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06.18.26



ONTARIO'S CONCERT IN THE PARK SERIES kicked-off June 9 with a performance by Canyon Echoes. Jeff and Joni Davis were in attendance selling their homemade speciality treats. The concerts will continue on June 26 with I Told You in Marshall Park.

Community rallies to help replace wheelchair-accessible van

Photos and Article By Traci Little

ONTARIO — A wheelchair lift suddenly gave way. A family celebration nearly turned into a tragedy.

For the family of lifetime local resident Joni Davis, a routine trip to

celebrate a wedding anniversary became a frightening reminder that their aging wheelchair-accessible van could no longer be trusted.

"We were getting ready to go out for our 41st anniversary," Davis said. "If I had been on the lift when it failed, I could have been severely injured."

The family's 2005 Chevrolet Express wheelchair van has served them for years, but the aging lift system has become increasingly unreliable. Repairs have been made several times, including a recent \$600 fix that lasted less than a month.

Some replacement parts are no longer available because of the lift's age, leaving the family with few options.

"We've had it fixed three or four times now," Davis said. "We're constantly putting money into it."

Now, family members, friends, church supporters and community volunteers are working together to help raise funds for a replacement wheelchair-accessible van.

A recent community sale in Ontario helped benefit the effort.

(Continued on Page 9)

Ontario Liberty Festival celebrates 250th with weekend full of activities

The Ontario Liberty Fest (formerly the Ontario 4th of July Festival) returns Friday, June 26 and Saturday, June 27, at Marshall Park in Ontario. This special edition of the festival celebrates America's 250th birthday with two days packed full of fun, community and patriotic celebration.

Friday night will kick-off the weekend with food trucks, a classic car show, live music and entertainment and family fun.

On Saturday, the day will begin with the Liberty 5K Run. The day will continue with kids games and activities, The Ontario Lions Club Frog Jumping Contest, festival games and competitions, live concerts and entertainment throughout the day, a parade, a VIP Area for adults and families, food vendors and a beer garden.

The weekend concludes with a laser show and the region's largest fireworks display, synchronized to music on WVNO Mix 106.1.

Bring your family, bring your friends, and join the community as we celebrate freedom, tradition, and America's 250th anniversary at Ontario Liberty Fest 2026.

Tribune to observe early deadline for holiday

To allow the Tribune staff to celebrate the Independence Day holiday week with their families, the deadline for both the June 25 and July 2 issues will be Monday, June 22, at noon.

Although the deadline is early, the issues will still be posted on the usual schedule.

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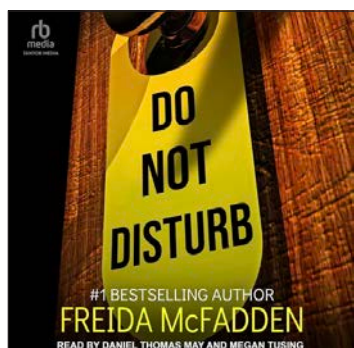
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LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review
By Amanda Belczak



Summer chore checklist brought to you by a Freida McFadden audiobook: *Do Not Disturb* — a very interesting book.

A woman is out of choices and on the run when a snow storm traps her in a rundown motel with a complicated history. Who can she trust to help her? The overly friendly motel owner? The mystic old lady who lives in the motel? The motel owner's sick wife who can sometimes be seen from her window? Her sister who may be searching for her in desperation?

As a suspense thriller, this story was good. It's not my favorite by McFadden, but still worth the read.

The audiobook narrator was a bit annoying on this one, but I still loved how the story kept my attention enough to accomplish so many summer chores. Happy reading!

Follow my blog at amanda-belczak.com

Senate passes Romanchuk bill expanding patient access to flu and COVID treatment

The Ohio Senate passed Senate Bill 230, sponsored by Senator Mark Romanchuk (R-Ontario), which authorizes pharmacists to diagnose and treat common health conditions.

"This legislation focuses on putting patients first," said Senator Romanchuk. "By allowing busy Ohioans a convenient option to receive treatment for the flu, COVID-19, strep, and other common illnesses, we provide sick Ohioans with peace of mind and help prevent the unnecessary spread of illnesses."

SB 230 authorizes certified pharmacists to diagnose and provide treatment to people who are at least five years of age for three common illness: influenza, strep throat, and COVID-19.

To treat these illnesses, pharmacists must follow a state written protocol developed by the State Board of Pharmacy. Under SB 230, health insurers and Medicaid are required to provide coverage for these services.

"Pharmacists are among the most accessible healthcare professionals in Ohio," added Senator Romanchuk. "Senate Bill 230 represents a practical, evidence-based expansion of care. I'm proud to have championed this legislation."

The Ohio Senate sent SB 230 to the Ohio House for further consideration.

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THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —

Steven Spielberg's *Disclosure* Day is his newest sci-fi adventure. Emily Blunt plays a meteorologist who starts to experience strange feelings and able to have personal knowledge about any person she meets. A dual plotline involves Daniel (Josh O'Connor), a government worker who is being tracked down for his knowledge and theft of classified UFO footage he plans releasing to the world. Colin Firth is the head of an organization tracking them both.

This movie is very engaging for most of its run time and everyone gives a great performance, especially Blunt who is a stand out. Spielberg's direction is great as always especially during the car chase and train sequence.

The flaws of the movie come with David Koepp's script introducing some ideas that never re-

ally come to fruition. There is an alien device used throughout the movie that could have been given more of a backstory and explanation.

I have also been reflecting on the ending and third act for a couple days and am still mixed on it. For every interesting scene and exciting sequence, there is was one that did not seem to be as engaging.

Disclosure Day is a very interesting alien type movie and is different but not near as good as *E.T.* or *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. The performances and direction and score by John Williams are a standout. This feels like mid tier Spielberg though, a solid watch but not near his best.



Car and craft show fundraiser is Sunday

The North Central Ohio Sertoma Club will present its annual car and craft show Sunday, June 21, from 10 am to 4 pm at the Mansfield Fire Museum, 1265 W 4th St, Mansfield.

This event is a fundraiser supporting Sertoma's mission to enhance the quality of life for those at risk or impacted by hearing loss.

There will be an array of handmade items including jewelry, home décor, treats and unique gifts. There will also be free admission to the museum and activities for all ages.

Car, truck and bike show registration is \$15 and will be held from 10 am to noon. Limited-edition collector coins will be given to the first 150 registered.

Awards, including People's Choice Awards, begin at 3 pm. There will also be raffles, door prizes, a 50/50, music and Hotwheels racing.

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Serving Ontario, Lexington, Madison, Bellville and Butler Communities in
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News Briefs

Church of the Cross UMC, 236 Otterbein Dr., Lexington, will hold a rummage sale Friday, June 19, from 8 am to 3 pm. Cost is a free will donation which support local missions.

The church will also host a Wonderful Wednesdays Program for Families and Children June 24 and July 1, at Lexington Community Park's Pavillion/Community Building on Plymouth St.

The events will run from 11:30 am to 1 pm and free lunch will be provided. There will be music, crafts and activities. Register at churchofthecrosslex.com.

★

Community Bible Church's youth group will host a rummage sale Thursday, June 18 and Friday, June 19, from 9 am to 3 pm. The church is located at 1043 Springmill St., Mansfield.

★

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 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.

★

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, June 27 and 28. 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.

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

★

All Souls Unitarian Universalist of Bellville, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Christopher Reynolds on Sunday, June 21, at 10:30 am. The subject will be "Mandalic Unitarian Universalism: A celebration of the inherent worth and dignity of every father and grandfather." For information visit www.allsoulsuuohio.org.

★

The City of Ontario meeting schedule for July has been released. Meetings are held at 555 Stumbo Rd., Ontario.

The schedule includes July 8, 1 pm, civil service commission and 4 pm planning commission; and July 15, 5:30 pm, personnel committee of the whole, 6:15 pm caucus and 7 pm council.

★

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 or Imann@mlsd.net for the band and mpoland@mlsd.net for Ramettes.

★

The Madison Township Lions Club will host a car show and swap meet on Sunday, June 28, from 10 am to 6 pm, at Madison Comprehensive High School, 600 Esley Ln., Mansfield.

There is a \$25 entry for the car show and swap meet vendor spots are \$25 for a 10'x10' space. Categories will include cars, trucks, race cars, motorcycles and RVs. RC car categories will be cars, trucks planes and boats.

Proceeds benefit pediatric cancer families, Madison Rams Boosters and local community projects. To register call Steve at 419-632-0111. No alcohol is allowed on the premises.

★

A Light Up the Valley 5K and one mile fun run will be held Saturday, June 27 in Bellville. The family friendly 5K will begin at 8:30 am. To register visit www.tinyurl.com/LUTV5K

The 5K is sponsored by Sunshine Girls Running Club, a Christ-centered running program that encourages girls to grow strong physically, confident mentally and rooted spiritually.

