



TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com

04.25.24



Photos By Traci Little

THE ONTARIO LIONS CLUB recognized Ontario first responders during an award ceremony on Tuesday, April 16. Recognized were Ontario Police Department Officer of the Year, Amanda Lawhorn; and Dispatcher of the Year, Derek Metzger; and Springfield Township Fire EMT of the Year, Collin McBride; and Firefighter of the Year, Brody Worner. Pictured are Ontario Lions Club President Jim Henry, Howard Harriman, Springfield Township Fire Chief Adam Spellman, Brody Worner and Collin McBride. *See more photos on Page 7.*

Madison recognizes BPA qualifiers

Madison Local School District School Board met April 17, in the Madison Middle School Auditoria. It was announced that the Career Technical Report Card received a Five Star Rating.

Recognized at the meeting were Haylee Vernon, Hannah Ball, Natalee Back, Savannah Gray, McKayla Harvey and Kendyll Kershner, Business Professionals of America (BPA) National Qualifiers. Also recognized were Josh Atwell, SkillsUSA National Qualifier, and Samantha Myers, who received a perfect score on the ACT Exam in math and science.

A presentation was given by Melissa Wigton, Eastview Elementary Principal.

A donation of \$847.96 was accepted from Mifflin PTO to Mifflin's Principal Fund for year-end awards. A donation of \$200 was accepted from Frech Cattle for the Career Tech welding technology program.

The board gave approval of the Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid and Student Wellness and Success Fund expenditure plan for FY24.

Teri Foley-Kanz, seventh grade cheerleading advisor, resigned, effective April 15.

Preston See will be the fall equipment manager and Dustin

Moysi will be the assistant varsity boys' soccer coach for next school year.

Volunteers approved for the 2024-'25 school year are Jeff Barrett, varsity football; Daniel Krause, varsity football; and Jordan West, varsity football.

Bobby Neal resigned as custodian, effective April 12.

Resignations were accepted from Theresa Roberts, EV Special Education Coordinator; Lana Thompson, EV Student Council Advisor; Tom Brandt, CT Auto Technology Teacher and Junior Class Advisor (retiring); Don Maxey, Junior Class Advisor (retiring); Victoria Kasberg, FCCLA Advisor (retiring); and Gabrielle Frizzell, fourth grade ELA/SS, Eastview.

Hirings included Peyton Perini, math teacher (sixth grade, including advanced math) middle school; and Grace Bapst, math teacher (eighth grade – including Algebra I) middle school.

Mike Wagner has been awarded the Career Tech Welding Teacher position at the high school, replacing Don Maxey who retired.

Madelyn Schlauch has been awarded the fourth grade science and social studies and ELA Support position at Mifflin, replacing Gabrielle Frizzell who

resigned.

Gretchen Cooper has been awarded the Math Teacher (seventh grade – including advanced math) position at the middle school, a new position.

Autumn Moore has been awarded the eighth grade ELA position at the middle school, replacing Gretchen Cooper who took another position.

An extra duty assignment was given to substitute detention monitor Kobi Johnson.

Supplemental positions for the 2024-'25 school year were awarded to James Dillon, high school Academic Challenge advisor and high school science department chair; Krista Ferini, middle school Academic Challenge advisor; Michelle Dillon, Academic Booster coordinator, high school English department chair; Matt Godsil, half Art Club advisor; Brent Sanders, high school audio visual; Tim Lord, middle school audio visual, middle school social studies department chair and head varsity boys' soccer coach; Katie Fanning, high school assistant band director (fall); MaShala Poland, music assistant (Ramettes); Holly North, BPA advisor and yearbook advisor; Laura Coey, Senior Class advisor; Kim Miller,

(Continued on Page 6)

Foundation grants support programming for children

The Richland County Foundation Board of Trustees approved grants totaling \$255,389 during its April meeting.

The Foundation is supporting summertime programs focused on children. The Board of Trustees approved 28 Summertime Kid grants. The grants of up to \$2,500 were given to support creative, educational, and fun-filled activities for hundreds of Richland County children.

Four career technical education scholarships were approved for students to earn a certification at a technical institution.

The Scholarship Committee implemented a rolling deadline for CTE scholarships to meet various enrollment deadlines. In aligning with Ohio's Attainment Goal, the Foundation wants to help fill the gap between job openings and certified employees as well as lead the way to support workforce development through CTE scholarships.

The Board of Trustees approved grants from donor-advised funds which allow individuals and families the opportunity to make grant suggestions to favorite charities. Donor-advised funds are a flexible and convenient alternative to a private foundation. It is also a way to keep charitable contributions anonymous, at the preference of the donor.

Organizations receiving grants from donor-advised funds are 4 Leaf Rover, Buckeye Imagination Museum, Catholic Charities, City of Mansfield, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Doctors Without Borders, Hope Hollow, Hospice of North Central Ohio, Island Safe Harbor Sanctuary, Lexington Baseball/Softball Association, Lucas Community Center, Lucas Local Schools, Make a Wish Foundation, Mercy Ships, NCSC Foundation, Operation Smile, People Helping People, Plymouth Shiloh Food Pantry, Rials to Trails Wayne County, Richland Community Development Group, Richland Public Health,

(Continued on Page 9)

THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —

Vampire movies can either be super fun or pretty bad and I am glad to report the new release *Abigail* is a great time at the movies.

Six thieves agree to kidnap a young girl named Abigail (Alisha Weir), the daughter of a mob figure and take her to a mansion. They have to keep her there for 24 hours and then a huge ransom will arrive from her father that they will all split.

