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08.27.26



SOPHIA DEEL was crowned 2026 Miss Teen Blueberry during the 2026 Miss Blueberry Pageant crownings Aug. 20. Also receiving titles were Baby Miss Blueberry Elowyn McCarty, Wee Miss Blueberry Jayda Owens, Little Miss Blueberry Carina Kirk, Jr. Miss Blueberry Juliet Robles and Miss Blueberry Claire Davisson.



MRCPL will host Ohio Goes to the Movies event

The Mansfield/Richland County Public Library has been selected to host an Ohio Goes to the Movies™ (OGTMM) event. OGTMM is a statewide celebration of movies showcasing Ohio's contributions to America's film industry and moviemaking. A Signature Event of America 250-Ohio, OGTMM started mid-February 2026 and runs through October 2026— about 250 days involving all of the state's 88 counties.

The Main Library, 43 W. Third St., Mansfield, will screen *Air Force One* (Rated R) after hours on Friday, Sept. 11 at 6 pm. This is a free, adults-only event where viewers will have the opportunity to win one of two themed gift bundles valued at \$100 each. The doors will open at 5:30 pm and seating is limited to 100 guests. Refreshments will be provided.

"Each venue selected its own movie from the Ohio Movie Database," explained OGTMM Program Director Molly Kreuzman. The library chose *Air Force One* because it was partially filmed in Mansfield at the Ohio State Reformatory in 1996.

Following the film, attendees can go behind the scenes with the Ohio State Reformatory's Tour Program Manager, Derek Wilson, to discover how the former prison became one of Hollywood's most iconic filming locations. The presentation will explore the movies, television shows and music videos filmed within its historic walls, sharing exclusive behind-the-scenes stories. This will cover everything from *The Shawshank Redemption* to Lil Wayne's "Go DJ."

In coordination with the movie screening, the Library will also host a special, adults-only, movie-themed trivia night on Thursday, Sept. 10, at 6:30 pm at The Phoenix Brewing Company, 131 N. Diamond St.

For information visit <https://ohiogoes-to-the-movies.org/ohio-movie-database/> or <https://www.mrcpl.org/>

New Miss Blueberry royalty crowned

Photos and Article By Traci Little

LEXINGTON — Crowns, sashes and plenty of smiles filled Heartland Church last Thursday evening as six new Miss Blueberry title holders took center stage. Despite the cancellation of this year's Lexington Blueberry Festival, the longtime tradition of crowning a new court continued.

The 2026 Miss Blueberry Pageant crownings were held Aug. 20, following the 24th annual pageant competition held Aug. 8 at Heartland Church. Contestants competed in six age divisions ranging from Baby Miss Blueberry to Miss Teen Blueberry.

Flooding and unsafe conditions at Lexington Community Park forced organizers to cancel the four-day festival, but the pageant crownings were among several traditions that were able to continue.

Miss Ohio 2026 Lexie Miller served as emcee for the evening. Miller, 24, of Newark, was crowned Miss Ohio in June and will compete for the title of Miss America beginning Sept. 1. A 2024 graduate of the University of Akron with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Miller works as a cardiovascular intensive care nurse caring for patients recovering from open-heart surgery.

Taking home the 2026 Baby Miss Blueberry crown was Elowyn McCarty, 2, of Cardington, daughter of Ryan and Hannah McCarty. Sylvia Kirk, 2, of Mansfield, daughter of Caleb and Alexis Kirk, was named first runner-up.

Jayda Owens, 5, of Lexington, daughter of Jacob and Sarah Owens, was crowned 2026 Wee Miss Blueberry. Makenzie Korody, 4,

(Continued on Page 10)

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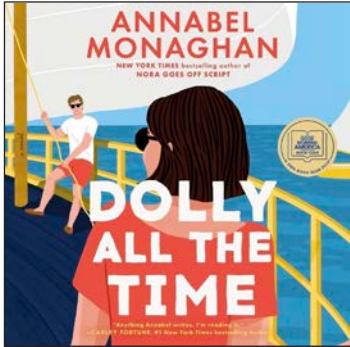
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LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review
By Amanda Belczak



Dolly All the Time by Annabel Monaghan was adorable.

Dolly grew up in a small coastal town in Rhode Island. Her dad runs the local seafood shop famous for its crab cakes.

Dolly is proud of her adult life in Boston, even if it's exhausting to be a single mother raising a teenager on a teacher's salary, but Dolly is resourceful and always makes it work.

After a small house fire, Dolly returns home to help her dad run the shop for the summer.

When running deliveries, she has a chance encounter with famous and rich local Stewart Whitfield.

To keep running the family business and convince the board he's capable, Stewart offers Dolly a proposition. He will pay her thousands to pretend to date him just for the summer. But of course, it's never as simple as that.

I loved the characters, the charming town, and the predictable romance.

Both characters had lots to discover about each other and themselves.

I needed an easy read that still had a rich story, and this was just the ticket.

My rating: ★★★★★

Follow my blog at amanda-belczak.com

Public invited to town meeting on August 27

Members of the public are invited to the first of a series of town hall meetings designed to build a better relationship between the Mansfield Police Department and the community.

This idea arose from conversations between Mansfield Mayor, Jodie Perry, Police Chief, Jason Bammann and members of the NAACP #3190.

This first meeting will take place on Thursday, Aug. 27, at 5:30 pm. It will be held at the Greater Mitchell Chapel A.M.E. Church, 182 S. Adams St., Mansfield.

Mayor Perry suggested that holding the meetings at local churches would allow attendees to speak freely and feel that they are in a "safe haven."

The Reverend Jameelah O'Neal, senior pastor, will host the meeting and hopes to open a dialogue that will foster an understanding of the policies and procedures of the police department.

At the same time, the public will have an opportunity to express their concerns about recent instances of police use of force.

All are welcome to attend this information session. Those attending are asked to come with an open mind and an intention to learn and discuss.



THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —

Insidious: Out of the Further is the sixth entry in this long-running horror franchise.

Amelia Eve plays Gemma, a woman haunted by the mysterious death of her mother and is now a mother of her own. She learns that the evil entities that were responsible for her mother's death are now coming after her and her daughter.

This movie is definitely back end loaded as the last 30 minutes move along very nicely and provide much of the films energy. Lin Shaye returns in her role as Elise and is always welcome. The movie also features three very creepy elderly spirits who are there to capture Gemma and bring her to release the demon that is trying to escape his world and come into ours. A couple of stand out scenes are one involv-

ing a pillow fort and another in a tattoo parlor.



Where this movie really drags is in the middle section. Much is made of Gemma being a dental hygienist and the horror scene surrounding that takes a very long time. Eve is a good actress though did not seem as afraid as she could have in some terrifying situations. Its too bad some

plot points could not have been moved up earlier in the movie because it could have been a much more enjoyable ride.

Insidious: Out of the Further is a middle of the pack entry in this series though definitely an improvement over 2023's fifth film. This movie closes well but the road getting there is bumpy.



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News Briefs

State Route 314, just north of Millsboro Road, will close Monday, Aug. 31 for a culvert replacement.