Through running, faith-based lessons and positive relationships, the goal is to help girls build confidence and resilience, develop Christ-centered character, enjoy movement and teamwork, understand their identity in Christ and experience a safe, encouraging community. The program, designed for third through sixth grade, runs twice each year in the spring and fall and includes running practices that build endurance and strength and faith and character curriculum each week that focuses on one Christ-centered character trait that God gives us. Lessons are age-appropriate and rooted in scripture. Visit sunshinegirlsrunningclub.org or email info@sunshinegirlsrunningclub.org for more information.

★

Mechanics Bank will host Live@Lunch performances in the downtown Mansfield courtyard, 2 S. Main St., all summer long, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Food trucks will also be available.

Upcoming performers and food trucks include June 26, Milo's Music with the What in the World food truck; July 10, Taylor Schlupp, Black Willow; July 24, Tom's Kitchen Table, Panchos Tacos; Aug. 7, EKG, Grunt Grub & Cowgirl Creamery; Aug. 21, Jevan Cole, On the Rise BBQ; Sept. 11, SHaK, The Back Porch Food Co.; and Sept. 18, Tom's Kitchen Table, Cub Country.

The courtyard is open every Friday over lunch.

★

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 next distribution is Tuesday, June 23.

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Brian Schmidt joins board of directors at Mechanics Bank

Brian Schmidt has been elected to the board of directors of both Mechanics Financial Corporation and Mechanics Bank.

"It is with excitement that we congratulate and welcome Brian Schmidt as our newest Board member," shared Mark E. Masters, President & CEO.

"Brian is steadfastly committed to our community and has valuable experience as a local business owner - both are important per-

spectives and shared values with us as a local, independent bank."

Brian Schmidt is the owner and president of Schmidt Security Pro & Schmidt Fire, based in Mansfield. A lifelong resident of our local community, he graduated from Lexington High School and holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Toledo.

He currently serves as Treasurer of the Ohio Security and Fire Alarm Association and serves or has served with organizations across our community including the North Central State College Foundation, Richland Area Chamber of Commerce, Mansfield University Club, BrainTree and the District 5 Area Agency on Aging Foundation. Schmidt and his wife, Krista, have two children and together they enjoy many of the outdoor activities Richland County has to offer.

Mechanics Bank, with ten locations, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Mechanics Financial Corporation. Started 140 years ago, Mechanics Bank is an independent community bank.



Church Directory

All Souls Unitarian Universalist

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

First Congregational Church

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

Lexington Church of the Cross

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

Ontario United Methodist Church

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

St. John's United Church of Christ

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

Trinity Grace Fellowship

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

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Carol Sue Daugherty, June 10
Dr. Raymond Edward Bernotas, June 11
Joan Morrow, June 11
Jerry Reid Cline, June 12

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Invasive plants class is June 23

Non-native and invasive plants often move in and set-up shop even on smaller pieces of land, outcompeting native plants, reducing wildlife habitat and impacting the health and resiliency of the forest.

The Ohio Woodland Stewards Program and Richland Soil & Water Conservation District will host a hands-on evening class on invasive plant identification, management and control strategies, and demonstrations of effective treatment methods on Tuesday, June 23, at 5 pm at the Ohio State University Mansfield Molyet Village Community Center, 1365 Springmill Rd., Mansfield. The registration fee is \$15 per person for the class and covers a pizza dinner and all materials.

At 8 pm, community members are invited to join class participants and the evening's organizers to remove invasive species on campus. With the days getting longer the sun doesn't set until later and hot daytime temperatures will be avoided.

This portion of the evening is being held in conjunction with the Earth Stewardship Celebration.

Participants are invited to enter a random drawing for a chance to win one of three \$100 gift cards to local businesses funded by an Earth Stewardship Celebration grant provided by the Richland County Regional Solid Waste Management Authority.

Registration is needed by June 18. To register for the class, learn more about the invasive species removal and the Earth Stewardship Celebration, visit <https://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/events/invasive-plant-id-and-control>.

Flying Horse Farms welcomes summer campers and volunteers

Flying Horse Farms (FHF), Ohio's medical specialty camp for kids with serious illnesses and their families – always at no cost, has kicked-off its residential season and will be welcoming campers all summer for fun filled with hope, joy and belonging.

At Flying Horse Farms, kids get the chance to simply be kids in a fully accessible, medically supported camp environment.

The 2026 summer schedule includes June 10–14, Heart, Pulmonary, Craniofacial & Rangers Camp; June 18–22, Gastrointestinal & Mental Health Camp; June 26–30, Hematology, Oncology & Rangers Camp; July 7–11, Rheumatology & Transplant Camp; July 15–19, Rare Disease, Spinal Cord, General & Rangers Camp; July 24–26, Trailblazer Adolescent Young Adult Camp; Aug. 7–9, Family Camp Weekend; and Aug. 14–16, Family Camp Weekend.

Flying Horse Farms relies on a community of volunteers and donors to make camp possible at no cost to families.

Volunteers are needed to help bring camp to life by supporting campers, activities, and daily camp operations. Flying Horse Farms is currently seeking additional cabin counselors (ages 24+) for the Trailblazer Adolescent Young Adult Camp in July. Learn more or sign-up at <https://flyinghorsefarms.org/volunteer/volunteer-opportunities/>

Donations help ensure every camper can attend camp free of charge and experience the full magic of camp. To donate visit <https://flyinghorsefarms.org/donate/>

Flying Horse Farms is located at 5260 St. Rt. 95, Mt. Gilead, OH. For information call 419-751-7077.

Livestock transportation emergency response training available

The Crawford, Marion, Morrow and Richland County Farm Bureaus will host a livestock transportation emergency response training on Saturday, July 11, from 8:30–10:30 am at the Bucyrus Nazarene Church Fellowship Room, 2165 State Route 4, Bucyrus.

The training will equip to help local law enforcement, firefighters and EMS personnel safely and efficiently handle roadside accidents involving livestock trailers. Participants will learn standardized protocols for scene stabilization, responder safety and animal welfare through hands-on demonstrations with specialized trailers and equipment.

Reservations are due by Wednesday, July 1, by calling the Farm Bureau office at 419-747-7488. This event is in collaboration with Hord Family Farms and OSU Extension – Marion County.

Free performances begin June 19

Opening night of the 2026 Shakespeare in the Park will be a performance of *Hamlet*. The three performances are in Mansfield's South Park on Friday, June 19 at 7:30 pm; Saturday, June 20, at 7:30 pm; and Sunday, June 21, at 3:30 pm.

Performances are free and open to the public. (Discretion should be made with children since this tragedy has scenes of violence and death.) Those attending are encouraged to bring a lawn chair, blanket, picnic food and drinks. A food truck will be available on-site and portable toilets will be nearby.

Visit mansfieldshakespeare.org for information or visit Instagram or Facebook. This summer's production is made possible in part by an investment of public funds from the Ohio Arts Council (OAC), a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally, and economically.

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TINA GERMANN, representing the City of Mansfield, delivered a proclamation on behalf of City of Mansfield Mayor Jodie Perry.

The Waterford at Mansfield celebrates award recognition

Photos and Article By Traci Little

MANSFIELD — Applause filled the room. Residents mingled with staff. Gold decorations shimmered as The Waterford at Mansfield celebrated a distinction earned by only a small fraction of senior living communities across North America.

The Waterford hosted its “Best of the Best” celebration on Wednesday, June 10, after receiving both the 2026 Best in Senior Living Award and All-Star recognition from A Place for Mom, a leading senior living referral service.

The awards place The Waterford among the top 1–2 percent of nearly 45,000 senior care providers across the United States and Canada. The community also achieved All-Star status for the third consecutive year by maintaining strong resident and family reviews.

The recognition was celebrated with music, hors d’oeuvres, desserts, residents, family members and community leaders.

Miss Ontario Morgyn Beasley opened the program by singing the National Anthem, and Richland County Commissioner Cliff Mears presented a proclamation honoring the achievement and recognizing The Waterford’s commitment to serving older adults in the community.

“The best of senior living award winners represent the top one to two percent of senior care providers across the United States and Canada,” Mears said while reading the proclamation. He noted that the award reflects “the care, the dedication, the love” demonstrated by the Waterford team in creating a supportive environment for residents and families.

The proclamation also recognized The Waterford’s long-standing presence in the Mansfield area, where it has served seniors since 2001.

Representing the City of Mansfield, Tina Germann delivered a proclamation on behalf of Mayor Jodie Perry. The city recognized

(Continued on Page 7)



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•The Waterford at Mansfield celebrates award recognition

(Continued from Page 6)

The Waterford for providing exemplary care, outstanding services and meaningful support to seniors and their families.

Germann noted that the national award is reserved for only the highest-performing senior living communities and praised The Waterford's dedication to resident well-being, compassionate caregiving and programs that promote dignity, independence and quality of life.

The celebration also highlighted the people behind the recognition. Community leaders introduced members of the management team, caregivers, wellness staff, activities department and therapy partners who contribute to daily life at The Waterford.

One of the most heartfelt moments came from family member Mark RAU, who shared his family's experience after searching for memory care support for his mother.