Melissa Barrera, Dan Stevens, Kathryn Newton, Kevin Durand, Will Catlett and the late Angus Cloud play the team. Their leader (Giancarlo Esposito) tells them the rules. They all have to be anonymous as Barrera develops a friendship with Abigail. However, the team do not know what they are in for as Abigail turns out to be a sinister vampire.

Abigail is just plain fun. These six criminals are locked inside this elaborate, scary mansion together and have to find a way to survive.

The movie does have quite a lot of gore, though it's not grisly like *Saw* but more *Scream* level.

Barrera is really good and young Weir is a star in the making. There is a scene where Abi-

gail is locked in a prison cell and her dialogue is delivered so expertly by this young actress.

Many critics are criticizing the trailers and marketing for letting audiences know this is a vampire movie as that part of the plot does take about 45 minutes to get going though, I personally did not mind that.

All of these actors are really good and pair off so nicely that getting to know them and a little character development in a horror movie was nice for a change.

Vampire movies can be all over the place depending on what kind of vampire the writer wants them to be. *Abigail* has a really nice balance of scary, suspenseful and even laugh out loud funny. The laughs work especially from Newton's character.

Abigail is a fun horror/suspenseful movie with some humor sprinkled in and some really interesting twists and turns the audience will probably not see coming.



WHAT IS KNOWN as the Lafferty mound is located between Bellville and Butler along Rt. 97, before the sharp bend in the road.

Indian Chief and Boy Buried Near Butler

By Bob Carter

Historian D. W. Garber recorded the story gathered from living aged relatives of an Indian chief buried in an Indian mound on a farm near Butler. There was some question whether the formation was a mound or glacial formation. It was on what Garber described as the old Lafferty Farm on Rt. 97, east of Butler.

As the story is told, the burial of the Indian chief took place prior to 1810 when the first settlement took place in the valley along the Clear Fork River. These first settlers were friendly with Indians that camped in the valley during summer. Limited vocabulary between the two told of the Indians describing the burial of their chief on top of the mound. No white people were present then but the story was passed down by Garber's family.

Garber wrote in the *Mansfield News Journal*, "The friendly relationship of the Oldfields and the Indians resulted in a startling experience for young Elizabeth Oldfield. She was visited by a young brave who appealed to her that she go with him to the camp where his squaw had given birth to a papoose. With some reluctance, she accompanied the Indian to the camp where she was called on to give attention to the new born babe. The young maiden mother asked Elizabeth to bind the papoose and tie it to its cradle."

The War of 1812 caused the Indians to stay close to their villages. After the war, a few returned to the Clear Fork valley, including the young Indian couple and their son. He was their great pride and was about 3 1/2 and known to the Oldfields and other settlers. But he died one day, evidently from eating too many chestnuts.

If someone overindulged in fall before frost, they could cause stomach pains and cramps for both Indian and whites. There was much grief expressed by both parents and the white settlers who knew the youngster.

He was buried on top of the Lafferty mound, as it became known, and was laid slightly east and south of the crest of the mound. Both Indians and white settlers were present at that sad occasion.

The grave site overlooks the valley and the Clear Fork where the Indians once had their summer hunting camp.

The story of the mound graves lives to this day.

Survey helps with long-term planning

The Richland County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is developing its 2025-'50 Long Range Transportation Plan for the region to improve and maintain the multimodal transportation.

As part of the planning process, RCRPC MPO has launched an on-line survey to seek the public's input. The survey can be taken now through Monday, July 1 at <https://veravoice-rcrpc-363784d271f7.herokuapp.com>.

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News Briefs

Ontario will be offering a basic lifeguarding class on May 23, 24 and 28 from 9 am to 4 pm, each day. Participants must attend all three days. The cost is \$150 to Ontario students and \$200 for others. If interested contact Debby Henry at 419-571-8772 by May 1. Classes will be held at the Ontario High School pool.

★

U.S. Senate Candidate Bernie Moreno will be the keynote speaker at the 2024 Lincoln Day Dinner hosted by the Richland County Republican Party on Friday, May 10.

The event will be held at 1285 Winery at the Blueberry Patch, 1285 W. Hanley Rd., Mansfield, with a VIP reception for sponsors at 5 pm with doors opening at 5:30 pm and dinner at 6 pm.

For tickets visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-lincoln-day-dinner-richland-co-republican-party-with-bernie-moreno-tickets-872436760837?mc_cid=77f890111a&mc_eid=e86c4aab3.

★

First Congregational Church Chancel Choir will present Te Deum by Karl Jenkins under the direction of Dirk Eachus on Sunday, May 5, during the 10:30 am worship service.

The church is located at 640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield.

★

State Route 95, from the Knox County line to the village of Butler's southern corporation limits, will have single lane closures for a resurfacing project. Traffic will be maintained at all times utilizing flaggers. Estimated completion is June 2024.

★

The City of Ontario meeting schedule for May includes May 1, 6:15 pm caucus and 7 pm council; May 8, 1 pm, civil service commission and 4 pm, planning commission; and May 15, 8:30 am, council, Ontario High/Middle School Auditorium.

Meetings are held at the Hellinger Municipal Building, 555 Stumbo Rd., Ontario, except for the May 15 meeting.

The June council meetings will be held on June 12 and 26 at 7 pm.

★

The Mansfield Area Community Hymnsing will be the second Friday in May because of scheduling conflicts. It will be at 7 pm at New Liberty Baptist Church in Lexington Ave, a half mile south of Hanley Rd. All are welcome.