The detour route will be SR 314 south to SR 309 west to SR 61/SR 309 in Galion to SR 97 east to SR 314 and reverse.

The estimated completion is Friday, Sept. 11. This work was rescheduled from the previous week.

The Ontario Warriors Cheerleaders are holding a fundraiser at Buckeye Express Car Wash on Sunday, Aug. 30, from 1-3 pm. During the event, those participating will receive 50% off their first month of any unlimited plan. Varsity will be at the 616 N. Lexington-Springmill location and the JV will be at the 3115 Park Avenue location.

A town hall meeting regarding funding Ohio's public schools and how vouchers impact public school funding. will be held Thursday Sept. 17, at 6 pm at the Ontario library, 2221 Village Mall Dr., Ontario. The event is sponsored by Richland County Democratic Women's Caucus. For more information call or text 419-589-2947.

City of Ontario meetings are held at the city building, 555 Stumbo Rd., Ontario.

September meetings are scheduled for Sept. 2, 6:15 pm, caucus and 7 pm, council; Sept. 9, 1 pm, civil service commission and 4 pm, planning commission; and Sept. 16, 6:15 pm, caucus and 7 pm, council.

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 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.

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 Sept. 16. The Mansfield Dulcimer Players will perform and there will be a collection for the Richland County Humane Society. Those attending are asked to bring paper towels, cleaning supplies, newspapers, wipes, disposable gloves, canned food and Purina Cat/Dog Chow.

The group will gather for lunch on Sept. 2, at 11 am at El Campesino in Ontario.

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

Trinity Grace Fellowship, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield, will hold its annual rummage sale Sept. 30 through Oct. 3.

The sale will be open 4-7 pm on Sept. 30, 9 am to 7 pm on Oct. 1, 9 am to 2 pm on Oct. 2 and 9 am to noon on Oct. 3. The kitchen

will be open 4-7 pm on Sept. 30 and from 10 am to sale closing time the remaining days.

The Richland County Board of Elections, 1495 W. Longview Ave., Suite 101, Mansfield, is in need of poll workers. Those 17 and older can call 419-774-5530 for more information. Pay includes training and a minimum of \$145 for working election day.

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, Aug. 29 and 30. 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.

All Souls Unitarian Universalist of Bellville, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Missy Houghto, Richland County Dog Warden, on Sunday, Aug. 30, at 10:30 am. The subject will be "The Lessons Our Animals Teach Us: Love, Healing and the Bonds That Change Us." For information visit www.allsoulsuuohio.org.

Ontario Youth Sports is hosting pickleball games each Thursday night in August from 6-8 pm at Stowell Park, Ferguson Rd, in Ontario. The games are open to community members.

Local author "Miss Nancy" Foss and he goose puppet, "Waddles" will be reading her recently published book *Toast and Jam at the Library* to the children and signing books at the Galion Public Library community room at 11 am on Saturday, Sept. 12.

This event is free and open to the public.

Miss Nancy has also written a second book, *Caution! Goose Inside!* These books are available for purchasing before this event online at lulu.com/shop to bring in for signing. Refreshments will also be provided. Reservations are not necessary but seating is limited. Call the Galion library for more information at 419-468-3203.

Foss has been a children's librarian at Galion since 2015.



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Galion's log house plaque dedication set for Sunday, September 13

Galion's Log House (cabin) was relocated and restored at Heise Park in 1985. A new bronze plaque explaining its unique history will be dedicated, followed by a glimpse into one of Galion's earliest domiciles on Sunday, Sept. 13 beginning at 1 pm.

Visitors can discover this and Ohio's other amazing heritage through dates in September as historic buildings and fascinating places across the state open their doors for special tours and events as part of the Ohio History Connection's biennial event.

Admission to this and all Ohio Open Doors events are free. Two other Open Doors events will also be happening on the same date in Galion; The Big Four Depot Pavilion and the Gill House will also be open. A list of the statewide events and activities is available at ohiohistory.org/opendoors.

"Ohio Open Doors shares stories of important landmarks and interesting sites right in our backyards, highlighting the history and unique nature of some of Ohio's most treasured places," said Diana Welling, Director of the Ohio History Connection's State Historic Preservation Office and State Historic Preservation Officer.

The Ohio History Connection created Ohio Open Doors in 2016 to promote and inspire pride in Ohio's heritage and to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on Oct. 15, 1966, the Act has proven instrumental in transforming communities from coast to coast, establishing the legal framework and incentives to preserve historic buildings, landscapes and archaeological sites. It drives economic revitalization by attracting investment, supporting small business, stabilizing neighborhoods and creating jobs.

Ohio Open Doors partner organizations include America 250-Ohio, Heritage Ohio, Ohio Local History Alliance, Ohio Museums Association, Ohio Travel Association, and TourismOhio.



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@stjohnsmansfield.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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Rosa Jane Schwartz, August 17
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Charles Kenneth Deal, August 18
Barbara "Barb" Lynn Hill, August 18
Judy Ann Kiser, August 18

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Veterans and Military Development Committee tour 179th

State Representatives Tracy Richardson (R-Marysville), Marilyn John (R-Richland County), and some members of the House Veterans and Military Development Committee yesterday took a tour of the 179th Cyber Wing in Mansfield.

The tour provided committee members with valuable insight into the U.S. Air Force's September 2021 selection of the Mansfield Air National Guard

Base to host the nation's first Air National Guard Cyberspace Wing. Additionally, the committee learned about the base's presence within the community. Members of the wing often meet with local students to discuss military opportunities and collaborate with businesses in the community.

"I was delighted to lead members of the Veterans and Military Development Committee, in-

cluding Vice Chair Ty Mathews, Representative Meredith Craig, and Majority Floor Leader Marilyn John, to listen and learn from members of this unit," said Richardson, who serves as Chair of the Committee. "The visit helped us understand and appreciate the 179th Wing's significant impact on the success of warfighters and the economic vitality of our state."

"It was a pleasure to welcome

the Veterans and Military Development Committee to the 179th Airlift Wing," said Rep. John. "I am proud to have the 179th in our community and was glad to share with my fellow state representatives the important work our Airmen do for Ohio and our nation."

The 179th Cyber Wing's mission statement is "Provide cyber-enabled capabilities supporting tactical needs in air superiority and information warfare."



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Ohio Goes to the Movies™ is a statewide celebration of movies showcasing Ohioans: actors, directors, writers, composers, locations, and topics shown in cities and towns across the state. Mansfield Richland County Public Library was chosen as a host site.



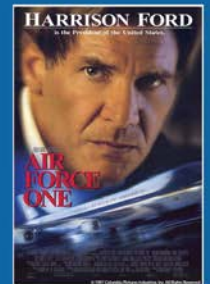
Mansfield/Richland County
Public Library

Movie Night

Fri. Sep. 11, 6 PM

Main Library

Adults Only | Rated R



Continue your appreciation of Ohio cinema by joining us for a special after-hours showing of *Air Force One*! Doors open at 5:30 PM. After the film, go behind the scenes with Derek Wilson and discover how the Ohio State Reformatory became one of Hollywood's most iconic filming locations. Explore the movies, television shows, and music videos filmed within its historic walls, along with behind-the-scenes stories and the lasting legacy they've left behind. From *The Shawshank Redemption* to Lil Wayne's "Go DJ," this is a presentation you won't want to miss! Enjoy free snacks and a chance to win one of two \$100 gift bundles.