RAU said his family was facing the difficult reality of advancing dementia and wanted to find a place where his mother would be safe and supported. After touring The Waterford, he felt confident they had found the right community.

"Right off the bat, the first thing I knew was this was the place that she needed to be," RAU said. "We couldn't ask for better care, a better family. The staff is professional and loving to my mother. As soon as I walk into this community, I feel at ease because my mother is in good hands. It's clean and has a home-like feel."

He credited both residents and staff for creating a welcoming atmosphere and praised the care his mother received at Waterford.

"The care that they provide, the staff here, the concern for everybody's well-being. You couldn't ask for a better place," RAU said. "This place is amazing."

Waterford leaders thanked residents and families for helping create the community culture that led to the recognition.

"As you know, each day we come into the building to ensure that we do the best we can to provide services to all of you," Executive Director Dan Hellinger told residents. "We are a community. Together, we live here, we spend a lot of hours in this building, and so we're all in this together."



Photos By Traci Little

Miss Ontario Morgyn Beasley, The Waterford at Mansfield Sales Director Rev. Dr. Jim Carder and Richland County Commissioner Cliff Mears.



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•Community rallies to help replace wheelchair-accessible van

(Continued from Front Page)

Organizers described the event as a large “pickers market” featuring furniture, antiques, jewelry, household goods, children’s items, décor, tools and more.

The family hopes to purchase a 2023 Voyager wheelchair-accessible van through Mobility Works. The vehicle is currently being held for them, but time is limited.

The van costs approximately \$51,000. Through a waiver program, the first \$10,000 will be covered, leaving the family responsible for about \$41,000. Supporters have already contributed nearly \$5,100 in just a few weeks through donations, fundraisers and community efforts. The family estimates another \$5,000 is needed by June 25 to make the purchase financially manageable through monthly payments.

“People have been so generous,” Davis said. “Some donations were left anonymously. We don’t even know who gave them.”

The need is urgent. Mobility Works currently has the van reserved for the family, but the hold expires during the first week of July. If financing details are not finalized by then, the vehicle will return to the market.

Without a reliable accessible vehicle, everyday activities have become difficult. The family has spent nearly \$4,000 in recent weeks renting a wheelchair-accessible van so Joni could attend medical appointments, graduations and important family events.

“I won’t have a vehicle as of now until we get this worked out,” Davis said. “We’re praying for this to all work out, otherwise I’ll be homebound without this much-needed vehicle.”

For Joni, transportation is about more than getting from place to place. It represents the ability to continue serving others.

A 1984 graduate of Ontario High School, Davis has lived with severe health challenges for decades. Diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis and psoriatic arthritis, she has relied on a wheelchair since the early 2000s. Today she depends on a Hoyer lift for transfers and receives monthly infusions to help manage chronic pain and inflammation.

Despite those limitations, she remains active in ministry. Davis serves as a children’s ministry leader at her church, helps coordinate outreach efforts and volunteers whenever she is able.

“It’s very important to me to have a vehicle where I can get out and help other people,” she said.

Her husband, Jeff Davis, has been her primary caregiver for years while facing significant challenges of his own.

A 1984 graduate of Clear Fork High School, Jeff lived with epilepsy and has battled post-traumatic stress disorder following a serious cement truck accident in 2010. In 2022, he faced a series of major health setbacks, including rotator cuff surgery, prostate surgery and a rare psychogenic neurological disorder that mimics stroke symptoms.

Through it all, he continued caring for Joni.

Helping others has become a defining characteristic of the couple’s life together.

More than two decades ago, when Joni needed an electric scooter to maintain her independence, Jeff rode his bicycle from Ontario to Olive Hill, Kentucky, to raise money for the purchase.

The couple has spent years helping neighbors, churches, nonprofits and community members in need. They have supported efforts such as the Sluss Realty Toy Drive, Richland Outreach Center and numerous families facing emergencies and difficult circumstances. Even before learning they would need to replace their van, they regularly stepped in to help others whenever they were able.

“When you help and give to others first, your problems seem smaller,” Joni said.

Jeff also operates a small lawn-care ministry after finishing his full-time workday. He mows yards for elderly residents, individuals with disabilities and others who cannot physically maintain their property. Some pay what they can. Others offer a sandwich, a cold drink or simply a heartfelt thank you.

“He just loves helping people,” Joni said.

Jeff and Joni Davis have also operated Bear Haven Bakers from their home for the past decade, creating specialty cookies, cakes, pies, breads and other baked goods. The business has become another way to support both their family and community causes.

“Everything we make right now is helping toward the van,” Davis said.

Supporters can also purchase baked goods directly from the family, with all proceeds benefiting the wheelchair van fund. Additional fundraising opportunities are planned throughout the summer, including baked-goods sales during Concerts in the Park at Marshall Park. The family expressed appreciation to Kenn Spencer and Ontario Community Events for allowing them to participate in the events.

Their commitment to serving others has not stopped despite their own urgent need.

Even while working to replace their wheelchair-accessible van, Jeff and Joni continue volunteering throughout the community. The

(Continued on Page 39)



CONCERTS IN THE PARK drew a crowd on June 9 in Marshall Park, Ontario.

2026 CONCERTS IN THE PARK

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- July 7 **Conne**
- July 21 **Oolong Gurus**
- August 11 **Soul Town**
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Miss Ohio Parade



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Miss Ohio Parade



Photos By Traci Little

Miss Ohio Parade



Photos By Traci Little

Ten will compete for Miss Ontario crown

The Little and Junior Miss Ontario pageants are scheduled for Wednesday, June 24 at 6:30 pm and the Miss Ontario pageant will be held Friday, June 26 at 6:30 pm.

Both pageants will be held in the Ontario Middle School Auditorium, 447 Shelby-Ontario Rd., Ontario.

Admission is \$5 per person and free for kids under 5. Proceeds will go to the Miss Ontario Scholarship Program.

All Miss Ontario contestants will be in the Ontario 4th of July parade at the Ontario Liberty Fest on Saturday, June 27 at 3:30 pm. The parade will run down a portion of Shelby-Ontario Road and go through Marshall Park.

(Photos by Maria Gallo)



Miss Ontario 2025 Morgyn Beasley, Little Miss Ontario Sadie Myers and Junior Miss Ontario Kenley Scott



Airiona Courtney



Lily Dean



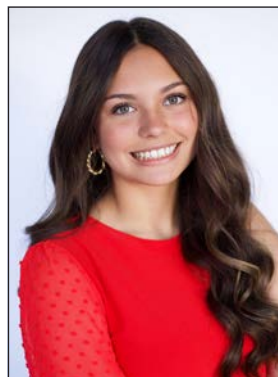
Aadilynne Kightlinger



Lillian Ladner



Alyssia Pickett



Rychel Rehberg



Scarlet Rehberg



Briar Samuels



Kennedy Sapp



Callie Scott

LITTLE & JUNIOR MISS ONTARIO

MISS ONTARIO

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Ontario Middle School Auditorium

Tickets are \$5 a person

Kids 5 and under get in free

Wednesday, June 24 at 6:30 PM

Friday, June 26 at 6:30 PM



Lexington High School Graduates



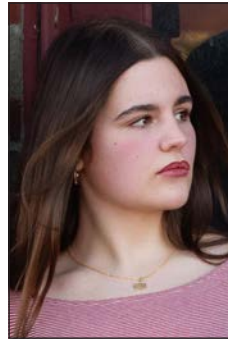
**Breyonia
Adkins**



**Jaydah
Alexander-Jeffery**



**Seven
Allen**



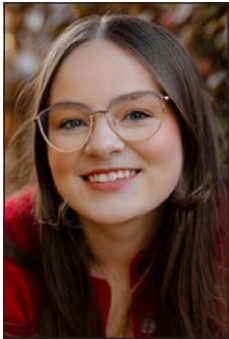
**Willow
Antreassian**



**Malayla
Armstrong-Stidam**



**Maggie
Arnett**



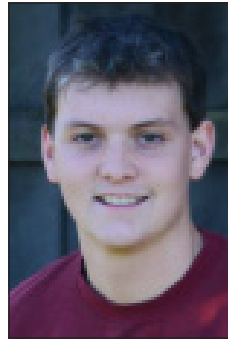
**Emma
Bacquet**



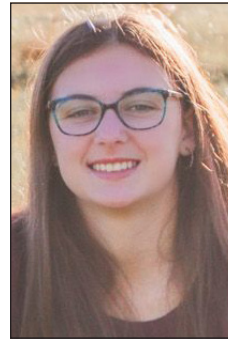
**Owen
Barlow**



**Eli
Barr**



**Logan
Beer**



**Amelia
Bender**



**Ciara
Benedict**



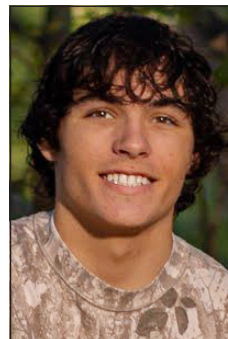
**Kaleia
Bishop**



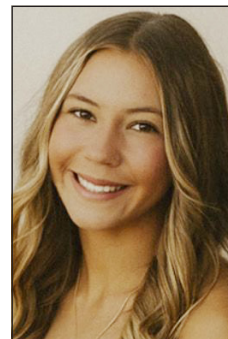
**Jenna
Blazek**



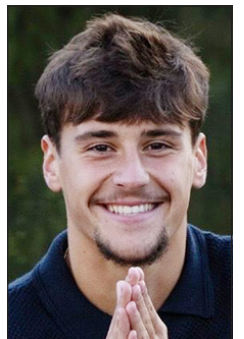
**Lane
Bond**



**Cohen
Boozer**



**Zoe
Borowicz**



**Ashton
Boyce**



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**Kyra
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Brant**