★

Ontario Community Events and Ontario Local Schools are hosting the 3rd Annual Senior Citizen Prom at the Ontario Middle School, 447 Shelby Ontario Rd. Ontario, on May 4, from 5:30-8 pm.

This is a free semi-formal dance for senior citizens of the City of Ontario and surrounding areas.

Just Jazz Live band will be performing and there will be lots of food, non-alcoholic drinks, a photo booth and raffle prizes. RSVP by April 26, to Ontario Community Events tarin@oysports.com or call 419-961-5016. with name, phone number and email address.

★

A showing of the movie "Screenagers: Under the Influence- Addressing Vaping, Drugs and Alcohol in the Digital Age," will be held by Community Action for Capable Youth (CACY) on May 7 at 5:30 pm at Linden Road Presbyterian Church.

The movie examines the impact of our digital age on teens' deci-

sion-making in relation to substances such as vaping, drugs and alcohol. The film highlights the changing landscape of the substances themselves, offering solutions for how to best empower teens as they face decisions about what they will and will not be influenced by.

★

A free Shelby community meal will be held at Awake Church, 3616 St. Rt. 39., Shelby, on the second Thursday of each month, from 6-7 pm. Dates are May 9, June 13, July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12.

For information visit www.awakeshelby.com or call 419-342-4636.

★

The 3rd Annual SPT Charity Golf Outing will be held Friday, May 17, at Twin Lakes Golf Course, 2220 Marion Avenue Rd., Mansfield.

Entry includes breakfast, dinner, beverage, snacks, golf, cart and prizes. Specialized Pipe Technologies seeks to utilize golf to spark a day of generosity to benefit the Richland County Special Olympics.

For more information call 419-834-8366 or email aaron@sptohio.com. To register visit <https://files.constantcontact.com/5fc06e-c5201/3f846a90-7d29-4b37-83cd-bd19efb80b6a.pdf?rdr=true>

★

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

★

First Congregational Church, 640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield, will host a spring rummage sale Wednesday, May 1, from 9 am to 4 pm, and Thursday, May 2, from 9 am to noon (reduced prices). The sale is handicap accessible.

★

The Richland County Republicans will host a First Monday Luncheon from 11:45 am to 1 pm on Monday, May 6, at The Kobacker Room, DLX Events and Catering, 28 N. Main St., Mansfield.

Guest speaker will be Dave Yost, Ohio Attorney General. RSVP to 419-528-8223 or rcohgop@gmail.com. Lunches (optional) are \$10.

★

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Rev. Will Humphrey to speak on "Cultivating interdependence amongst a seemingly divided world" at 10:30 am on Sunday, April 28. For more information visit www.allsoulsuuohio.org.

★

The City of Ontario will host Summer Concerts at Marshall Park this summer. The concert admission is free and those attending are encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chairs.

Concerts are at the Marshall Park Band Shell from 6-8 pm. The schedule includes June 11, Conne; June 25, Red Ball Jets; July 9, David Perry; July 23, Oolong Gurus; Aug. 13, Soul Town Live; and Aug. 27, Atermath.

★

The Lexington Kiwanis will host the fourth annual golf outing at Twin Lakes on Friday, June 7. Registration is at 12:30 pm and shotgun start is at 1:15 pm. This is a four-person scramble format. New this year is a \$10,000 Hole-in-One Challenge.

Dinner will be served at 5 pm. Those unable to golf can come at

(Continued on Page 5)

Low-stress banking should be a high priority.

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Stingel earns Momentum Award

Ontario's Stingel Elementary School has earned the Momentum Award from the Ohio Department of Education for results on the 2022-'23 report card.

The Momentum Award is for an LEA who has improved their performance index by three or more points from the 2021-'22 report card to the 2022-'23 report and received a value-added rating of four or more stars.

"This remarkable accomplishment reflects unwavering commitment to excellence and the outstanding services the school provides to students and the community," said Ohio Department of Education and Workforce Director Stephen D. Dackin.

"It recognizes the devoted teachers and staff who consistently go above and beyond, ensuring that all students receive exceptional learning and instruction. Stingel's impact extends far beyond the classroom, shaping the future leaders of tomorrow."

"I commend the entire team of teachers, administrators, support staff and students for their collective contributions. Stingel's commitment to providing top-notch education and fostering a supportive community is truly commendable. May the Momentum Award serve as a source of pride and motivation that continues to inspire, innovate and make a difference in the lives of students."



Castle Butte, Valley of the Gods, Utah • Photo By Mark Shutt

Church Directory

Clay Memorial Lutheran Church

1601 Amoy East Rd., Mansfield
419-747-6882

Pastor Carol Kilgore
Sunday School 9:15 am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Clear Fork Alliance Church

1008 State Route 97, Bellville
419-886-4333 • www.clearforkalliance.org
Rev. Matt Merendino

Rev. Mike Stine, Associate Pastor
9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship
Sunday Evening 6 pm Home Groups
Monday Men's Group 7:30 pm
Wednesday evenings: 6:45 pm Prayer Meeting
6:30-8 pm TeamKID and Youth Group
Wednesday Ladies Bible Study 6:30-8 pm

Community Bible Church

1043 Springmill St., Mansfield
567-560-8011

www.DiscoverCommunity.org
Pastor Sam Belsterling
10:30 am Sunday Worship
Live stream at <https://www.facebook.com/CommunityBibleChurchMansfield>

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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