Trivia Night

Thu. Sep. 10, 6:30 PM

Phoenix Brewing Co.

Adults 21+ Only



Celebrate Ohio's role in cinema with movie-themed trivia at the Phoenix Brewing Company! All five categories of questions will center around Ohio movie history and general movie knowledge. Team of 5 or less.

mrcpl.org

Coming Home: Madison graduates return to teach next generation

By Traci Little

MADISON TOWNSHIP — Not long ago, they were the ones sitting behind the desks, marching onto the field, competing in Madison uniforms and learning from the teachers standing at the front of their classrooms.

This fall, five Madison graduates are walking back through those familiar school doors — this time as educators.

Sloan Kiser, Julia Litt, MaShala Schmid, Trinity Tucker and Lila Wolfe are among Madison Local Schools' new teachers for the 2026-27 school year. All five graduated from the district between 2018 and 2021, and each was involved in athletics, band or other extracurricular activities during her years at Madison.

For Superintendent Rob Peterson, seeing five former students return to the district in a single hiring year stands out.

"It is very unusual," Peterson said. "I know we haven't done so during my tenure as superintendent."

Their Madison connection, however, wasn't what earned them their positions. Peterson said each was selected because of her credentials and interview, although district leaders also had the benefit of knowing the kind of students — and people — they had been.

"I think it says a lot about our district and the great experience they had here as students, and now they want to provide those great experiences and opportunities to their students," Peterson said.

Back where they started

For Kiser, a 2020 Madison graduate and new fourth-grade teacher, coming back was something she had envisioned long before a position became available.

"Madison was always the goal of where I would like to end up long term for my teaching career," she said.

Kiser played softball and volleyball at Madison and said both sports helped devel-

op the work ethic, perseverance and teamwork she now wants to foster in her own classroom.

Her senior year also came with an unexpected lesson in handling adversity. Kiser was part of the Class of 2020, whose final months of high school were upended by the COVID-19 pandemic. School, softball and a traditional graduation were among the experiences canceled or dramatically changed.

"Looking back it was really the people around me in the community/staff at Madison that held the pieces together for me," Kiser said.

Six years later, walking back into Madison as a staff member brought another unforgettable moment.

"It really started to hit me when I realized I was working alongside some of the teachers who taught me growing up," she said.

"I believe anytime that we are fortunate enough to have our own comeback to teach, they show a lot of passion for our students and community. I think this goes full circle and allows students to make connections that this could be a true possibility for them in their future as well if they desire to teach in the school system," said Madison Intermediate School Principal Melissa Wigton.

From teammates to teachers

That same sense of coming home resonates with Litt and Tucker, who have returned to Madison Middle School.

Litt, a 2020 graduate, is an intervention specialist, while Tucker, a 2021 graduate, teaches seventh-grade English/language arts. Both were Madison athletes, and both say lessons learned through sports continue to shape how they approach their students.

For Litt, one of the biggest was simply learning to show up.

"It used to be showing up for my teammates, my coaches, or my teachers," she said. "Now it's showing up for my students, my players, and my school."

Litt initially did not plan to pursue education, but after encouragement from her mother, she began substitute teaching in her home district and found a career she felt called to pursue.

"I knew the person I wanted to be for our students," Litt said. "A safe place for my students, a supporter in and out of the classroom, someone who leads with grace."

Tucker's Madison athletic career included soccer and track, and her senior year ended with a state soccer championship during the unusual circumstances of the pandemic.

The team had reached the state tournament twice previously, including a loss in the championship game the year before. Tucker said the experience taught her patience, commitment and perseverance.

"Success does not happen alone," Tucker said. "It takes trust, communication, and a willingness to support the people around you."

Those are lessons she hopes to bring into her classroom, along with an understanding of what it feels like to be a Madison student.

"It is surreal to walk through the same halls where I was once a student and now be there as a teacher," Tucker said.

A career comes full circle

For Schmid, returning to Madison brought her back to the same career-tech program that helped prepare her for life after high school.

Schmid, a 2018 graduate and former majorette, is Madison's new Career Tech Health Technologies teacher. Some of her favorite high school memories were made in the Health Science Technology program and performing at Friday night football games, including the opportunity during her senior year to twirl with her younger sister.

Being a majorette, she said, taught her discipline, confidence, teamwork and leadership.

"Being a leader is more than a title," Schmid said. "It's how you carry yourself and how you're willing to help your teammates no matter the task."

After graduating from Madison, Schmid earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Ashland University and became a registered nurse, working at OhioHealth in Mansfield as a cardiac/neuro nurse. She also precepted new nurses and taught nursing students — experiences that helped her discover how much she enjoyed teaching.

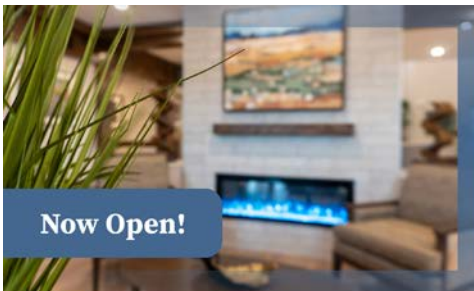
"I wanted to teach in this particular field because I remember how much the program set me up for college," Schmid said. "It made nursing school so much easier because I already knew a lot from taking the Health Science Technology career tech."

Now she is teaching in the program she once attended and coaching the majorette team she once performed with.

"One of my favorite things has been coming back and coaching the team I was once a part of," she said.

That shared experience also gives Schmid a connection to the students now sitting in her classroom.

"I was once in their shoes," she said. "I
(Continued on Page 7)



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Sloan Kiser



Julia Litt



MaShala Schmid



Trinity Tucker

•Coming Home: Madison graduates return

(Continued from Page 6)

walked the same halls as them and I'm able to connect with them over all the Madison traditions we have here."

From the band to the podium

For Wolfe, returning to Madison means stepping into the program that helped determine what she wanted to do with her life.

The 2019 graduate is now Madison's middle school/high school music and band teacher. Wolfe knew as early as third grade that she wanted to become a music teacher and credits Madison's music program and its educators with helping foster that passion.

But her memories of the district reach beyond music.

Wolfe recalled difficult periods for her family when teachers and staff quietly stepped in to provide clothing, shoes or simply the reassurance that someone cared. Her family also received assistance through Merry Madison Christmas one year.

"Those experiences showed me that Madison was more than just a school," Wolfe said. "It was a community of people who cared about us and wanted to see us succeed."

"Without music education and without the people at Madison who invested in me, I truly would not be the person I am today," she added.

So when Wolfe saw an opening in Madison's music department, there wasn't much hesitation.