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Brokaw**



**Ava
Brown**



**Kaitlyn
Brown**



**Braxtyn
Burger**



**Markus
Campbell**



**Kalissa
Case**



**Joseph
Caudill**



**Cooper
Clark**



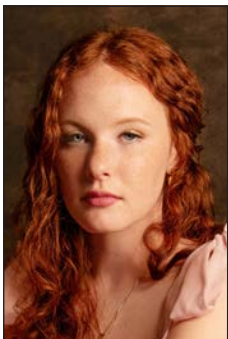
**Graham
Clark**



**Kolton
Clever**



**Lily
Cockley**



**Arianna
Collier**



**Ethan
Conrad**



**Avery
Crawford**



**Darius
Darmody**



**Mia
Davalos**

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Davies**



**Juan
Davila III**



**Ethan
Dean**



**Gage
Devaney**



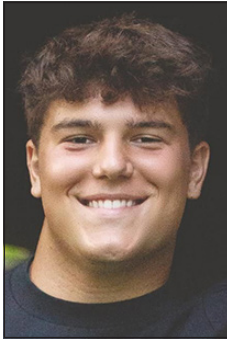
**Zoe
Dingus**



**Carter
Downs**



**Hallie
Durbin**



**Cole
Eichorn**



**Lara
Eid**



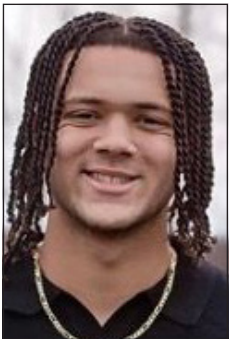
**Aubrey
Esterhay**



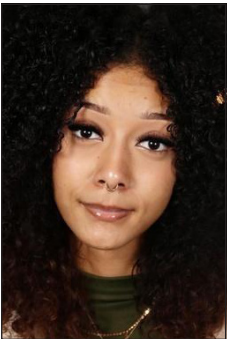
**Uloedo
Ezike**



**Berlyn
Fleming**



**Brayden
Fogle**



**Natalya
Fortner**



**Jacquelyn
Foster**



**Zachary
Frank**



**Carson
Franzen**



**Sadie
Fueston**

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dentistry from infancy through adolescence



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**Ava
Furr**



**Gabriella
Gadfield**



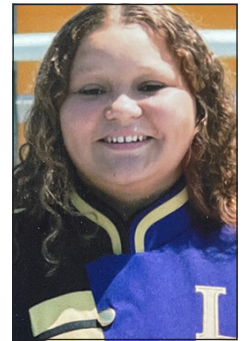
**Tyler
Galownia**



**Cami
Ganes**



**Owen
Garver**



**Chloe
Garza**



**Aidan
Gates**



**Rory
Glass**



**Dakota
Gunnoe**



**Trey
Hager**



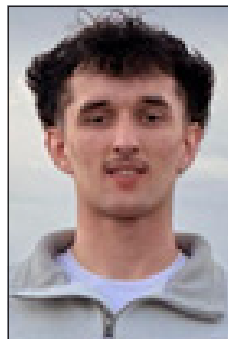
**Jesse
Halfhill**



**Isaac
Hammer**



**Jaden
Hansgen**



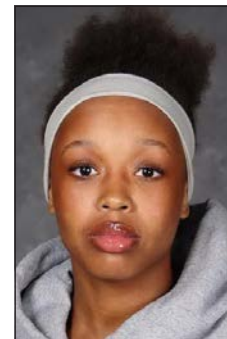
**Vincent
Hardin**



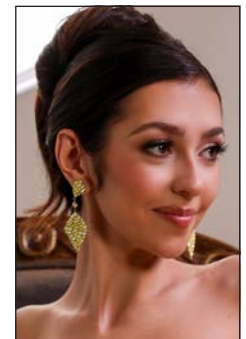
**Daniel
Hardman**



**Luke
Haring**



**Braylei
Harrison**



**Isabella
Heichel**

Congratulations!
Lexington High School
Class of 2026



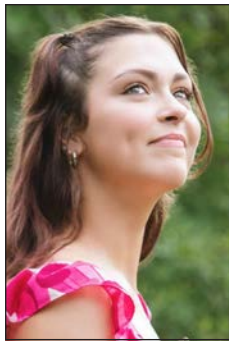
From The Lexington Local School Board of Education, Administration, Faculty & Staff



Lexington High School Graduates



**Aaliyah
Hess**



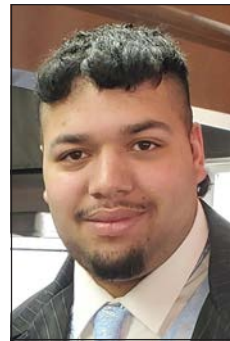
**Ellison
Hicks**



**Grant
Hiebel**



**Erik
Hill**



**Matthew
Hines**



**Ethan
Holbrook**



**Alanta
Hollister**



**Andrew
Hooper**



**Vyncent
Hopkins**



**Alex
Hubbard**



**Dantrell
Hughes**



**Griffin
Hughes**



**Latrell
Hughes**



**Cason
Hughett**



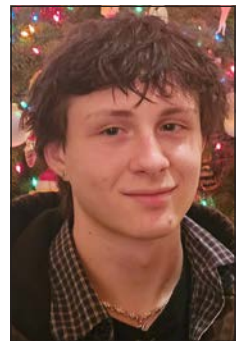
**Jade
Hunt**



**Chance
Jamison**



**Hallie
Jungeberg**



**Ryan
Kamenski**

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**Angel
Kareff**



**Chloe
Kareff**



**Kathleen
Keib**



**Liam
Lacey**



**Allison
Laury**



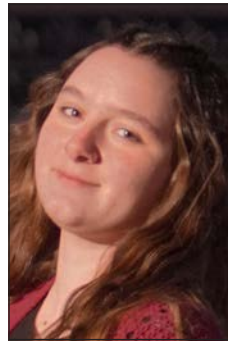
**Cohen
Lautzenhiser**



**Roman
Lee**



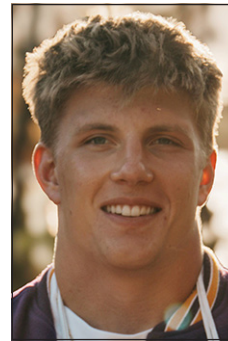
**Natalie
Lehnhart**



**Mya
Lester**



**Savannah
Lutz**



**Dominic
Mampieri**



**Abigail
Martin**



**Markale
Martin**



**Luke
McGowan**



**Linden
McGraw**



**Macey
McGraw**



**Camryn
McGuire**



**Rylie
McGuire**



**Congratulations
Graduates!**





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**Alec
Mentzer**



**Zoe
Merrick**



**Noah
Milton**



**Riley
Mohn**



**Anna
Moore**



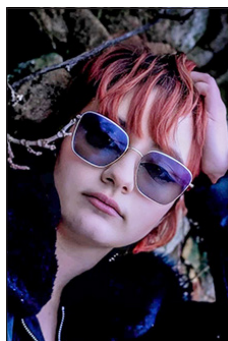
**Lauren
Morgenstern**



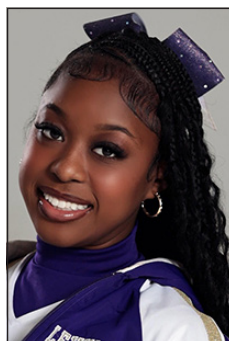
**Blake
M**



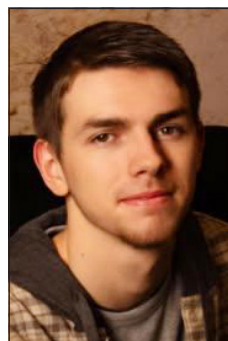
**Madelynn
Morrison**



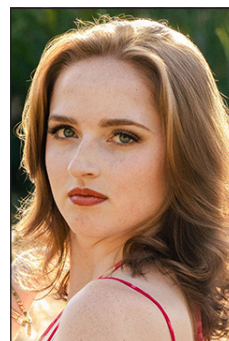
**Morgan
Murphy**



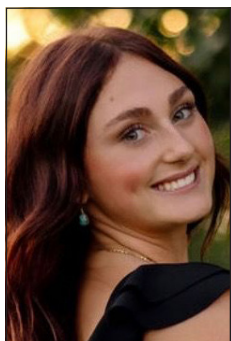
**Loyal
Nelms**



**Chase
Nelson**



**Elisabeth
Newland**



**Maggie
Nolan**



**Peersen
Oehler**



**Abigail
Palevich**



**Sophie
Palmer**



**Landon
Parker**



**Kaley
Patton**

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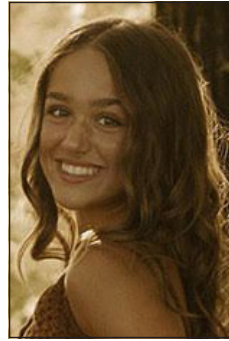
**Lyric
Perez**