First Congregational Church

640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield
419-756-3046 • www.mansfieldfcc.com
Pastor Brad Bunn
8:30 am Chapel • 10:30 am Sanctuary
Sunday School 10:30 am

First English Lutheran Church

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

Hope Lutheran Church

(Formerly St. Paul & St. Timothy)
2010 Park Avenue West, Mansfield
419-529-4351 • www.lutheranhope.org
Pastor Jonathan Stuft
9:30 am Sunday Worship
10 am Thursday Bible Study
Free Breakfast 2nd Saturdays 9 am
Free Dinner 4th Sundays 5 pm

Lexington Presbyterian Church

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

Mansfield 1st EPC

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

Mansfield Baptist Temple

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

Ontario United Methodist Church

3540 Park Avenue West., Ontario
419-529-4345 • ontarioumc.com
Pastor Christine Bell
10:15 am Sunday Worship
10:15 am Kingdom Kids

St. John's United Church of Christ

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

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

G & M Body & Paint Shop

1689 West Fourth St., Ontario
419-529-2747

Wappner Funeral Home

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419-522-5211

•News Briefs

(Continued from Page 3)

5 pm. Cost is \$300 per team of four includes green fees, cart rental, soft drink, chips and hot dog at the turn, dinner and prizes.

Alcoholic beverages are not included in the cost, but will be available at discounted prices. All teams and money must be in before May 29. Proceeds help support Kiwanis youth services. Register at <https://form.jotform.com/231093806474054>. For more information email lexkiwanispresident@gmail.com.

★

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. 96, Bellville. Meals are \$15. The next meal will be held May 15, and will include chicken. This will be a celebration of 50 years.

The group will gather for lunch on May 1 at 11 am at Open Door, 252 W. Main St., Lucas.

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

★

Mifflin Township Fire Department will host and pancake breakfast and open house Saturday, April 27, from 7-10 am.

The breakfast will be held at the new Mifflin Road Department/Township Hall, beside Station 1, 2308 Park Ave E., Madison area.

The meal is dine-in or carry-out by donation. It includes sausage, milk, orange juice or coffee.

★

First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Avenue West, will be offering senior boxes of nonperishable food provided by the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. This comes with a 15 lb. box of fresh produce and a 2 lb. box of cheese. These items are free to those who qualify by age (60+) and low-income guidelines. Participants must have at least one person age 60 or older in the household.

Senior boxes are available on the fourth Tuesday of each month, year round. They may be picked up between 10:30 am and 12:30 pm.

Due to the volume of clients, distribution is moving to the Mulberry St. parking lot at the corner of Park Avenue West, beginning in May. This is directly across the side street from the church.

Those attending should pull in and follow signs and directions.

★

A Lexington High School Alumni Celebration will be held Saturday, June 8, in the Lexington High School Cafeteria and Auditorium.

Registration, social hour and tours of the new grade 7-12 facility begin at 4 pm. Opening remarks will be at 5:45 pm with dinner at 6 pm. Dress is casual and the dinner is \$30 per person. The dinner will include a buffet of pulled pork, grilled chicken, cheesy potatoes, green beans, garden salad, dessert, rolls and beverages.

The tour will involve walking but an elevator is available.

After the meal, those attending will adjourn to the auditorium for entertainment and updates, including recognition of this year's scholarship awards. Register by Tuesday, May 21 by emailing wal66@gmail.com. Follow the event on Facebook at Lexington Ohio Annual Alumni Banquet.

Red Cross, Sports Clips join together to offer incentive for donations

As May approaches, the American Red Cross reminds eligible donors to keep the blood supply stable by giving blood or platelets. Donors of all blood types are crucial to keeping shelves fully stocked with blood products throughout the month.

Book a time to give lifesaving blood or platelets now by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

Thanks to Sport Clips Haircuts, all who come to donate April 29-May 31 will get a coupon for a free haircut by email. Plus, those who come to give April 29 through May 19 will be automatically entered for a chance to win a trip for two and VIP racing experience to the 2024 NASCAR Cup Series and Xfinity Races at Darlington Raceway Labor Day weekend, including entry to the Sport Clips racetrack hospitality tent and a \$1,000 gift card.

Additionally, those who come to give April 29-May 19 will also get a bonus \$10 e-gift card to a merchant of choice. Visit RedCrossBlood.org/racetogive for more details.

Bloodmobiles are scheduled for:

Wednesday, May 1, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

Thursday, May 2, 7 am to 7 pm, Clear Fork High School, 987 State Route 97 E., Bellville

Wednesday, May 8, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario; and 8 am to 1 pm, Shelby YMCA, 111 Smiley Rd., Shelby

Friday, May 10, 11 am to 5 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario; and 8 am to 1 pm, Shelby High School, 1 Whippet Way, Shelby

Wednesday, May 15, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

Friday, May 17, 9 am to 3 pm, Area Agency on Aging, 2131 Park Avenue W., Ontario; and 11 am to 5 pm, First Wesleyan Church, 1908 Park Avenue West, Ontario

Saturday, May 18, 9 am to 2 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Cheryl Clark, April 13

Freda Helen Young, April 14

Bob Lipps, April 15

Charles "Bud" Edwin Miller, April 15

Rosalie J. Valentine, April 15

Lewis Frederick Birmelin, April 17

Shae Betty Joann Stinehelfer, April 17

Rebecca June Stoots, April 19

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www.wappner.com

•Madison School Board recognizes BPA qualifiers

(Continued from Front Page)

