and Jeff Burkholder.

Detention monitors hired on an as-needed basis are Josh Boliantz, Kobi Johnson and Brian Hicks.

A stipend was approved for OCC Leadership at the high school for Jeff Burkholder in the amount of \$700 for the 2025-'26 school year, to be paid for through the high school principal's fund.

Second one-year contracts were granted to Tim Amstutz, Elizabeth Barr, Melissa Beverly, Lukas Mann, Alayna Miller, Leigh Oden, Bonita Rice, Partena Tesca, Darla Noblet, Lisa Campbell, Rebecca Huff, Marianne Nommay, Tiffany Zellner, Anne Brinley, Pam Gerich, Phil Mata, Amanda Oswalt, Amanda Henry, Brittani Burggraf, KaLeyha Utt and Michelle Boudinot.

Three-year contracts were granted to Eric Dillon, Abbey Gray, Brian Hicks and Ellen Shimko.

Five-year contracts were awarded to Naomi Adinkrah, Kristen Agee, Michelle Dillon, Jennifer Lawhorn, Jennifer McVicker, Nikki Mosiychuk, Megan Moysi, Mikela Nichols, Kalen Oslie, Chad Reynolds and Theresa Roberts

Matt Godsil is a retired employee given a one-year contract as were Tammy Harris and Margie Mosier.

Madison Adult Career Center appointments for the current school year include nail technician instructors Samantha Garrison and Mariah Burggraf.

Volunteers approved for 2026-'27 school year include David Gilbert, cross country; Tyler Amos, cross country; Joseph Stupka, varsity football; Cayden Clapper, varsity football; and Michael Shenberger, varsity football.

Continuing Contracts were granted to Matt Bartlett, Vickey Buckley, Debra Cicolani, Jane Lallathin, Ray Prater, Chelsea

Smith, Sandy Toth and Brenda Walker.

Olivia Shrader's contract was suspended for next school year.

Substitute employee Chris Bozeman, para-professional, was hired on an on-call basis, as needed, for the 2025-'26 school year.

Three-year administrative contracts were awarded to Matt Blankenship, Sean Conway, Bruce Gibson, Jacob Grove, Lindi Holfinger and Curt McVicker.

The 2026 graduate list was approved on the condition that they meet all requirements of Madison Comprehensive High School and the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce.

The 2026-'27 MECLC Family Handbook was approved.

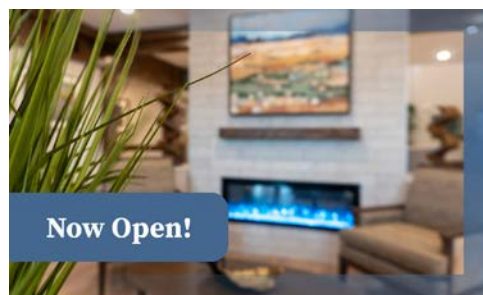
A \$0.50 pay increase was approved for substitute cooks, changing from \$12.50 per hour to \$13 per hour.

A marketing agreement was approved with Gionino's Pizza.

A service agreement between Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center and Madison Local Schools was approved for the 2026-'27 school year. A Memorandum of Understanding was reached between Madison Local Schools and The Center for Individual and Family Services, Inc. for qualified sign language interpretative and/or captioning services as needed from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. A Memorandum of Understanding was also accepted between Madison Local Schools and The Center for Individual and Family Services, Inc. for audiology services from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

A service agreement between Madison Local School and Cardinal Rehab, LLC for Extended School Year Services on an as-needed basis from June 1, 2026 to Aug. 18, 2026, was also approved.

The next regular board of education meeting will be held Wednesday, June 17, at 6 pm, at Madison Middle School.



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# Clear Fork High School Graduates



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**Jhayda  
Ammons**



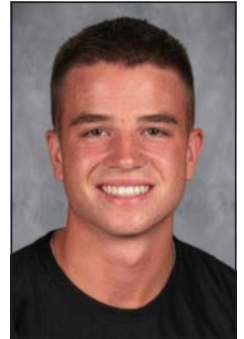
**Tobin  
Amos**



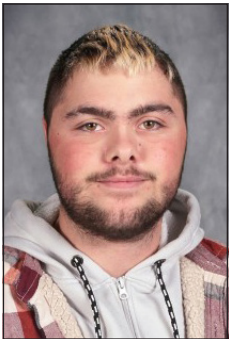
**Landon  
Ball**



**Brinley  
Barnett**



**Ethan  
Beck**



**Perry  
Beller**



**Piper  
Black**



**Kayden  
Bostic**



**Kailyn  
Bowman**



**Clement  
Britton III**



**Alyson  
Brokaw**



**Jacob  
Brokaw**



**Alyssa  
Burger**



**Benjamin  
Campbell**



**Milee  
Carillon**



**Taylor  
Carpenter**



**Ava  
Carr**

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# Congrats

## Clear Fork Class of 2026

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# Clear Fork High School Graduates



**Sabree Caudill**



**Nicholas Coker**



**Mattie Colegrove**



**Reece Cook**



**Leonard Copeland III**



**Tristan Cromer**



**Xander Cyphers**



**Christian Darby**



**Dylan-Lee Darlak**



**Brandon Derflinger**



**Kaiden Dettmer**



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**Joseph Drockton**



**Chance Duncan**



**Laiken Eith**



**Tyler Evans**

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# Clear Fork High School Graduates



**Xander  
Frederick**



**Natalee  
Freeman**



**Estella  
Gandee**



**Abigail  
Geary**



**Lucas  
Goodman Jr.**



**Evan  
Hamilton**



**Jason  
Hamilton**



**Liam  
Hamilton**



**Aidan  
Haring**



**Delilah  
Henry**



**Iona  
Hickerson**



**Brenley  
Higgins**



**Madelyn  
Hite**



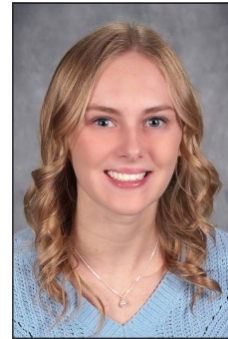
**Ethan  
Hull**



**Addison  
Johnson**



**Aiden  
Johnson**



**Jasmine  
Johnson**



**Zackery  
Johnson**

# Congratulations

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2026

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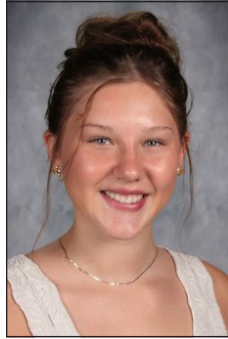
# Clear Fork High School Graduates