**Isabelle
Perez-Stout**



**Grayson
Peterson**



**Iris
Prifti**



**Katerina
Prykhodko**



**Marjorie
Ramirez**



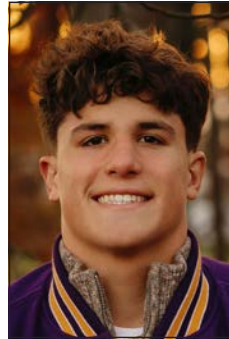
**Mia
Ramirez**



**Natalie
Randall**



**Hayden
Ratcliff**



**Brandon
Reeves**



**Nathan
Reed**



**Amelia
Reeder**



**Cooper
Remy**



**Hayden
Rice**



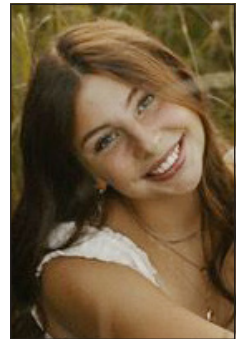
**Lincoln
Rice**



**Lauren
Risser**



**Morgan
Roszman**



**Campbell
Schurig**



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**Addison
Sigler**



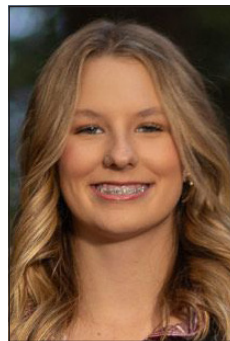
**Lochlan
Sloan**



**Brailey
Slone**



**Dylan
Smith**



**Gracie
Smith**



**Ian
Smith**



**Hayden
Snell**



**Chase
Soehnlén**



**Lincoln
Stoffer**



**Tatum
Stover**



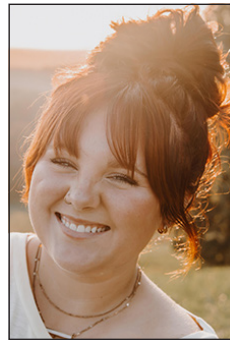
**Kaylee
Stull**



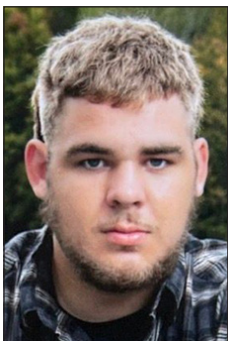
**Jaylen
Taylor**



**John
Taylor**



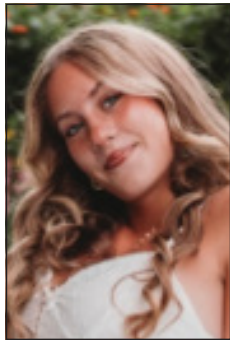
**Madyson
Taylor**



**Nathan
Taylor**



**Isabella
Temple**



**Nora
Thierlein**



**Lillian
Thomas**

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**Kylie
Thornton**



**Emma
Tingley**



**Robert
Tommelleo**



**Chase
Tridico**



**Luke
Triska**



**Alexandria
Trolan**



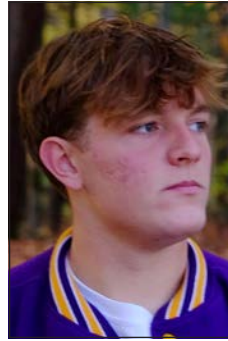
**Rowan
Tucker**



**Brayden
Vance**



**Carmen
VanCura**



**Kade
Wahl**



**Benjamin
Walker**



**Maggie
Wallace**



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**Cooper
Watters**



**Madelyn
White**



**Benjamin
Wiltanger**



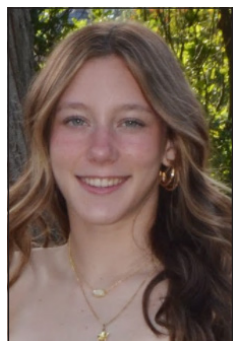
**Brice
Winegarden**



**Ezekiel
Wolf**



**Owin
Woodard**



**Charlotte
Woodruff**



**Emily
Woods**



**Nicholas
Wright**



**Benjamin
Young**



**Katelyn
Young**

**Not
Pictured Are:**
Chloe Bowman
Samuel Hudson
Andrew Klinetop
Kelley Kurtz
Aaliyah Rhodes
Ciona Welch



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*Congratulations Graduates!
Best of Luck on
Your Next Adventure!*

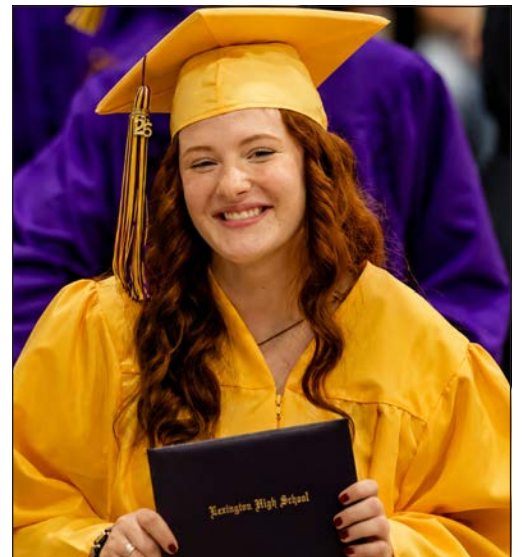


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Lexington High School Graduates

Track & Field Senior Night





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Lexington High School Graduates



Track & Field Senior Night



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2026 Graduates

Lexington High School Graduates

Track & Field Senior Night



Senior Cookout



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Class of 2026

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•Community rallies to help replace wheelchair-accessible van

(Continued from Page 9)

couple is currently assisting with a SERTOMA fundraiser and craft show scheduled for June 21 at the Mansfield Fire Museum. SERTOMA helps families throughout Richland County and surrounding communities who have deaf and hard-of-hearing children by providing equipment, services and resources.

The transportation challenges have already affected the family's ability to participate in church activities and community events. Without a dependable wheelchair-accessible vehicle, many of the ministries and volunteer efforts they enjoy become impossible.

Even while the family works to secure a van of their own, Davis is already thinking about how they can help others facing similar challenges. Her long-term goal is to create an outreach effort called "Helping Hearts & Giving Hands" that would assist other families facing the high cost of obtaining wheelchair-accessible transportation.

"If 340 churches or businesses gave \$100, the van would be paid for," Davis said. "Then we could start helping another family."

"I'd love to continue this next year and just keep blessing other people," she said. "We've always been the ones helping others. That's what we want to keep doing."

For Davis, the outpouring of support has been both humbling and encouraging.

"The community's been generous," she said. "We're thankful for every person who's helped."

For many who know Joni and Jeff Davis, the community's generosity is simply being returned. After decades spent serving others through ministry, caregiving, fundraising, lawn care, baking and countless acts of kindness, friends and neighbors are now stepping forward to help a family that has spent much of its life helping everyone else.

Donations may be made in person or online through Bill Pay to 'Jeffery L & Joni L Davis' (van savings account) at First Federal Bank of Ohio, 1728 W. Fourth St. Ontario. (Account: 200175164, Routing: 241271041). Supporters who pay in person by check will have their canceled checks for receipt. Those who donate cash in person at the bank can get a hand-written receipt upon request.

Supporters can also help by purchasing baked goods from Bear Haven Bakers, with all proceeds benefiting the wheelchair van fund. For more information about donations or purchasing baked goods, contact Jeff or Joni Davis at 419-545-6646.



Kananaskis • Alberta, Canada • Photo By Mark Shutt

Richland Academy to offer free guitar workshops with OSU-M

Richland Academy of the Arts, through a community engagement initiative developed by The Ohio State University at Mansfield, will host free community guitar workshops this summer led by community volunteers, including some of the region's top guitar players.

Open to all skill levels, the seven-workshop series will provide a welcoming environment for participants to learn guitar through live demonstrations, guided practice and informal Q&A sessions.

Whether attendees are picking up a guitar for the first time or looking to expand their skills, each session offers practical instruction and personalized guidance.

The workshops are designed to be flexible and accessible, with no cost, commitment, or prerequisite experience required. Participants may attend any session that fits their schedule and loaner guitars will be available during class.

Each workshop will feature a different instructor, exposing participants to a variety of musical styles and approaches while fostering creativity, community connection, and a love of music.