Senior Class advisor, high school Career Tech Department chair; Shelbi Ohl, Junior Class advisor; Jessica Kunz, Junior Class advisor; Traci Luckie, middle school English department chair; Tracey Burden, high school math department chair and National Honor Society; Christa Shutt, middle school math department chair; Zinda Thomas, middle school science department chair and middle school student council; Kim Boehm, high school social studies department chair and assistant cross country coach; Melissa Stoffer, Mifflin ELA department chair; Jennifer Porter, Mifflin Math department chair; Kathie Jansen, Eastview ELA department chair; Breanna Crunkilton, Eastview math department chair; Jodi Newberry, Madison South ELA department chair; Melissa Parish, Madison South math department chair and assistant varsity swimming/diving coach; Craig Green, high school drama advisor (musical) and vocal ensemble; Curtis Ashley, high school drama advisor (play); Josh Boliantz, middle school drama advisor; Kate Darnell, high school Key Club advisor; Megan Studer, middle school Key Club; Jim Thompson, Skills USA; Karen VonStein, Skills USA; Bill Roth, high school special education coordinator; Jenifer Culler, Mifflin special education coordinator; Goldie Spencer, middle school 5/6 special education coordinator; Lindsey Frank, middle school 7/8 special education coordinator; Heather Reynolds, Madison South special education coordinator; Laura Phillips, Spanish club advisor; Jennifer Branstetter, high school student council and sophomore class advisor; Katie Wade, high school student council and sophomore class advisor; Brittany Farley, Mifflin student council; Naomi Adinkrah, 1/3 South student council; Jennifer Lawhorn, 1/3 South student council; Emily Richter, 1/3 South student council; Julie Kirkpatrick, writers' club; Preston See, head seventh grade boys' basketball coach and 1/2 assistant varsity football coach; Owen Zeiter, head eighth grade boys' basketball coach; Kobi Johnson, head ninth grade boys' basketball coach and assistant varsity football coach; Nick Melton, assistant varsity boys' basketball coach; Chris Armstrong, head varsity boys' basketball coach and fall fitness coordinator; John Foust, head eighth grade girls' basketball coach and head eighth grade football coach; Ryan Tinsley, assistant varsity girls' basketball coach; Mike Leeper, head varsity girls' basketball coach; Teri Foley-Kanz, eighth grade cheer advisor; Matt Wade, head cross country coach; Jeff Burkholder, winter fitness coordinator and assistant varsity football coach; Derek Boyd, assistant seventh grade football coach; Steve Zellner, assistant eighth grade football coach; Tim Niswander, assistant varsity football coach; Steve Farley, head varsity boys' golf coach; Chad Reynolds, head swim/dive coach and head girls' tennis coach; Tricia Bernhard, head varsity volleyball coach; Kalen Oslie, assistant varsity volleyball coach; Ema Pritchard, head eighth grade volleyball coach; Sarah Wiggins, head seventh grade volleyball coach; Geoff Eckenwiler, assistant varsity boys' basketball coach; Michelle Byus, head varsity cheer coach; Cheyenne Hunt, assistant varsity cheer coach; Brent Besancon, head varsity football coach; Cayleb Sciacca-Cox, assistant varsity football coach; Calvin Gordon, half assistant varsity football coach; T. Justin Hunt, head ninth grade football coach; Brian Lowe,

assistant ninth grade football coach; Tim Deel, head seventh grade football coach; Dominic Castelveter, assistant varsity (JV) boys' golf coach; Mico Castelveter, head varsity girls' golf coach; Zac Huff, head varsity girls' soccer coach; Kelly O'Brien, assistant varsity girls' soccer coach; Bryan Mosier, head varsity wrestling coach; Teddy Haring, half assistant varsity wrestling coach; Chad Hutcheson, half assistant varsity wrestling coach; Ian Harter, half assistant varsity wrestling coach; Kyle Conkle, half assistant varsity wrestling coach; and David Gilbert, head 7/8 grade wrestling coach.

Substitute teachers approved on an "on call" basis, as needed for the 2023-'24 school year are Karen Drouhard, Michelle D'Ambros, Timothy Brafford, Julie Harless and Tiffany Ketchel.

Continuing contracts approved, effective with the 2024-'25 school year, include Lindsey Frank, Timothy Ritchey, Katelyn Smith and John Ihrig. Use of a sick bank for 18 days was approved for Karlie Utt, high school ELA teacher, for medical reasons.

Michelle Weirich, high school special education 1-1 aide, will retire, effective Aug. 1, 2024.

Hired as substitutes were Melissa Vetter, custodian; and Tammy Clapper, cafeteria.

Matthew Bartlett was appointed as second shift custodian at the high school, effective April 9; and Debra Cicolani to bus route 26, effective April 9. Darla Noblet rejected the bus route 26 position and has returned to the bus route 11 position.

The board approved the Service Agreement with Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board to provide Behavior Support Services for the remainder of the current school year, effective April 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024.

The board approved the College Credit Plus Agreement with Monroeville Local School District for the 2024-'25 school year and the 2024-'25 calendar for the Madison Early Childhood Learning Center.

The next regular board of Education meeting is May 15, at Madison Middle School Auditoria.

RRLC rib dinner is Saturday, May 4

The Richland Rural Life Center will host its annual country rib BBQ on Saturday, May 4, from 4-6 pm.

The dinner will be held at the Richland Rural Life Center, 969 E. Crall Rd., Mansfield (entrance located between Stewart Rd. and Rt. 545, Madison area).