**Gwyneth Jones**



**Jayden Kaylor**



**Andrea Kehl**



**Marissa Kenison**



**Trysten Kilgore**



**Branden Kime**



**Nicholas Kinkel**



**Kartor Kline**



**Jadenn Lacey**



**Zoe Lamp**



**Rowyn Lang**



**Cameron Lanker**



**Clayton Lewis**



**James Lifer**



**Jozie Lloyd**



**Kaleb Martin**



**Nicholas Martin**



**Savannah Mazzola**

**Congrats!**

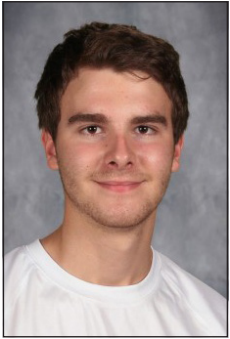


**Clear Fork**  
CLASS OF 2026





# Clear Fork High School Graduates



**Austin  
McFerren**



**Daisie  
McGinty**



**Carter  
Means**



**Julian  
Mills**



**Fernando  
Molina**



**Kenadee  
Muntain**



**Lucy  
Myer**



**Callie  
New**



**Kristina  
Norris**



**Gannon  
O'Brien**



**Gavin  
Ocheltree**



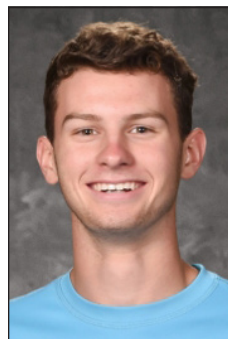
**Jesse  
Omayas**



**Devyn  
Oswalt**



**Bryar  
Ousley**



**Timothy  
Palmer**



**Eliana  
Pelkey**



**Carson  
Penney**



**Landen  
Perry**

# CONGRATULATIONS CLEAR FORK HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2026!

*From the Clear Fork Valley Local Schools  
Board of Education, Administration, Faculty & Staff*



# Clear Fork High School Graduates



**Rhett Peterson**



**Hunter Rahall**



**Izzabelle Randolph**



**Garrett Ranshaw**



**Christopher Ransom**



**Bailee Riddle**



**Selena Ross**



**Porter Schmidt**



**Myles Sharp**



**September Shaum**



**Xavier Shaum**



**Isabella Sherman**



**Matthew Shutt**



**Kylie Sidle**



**Hadley Slaughter**



**Jacob Slessman**



**Faith Smith**



**Clinton Stallard**

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*Congratulations!*  
**2026 Graduates**



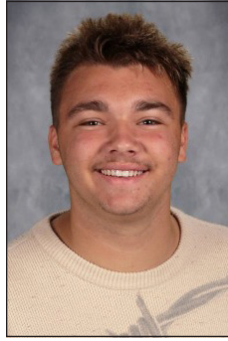
# Clear Fork High School Graduates



**Rozalyn Stover**



**Shelbi Sullivan**



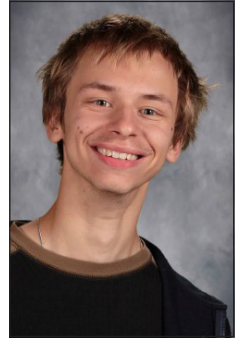
**Ian Symsick**



**Gavin Thompson**



**Paisley Thrush**



**Michael Tokar**



**Liliana Trunzo**



**Seth Vail**



**Audrey Vanausdle**



**Gavin Walker**



**Adam Wallis**



**Mason Walls**



**Zayn Weemhoff**



**Gauge Wendling**



**Colton Wenger**



**Ava Wharton**



**Sophia Wharton**



**Mia Wilson**

**richland academy arts**

*Congratulations!*

To Our 2026 Clear Fork and Knox County Career Center Seniors

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**Mia Wilson (Clear Fork)**



**Isabella Oster (KCCC)**

# Clear Fork High School Graduates



Sophia Wilson



Ashtyn Wine



Nathaniel Wine



Makenna Wuertz



Jacob Zack

Not Pictured:  
Adrik Dudgeon



## CLEAR FORK HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2026 *Senior Bests*

- Best Hair:** Ben Campbell & Kenadee Muntain
- Teacher's Pet:** Joe Drockton & Sophia Wilson
- Most Miles Logged in the Hallway:** Julian Mills & Reece Cook
- Most Athletic:** Jacob Brokaw & Ashtyn Wine
- Most Musical:** Joe Drockton & Sabree Caudill
- Most Involved:** Clinton Stallard & Mia Wilson
- Best Smile:** Porter Schmidt & Ashtyn Wine
- Best Laugh:** Ian Symsick & Ashtyn Wine
- Best Eyes:** Porter Schmidt & Andrea Kehl
- Best Dressed:** Devyn Oswalt & TIE of Audrey Vanausdle & Kenadee Muntain
- Best Friends:** Faith Smith & Kenadee Muntain
- Best Personality:** Nate Wine & Ashtyn Wine
- Worst Case of Senioritis:** Sophia Wharton & TIE of Devyn Oswalt & Xander Cyphers
- Born in the Wrong Decade:** Michael Tokar & Gwen Jones
- Most Artistic:** Jacob Zack & Liliana Trunzo
- Most School Spirit:** Clinton Stallard & Audrey Vanausdle
- Class Clown:** Nate Wine & Ashtyn Wine
- The Couple that Never Was:** Tobin Amos & Ashtyn Wine
- Worst Driver:** Julian Mills & Reece Cook



Class of 2026  
Clear Fork Colts  
Football

*Congrats Graduates!*

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# Clear Fork High School Graduates

## Clear Fork Colts Soccer Senior Night

Sept. 23, 2025 Clear Fork 4 – Highland 1

#12 Jadenn Lacey and #23 Nick Martin

Photos Courtesy of Jill Schlosser/Pics by Jill



**Congrats 2026 Graduates!**

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# Clear Fork High School Graduates



THE CLEAR FORK DAIRY BELLE'S 2025-'26 seniors are Abbi Geary, Milee Carillon, Ava Carr, Caroline Dill, Taylor Carpenter, Aly Brokaw and Callie New.