"When I saw the job posting, I JUMPED on it!" she said.

The job offer brought immediate tears.

Now she finds herself working alongside some of the people who once taught her and leading students who wear the same uniforms, perform on the same fields and sit in the same class-

rooms she once did.

"I want my students to experience the same sense of pride, community, and belonging that I felt as a member of the program," Wolfe said, "while also creating new memories and traditions for the students who come after them."

A connection students can see
Middle School Principal Jordan

Nelson has watched Litt, Tucker and Wolfe prepare for their new roles throughout the summer.

"They aren't just excited to start teaching — they are genuinely thrilled to be back in the district they call home," Nelson said.

He believes their relatively recent experiences as Madison students can also help them con-

(Continued on Page 8)

Mansfield/Richland County Public Library



UNDER THIS RED ROCK Book Discussion and Signing



Sat. Sep. 5 @ 2 PM

@ Ontario Branch

2221 Village Mall Dr, Ontario, OH

Wed. Sep. 16 @ 6 PM

@ Main Library

43 W. 3rd St. Mansfield, OH

The author will discuss her research for *Under This Red Rock*, a murder mystery set in Ohio's cavern systems that explores mental illness and examines the often misunderstood behavior patterns of those who struggle.

Bring your copy of her book(s) for signing. Books will not be available for purchase at the event.



Lila Wolfe

mrcpl.org

•Coming Home: Graduates return

(Continued from Page 7)

-nect with today's students.

"They remember what it was like to sit in those seats, walk the hallways, participate in activities, and grow up in this community," Nelson said. "Middle school kids want to know that the adults working with them understand them, and all three can genuinely say, 'I've been where you are.'"

Longtime Madison coach Doug Rickert remembers several of the returning graduates from their days as Madison athletes and described them as fierce competitors who worked hard and led by example. A Madison graduate himself, Rickert has coached in the district for more than three decades.

"It's great for any district to have former students who want to come back to where they are from and help the next group of students," Rickert said. "They not only bring passion to the position, but experience. They have sat in the same seat as the kid they are now teaching."

The next generation

Peterson said the five share qualities that go beyond their Madison roots.

"These are, first and foremost, quality individuals," he said. "Additionally, they are really excited to be here and work with our students and learn from some of the same teachers they had when they were students."

He hopes their return also sends a message to the students watching them now.

"I hope it motivates them to get into the teaching profession and consider coming back to Madison to teach," Peterson said.

Years from now, Nelson said, students may not remember every assignment or classroom lesson. They will remember the teachers who believed in them, challenged them and supported them when they needed it.

It's a cycle each of these five educators knows firsthand. Once, they were Madison students, shaped by teachers, coaches and a community that believed in them.

Now they're the ones standing at the front of the classroom, directing the band, coaching from the sidelines and helping another generation find its way.

And perhaps, years from now, one of the students sitting in those classrooms today will walk back through Madison's doors ready to do the same.



Watkins Glen, New York • Photo By Mark Shutt

Registration open for Richland Gives through Richland County Foundation

Registration for Richland Gives, an online giving event hosted by the Richland County Foundation (RCF), is open. It is free, however, Richland County based nonprofits must register each year.

Richland Gives is designed to encourage people to contribute to local nonprofits they care about through a single giving website.

RCF hosts the day to build capacity, grow philanthropy and make the community stronger. Each organization will have an individual-

ized web page to promote their cause. The success of the event will depend on our collective enthusiasm and implementation.

Leading up to the event, an online toolkit, education, mass media and social media coverage are provided.

The Richland Gives donation period is from Monday, Nov. 16 at 7 am through Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 7 pm.

For more details or to donate go to richlandgives.org.



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Lexington Blueberry Festival

•New Miss Blueberry royalty crowned

(Continued from Front Page)

of Lexington, daughter of Kaulen and Kelly Korody, was first runner-up.

The 2026 Little Miss Blueberry title went to Carina Kirk, 5, of Mansfield, daughter of Caleb and Alexis Kirk. Carson Rose Brashers, 5, of Mansfield, daughter of Jacob and Mariah Brashers, was named first runner-up.

Juliet Robles, 7, of Lexington, daughter of Shaun and Leslie Robles, was crowned 2026 Jr. Miss Blueberry. Alexa Shepherd, 9, of Shelby, daughter of Donald Shepherd and Kristi Fagg, was named first runner-up.

The 2026 Miss Blueberry crown went to Claire Davisson, 11, of Lexington, daughter of Andrew and Karrie Davisson. Saige Painley, 12, of Lexington, daughter of Jason and Andrea Painley, was named first runner-up.

Rounding out the new court was Sophia Deel, 14, of Mansfield, daughter of Goob Deel and Heather Huff, who was crowned 2026 Miss Teen Blueberry. Adalyn Studer, 13, of Ashland, daughter of Vincent and Kimberly Studer, was named first runner-up.

The pageant is designed to celebrate confidence, personality, personal style, speaking ability and overall presentation while encouraging contestants to represent the Lexington community and Blueberry Festival with pride.

Serving on this year's judging panel were Emily Leganza, Susie Harlan, Erica Watkinson, Tasha Gantner and Nanci Keinath. Together, the five brought a variety of backgrounds and experience in pageantry, education, youth programs and community involvement to the competition.

Pageant Director Amber Cleland also recognized the many volunteers, sponsors and families who helped make this year's pageant possible. Now in its 24th year, the Miss Blueberry Pageant has grown into a long-standing festival tradition centered on building confidence, encouraging community involvement and creating lasting friendships among its participants.

The evening also included the announce-

ment of the six 2026 Miss Berry Sweetheart Photo Contest winners.

Adalynn Komar, 1, of Mansfield, daughter of Cody and Jean Komar, was named the Baby Division winner.

Jayda Owens, 5, of Lexington, daughter of Jacob and Sarah Owens, won the Wee Division, adding the photo contest honor to her Wee Miss Blueberry crown.

Anna Sabourin-Rapp, 5, of Mansfield, daughter of Jordan Rapp and Amanda Sabourin-Rapp, received the Little Division title.

Anabella Greene, 9, of Lithopolis, daughter of Travis and Rita Greene, was named the Jr. Miss Division winner.

Sadie Myers, 10, of Ontario, daughter of Tyler and Erika Myers, received the Miss Division title.

Briley Hughett, 16, of Lexington, daughter of Joshua Hughett and Brittany Hughett, was named the Miss Teen Division winner.

Thursday's ceremony gave the contestants their moment in the spotlight while preserving a favorite festival tradition. The newly crowned title holders will represent the Miss Blueberry Pageant and Lexington Blueberry Festival throughout the coming year.



Photos By Traci Little

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Photos By Jeff Hoiffer

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DISC GOLF — Brightspeed joined the City of Mansfield Parks and community members to celebrate the completion of the new disc golf course and improvements to Middle Park on Aug. 21. The project adds an 18-hole disc golf course to Middle Park, along with improvements to the Parkview Trail and new pedestrian bridges, creating expanded opportunities for outdoor recreation and community connection. Following remarks from City of Mansfield Mayor Jodie Perry and a celebratory ribbon-cutting, community members enjoyed complimentary ice cream and a chance to win a golf disc set. Middle Park is located on West Park Blvd. in Mansfield.