The workshops are from 4-4:50 pm on these dates and will be led by these community volunteers:

Wednesday, June 24, Mantra Das

Wednesday, July 8, Ross and Thomas

Wednesday, July 15, Scott Osborne

Wednesday, July 22, special guest instructor to be announced

Thursday, July 30, Karl Wohlwend

Instrument access has been funded by the Office of Academic Affairs at The Ohio State University and the generosity of the Mellon Foundation. To learn more and to register online visit mansfield.osu.edu/guitar/free-lessons



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National Honors spotlight student success at Ohio State Mansfield and North Central State College

Photos and Article By Traci Little

MANSFIELD — Applause filled the courtyard. Ice cream melted in the summer heat as raindrops moved the event indoors the Eisenhower Hall building of the Ohio State Mansfield campus. Community leaders, educators and elected officials gathered last Monday afternoon, June 8 to celebrate two national honors that placed Richland County's higher education institutions in the national spotlight.

The Ohio State University at Mansfield and North Central State College were recognized for achievements that leaders say reflect years of commitment to student success, affordability and community impact.

North Central State College received the Leah Meyer Austin Award from Achieving the Dream, the organization's highest honor. The award recognizes colleges that demonstrate exceptional results in student achievement, completion rates and workforce outcomes.

Ohio State Mansfield earned the Carnegie Opportunity College designation, a distinction awarded to institutions that provide high access to higher education while helping students achieve strong economic outcomes after graduation. The campus is one of just 478 colleges and universities nationwide to receive the designation.

Jessica Gribben, president and CEO of the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development, said the awards confirm what many in the community already know.

"We already know what gems you are here in our community," Gribben said. "But to have that recognition be on the national stage for both institutions is a huge accomplishment."

Representatives from several state and federal offices attended the celebration, including staff from the offices of U.S. Sen. John Husted, Auditor of State Keith Faber, Secretary of State Frank LaRose, Congressman Jim Jordan and state lawmakers.

State Sen. Mark Romanchuk praised both institutions for their collaborative approach and student-centered focus.

"We've been blessed to have very good leadership," Romanchuk said. "We've also been blessed to have leadership of these institutions working together, especially when you're on the same campus, is very, very important."

He noted that both schools have consistently focused on meeting community needs while preparing students for careers and future success.

Jason Opal, dean and director of Ohio State Mansfield, said the recognition shines a light on work that often happens behind the scenes.

"This is about bringing attention to a lot of work that's typically unseen," Opal said. "Student outcomes and student success don't always make headlines, but they require intensive work and dedication."

Opal said Ohio State Mansfield serves students from throughout north central and northeastern Ohio while maintaining the feel of a small college connected to one of the nation's largest university systems.

He also reflected on the broader mission of higher education. "We want the opportunity to belong to the people," Opal said. "Here in North Central Ohio, we're doing the job of making opportunities a real thing for people."

North Central State College President Dr. Dorey Diab said the Le-

ah Meyer Austin Award reflects years of progress in helping students persist, graduate and advance into successful careers.

"What does student success mean?" Diab asked. "It's about students finishing a course, finishing a semester, moving from one year to the next, earning a certificate, earning an associate degree, and continuing on to a bachelor's degree."

Diab shared several milestones demonstrating the college's impact across the region.

Since opening 57 years ago, North Central State College has graduated more than 17,000 students. The college serves between 3,000 and 4,000 students annually and has earned repeated recognition as a Leader College of Distinction through Achieving the Dream.

Since 2010, 791 students have completed associate degrees while still in high school, saving families years of tuition costs. During that same period, nearly 13,000 dual-enrollment students earned more than 200,000 college credit hours, resulting in an estimated \$38 million in tuition savings.

The college's Tuition Freedom Scholarship program has helped more than 1,000 students from 50 area high schools continue their education tuition-free during the past four years. Today, 88% of North Central students receive grants or scholarships, while 70% graduate without student loan debt.

Diab emphasized that the benefits extend far beyond the classroom.

"When students graduate, they're able to find better jobs with better salaries and benefits," she said. "That creates more community prosperity, and we all benefit from that."

He also noted that higher educational attainment is linked to stronger workforce development, increased civic engagement, improved health outcomes, lower crime rates and a higher overall quality of life.

The recognition of both institutions highlights what community leaders described as a powerful regional partnership focused on access, affordability and opportunity.

At a time when higher education faces challenges nationwide, Mansfield's two institutions are drawing attention for doing what they have quietly done for years — helping students succeed and strengthening the communities they call home.

"We are excited equally about this fall," said Cindy Wood, '93, M.Ed., Director of Development and Community Relations. "The investment of Ohio State into the Regional Campus Commitment for eligible students to attend Mansfield campus at zero cost is another way, alongside the Buckeye Opportunity Grant for eligible families, to attend Ohio State Mansfield with zero tuition — expanding access and opportunity for those who wish an Ohio State degree and are eligible. We are projecting an increase in enrollment for Fall 2026, largely with increases reflecting the Richland region's interest in pursuing higher education."



Celebration highlights progress at former Westinghouse site

Photos and Article By Traci Little

MANSFIELD — Music echoed across the former Westinghouse property as families filled the site for a day of activities, entertainment and community celebration. As darkness fell, fireworks illuminated the skyline and highlighted a new chapter for one of Mansfield's most recognizable industrial landmarks.

Hundreds attended last Saturday's East Fifth Street Celebration, a free community event highlighting ongoing efforts to transform the former Westinghouse property from a long-vacant brownfield into a future community asset.

The day brought together residents, community organizations, local businesses and redevelopment partners to celebrate progress while sharing a vision for what comes next on the 14-acre site.

Throughout the morning and afternoon, families enjoyed a Children's Festival featuring giant bounce houses, interactive exhibits and educational activities. The Performance Dogs of Ohio entertained crowds with demonstrations, while the Mansfield Fire Department introduced children to its junior training program.

Community organizations also participated throughout the day. The Mansfield/Richland County Public Library hosted yard games, United Way brought its Big Red Bookshelf program, and the Buckeye Imagination Museum offered traveling exhibits. YMCA staff provided activities through Y on the Fly.

Athletes competed in a volleyball tournament during the afternoon, while skateboarders showcased their skills during Skate Ohio's "Attack the Spot" event.

As evening arrived, visitors gathered for live entertainment, food trucks and a beer garden. Northern Downpour opened the evening music lineup before Shucking Bubba took the stage later in the night.

The celebration concluded with a fireworks display that illuminated the former industrial property and symbolized the site's ongoing transformation.

One of the day's most popular attractions was Elektro the Robot, who returned to the former Westinghouse site where his story began. Recently acquired by the Weeks family, Elektro is scheduled to become a centerpiece of the North Central Ohio Industrial Museum at the Ohio State Reformatory this fall.

Built by Westinghouse engineers in Mansfield between 1937 and 1938, Elektro debuted at the 1939 New York World's Fair and quickly captured the public imagination as one of the world's first celebrity robots. At a time when robots were not designed to perform labor but to inspire curiosity, Elektro represented a vision of innovation and the future.

During World War II, Elektro was stored in the basement of Westinghouse engineer John Weeks Sr., becoming part of everyday family life. He later returned to Westinghouse and continued touring throughout the 1940s and 1950s, promoting the promise of a modern, technology-driven home.

Renewed interest in mid-century industrial design led to Elektro's rediscovery. With

the help of descendants of the original engineering team, the robot was reassembled and eventually displayed at the Mansfield Memorial Museum, where he remained on view until 2023.

In 2025, Elektro was formally returned to the Weeks family. Brothers John Weeks and Lowell Weeks have since assumed responsibility for his care, documentation and restoration. Their efforts, along with a dedicated team of supporters, continue to preserve one of Mansfield's most unique pieces of industrial history.

Elektro is preparing to take his place at the North Central Ohio Industrial Museum in 2026, where his story will continue as part of the region's deep industrial and technological legacy.

The event also highlighted the future of the former Westinghouse property, which has long served as a reminder of Mansfield's manufacturing heritage. Community leaders

envision the site to become a vibrant district featuring public gathering spaces, green areas, improved street connections and a mix of residential, commercial and recreational uses.

Plans outlined in the Westinghouse Site Reuse Plan identify opportunities to attract investment, strengthen surrounding neighborhoods and create new spaces where residents can live, work and gather.

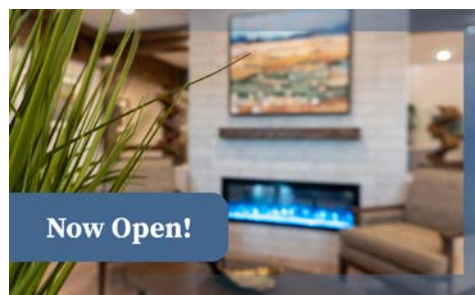
Organizers said the celebration was designed not only to showcase progress already made, but also to encourage community involvement as redevelopment efforts continue.

For many attendees, the event offered a chance to see firsthand how a once-idle industrial site could become an important part of Mansfield's future.