CLEAR FORK Future Farmers of America's "Drive Your Tractor to School Day" was held April 24.



SENIORS IN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION program at Knox County Career Center participated in Ohio's Health and Human Services' Early Childhood Signing Day. These students have committed to continuing education or employment in the field after high school. Pictured are Dani, Addyson, Brenley Higgins of Clear Fork and Kayleen.



# Congratulations Graduates!



# Clear Fork High School Graduates

## Clear Fork Colts Senior Night October 10, 2025

Photos Courtesy of Jill Schlosser/Pics by Jill



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# Clear Fork High School Graduates



## Clear Fork Colts Senior Night

October 10, 2025

Photos Courtesy of Jill Schlosser/Pics by Jill



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congrats  
Class of 2026

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# Clear Fork High School Graduates

## Clear Fork Colts Senior Night

October 10, 2025

Photos Courtesy of Jill Schlosser/Pics by Jill



# CONGRATULATIONS

## CLEAR FORK HIGH SCHOOL

### CLASS OF 2026!



# ArcelorMittal

# Clear Fork High School Graduates



## Clear Fork Colts Senior Night

October 10, 2025

Photos Courtesy of Jill Schlosser/Pics by Jill



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# Clear Fork High School Graduates

## KCCC experiences shape futures of two Clear Fork seniors

By Traci Little

BELLVILLE — As graduation approaches for the Clear Fork High School Class of 2026, two students are already stepping confidently into their futures thanks to hands-on experiences gained through the Knox County Career Center.

For seniors Evan Hamilton and Iona Hickerson, the decision to attend the career center became more than just a change in schedule — it helped shape career goals, build confidence and open doors to opportunities they may never have discovered otherwise.

Hamilton, who has attended Clear Fork since second grade, said he initially chose the career center because he wanted to learn something new and gain hands-on experience. At first, he was hesitant because many of his friends planned to stay at the high school, but that quickly changed once he realized how much he enjoyed the program.

“The Knox County Career Center has shaped my future completely,” Hamilton shared. “As a sophomore in high school, I had no idea what I wanted to do. Now I know exactly what I want to do.”

Hamilton currently works for Kokosing Construction in Fredericktown in the form shop through work-based learning. His week includes working Monday through Thursday before heading to track practice and returning to school on Fridays. During the winter, he also balanced a second job at Snow Trails while maintaining time for friends and extracurricular activities. He is also a four-year letterman in track, a captain of the football team and an All-Ohio athlete.

Through the career center, Hamilton has learned a wide vari-

ety of construction and trade skills, including framing walls, dry-wall installation, pouring concrete, operating heavy equipment and equipment maintenance. After graduation, he plans to continue working while pursuing acceptance into the operators union and hopes to eventually work in Michigan as a laborer.

He credits his parents for supporting his decision and encouraging him as he discovered a career path that fit his interests and strengths.

“If someone is unsure, they should absolutely go,” Hamilton said of the career center. “You will learn skills you can use not just in a career, but at home too. You’ll also make some of your best friends and meet some great mentors.”

Like Hamilton, Hickerson entered the career center unsure of what career path she wanted to pursue. She said attending the Knox County Career Center gave her opportunities to explore multiple interests while growing personally and professionally.

“I didn’t know what kind of job I wanted, so I thought the career center would help,” Hickerson said. “The career center definitely did help me. I’m still not 100% sure what job I want, but I have lots of options and a better idea of what kind of job I will enjoy.”

A member of FFA, track and tennis during high school, Hickerson chose the health technologies program at KCCC after seeking advice from teachers and family members. She said the experience challenged her to become more independent, confident and willing to step outside her comfort zone.

Throughout her senior year, Hickerson balanced school, work and extensive certification. (Continued on Page 25)



Evan Hamilton



Iona Hickerson



## CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2026!

We are proud of our  
Clear Fork KCCC graduates!  
KCCC and KTC  
enjoy our partnership  
with Clear Fork and are here  
for your training needs.



# Clear Fork High School Graduates



## •KCCC experiences shape futures of two Clear Fork seniors

(Continued from Page 24)

-tion training. She currently works as a patient care assistant in the ICU at Knox Community Hospital and also works as a state-tested nursing assistant at the Ohio Eastern Star Home.

In addition to earning certifications in EKG, phlebotomy and medical assisting, Hickerson also completed EMT training through the Knox Technical Center and recently earned her 140-hour fire certification. She is currently working toward completing her Fire II certification and hopes to join a fire department this summer to continue gaining experience.

Hickerson said the experiences taught her how to work under pressure, stay calm in stressful situations and better care for others. "A big part of my motivation is God," Hickerson said.

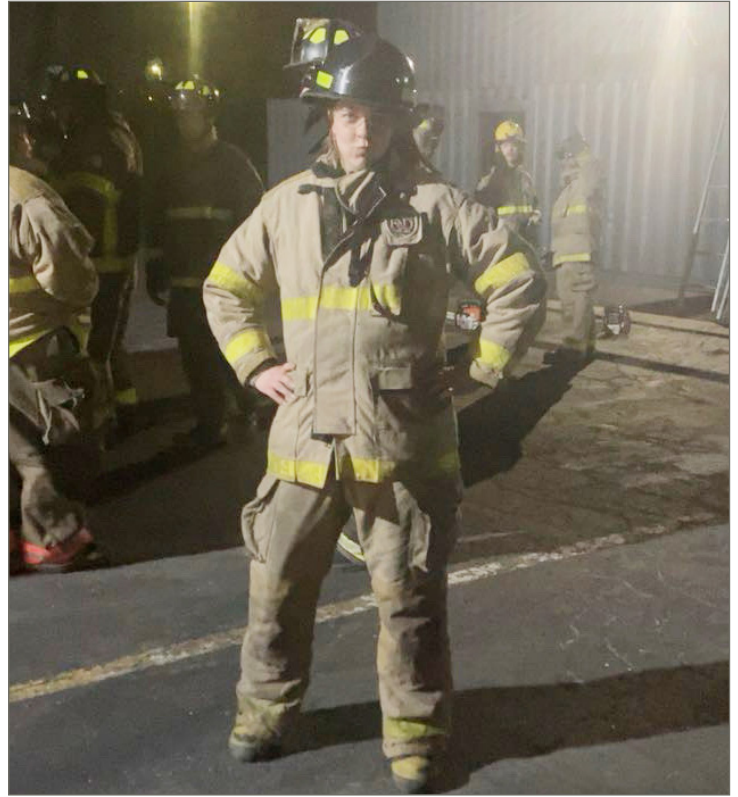
"I've been growing a lot in my faith, and the love I have for people is so strong. It keeps me going because God loves me so much and helps me pour out my love to others."