Mansfield Playhouse building campaign surpasses \$3.7 million

The Mansfield Playhouse has reached a major milestone in its funding campaign to build a new home in downtown Mansfield, raising a total of \$3.7 million toward its building goal of \$5.9 million.

Moving the capital project ahead significantly is a new gift of \$500,000 from a private philanthropist, who has just made this gift anonymously.

The new funding comes on the heels of the Playhouse's landmark 100th season, underscoring strong community support for one of Ohio's oldest community theaters and its vision for the future.

The campaign, led by community activist Chriss Harris, has also benefited from a previously announced \$1 million commitment from the State of Ohio. This has also positioned the organization to move closer to construction of a new, modern, fully accessible theater facility adjacent to its current East Third Street location.

As part of an ongoing review of project plans and costs, the Playhouse has refined its construction strategy and lowered the amount needed to begin the project. The organization now needs to reach \$5.9 million to move the project forward, creating a clearer and more attainable path to breaking ground.

"The generosity we've experienced over the last several months has been extraordinary," said Doug Wertz, Playhouse president. "To receive a \$500,000 gift from this philanthropist reflects a tremendous vote of confidence in our mission, our future, and the role the Playhouse plays in the cultural life of this community."

Founded in 1925, the Mansfield Playhouse recently completed its 100th season and remains one of Ohio's oldest continuously operating community theaters. For the past 60 years, the Playhouse has operated from its current building in downtown Mansfield, welcoming thousands of patrons, volunteers, performers, and students annually.

Following professional evaluation of the existing facility, Playhouse leaders determined that constructing a new theater represents the most practical long-term solution to ensure the organization can continue serving north central Ohio for generations to come.

"Our community has helped us reach an important milestone, but we're not finished," Wertz said. "With \$3.7 million now committed and a construction goal of \$5.9 million, we're closer than ever before. Every contribution made today helps move this project from vision to reality and ensures future generations can experience live theater in a facility designed for the next century."

The new Playhouse will support the continued revitalization of downtown Mansfield while providing improved accessibility, updated amenities, and a sustainable home for community theater, education programs, and volunteer engagement.

Campaign leaders are encouraging individuals, families, businesses, and community organizations to help us close the remaining funding gap and capitalize on the momentum generated by the recent major gifts.

"These investments have given us incredible momentum," Wertz said. "Now is the time for anyone who has been considering a contribution to join the effort. Together, we can ensure that live community theater remains a vibrant part of our area's future."

Gifts to support the 100th Anniversary Capital Campaign may be sent to the Mansfield Playhouse at 95 E. Third St., Mansfield, OH 44902, or at mansfieldplayhouse.com.

MSO opens season Sept. 19

The Mansfield Symphony Orchestra opens its season at the Renaissance Theatre on Saturday, Sept. 19 at 7:30 pm with an evening of orchestral music that is free and open to all.

Conducted by music director Octavio Más-Arocas, an award-winning conductor who has led orchestras across North and South America and Europe and also serves as Director of Orchestras at Michigan State University, this year's program is titled *Radiant & Beautiful*.

While free, tickets are required, and donations are welcome through the "Pay What You Want" option, which helps directly offset the costs of the performance.

Among the works on this year's program is "Howard Zinn: A People's History," composed by Liam Cummins, Mansfield-born composer now studying at The Juilliard School, whose works have been performed at such renowned venues as Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center. The concert, which Más-Arocas describes as a journey "through sound worlds of reflection, storytelling, and transformation," opens with Gala Flagello's *Everything Beautiful* and moves through Anna Clyne's atmospheric *This Midnight Hour* before arriving at the evening's featured vocal performance: Jake Heggie's *Good Morning, Beauty*, sung by soprano Shannon Crowley. As the 2026 winner of the most prestigious vocal competition in the United States, the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, Crowley is a Pittsburgh Opera resident artist who brings both rare technical distinction and expressive warmth to the stage. The concert concludes with Christopher Theofanidis's *Rainbow Body*, a radiant, expansive finale that moves toward transcendence and renewal.

Tickets are available through the Renaissance Box Office, by phone or online at www.rentickets.org.

Lexington Board of Education prepares for the year ahead

The Lexington Board of Education met Aug. 19

The board approved the financial forecast for 2027 through 2030. An invoice from Heiberger Paving in the amount of \$69,900 for all-weather track polyurethane structural re-spray was approved.

Salary adjustments were approved for John (JR) Davis and Michelle Rastetter.

Luke Rogers received a continuing contract.

Hirings included Jana Rhoad, Eastern Elementary sixth grade ELA teacher, one-year contract (retire/rehire); Tucker Bacquet, 7-12 curriculum director/junior high assistant principal; Valerie Hunter, long-term substitute for Laura Pfeiffer's maternity leave beginning the start of the school year through Oct. 9, 2026 for sixth grade science and social studies; Nicole Martin, long-term substitute intervention specialist until completion of licensure requirements and then taking the position on a one-year contract; and Justice Holmes, long-term substitute until completion of licensure requirements and then taking the position in a one-year contract.

Todd Galownia resigned as the high school intervention specialist and Sally Hale resigned as the Academic Challenge advisor.

Sally Hale and Grayson Murray will be Academic Challenge co-advisors for the 2026-'27 school year. Julia Pilla will be the Preschool ETR chair for the current school year.

Sonja Knapp resigned as the Western Elementary custodian and from the high school food service, 6-hour general help position. Kimberly Gilbert resigned from the high school food service department.

Employment was approved for Amy Tallman, transportation, 2-hour bus aide; Koery Rissler, Western, daytime custodian; Emily Cockley, substitute bus driver; Lori Yarger, substitute bus driver; Shelly Lutz, food service 6-hour general help high school; and Stacey Kinkel, food Service 2-hour general help, Eastern Elementary.

Employment of substitute educational aides included Pauline Anderson, Liz Brant, Seth Cole, Theresa Clingan, Angela Devaney, Suzanne Fackelman, Kiarra Johnson, Julia Jungeberg, Katie Kosht, Jenn Lamp, Bethanny Mueller, Geoff Newland, Hannah Price, Sharon Fesmier, Chelsea Clingan, Haylee Hershner, Kyna Scherer, Megan Strickler, Brenda Smith, Grayce Snavey, Julie Wilson, Jessica Sutter and Maria Mayhew-Schirmer.

Coaching resignations were accepted from Davion Weatherspoon, varsity football assistant coach (1/2 contract); Jacob Owens, assistant varsity football coach; Abbegael David, eighth grade girls volleyball and varsity girls basketball coach.

The board approved coaching positions for the 2026-'27 school year for Sonja Clever, junior high volleyball; Jennifer Wells, junior high volleyball; Cody Green, volunteer football; Aeden Nicol, assistant football, full contract; Nate West, assistant football, full contract; and James Copenhaver, assistant football, full contract.