For a site that once helped power America's industrial future, Saturday's celebration offered a glimpse of what its next chapter may become — a place where history, community and new opportunities come together.



The Weeks Family: Rose (daughter of Jack Weeks) John Weeks and Lowell Weeks.



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Civil War Living History Days at South Park



Photos By Traci Little

CIVIL WAR LIVING HISTORY DAY was held at South Park in Mansfield on Saturday, June 13 and Sunday, June 14. The day opened at 10 am with the firing of canons and continued with various talks and presentations including David Walker with "A Conversation About the Faith and Life Of President Jefferson Davis;" and a ladies team reenactor. A church service was held Sunday with Reverend Skip Wilson And Diane Virostko.

North End Farmers Market returns with new location

The North End Farmers Market has announced the opening of its 2026 market season on Thursday, June 18, from 4– 7 pm.

The market moves from its long-time home to a new location at GROW by NECIC, 486 Springmill St., Mansfield, home to the future GROW by NECIC Farm Stop and the Mansfield offices of NECIC.

The new location places the market directly along one of the North End's primary corridors, making it more accessible to residents traveling by foot, bicycle, public transportation or vehicle.

To help visitors navigate the new location, public parking will be available along Vale Avenue, Bowman Street and in the overflow lot located at the corner of Bowman Street and Springmill Street, across from Mountain Drive Thru.

There is also a small, first-come, first-served handicap-accessible parking lot reserved for individuals with disabilities next to the market near Blust Avenue. Assistance will be available to help market patrons safely cross the street during market hours as visitors become familiar with the market's new location.

The North End Farmers Market will once again feature local produce, baked goods, handmade goods, community resources, and family-friendly activities. Visitors can also look forward to an expanded lineup of live musicians, food trucks, beverage vendors, demonstrations, community partners and special attractions throughout the season.

New this year, every market date will feature a unique theme designed to celebrate different aspects of the community and create new experiences for visitors. While additional details will be announced throughout the season, guests can look forward to themed markets centered around pets, fitness and wellness, ice cream socials, environmental stewardship, native Ohio wildlife, Richland County and North End heritage and history, arts and crafts, and more.

The season opener on June 18 will feature the market's first theme, "Pets of the North End Farmers Market." Community members are encouraged to submit photos of their pets using the hashtag #NorthEndPets on Facebook or by sending them directly to NECIC. Market attendees will vote for their favorite pet photo during the event, with the winning pet owner receiving \$25 in Market Bucks.

Visitors can also enjoy food and beverage vendors, a cooking demonstration by Chris Jackson, community partners, family-friendly activities and local vendors.

The Nmarket remains committed to making fresh food accessible to all residents and accepts multiple forms of payment and assistance programs including SNAP/EBT, the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP), WIC, credit cards, cash and other payment methods.

Hosted by NECIC, the North End Farmers Market supports local farmers, food producers, artisans, entrepreneurs, and community organizations while creating a vibrant gathering space for residents and visitors alike. For updates, vendor announcements and theme information throughout the season, follow NECIC on Facebook.

Romanchuk praises passage of Law Enforcement Purple Heart license plate

The Ohio Senate passed an amended Senate Bill 52, legislation which was amended to include a provision sponsored by Senator Mark Romanchuk (R-Ontario), to create the Law Enforcement Purple Heart license plate.

"I am honored to recognize those who put their lives on the line to serve and protect our communities," said Senator Romanchuk. "This bill is not just about a license plate; it's about the bravery and sacrifices of our law enforcement. I was proud to advocate for this policy, and I celebrate the passage of this legislation."

Under this legislation, any individual who is awarded the Law Enforcement Purple Heart by the National Association of Chiefs of Police may apply for this specialty license plate with the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles. SB 52 commemorates this recognition of service and sacrifice.

SB 52 now goes to Governor DeWine for signature.



KCCC Precision Machining Instructor Joe LaFevre and Precision Machining Senior Beau Keller

KCCC's Beau Keller earns silver at SkillsUSA National Conference

Beau Keller, a senior in the Precision Machining program at the Knox County Career Center (KCCC), earned silver (second place) in CNC 2-Axis Turning Programmer at the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC) that was held June 1–5 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Keller earned the opportunity to compete in the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference by placing 1st in the state competition back in early May.

"The only person who can shape the future is you, so take pride in your work and do your best no matter what. SkillsUSA is a great opportunity for young adults to prove their skills through competition. I would encourage anyone who can compete to do so because it will open great opportunities in your career," said Keller.

Joe LaFevre, KCCC's Precision Machining instructor, commented, "As usual, the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference did not disappoint. I am proud of SkillsUSA for their part in supporting the trades and the opportunities they provide for these students."

LaFevre added, "I'm also proud of Ohio's representation. It is with such honor that I get to be a tiny part of the inter-workings of such a great event. I am so proud of Beau and I am beyond thankful to be a part of his journey through life, especially seeing his hard work pay off on such a high level."

The NLSC is the largest gathering of America's future skilled workforce and the ultimate recognition of excellence in career and technical education. Held in Atlanta each June, the NLSC is a week-long celebration of the skilled trades and the accomplishments of career-ready leaders from across the United States. The event brings together more than 19,000 attendees, including students, instructors, industry partners, government officials, administrators, and more.

The highlight of the NLSC is the SkillsUSA Championships, where more than 6,500 state champions compete for national gold, silver, and bronze medals in 114 skilled and leadership competitions.

MACC students honored during annual graduation ceremony

Madison Adult Career Center (MACC) held its annual graduation for 137 students completing Career Development Programs during the 2025-'26 school year on Friday, June 12. Thirty-eight students also earned an adult high school diploma.

MACC holds its annual graduation ceremony to recognize students who have met or are on track to meet graduation requirements by Oct. 31. Five graduates were nominated by their instructor(s) for Student of the Year: Taylor Berry, Dental Assisting; Kelsey Henry, Medical Assisting Technologies (daytime); Lauren Hodge, Phlebotomy/EKG; Jessica Hoffman, Medical Assisting Technologies (evening); and Josiah Remy, Welding Technology. The 2025-'26 Student of the Year is Josiah Remy.

Students graduated from career development programs: Advanced Cosmetology, Dental Assisting, Industrial Maintenance Technology, Medical Assisting Technologies, Precision Machining/CNC Technology, Phlebotomy/EKG, Certified Nurse Aide and Welding Technology. Students also graduated from certificate programs: Construction & Welding Fundamentals, Customer & Office Support Technology, Gas Metal Arc Welding, and Nail Technician. Programs range from 96 to 1800 clock hours of training.

MACC graduates earn or soon will earn industry-recognized certifications including: Registered Phlebotomy Technician (RPT); Registered Medical Assistant (RMA); Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) and Dental Radiography; Ohio State Cosmetology and Barber Board Licensure; Certified Nurse Aide (CNA); American Welding Society (AWS); The National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER); OPAC certification in Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook; NRF Customer Service & Sales; Nail Technician Licensure; and Basic Life Support (BLS) & HeartSaver First Aid. Career Development Program graduates also earn an ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Credential (NCRC).

MACC reported that it awarded \$123,671 in student scholarships made possible through grants received from local partner organizations and foundations. MACC also awarded over \$246,000 in state and federal grants to students to help cover student's training costs.

Students graduating from Career Development programs who successfully meet graduation requirements receive a Certificate of Completion and a Career Passport in addition to their industry credentials. To qualify, students must complete at least 90% of program scheduled hours and 100% of required coursework, achieve a 2.0 minimum grade point average, complete required externship, clinical or job shadow and complete Employability/Work Ethic Curriculum.

MACC's 2025 overall completion rate was 87% with completers having 100% positive post-program placement, 71% working in a related field of their training; and 97% earning an industry credential.

MACC is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges and approved by the Ohio Department of Higher Education as an Ohio Technical Center providing post-secondary career technical education and a member of the Ohio Association of Career Technical and Adult Education.



Photos By Traci Little

find out more!

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Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Free tennis clinic offered to Clear Fork students

By Kris Leiter

The Clear Fork Tennis program is offering free clinics to Colt students this summer.

Clear Fork Tennis coach Aaron Wilson recently conducted a free 4-day Tennis Clinic for Clear Fork students going into junior high or high school.

Wilson, a 1996 graduate of Clear Fork high school and 2025 MO-AC Coach of the Year, has a passion to get a racket into the hands of Clear Fork students.

"We are continuing clinics over the next few weeks," said Wilson. "Follow Clear Fork Tennis on Facebook or Instagram for times and dates for high school open courts. High school students can come anytime during the open court sessions."

"The middle school camp is more specific. It will be June 22-26, from noon to 2 pm. Rackets and water will be provided. Cancellations will be announced on Facebook and Instagram and questions can be directed to Techwilson20@gmail.com."

Wilson hopes to introduce the love of the game to students in "The Valley."

Wilson says, "The goal is to get kids to play tennis. Getting them to play for the team isn't my primary goal, but obviously if that happens, that's great!"