She encourages younger students to explore as many opportunities as possible through job shadowing and hands-on experiences.

"I would definitely recommend the career center," Hickerson said. "It has helped me a lot, and they give you so many opportunities and offer the help you need."

As both students prepare to graduate from Clear Fork High School, their stories reflect how career-based education can help students discover passions, develop practical skills and build confidence for the future.

Whether entering the workforce immediately or continuing their education, Hamilton and Hickerson are already carrying valuable experiences into the next chapter of their lives.



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# Clear Fork High School Graduates



## Clear Fork Valley Foundation honors students during awards dinner

Photos and Article By Traci Little

**BUTLER** — The Clear Fork Valley Foundation celebrated student achievement, scholarship recipients and community support during its 2026 Annual Awards Dinner held Monday, May 18 at the Butler Event Center.

The evening brought together students, families, educators, donors and community members to recognize the accomplishments of Clear Fork seniors receiving scholarships through the foundation and its many endowments.

According to the program, the Clear Fork Valley Foundation has provided scholarships to deserving students for 34 years. This year, 29 students received annual scholarship awards recognizing academic achievement, leadership, hard work and community service.

The evening's program included a welcome and closing from Andy Miller, an invocation by Bryan McClelland and scholarship presentations led by Sue Brown. Dinner was provided by On the Rise Bar-B-Que & Catering.

Scholarships awarded included a variety of memorial, academic, arts, humanitarian and skilled trades scholarships funded through generous community endowments and contributions. Organizers noted that each scholarship reflects the wishes and legacy of the families who established them.

The foundation also recognized the Butler Event Center for hosting the event and thanked Clear Fork National Honor Society members for assisting throughout the evening.

The Clear Fork Valley Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting educational opportunities for Clear Fork Valley students and teachers, continues its mission of "Planting the Seed" through scholarships, educational support and community involvement.





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# Clear Fork High School Graduates



## Clear Fork Valley Foundation 2026 Annual Awards Dinner

Photos By Traci Little



Clear Fork Valley  
Foundation

*Planting the seed*



**Congratulations to the 2026  
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# Clear Fork High School Graduates

## Clear Fork Valley Foundation 2026 Annual Awards Dinner



# Clear Fork High School Graduates



## Clear Fork Valley Foundation 2026 Annual Awards Dinner



Photos By Traci Little



# Junior Achievement helps students explore bright futures

Photos and Article By Traci Little

ASHLAND — Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio continues making a significant impact by empowering young people with the skills they need to succeed in today’s world. Through hands-on programs focused on financial literacy, career readiness and entrepreneurship, the organization is helping shape tomorrow’s leaders across communities throughout North Central Ohio.

With the message, “Empowering Young Minds. Building Stronger Communities,” Junior Achievement inspires students to dream big, develop plans for their future and gain confidence in their abilities. Its programs connect classroom learning with real-world experiences, preparing students for success in school, careers and life.

Helping lead that mission is Joshua Lehman, president of Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio. Born and raised in the Akron/Canton area, Lehman joined the organization in November 2019 after spending more than four years serving on the development team for Junior Achievement of Greater Cleveland. His passion for the organization’s mission was shaped through his background in personal finance, where he witnessed firsthand the importance of financial security and planning for future goals.

A graduate of the University of Akron College of Business with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing Management, Lehman has dedicated much of his career to entrepreneurship, fundraising and community impact. His commitment to serving others began early as a college student, where he founded a paintball club and discovered a passion for leadership and fundraising.

Since 2011, Lehman’s work in personal finance, entrepreneurship and nonprofit development has focused on creating opportunities and uplifting experiences for young people. He credits Junior Achievement’s corporate and community partners, board members,

volunteers and staff for helping create valuable changes in the lives of students across the region.

One of Lehman’s favorite aspects of his role is meeting Junior Achievement alumni and hearing how the organization positively influenced their life journeys. His leadership philosophy is reflected in a quote by legendary basketball coach John Wooden: “Never try to be better than someone else but never cease trying to be the best person you can be.”

*(Continued on Page 31)*





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# •Students explore bright futures

(Continued from Page 30)

Last Wednesday, Junior Achievement partnered in hosting Destination Career Ashland, a hands-on career exploration event held at Ashland University's Niss Athletic Complex. The event welcomed approximately 1,200 students who interacted with local businesses and explored career opportunities available right in their own backyard. Throughout the day, students participated in engaging activities, learned about a variety of professions and connected with industry leaders from across the region.

By partnering with local schools, businesses and volunteers, Junior Achievement continues investing in the next generation while strengthening the communities it serves. Through events like Destination Career Ashland and its ongoing educational programs, the organization encourages students to believe in their potential, pursue their passions and take steps toward a brighter future.

"This program is deeply meaningful to me because I truly believe that every individual has the ability to thrive in life when they are provided the opportunities, knowledge and resources to discover their passions and align them with their goals," said Junior Achievement President Joshua Lehman.

"Too often, students simply aren't exposed to the full range of possibilities available to them, and that lack of visibility can limit their potential. My passion, and our mission at JA, is to change that. I want every student to have the information and insight they need to make choices that are right for them, so they can build a life that brings them both success and happiness."