Athletic department volunteers include Jim Parks, football; Troy Hendrick, football; Aiden Mackey, football; and Carter Kessler, football. Scott Hamilton, Tricia Brown, and John Davis were approved as athletic department assistants for the 2026-'27 school year at \$15 per hour.

Sheldon Stotts was approved to work band camp, effective July 27-31, 2026. Marching band chaperones are Sherry Felty, Anne Frederick, Jamie Hempfield, Anita Schwab and Michael Schwab. Trailer drivers are Brady Dodson, Chad Farlee, James Hempfield, Raejean Johnson and Kurt Stewart.

The board rescinded multiple policies.

Building and athletic handbooks were approved for the 2026-'27 school year. Substitute lists were approved as provided by MOESC dated Aug. 15-Sept. 15, 2026.



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL welcomed back students on Wednesday, Aug. 19.



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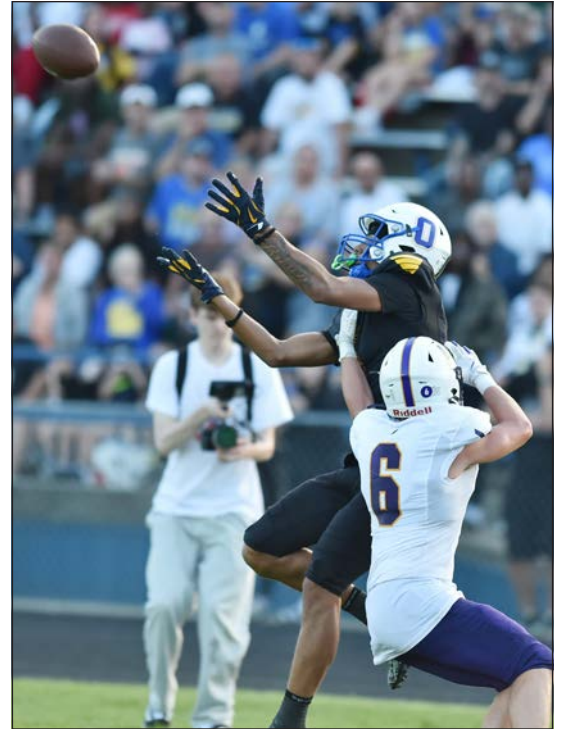
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ONTARIO VS LEXINGTON VARSITY FOOTBALL · AUG. 21
WARRIORS WIN 35-7 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



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ONTARIO VS LEXINGTON VARSITY FOOTBALL · AUG. 21
WARRIORS WIN 35-7 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS COPLEY GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER • AUG. 18
LADY LEX WINS 10-0 • PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

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LADY WARRIORS WIN 1-0 • PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS ONTARIO VOLLEYBALL • AUG. 18
LADY WARRIORS WIN 3-0 • PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS WOOSTER JV BOYS SOCCER · AUG. 24



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS MADISON GOLF AT VALLEY VIEW • AUG. 21



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Lucas defeats Steubenville Catholic Central 29-13

By Kris Leiter

I'm sure head coach Jim Sweat, in his third year with the Lucas Cubs, is smiling from ear-to-ear as Lucas man-handled the Crusaders of Steubenville Catholic Central 29-13 on the road. That is never an easy task my fellow sports fans.

The Cubs graduated seven seniors from last year's squad, but they still bring 13 upperclassmen back to the roster. This includes the likes of veteran senior running back Brady Guegold, hauling the rock for the Cubs.

Guegold is no stranger to the gridiron. Even as a sophomore he was notching the end zone on a regular basis.

He continued his senior accolades by adding to his already impressive résumé by blazing a trail of firepower Saturday night. Guegold notched 20 carries on 173 yards and a phenomenal three touchdowns!

His first touchdown came eight plays into the first quarter

where he only needed 23 yards to find the end zone.

As Lucas was lead 8-0, Mother Nature had ideas of her own and the rain began to fall. With 3:43 left in the first quarter, multiple lightning strikes would halt the game.

Over an hour later the game resumed and Central would then turn the ball over on downs. It was time for another Cub offensive series.

If eight plays on the first drive was minimal, it was topped by a seven-play march with Guegold adding his second touchdown with a three-yard run with :56 remaining.

Lucas was now leading 14-0 and the Cub defense held the Crusaders scoreless to end the first quarter.

The second quarter saw the Crusaders offense score seven points, keeping Lucas scoreless. The Cubs still held a narrow halftime lead 14-7.

Defense was the key word in

the third quarter for both teams, as neither team would score, keeping the Cubs in the lead 14-7.

By the fourth quarter, it was time for the Cubs offense to open the flood gates again. Quarterback Carter Cox had a 46-run at 3:21. Lucas had some breathing room leading 20-7 although the Crusaders would up their score to 13 by the end.

Guegold would then find paydirt once more at 1:52 left in the game for his third touchdown 60 yards from scrimmage! Lucas sealed the deal 29-13!

Lucas rushing stats: team, 42-276, 4 TD; Guegold, 20-173, 3 TD; Fanello, 9-22; Cox, 9-65, 1 TD; and Anschutz, 4-16. Passing 2-7-15, 2 INT; and receiving Anschutz, 2-15

Next week, Lucas will be hosting their first home game at Bob Wine Field against the Hillsdale Falcons. Hillsdale is no stranger to the Cubs. Over the years, these two teams have battled

in the regular season as well as post-season play.

At 1-0, the momentum is rolling with the Cubs, so I'm sure the rivalry against the Falcons will have the Cubs roaring the Valley. This should be a game to see!

Richland Gives registration is now open

Registration for Richland Gives, an online giving event hosted by the Richland County Foundation (RCF), opened Aug. 1. It is free, however, Richland County based nonprofits must register each year.

Thanks to the generosity of RCF donors, \$80,000 in incentives will be awarded as grants to participating organizations, beyond what they raise from online donations.

Richland Gives is designed to encourage people to contribute to local nonprofits they care about through a single giving website.

The Foundation hosts the day to build capacity, grow philanthropy and make the community stronger.

Each organization will have an individualized web page to promote their cause. The success of the event will depend on our collective enthusiasm and implementation.

Leading up to the event, an online toolkit, education, mass media and social media coverage are provided to make it easier for nonprofit organizations to participate.

The Richland Gives donation period is from Monday, Nov. 16 at 7 am through Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 7 pm.

The Richland County Foundation, a not-for-profit 501c3, was established in 1945 as a way for individuals to pool and invest their gifts for the long-term good of Richland County and its residents.

The Foundation helps people in Richland County give back to their community.

For more details or to donate go to richlandgives.org.



Photo By Jenna Wolford

THE 12TH ANNUAL SHAWSHANK HUSTLE was held at the Ohio State Reformatory on Saturday, Aug. 16. The race course is 4.75 miles and runs from OSR through downtown Mansfield and back. Top finishers were Alex Culler of Bellville, , 24:37, first overall male; Luke Wash of Ashland, 26:02, second overall male; Owen Laubscher of Columbus, 26:18, third overall male; Emma McCarron of Mansfield, 29:51, first overall female; Malissa Terry of Beavercreek, 32:38, second overall female; and Ashley Orewiler of Crestline, 33:35, third overall female. For a full list of race results visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/Results/151644/#resultSetId-678569;perpage:100>.