The menu includes a slow cooked boneless country rib, potato or macaroni salad, baked beans, roll, beverage and homemade vanilla ice cream.

Cost is \$12 for adults and children's meals (10 and under) are \$7. Homemade ice cream quarts will be available for \$4. Tickets are sold at the door and dine-in and carry-out are available.

For more information call 419-544-2418 (leave message).

The Richland Rural Life Center is a non-profit organization that supports 4-H and Boy/Cub Scout troops. Proceeds from dinners and events help maintain the RRLC land and facilities.

Alzheimer's Association Northwest Ohio Chapter SUPPORT GROUPS



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RICHLAND COUNTY | MANSFIELD
Area Agency on Aging District 5
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2nd Tuesday of each month at 2pm



KNOX COUNTY | MT. VERNON
Danbury Senior Living
1605 Venture Drive
2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm



ASHLAND COUNTY | ASHLAND
Ashland County Council on Aging
240 E 3rd Street
3rd Wednesday of each month at 1pm



Springfield Township Fire Chief Adam Spellman and 2023 Firefighter of the Year Brody Worner



Ontario Lions Roger Harriman, Lt. Brian Williams and 2023 Officer of the Year Amanda Lawhorn

Photos By Traci Little

Pioneer accepts donations towards student scholarships

At the regular meeting April 15, the Pioneer Board of Education approved the appointment of superintendent Greg Nickoli to the Crawford County Tax Incentive Review Council.

An agreement was reached with Richland Public Health for the school nurse for the 2024-'25 school year.

Resolutions were adopted for Staff Appreciation Week and for recognition of the Byron Carmean Award winner.

A resolution was also adopted for approval of student insurance rates for the 2024-'25 school year.

Donations were accepted from Jacob Bush, Celeryville Christian School, Willard, \$760 for the payment of BPA National Convention expenses for student Brice Browning of Celeryville Christian; Haymaker Photo, Shelby, \$250 to be deposited into the Art Barr Scholarship fund and used for annual student scholarships; Carol Miller, Bucyrus, handmade quilt for the Wynford FFA Chapter to be displayed at the annual FFA banquet and used as the backdrop for family photos; Payton Sturts Foundation, Mansfield, \$2,000 to be deposited into the Payton Sturts Scholarship fund and used for annual student scholarships; and Dawn Wright-Smith, Blackbaud Giving Fund, Charleston, SC, \$30 to be deposited into the Alumni Endowment fund and used for annual student scholarships.

The board approved student participation in competitive events including the FCCLA State Leadership Conference, Ohio Expo Center, Columbus, April 25-26 for Crestline and Wynford students; and DECA National Competition, Convention Center, Anaheim, CA, April 26-May 1, for Bucyrus students.

Lucas and Wynford students will attend the FFA State Convention, Ohio Expo Center & State Fair, Columbus, May 1-4.

The board accepted the retirement of Daniel Foss, Cybersecurity instructor, effective June 1, 2024; and David Such, Auto Tech instructor, effective July 1, 2024.

The board approved supplemental contracts for next school year for certificated personnel including Caleb Alt, maintenance of buses; Dan Burtscher, EMIS and master schedule; Kevin Burke, banquet prep; Seth Weibel, banquet prep; and Robin Hager, summer school coordinator.

Crystal Black, media center aide, was approved for extended time.

A BPA State Leadership Conference Chaperone stipend was approved for Daniel Foss and summer camp stipends were approved for Kevin Burke, Bill Dichtl, Fritz Fagan, Mandy Glessner, Sandy Grau, Beth Heinlen, Lindi Meisse, Lynne Moritz, Tina Parr, Carey Ransom, Caitlyn Roub and Justin Tuttle.

John Yohe, Spanish proctor/assessor for edgenuity students,
(Continued on Page 8)



2023 EMT of the Year Collin McBride



2023 Dispatcher of the Year Derek Metzger

Community Dumpster Day returns

NECIC and the Richland County Land Bank have announced the return of Community Dumpster Day, scheduled for Saturday, May 11, from 9 am to 1 pm at the NECIC Community Outreach Center, 486 Springmill St, Mansfield.

Community Dumpster Day provides an opportunity for residents to dispose of unwanted junk and debris, contributing to a cleaner and greener community. The event aims to promote responsible waste disposal and community engagement. NECIC encourages everyone to join in throwing garbage in its place.

Volunteers are also welcome to participate in this event. For those interested in volunteering, contact special projects officer Suzy Beeson at 419-522-1611.

Please note that while the event can accept junk of all kinds, there are some prohibited items, including metal, liquid wastes, tires, batteries, harmful chemicals, explosive materials and large appliances (such as fridges, stoves and freezers).

The event is free, and there is no charge to dispose of waste. However, monetary donations will be accepted to support NECIC's Community Impact Center.

For more information about Community Dumpster Day, including more details on prohibited items, call NECIC at 419-522-1611.



Culver's now open in Ontario

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Richland County welcomed Culver's to the Lexington-Springmill Road lineup of amazing businesses. Owner-operators Chanse and Allie Meylan thanked the city for its support.

The fast-casual restaurant was founded in 1984 in Wisconsin. The restaurant's signature dishes include ButterBurgers, cheese curds and fresh, frozen custard. It features a custard "Flavor of the Day" every day.

"We're picky about which communities we want to be a part of, and Ontario really caught my attention, and it feels like my hometown in Bay City, Michigan," said Chanse Meylan. "We're super thrilled to be part of this amazing community."