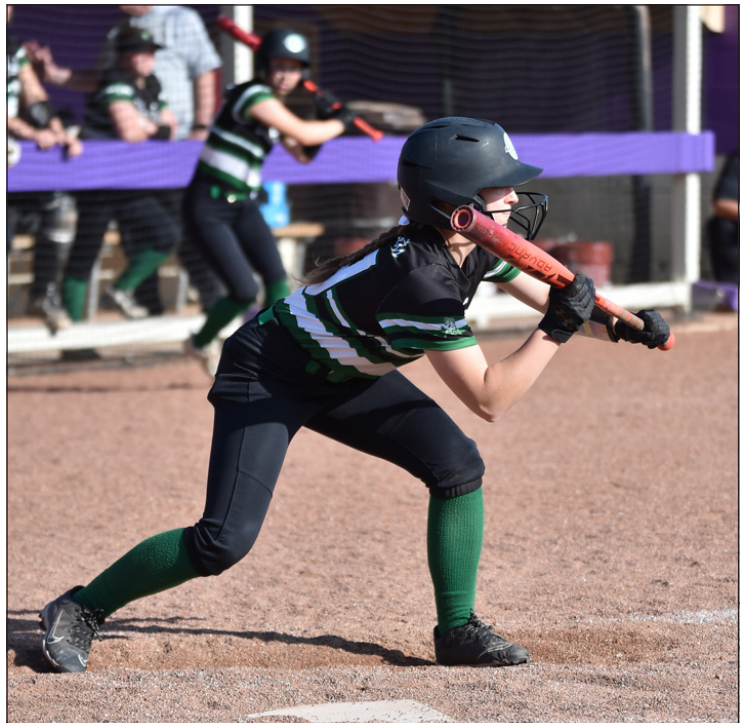
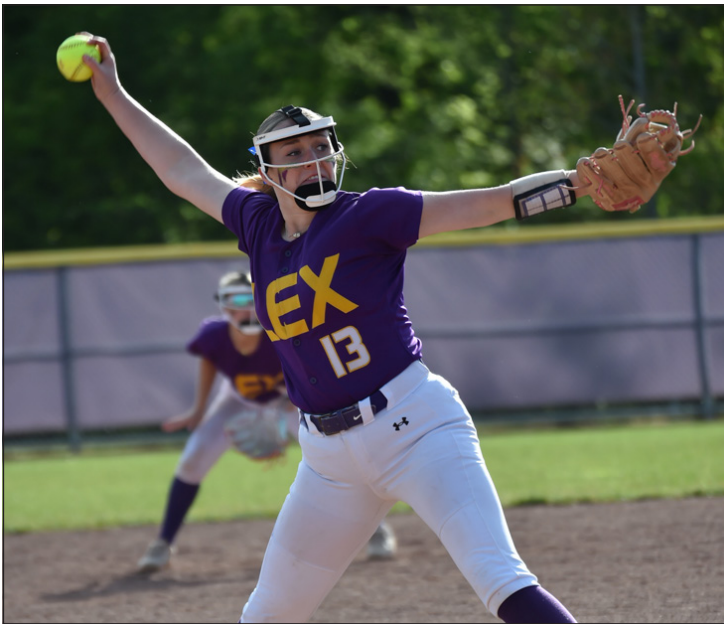
"Being part of a program that empowers young people in this way is incredibly fulfilling because it directly supports their journey to finding purpose and achieving their fullest potential."



Photos By Traci Little

# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS CLEAR FORK SOFTBALL · MAY 15  
COLTS WIN 4-3 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

### Lucas Lady Cubs defeat Plymouth for D-VII Sectional Title

By Kris Leiter

The Lucas Lady Cub deserve a big shout-out. They claimed their stake with a big sectional title in the beautiful valleys of Monroe Township.

Lucas (7-9, 3-3, second place MBC) tangled with Plymouth Big Red (2-21, 2-11, eighth place Firelands Conference last Friday in sectional play. What a game!

Cubs sophomore pitcher Charlize Steinhour made her presence known right away with her very first batter. She blazed a trail in her first inning with a no-look strikeout! Plymouth would be called out, not even swinging on the third strike!

It was now the Cubs' turn to wield the lumber at the plate. With two outs, junior Emma Brown rallied the troops with a double to left field. With two bases from home plate, it was senior Destiny Foss with another double! This would score Brown from second base as well as Foss with the first RBI of the game.

Olyvia Culler added to the mix with a single to left-center field, bringing home Foss for another Cub run! Cubs carried the 2-0 lead! What an exciting first inning and more was to come!

In the second inning, neither Lucas nor Plymouth would cross the plate. Steinhour continued her firepower from the first inning and wasted no time with Plymouth's first batter of the second inning producing another no-swing strikeout! She would hold Big Red at bay with another scoreless inning!

As the third inning got underway, Steinhour notched her trifecta of having one strikeout each inning for the first three innings. She would have Plymouth going down swinging for the second out and again held Big Red scoreless. The Cubs added another run by senior Mylah Midkiff, who would cross the plate for the Cubs. Lucas, now held a nice lead of 3-0 as the inning would cease.

During the fourth inning, Plymouth flipped-the-script on the Cubs! They brought the hot bats which would equate into an explosive four-run rally. They held the Cubs scoreless ending the inning 4-3 in favor of Plymouth.

The Cubs would claim inning five as their own. Steinhour continued her hot pitching, holding the Big Red scoreless. She would retire the first three batters of the inning.

As the Cub's bats rallied, Midkiff notched a run, making it two

trips around the horn for her the past two innings.

With the score tied 4-4, the sixth inning had Plymouth scoring one run, but the offensive firepower of Lucas sophomore Brooklyn Boquette would lead-off with a walk and eventually a tied score of 5-5. Two batters later, Arianna Ohm would notch a double into left-center and score, the Cubs would take the 6-5 lead.

Steinhour would cross the plate with another run bring it to 7-5. The Cubs only had one out. One batter later, Midkiff would bring another run home to put the tally at 8-5.

With Plymouth batting at top of the seventh inning, Cubs pitcher Arianna Ohm retired the first batter with a no-look strikeout. Plymouth scored another run, making it 8-6, with the Cubs still holding strong.

The Lady Cubs defense would then hold their ground and retire the side with the next three batters and would take home the win 8-6!

Battling for Lucas was Destiny Foss (.500 average) 2-4, three RBIs, scoring one-run and a double; Olyvia Culler (.667 average) 2-3, one RBI; and Mylah Midkiff (.250 avg.) 1-4, three runs, one double.

Pitching for Lucas was Charlize Steinhour (4.94 ERA), five and two-thirds innings pitched. She had three strike-outs with two no-look. Arianna Ohm had one and a third inning pitched with one no-look.