Pioneer Board of Education ready for new school year

The Pioneer Board of Education met Aug. 17, and adopted a resolution to participate in the Workers' Compensation Group Rating Program.

Cafeteria breakfast and lunch prices were set for the 2026-'27 school year with rates of breakfast, \$1.25; student lunch, \$3.25; free and reduced, \$0; and adult, \$4. The board approved participation in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program for the 2026-'27 school year. Nutrition standards for the 2026-'27 school year were also approved.

Professional development topics and dates and an addendum to the Ontario Career Coach Agreement were both approved.

The adult education 2027 LPN Handbook and an advertising proposal from OH-Report for the 2026-'27 school year were approved.

Donations were accepted from anonymous, \$1,305 to the First Responder Lab; Chief Randy Washburn and the Franklin Twp. Trustees and Franklin Twp. Volunteer Fire Department, Shelby, donation of items totaling approximately \$1,250 to be used in the First Responder Lab; Sherri Massie, Gorman-Rupp Company, Mansfield, \$350 to be used for student activities; Crestline Bulldog Backers, Crestline, \$1,200 in prepaid gift cards to be used for the Crestline FCCLA trip to National Competition; Dzugan Realty, Crestline, \$250 in prepaid gift cards to be used for the Crestline FCCLA trip to National Competition; and Jackie Berger, Crestline, \$200 to be deposited and used for the Crestline FCCLA trip to National Competition.

Donations to the Rene' Burtcher Memorial Scholarship Fund were given by Philip and Laurie Korbas, Shelby, \$100; Carl and Rhonda Ridenour, Shelby, \$50; Pamela Ridenour, Shelby, \$180; Ehret-Parsel Post 447 American Legion, Plymouth, \$300; Wigton Construction, Mansfield, \$50; Edward Jones, Shelby, \$2,000; THA Mortgage, LLC, Mansfield, \$50; Annette Korbas, Greenswood IN, \$500; JD Holdings, LLC, Loudonville, \$100; Korbas Insurance Agency, Ontario, \$400; Christopher Korbas, Shelby, \$200; anonymous, \$60; Frank and Deborah Benham, Shelby, \$300; J. George Williams, Shelby, \$100; Sammy Salinas, Ace Hardware, Tampa TX, \$100; Crawford Attendance Services, LLC, Crestline, \$500; and Rene Burtcher Scholarship Golf Outing, \$14,213.66.

The board approved a \$25/month stipend for use of private cell phones for school use for Greg Nickoli, Jeremiah Howe, Gavyn Bazley, Daniel Slaughter, Kris Kowalski, Clay Frye, Kevin Vargyas, Donald Paullin, Troy Schwemley and Jolene Young.

A paternity leave of absence was approved for Kevin Vargyas, Career Tech Supervisor, July 22-Aug. 4.

The board approved salary and contract adjustments for Charles Curren, culinary arts instructor; John Stewart, Collegenow Business Instructor; Darien Payne, Crestline Satellite Engineering instructor; Jeff Evans, Construction Level One, 2-year contract; and Megan Haney, Medical Technologies instructor; 2-year contract.

David Mason was hired as the Wynford Satellite seventh and eighth grade career exploration instructor, 3/8 periods, on a one-year contract.

Conference period pay was approved for instructors Caleb Alt, Industrial Diesel Mechanics; Joshua Barnett, Home Remodeling Instructor; Grant Brocwell, Masonry; Joshua Broughton, IT Support; Terri Crain, Health Assistant; William Dichtl, Graphic Arts; Jeffrey Evans, Auto Tech/Construction Level One; Frederick Fagan, Cybersecurity; Nate Ganzhorn, Engineering Design Tech; Daniel George, Criminal Justice; Sandra Grau, Horticulture; Meghan Haney, Medical Technologies; Nicole Harding, Cosmetology; Rick Harvey, Power Equipment Mechanics; Rebecca Holbrook, Medical Assisting; Christopher Karl, Precision Machining Technologies; Brian Madison, Pltw/Industrial Technology, Shelby High School; Melinda Meisse, Early Childhood Education; Michael Messersmith, Automotive Technology; Jesse Meyer, Welding; Michael Millward, Exercise Science/Sports Medicine; Lynette Moritz, Media Communications; Melissa Myers, Dental Assisting; James Rippel, Industrial Electricity Instructor; Skyler Rose, Collision Repair; Jon Secrest, Welding; Michael Thompson, First Responder; Carey Tocash, Cosmetology; and Justin Tuttle, Carpentry.

Alan Sears was hired as the Success Center Coordinator, up to 100 hours, as needed, on days school is in session at the board-approved rate with time reported on an hourly timesheet and approved by the

director of operations.

Kris Bruce and Gwen Schwemley granted three days extended service to attend OATFACS Conference in Lewis Center, OH, July 26-28, 2026, up to twenty-one hours.

Chaperone stipends of \$950 each were approved for the FCCLA National Leadership trip to Washington D.C., May 5-11, 2026 for Kris Bruce, Kelly Jung and Gwen Schwemley.

Stipends were approved for the 2026-'27 Master Teacher Committee Katie Fiske, \$450; Robin Hager, \$450; and Melinda Meisse, \$450.

John Yohe will be the Spanish Proctor/Assessor for Edgenuity Students in the 2026-'27 school year at a rate of \$100 per student enrolled in Spanish courses.

A van driver training stipend of \$40 each was approved for Tammera Baumberger, Nicole Harding, Matthew Roth and Brittany Tharp. A van driver recertification training stipend of \$20 each was approved for Monica Bautista, Chris Karl, Josh Broughton, Kris Kowalski, Kris Bruce, Anne Kurtzman, Terri Crain, Amy Law, Karrie Davisson, Brian Madison, Matt Dotson, Tessa Martin, Stephanie Eichorn, Meg Mergel, Jeffrey Evans, Lynette Moritz, Fritz Fagan, Melissa Myers, Jay Follett, Donald Paullin, Clay Frye, Christina Phelps, Jeff Funigiello, Gwen Schwemley, Nate Ganzhorn, Troy Schwemley, Katie Getz, Daniel Slaughter, Robin Hager, Carlos Smith, Meghan Haney, Austin Strouse, Rebecca Holbrook, Jody Tackett, Jeremiah Howe, Maleesa Warner, Crystal Jennings, Seth Weibel, Phillip Johnson, Jolene Young and Kelly Jung.

Bus drivers approved for the 2026-'27 school year are Josh Barnett, Karen Rowe, Grant Brocwell, Tim Slone, Adam Haymaker, Kevin Vargyas, Kenny Owen, Justin Tuttle and Matt Parr.

Bus driver in-service stipends of \$72 each were granted to Grant Brocwell and Justin Tuttle.

Kathryn (Kate) Schimpf was hired as a substitute instructor.