"I don't want to pull anybody from someone else's roster, but if somebody falls out of love with a sport, we would love for them to come play tennis. There's probably a lot of kids that have probably never played."

"As for getting kids involved, I thought, why not run some clinics? I started with the middle school students. I would do open courts with high school students, so the clinic got up and running."

Wilson also hoped for students to familiarize themselves with him and his program. "If their friends say something about tennis, they can say, 'I met the tennis coach, he's a nice guy, you got to go play.'"

"Since I don't teach in the district, it's hard to meet kids during the school day. I try to build a rapport."

"Many didn't know we had a tennis team, or where to go to play."

"The clinics are tailored for the beginner with no experience. If students don't have their own racquet or balls, we have them available to borrow during the clinic."

"The VFW in Bellville helped us with the equipment. I wrote a grant, they accepted it and gave me the money to buy 10 Wilson Blade rackets, which are the most used brands these days. Both the girls and the guys have used them almost every season. They are officially owned by the district."

"Before we got the grant, our kids would go to matches with two rackets — one was dad's racket from 1994 and the other was

Walmart or Target."

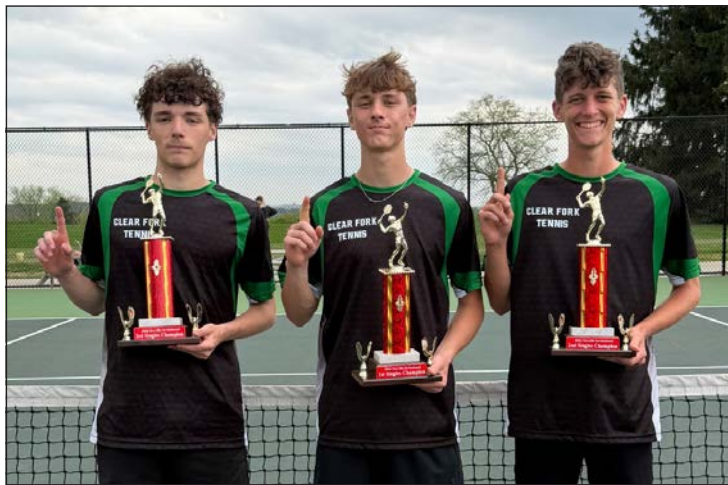
"If someone has their own racket, that's good also. If a racquet needs re-strung, I can help them with people who do that as well."

"I've had a couple parents come for sessions. If they want to work with their student, I'm good with that. However, during the matches, they would have to observe only, per OHSA rules."



2025-'26 Clear Fork All-Ohio/State Qualifiers

Ashtyn Wine - All-Ohio Soccer 2025
 Brinley Barnett - All- Ohio Soccer, 3rd Team All-Ohio Basketball
 Kade Beachy - All-Ohio Soccer
 Nash Evan - 2nd Team All-Ohio Football - Punter, Track 6th Place Long Jump, All-Ohio
 Evan Hamilton - 3rd Team All-Ohio Football - Offensive Line
 Devyn Oswalt - Honorable Mention All-Ohio Football - Defensive Back
 Ben Campbell - Honorable Mention All-Ohio Football - Defensive Line
 Alex Schlosser - Honorable Mention All-Ohio Football - Linebacker
 Estella Gandee - Swimming State 10th Place, All-Ohio
 Eliana Pelkey - Honorable Mention Basketball
 Ava Boccio - 1st Team All-Ohio Basketball
 Anthony Oscar - Wrestling State Champion
 Caleb Snyder - Wrestling State 4th Place, All-Ohio
 Colton Wenger - Wrestling State Qualifier
 Luke Lee - Wrestling State Qualifier
 Lakoda Lee - Wrestling State Qualifier
 Taylor Bly - Track 400m State Champion, All-Ohio
 Julian Mills - Track & Field 8th Place Discus, All-Ohio
 Davis Hoeflich - Track & Field 4th Place High Jump, All-Ohio
 Katrina Neal - Track 3200m 4th place, Track 1600m 7th place, Cross Country 15th Place, 3x All-Ohio
 Girls 4x400 - Track State Runner Up - Katie Beck, Quinn Stover, Asia Bechtel, Taylor Bly
 Girls 4x200 - Track 5th Place - Katie Beck, Asia Bechtel, Taylor Richmond, Taylor Bly
 Boys 4x100 - Track 3rd Place - Nash Evans, Davis Hoeflich, Marcus Hoeflich, Devyn Oswalt
 Boys 4x200 - Track State Qualifier - Landen McKee, Ethan Beck, Devyn Oswalt, Aidan Haring
 Nate Wine - Track & Field State Qualifier Shot Put
 Jada Brokaw - 2nd Team All-Ohio Softball



Trevor Blum, Cooper Brokaw and Kade Beachy
 Brokaw was named MOAC Player of the Year.

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 June 3, 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-15 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR OR HIS DESIGNEE (CHIEF OF POLICE) TO DONATE ONE (1) UNNEEDED AND SLATED FOR AUCTION PATROL CAR TO NORTH CENTRAL STATE COLLEGE POLICE ACADEMY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-16 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR OR HIS DESIGNEE (CHIEF OF POLICE) TO CONTRIBUTE \$2,000 FROM THE POLICE TRAINING FUND TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF WRESTLING MATS USED AT THE NORTH CENTRAL STATE COLLEGE POLICE ACADEMY FOR TRAINING PURPOSES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Abbey Beaver
Asst. Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 6-11, 18, '26) 35L

Sale proceeds will help with travel expenses

An Ontario Community Garage Sale will be held Saturday, July 25, in Ontario Middle School's parking lot.

Spots can be reserved at a rate of three for \$20 and four for \$25. Vendors are invited to sell gently used items or those not interested in selling can donate the day of the sale.

The sale will be held from 10 am to 3 pm.

Spaces are limited. Register in person at The Ontario Local Schools Board Office, Monday through Thursday from 8 am to 3 pm (closed 12–1 pm).

This event is sponsored and hosted by students studying Spanish who will be traveling to Spain in the summer of 2027. All proceeds will benefit students traveling to Spain and help cover their travel expenses.

Payment is due by July 7, to reserve a spot.

To register visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqAUChZoq-7WDVX-8CcDOhJZMb7_twNVZoFeoU-vsh2_PY5Edw/viewform.

Annual Ashland BalloonFest events return June 25–27

Ashland is preparing to welcome thousands of visitors as the annual Ashland BalloonFest returns to Freer Field June 25–27.

Organizers are promising the largest and most activity-filled festival in the event's history, featuring colorful hot air balloons, live entertainment, family attractions, and exciting new experiences.

Approximately 30 hot air balloons are scheduled to participate in the three-day festival, with mass balloon launches planned each evening at 6:30 pm and Balloon Glow events lighting up the night sky at 9:15 pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, weather permitting.

While the hot air balloons remain the festival's signature attraction, organizers have expanded the lineup to ensure visitors have plenty to enjoy regardless of weather conditions.

Festival attendees can experience monster trucks, chainsaw wood carving demonstrations, four live musical performances, a Saturday Jeep Rally, helicopter rides, tethered hot air balloon rides, monster truck rides and many additional family-friendly activities throughout the weekend.

"Ashland BalloonFest has always been about creating memorable experiences for families," said Ashland BalloonFest Committee President Zack Burgess. "While the main attraction is launching these awesome hot air balloons, we realize delays or cancellations are possible, so we have added a lot of weather-proof fun to our festival. We have expanded our experience opportunities as helicopter rides return, along with the addition of tethered hot air balloon rides and monster truck rides."

Live entertainment on the festival stage will include, Thursday, June 25, SB Music, 5–9 pm; Friday, June 26, Emily Raff, the Rock and Roll Cowgirl, 5–9 pm; Saturday, June 27, Tom's Kitchen Table, noon to 3 pm and The Skittle Bots, 5–9 pm.

Admission to Ashland BalloonFest is free. Parking is available at Ashland University and Freer Field, 1301 Park St., for \$10 per vehicle.

For a complete schedule of events and additional festival information visit AshlandBalloonfest.com or follow Ashland BalloonFest on Facebook.



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Mansfield invites community input on final public pool feasibility survey

The City of Mansfield Parks & Recreation Department has launched the second and final public survey as part of the ongoing public pool feasibility study.

This important next step in the process presents four realistic and thoughtfully developed options for the future of public swimming in Mansfield. Each option includes key details such as estimated costs, location, and expected driving distances, giving residents a clear understanding of what each scenario would involve.

Community feedback is a critical part of this process. The City is encouraging all residents to participate and share their input to help guide decision-making.

"This survey represents a major milestone in identifying a path forward that reflects the needs and priorities of our community," said Mike Wooger- Parks Superintendent. "We want to hear from as many residents as possible before moving into the next phase."

The survey will be open for two weeks, giving residents a limited-time opportunity to review the options and provide feedback.

Residents can access the survey online at <https://engage.councilmanhunsaker.com/mansfield-ohio-swimming-pool-concepts-survey>