This year, head coach Greg Sweet is manning the ship for the Cubs. He has been integral with the softball program since the 2025 season. Last year, he was an assistant under Jackie Ault.

Sweet has seen growth in the past two years, "Last year, we had a lot of freshman," he said.

"We finished first in the Mid-Buckeye conference with a record of 6-0, with an overall record of 6-11. "We had a lot of close games."

"This year, the sophomores have had a year of experience. These last four or five games, they've become very confident. I'm excited for them."

The Cubs victory of the sectional title last Friday advances them to the District VII semi-finals at Buckeye Central Wednesday. The Lady Cubs will be taking on Mohawk.

Prior to Wednesday's first-round of district play, the Lady Cubs will wrap up their last regular season game hosting Bucyrus at Cub Field.

### Lady Whippets claim D-III Sectional Title over Ashland

By Kris Leiter

My old cliché about Shelby sports — "there must be something in the water" — continues to ring true. From the football team last fall, to the hardwood court and now to the softball diamond.

Shelby, the one seed (22-5, 10-4, second MOAC) handily defeated the Ashland Lady Arrows, seven seed (5-13, 3-8, eighth OCC) Thursday by a wealth of runs 18-4.

The Lady Whippets captured the Division III sectional title in post-season play at the beautiful Shelby Athletic Complex. They didn't take long to bring home the bacon with the five-inning-run-rule victory.

The first inning had the Lady Whippets scoring four runs with senior pitcher Jordan Thauvette holding the Lady Arrows to one run.

The scoring frenzy by the Whippets continued in the second inning, as Shelby added four more runs to their tally, making the score 8-1 after two innings of play.

The third inning saw the Lady Whippets add six runs. Thauvette's pitching kept Ashland at bay, as she would notch shutout pitching in the second and third innings. Shelby gained another six runs and led 14-1 after three innings.

With the fourth inning came another four runs for Shelby. Ashland would add two, making the score 18-3.

During the fifth inning, the Lady Arrows would notch another

run, but fell short of catching the Whippets. The five-inning-run-rule would end the game and the Whippets would be the victors of an 18-4 final tally.

Batting for Shelby was senior Natalie Kennard with a 1.000 average, 4-4; Kendall Bowman, 1.000 average, 3-3, five RBIs, double; Braylee Sturts, .500 average, 1-2, three runs, four RBIs, triple, two walks; and Jordan Thauvette, .333 average, 1-3, one run, one RBI, triple, walk. Thauvette's pitching for Shelby shows, 5.60 ERA with five innings pitched and five strikeouts.

The Lady Whippets are ranked 119th nationally with 59 RBIs, but they won't sit on their laurels too long. This Thursday, in Willard, they will face a familiar foe in the OCC, the Lady Rams from Madison. This will not be just another game. No matter the sport, Shelby and Madison have had a rivalry for as long as I can remember. These two teams come to play hard — you can bet the bank on that.

The Lady Rams have been manned by long-time legendary head coach Tim Niswander. Niswander is no stranger to the softball diamond and will be well-prepared. His name has been synonymous with Madison softball for 14 years. His accolades include being the all-time winningest coach in the history of the softball program.

The Lady Rams, four seed, (10-14, 5-6 OCC third) will battle the Lady Whippets of Shelby, one seed (22-5, 10-4 second MOAC) Thursday, May 21, at 4 pm, at Willard High School, 400 Dean Ave.

# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights



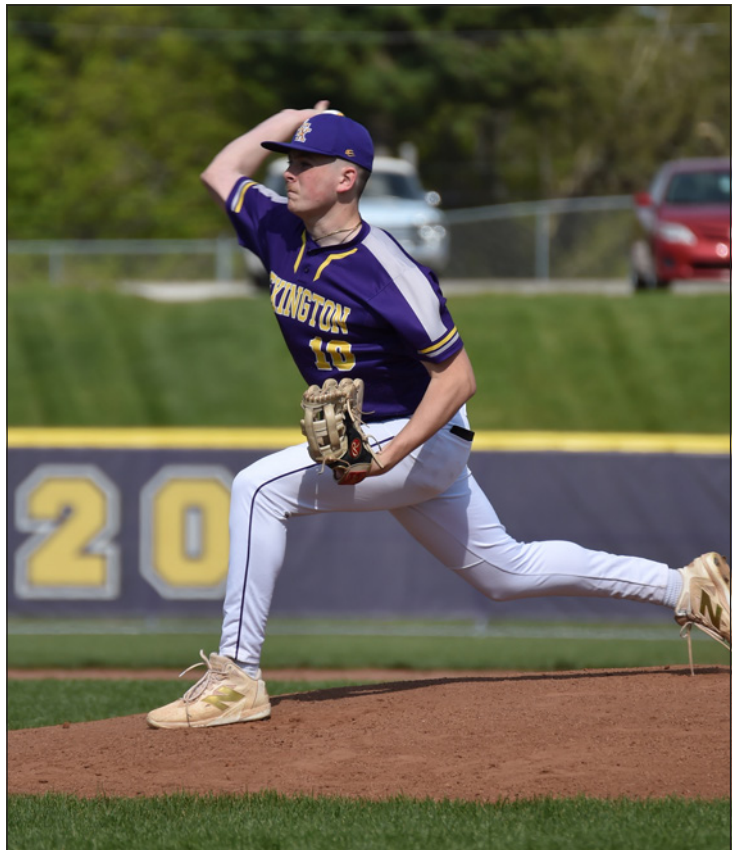
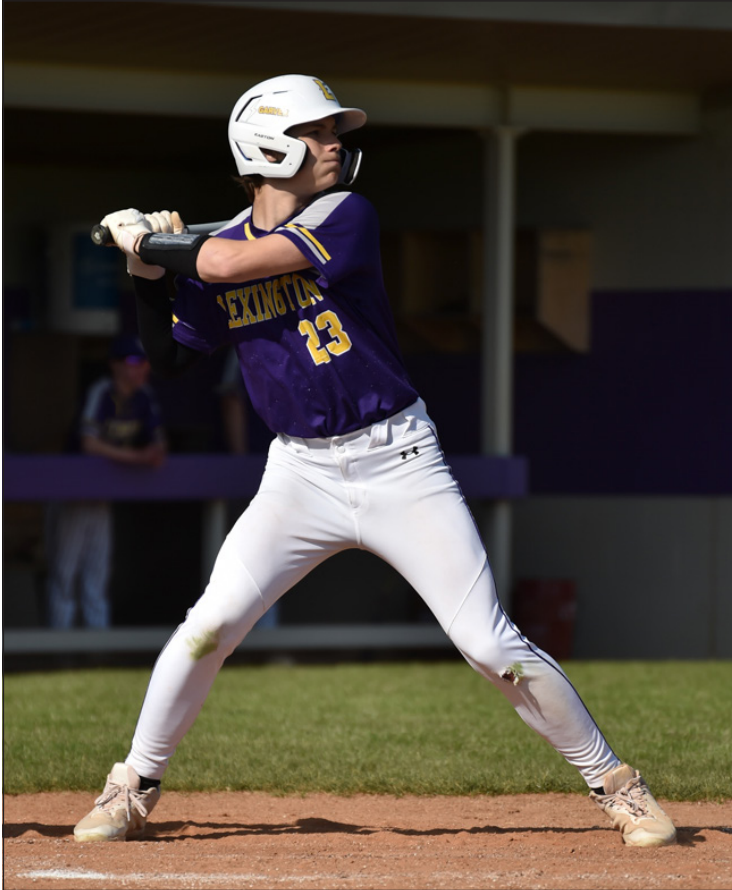
Mansfield Christian School celebrated its baseball seniors JR Reeder, Blayne Morrow, Levi Steensland and Bryson Winemiller.