Jamie Porter's resignation as the Student Services/EMIS Secretary was accepted.

Julie Harless was hired as the ISD coordinator on a one-year contract. The board approved two days of unpaid leave for Grant Sproull, Online Learning Facilitator, Sept. 24 and 25.

Cell phone stipends of \$25/month for use of private cell phones for school use were granted to Linda Bellomy, Jeffrey Payne, Timothy Slone, Adam Haymaker, Kenny Owen and Karen Rowe.

An additional summer custodial contract for grounds maintenance was granted to Jason Hockenberry.

Substitute personnel hirings were approved for Jason Hockenberry, Kevin Krupp and Andrea Slone, custodial/security; Andrea Slone, cafeteria; Laura Leach, ECE Lead Teacher/Aide; Jamie Porter and Laura Leach, secretary; and Laura Leach, education aide.

The board adopted the 2026-'27 board goal and the Attendance Intervention Plan.

The MOU with Wynford Schools for a Career-Technical Career-Exploration Course was approved as was the change order for the paving project contract price.

The board adopted resolutions to purchase school buses and in appreciation of a donation from UNOH.

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9 am to 6 pm

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in the Madison area

*Rt. 42 N. towards Ashland,
across from the Old Sandy Hill*

NOTICE OF INSPECTION

Date: Aug 21, 2026

Under the authority granted by the City of Ontario, Ohio, Codified Ordinance Chapter 1349, Sections .09 and .10, the building(s) listed below has been scheduled for inspection to determine the condition in order to perform the duty of safeguarding life and property within the City.

A copy of this ordinance is enclosed for your review.

Owner's Name: Cindy A Price
Owner's Address: 8221 Shadow Ridge Drive
City, State, Zip: Fairfax Station, VA 22039

Building To Be Inspected:
Street Address: 2076 W Fourth St
Lot or Parcel Number:
0386028710000

This letter is your formal notice of inspection of the above listed building(s).

Therefore, pursuant to this ordinance, we have scheduled an inspection as follows:

Between
Time: 10:30 am
Date: September 15, 2026

Your cooperation in this matter should be for your benefit. Should this time and or date not be good for you, you have 24 hours from receipt of this notice to schedule an alternative time for inspection. This inspection must take place within 5 working days of the initial request.

You may call 419-529-2495 to re-schedule your inspection. No call is necessary to confirm the initial request.

Michael Morton
Service-Safety Director
Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 8-27 '26) 45L

LEGAL NOTICE

Separate sealed bids for the Rock Road Lift Station Force Main Replacement - Phase 1 in the City of Ontario, Ohio will be received by Michael Morton, Service-Safety Director, at 555 Stumbo Road, Ontario, Ohio 44906 until 10:00 AM, local time Thursday September 10, 2026, and then, at said office, publicly opened and read aloud.

The Instructions to Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Plans, Specifications, and other contract documents

may be examined at KE McCartney & Associates, 52 North Diamond Street, Mansfield, Ohio 44902 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

In order to be a plan holder of record and eligible to submit a bid, bidders will be required to purchase and download an electronic set of plans and bid documents via the KEM Web Site by visiting <https://kemccartney.com/project-bids/>. All documents become the property of the prospective bidder, with no portion of the payment being refunded.

The project includes the installation of approximately 5,800 LF of 12-inch force main from Rock Road to the State Route 309/Park Avenue split at which point the new force main will be tied back into the existing force main. The estimated cost of construction is \$1,062,325.

Each bid must be accompanied by either an Ohio Revised Code Section 153.571 Bid and Contract Bond in an amount equal to 100% of the bid; or, a cashier's check, certified check, or an irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of 10% of the bid as described in the Instructions to Bidders

This is a prevailing wage project.

No Bidder may withdraw its bid within sixty (60) days after the bid opening. The Owner reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids, to reject any or all bids, and to conduct such investigation as necessary to determine the lowest responsive bidder for each contract.

Michael Morton
Service-Safety Director
Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 8-20, 27 '26) 56L

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 August 19, 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. 26-11 - A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING FUNDS FROM THE PURDUE PHARMA L.P. BANKRUPTCY SETTLEMENT.

Abbey Beaver
Asst. Clerk of Council
Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 8-27, 9-3 '26) 18L

PROBATE COURT OF RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO

Estate of Gary Duane Noe, deceased
CASE NO. 20251578

NOTICE AND CITATION OF HEARING ON APPOINTMENT OF FIDUCIARY [R.C. 2113.06 and 2113.07]

TO Ashley Noel, address unknown, has filed an application in this Court, asking to be appointed to administer descendant's estate.

The hearing on the application will be held October 2, 2026, at 1:00 o'clock PM in this court located at 50 Park Avenue East, 2nd Floor, Mansfield, Ohio 44902.

You are one of the persons entitled to administer decedent's estate. and if you wish to be considered for appointment to do so you must apply to this Court. If you do not apply, it will be considered that you renounce your right to administer the estate. The Court may appoint any suitable and competent person to administer the estate, giving due weight to relative priority of right to do so. Even if you decline appointment yourself, if you know of any reason why the above applicant is not suitable or should appear and inform the court.

Probate Judge/Deputy Clerk
Richland County Ohio
(T-C 8-27, 9-3, 10 '26) 33L

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Separate sealed bids for the 2026 Resurfacing Program - Part 2, City of Ontario, Ohio will be received by Michael Morton, Service-Safety Director, at 555 Stumbo Road, Ontario, Ohio 44906 until 10:30am, local time Thursday September 10, 2026, and then, at said office, publicly opened and read aloud.

Contractors will be required to purchase and download an electronic set of plans and bid documents via the KEM Web Site by visiting <https://kemccartney.com/project-bids/>. If you would prefer a hard copy be mailed, we will do so upon receipt of payment in the amount of \$50.00 per set, along with your UPS or FedEx account number so that shipping charges can be applied to your account. Checks shall be made payable to K.E. McCartney & Associates and all documents become the property of the prospective bidder, with no portion of the payment being refunded. Should you have any questions during the bidding process please contact jburgholder@kemccartney.com.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities. Contract will be awarded based on the lowest and best bid. The City of Ontario may reject any

or all bids on any basis and without disclosure of reason. The failure to make such disclosure shall not result in accrual of any right, claim or cause of action by any unsuccessful bidder against the City of Ontario.

Each bid must be accompanied by either an Ohio Revised Code Section 153.571 Bid and Performance Payment Bond in an amount equal to 100% of the bid; or, a cashier's check, bid bond, letter of credit to be duly executed by the bidder as principal and having as surety thereon, a surety company approved by the Owner in the amount of 10% of the bid.

Each bid must contain the full name of the party or parties submitting the proposal and all persons interested therein. The Owner intends and requires that this project be completed by October 30, 2026.

Bidders must comply with the prevailing wage rates on Public Improvements in Richland County and City of Ontario, Ohio as determined by the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, Wage and Hour Division, 614-644-2239.

Michael Morton
Service-Safety Director
Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 8-27, 9-3 '26) 65L

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