Previously working in the insurance industry, Meylan opened a Culver's location in Monroe, Michigan around 2021.

"We're really in the people business and we happen to sell great ButterBurgers and custard. Everything's fresh and cooked to order."

The Ontario location has 75 employees, both part-time and full-time. Meylan said he looks forward to participating in community events and fundraisers.

"We give out coupons for free menu items for 'Kids of Character,'" Meylan said. "Those go to schools, and they can pass them out to deserving kids for good performance, best on the bus, perfect attendance — any number of accomplishments that they can bring in for a meal or free custard."

"We also do custard donations for school events or share nights. Community organizations or clubs can partner with us to bring people in, and we donate a portion of sales for a night to them."

Before the Ontario location opened Wednesday, the closest Culver's restaurants to Mansfield were in Findlay, Medina and Canton.

Culver's is located at 1364 N. Lexington-Springmill Rd. It is next door to BellStores and across the street from Meijer and OhioHealth Emergency Care.

Culver's is open from 10 am to 11 pm, seven days a week. It is closed for Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving.

•Pioneer accepts donations

(Continued from Page 7)

received an increase in stipend.

Summer school 2024 stipends were approved for Robin Hager, social studies instructor; Aaryn Evans, language arts instructor; John Yohe, science instructor; and Emma Jenkins, math instructor.

A Google Level 1 Certification stipend was approved for Molly Belcik, Matt Dotson, Meg Mergel and Ellen Shifley.

The board approved an increase in mileage for administrative personnel, the employment of Jessica Tabor as substitute instructor, non-renewal of part-time substitute classified personnel, the employment of Jessica Tabor as substitute classified personnel, MOU with Wynford Local Schools for the Career Exploration Program and a new job description for the Adult Education LPN coordinator/instructor.

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Photos By Traci Little

COLTON DIXON AND JORDAN FELIZ performed on their Love & Light Tour at the Archer Auditorium at Ashland High School on Saturday night, April 20. Dixon and Feliz are two friends who love touring together, spreading the love of Jesus, and bringing Him glory through their music. What inspired them to make music? Jordan remembers taking piano lessons growing up and never wanting to practice. Instead, he loved exploring the melodies in his head and soon began writing his own music. He loved watching the Lord work through leading worship in his youth group days and watching people encounter the Lord through worship. "Christian music saved my life," Feliz said. Dixon said music is the place he feels closest to God. "Sitting at a piano and singing freely to the Lord is my intimate time with Jesus. You can't lead people from a place where you haven't been yourself. The time off stage is just as important. I love how He turns messes into masterpieces," he said.

Buckeye Imagination Museum named Institution of the Year

The 2023 Ohio Museums Association Outstanding Achievement Awards were recognized at the 2024 Ohio Museums Association's Annual Conference in Sandusky.

Buckeye Imagination Museum was named Institution of the Year. This award recognizes outstanding institutional accomplishments in the field of Ohio museums. Buckeye Imagination Museum was nominated for its outstanding accomplishments in museum design and community collaboration.

Fred Boll, Buckeye Imagination Museum Executive Director, cited the cooperation and communication with other OMA members as a guide in development and growth of Buckeye Imagination Museum. "I look at the accomplishments that these institutions are doing and learn from them," Boll said.

Buckeye Imagination Museum was also named Best Community Collaboration/Partnership for Optimist Park. This award that recognizes innovative partnerships within communities or among other museums. The Mansfield Noon Optimist's raised funds to build the neighborhood park to celebrate their 100th anniversary.

April Monroy, Buckeye Imagination Museum Front Desk Manager, stated, "The Optimist Park has been a wonderful addition to the museum. Many families use both before and after coming to play in the museum. We really enjoy seeing neighborhood kids come to play too!"

The Ohio Museums Association is the leading advocate for connecting and empowering Ohio museums and museum professionals. OMA works with a variety of museums, museum professionals and providers of museum services to strengthen the state's museum, foster excellence in the field and support the museum community.

The mission of Buckeye Imagination Museum is to provide families with the opportunity to learn and discover through the power of play. Buckeye Imagination Museum is a hands on children's museum dedicated to learning through play and is located in downtown Mansfield, Ohio. Buckeye Imagination Museum is a 502(c)(3) non-profit organization.

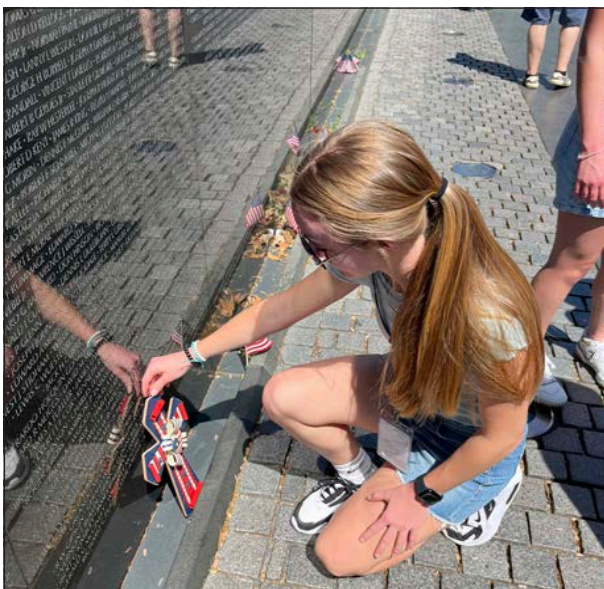


CHILDREN LEARNED about the rules of the road during a special Safety Town held at the YMCA Childcare Center in Mansfield. The program was supported by a Summertime Kids Grant.