Photos By Traci Little

# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS HIGHLAND JUNIOR VARSITY BASEBALL · MAY 15  
HIGHLAND WINS 2-0 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights



## Arrow baseball seniors celebrated

By Traci Little

From the coaches and program staff came a thank you to the Ashland Arrow Baseball seniors, for the commitment, passion and memories they've created along the way.

Coaches remarked that athletes dedicated countless hours to the program, building friendships, competing together and creating moments they will remember long after graduation. From exciting wins and unforgettable performances to bus rides and summer games with teammates, each senior helped shape the culture of Arrow Baseball.

Coaches and staff are proud of the leadership, work ethic and character these seniors have shown both on and off the field. Their impact on the program will be remembered for years to come, it is exciting to see all they accomplish in the next chapter of their lives.

Trenton Summers (#2) has played baseball all four years of high school and says his favorite memory is spending time with teammates after games and on bus rides. After graduation, he plans to take a gap year and attend Anchor House Bible School in Hawaii.

Nick Manges (#3) also played all four years and remembers hitting a double off Brady Bowen in a close game against Wooster last season.

Manges plans to attend Ohio University to

major in human biology before pursuing a career as a physician assistant.

Henry Kinney (#9) played three years at the high school level and says his favorite memory is playing summer baseball with his friends. He plans to attend college while also working after graduation.

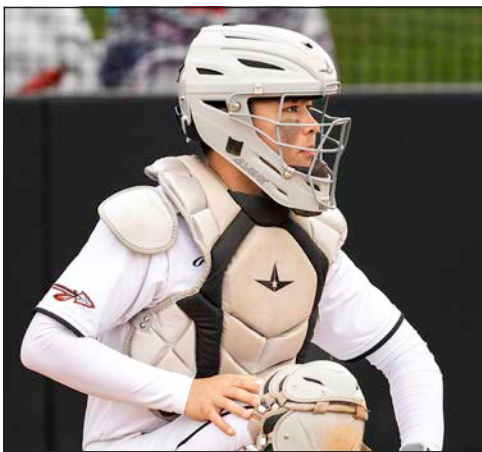
Ajay Workman (#16) has been part of the program for all four years and says his favorite baseball memory is hitting a home run at Fremont Ross. He plans to continue his baseball career at Lake Erie College while studying biology pre-med.

Jacob Bryant (#26) played all four years and remembers going 3-for-5 in his varsity debut alongside his older brother. He plans to attend Ohio University to major in physical therapy or become a physician assistant.

Jackson Kinney's (#31) favorite memory came when he struck out 12 batters in six innings against West Holmes during his sophomore season. He plans to attend The Ohio State University after graduation.

Tanner Wolfe (#36), another four-year player, says sweeping Mount Vernon stands out as his favorite memory. He plans to attend Bowling Green State University to major in business.

Photos By Jan Powers Media @janpowersmedia





KNOX COUNTY CAREER CENTER (KCCC) students competed in the Business Professionals of America (BPA) National Leadership Conference May 6-10 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, TN. KCCC had seven students from CollegeU-Business and Computer Network Technology who competed at the BPA National Leadership Conference, including two students who earned Top 10 finishes. Logan Woolverton, a junior in Computer Network Technology, earned tenth place in Server Administration using Microsoft. Kale Oswalt, a junior in CollegeU-Business, earned ninth place in Extemporaneous Speech. Students were recognized at the BPA National Leadership Conference Awards Ceremony on Saturday, May 9. Pictured are Kale Oswalt and Logan Woolverton.

# Sutton Bank appoints two new directors to board

Sutton Bank has announced the appointment of Lori Gillett and Jason Miles to its Board of Directors. Both bring extensive leadership experience, proven governance expertise, and deep industry knowledge that will support the bank's continued growth and long-term strategic direction.

Lori Gillett currently serves as chair of the board of CK Construction Group and is an owner within the Kokosing family of companies. A civil engineer by education, she has spent more than two decades in executive leadership roles across family-owned and privately held businesses. Gillett has significant experience in board governance, having served as Lead Director and committee chair for SSOE Group, an internationally ranked architecture and engineering firm. She also serves on the JobsOhio Board, where she chairs the Audit Committee and sits on the Executive Committee, helping guide statewide economic development initiatives.



In addition to her corporate leadership, Gillett is actively engaged in advancing workforce development and STEM education. She has served on multiple advisory and governing boards, including the Central Ohio Associated General Contractors Board, OneColumbus Executive Board, and the New Albany Community Foundation Board.



She previously contributed to the Governor's Executive Workforce Development Board and played a key role in engineering education through advisory positions at Ohio Northern University and Cedarville University. Gillett has also been instrumental in supporting the Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland Dream Big campaign, aimed at connecting young women to in-demand STEM careers.

Jason Miles brings more than 30 years of experience leading high-growth, dynamic organizations within the financial services and payments industries. He is the founder of Payment Solutions Consultants, LLC, which provides consulting services to financial industry service providers, fintech organizations, and financial institutions on strategic growth, payment program development, and operational effectiveness.

Throughout his career, Miles has held senior executive roles across several organizations at the forefront of payments innovation. At FSV Payment Systems, he led business development, relationship management, and implementation efforts prior to its acquisition by U.S. Bank. He later oversaw product and business development at UniRush, LLC, contributing to its acquisition by Green Dot Corporation. In addition to his corporate leadership, Miles has played an active role in industry collaboration as President of the Financial Fraud Consortium, where he worked alongside payments companies to combat complex fraud, and now continues his involvement as President Emeritus and board member. Miles was also a founding member of a total benefits outsourcing company that was acquired by State Street Bank and Citigroup and scaled to more than \$200 million in annual revenue.

"We are excited to welcome Lori and Jason to our Board of Directors," said Tony Gorrell, CEO of Sutton Bank. "Lori's extensive governance experience and leadership across Ohio's business and economic development landscape, combined with Jason's deep expertise in financial services, payments innovation, and strategic growth, will provide valuable perspective as we continue to evolve. Their insights will help strengthen our organization and support our mission to serve our customers and communities at the highest level."

The addition of Gillett and Miles reflects Sutton Bank's commitment to thoughtful board leadership and positions the bank to navigate an increasingly complex financial landscape while continuing to deliver strong, community-focused banking solutions.

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# 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 May 6, 2026.

The complete text of this Ordinance may be viewed and copies obtained at the Office of the Clerk of Council, Ontario Municipal Building, 555 Stumbo Road, Ontario, Ohio, during regular business hours.

**RESOLUTION NO. 26-06 – A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 26-07 – A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE RICHLAND COUNTY 9-1-1 REVIEW COMMITTEE PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 128.06 (A).**

**RESOLUTION NO. 26-08 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE- SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR COMPETITIVE BIDS AND AWARD A CONTRACT FOR THE 2026 CITY OF ONTARIO SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 26-11 – AN ORDINANCE WAIVING THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR BE A RESIDENT OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 26-13 – AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A SIX (6)**

**MONTH MORATORIUM ON THE ACCEPTANCE, CONSIDERATION AND/OR GRANTING OF ANY APPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL LICENSING APPROVAL, AND/OR ANY ZONING, OCCUPANCY, OR OTHER PERMITS RELATING TO DATA CENTERS SUPPORTING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE WITHIN THE CITY OF ONTARIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 26-14 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR OR HIS DESIGNEE (CHIEF OF POLICE) TO DONATE UNNEEDED AND OBSOLETE UNCLAIMED PROPERTY FROM THE POLICE EVIDENCE ROOM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Abbey Beaver  
Asst. Clerk of Council  
City of Ontario, Ohio  
(T-C 5-14, 21, '26) 61L

## LEASE OF FARMLAND CITY OF ONTARIO

A public auction for the lease of approximately 25 acres of farmland on two different lots, parcel #0386015612000, within the City of Ontario, Ohio, effective May 28, 2026, will be held at the Ontario Administration Office located at 555 Stumbo Road, Ontario, Ohio 44906 on Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

The City of Ontario reserves the right to waive any and all bids. By order of the Council of Ontario, Ohio.

Questions may be directed to Mayor Josh Bradley, 419-529-6333.

Cathy VanAuker, MMC  
Clerk of Council  
City of Ontario, Ohio  
(T-C 5-21, '26) L

## Colleen Rice announces retirement from The Domestic Violence Shelter

The Domestic Violence Shelter, Inc. announced that executive director Colleen Rice will retire from her role following dedicated service to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking in Richland County and surrounding communities.

As the organization approaches its 50th anniversary, this transition marks both a moment of reflection and an opportunity to build on nearly five decades of service to the community.

Rice joined The Shelter in August 2023. During her tenure, the organization achieved progress in program development, funding capacity and community partnerships.

“It has been an incredible honor to serve alongside such a dedicated team and to work on behalf of survivors,” said Rice. “I am deeply proud of what we have accomplished together and confident the organization will continue to grow and thrive.”

During her tenure, Rice focused on building a strong and sustainable operational foundation for the organization’s future. She strengthened grant and funding infrastructure, enhanced internal systems that support staff and client services, and guided meaningful facility improvements to create a safer, more welcoming environment.

She also expanded access to supportive housing through new partnerships, introduced wellness programming for staff and clients, and deepened community collaboration.

To support a smooth transition, the board of directors has engaged Spherion Mid-Ohio to lead the search for the organization’s next executive director. Qualified candidates are invited to submit their resume by emailing [lsnoke@spherionohio.com](mailto:lsnoke@spherionohio.com).

The board has named Peggy Butt as interim executive director.

## News Briefs in Education

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulated students for being named to the Spring 2026 President’s List. The spring terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

On the list are local students DeJa Johnson, Robert Broyles, Gre’Juan Sweet and Kallie Funk.



Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) has released its Spring 2026 Dean’s List. The spring terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

On the list are local students Charles Wilkerson Reece Neuen-schwander.



Ohio Wesleyan University held its 2026 Spring Student Symposium on April 16 with more than 100 students sharing research and creative projects that highlight the breadth, depth and quality of work produced this academic year.

Local students presenting at the symposium and their projects are: Cooper Christie of Mansfield, presented “Examining the Function of a Potential Type VI Secretion System Toxin in a Reproductive Bacterial Symbiont of the Hawaiian Bobtail Squid,” mentored by faculty member Andrea Suria.

Olivia Green of Mansfield, Daniel Koomson, Jada Taylor and Aaron Woods presented “Economic Indicators Business IV,” mentored by faculty member Goran Skosples.



Ian Barnes of Ontario, was named to the dean’s honor list at Cedarville University for Spring 2026. This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.75 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.



Students at Cedarville University in Ohio have been named to the Dean’s List for the Spring 2026 semester. This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.50 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours. On the list are local students Levi Davis of Lexington and Sarah Hubbard of Ontario.

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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