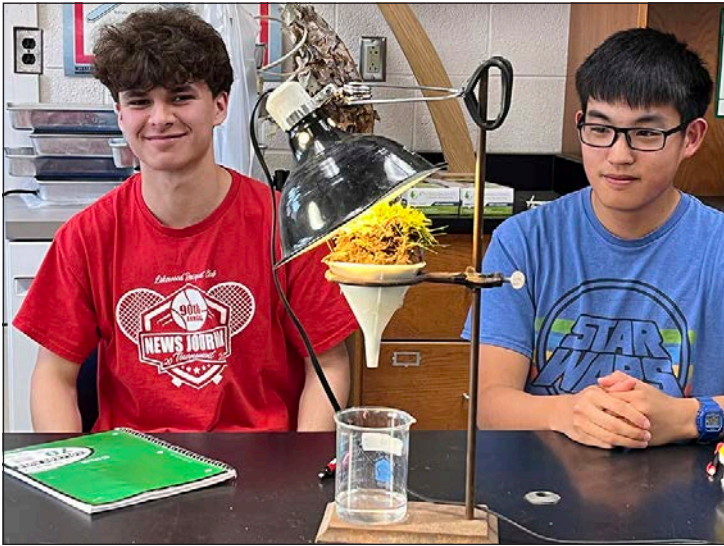
•Grants support programming

(Continued from Front Page)

Rubies Women's Group, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, St. Paul Outreach, St. Peter's Parish, Taking Root Farms, Voice of Hope Pregnancy and Family Center and YMCA of North Central Ohio.



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY students from Mansfield Christian School took a trip. They started with the production of *Daniel* at Sights and Sounds in Lancaster, PA. They then continued to Washington D.C. with visits to the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, a tour of the capital building, Holocaust Museum, Mount Vernon to see Washington's home, the Bible Museum, National Cathedral and many others. At the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, students witnessed several wreath ceremonies and the changing of the guard. An honor guard at the tomb, specialist Randy Segura, greeted students and answered questions. Several students got a rare glimpse at the honor guards' quarters.



CCP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE students at Ontario High School built Berlese Funnels to study soil biota. The apparatus physically warms the soil and rising alcohol vapors chemically release the organisms for study. The soils unit consisted of soil sampling, building and analyzing a soil profile, and investigating the living organisms within the topsoil as well as investigating soil and groundwater pollution potential maps of Ohio.

Class of 1964 to celebrate 60th

The Lexington High School Class on 1964 will host a 60th reunion on Friday, June 7, at Deer Ridge Golf Course, 900 Comfort Plaza Dr., Bellville.

The social gathering will begin at 6 pm with a meal and refreshments at 6:30 pm. Depending upon attendance, the group will either order off the menu for meals and drinks, or if enough register, a buffet-style meal will be offered.

The Lexington All School Celebration is on Saturday, June 8.

Respond by May 21 for meal planning. For information call Nelda Dent Spore at 419-884-8797 or nspore@yahoo.com or Rex Skelton at 419-512-1670 or rex@skeltonsinc.com.

This is a Mid-Ohio race weekend so those needing hotel reservations should reserve early.

Charity golf outing is June 24

The 29th Annual Ruth Lindsey HNCO Charity Golf Outing is scheduled for Monday, June 24, at Westfield Country Club. The annual event is named in honor of HNCO founder, Ruth Lindsey and is sponsored by Mechanics Bank. Last year's outing raised over \$15,000 in support of HNCO.

Registration is limited to 31 teams. For more information or to register, access HNCO's website at: www.myhnco.org, call Ralph Tomassi at 419-289-4859 or send a check in the amount of \$165 (individual golfer) or \$650 (foursome) with golfer names to HNCO Golf Outing, 1021 Dauch Dr., Ashland, OH 44805.

Ontario branch closed for remodel

The Mansfield/Richland County Public Library (MRCPL) Ontario branch, 2221 Village Mall Dr. Ontario, has closed for renovation.

The temporary location will open on Monday, May 6, in the Richland Mall. A library return box is now located at the exterior of the mall near the south entrance, facing Stumbo Rd.

The temporary mall location will open with a complete collection, staff and program schedule on May 6. Upon opening, mall library hours will be Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9 am to 7 pm; and Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 9 am to 5 pm; and Sunday, 1-5 pm.

Library customers are encouraged to visit one of the other eight locations, find a Bookmobile stop or browse online 24/7 using the library's app or mrcpl.org until the mall location opens.

Lexington to see slight AEP increase

The Village of Lexington Council met April 1. Village council members present were Adam Gongwer, Aaron Hoptry, Wynn Kearns, Kim Little, Jeff O'Brien and Todd Wise. Also attending were Attorney John Studenmund, Chief Troy Weaver and Assistant Finance Director Rachel Fagan.

The Safety Service committee met before the council meeting and made a recommendation regarding the retire/rehire of police officer Andy Little.

Mayor Bob Jarvis reported that AEP will implement a rate increase sometime in the summer. The increase is estimated to be less than one percent (\$1.50 per bill).

The village hall generator has a bad ignition. A fee of \$1,600 will be charged because of "emergency status". This was approved as the village may need the generator due to ongoing storms.

Chief Weaver reported that an agreement has been made with the sheriff department regarding day of the eclipse. All departments participated and covered the country April 8 and 9. Attorney Studenmund noted the mutual aid agreement follows the O.R.C.

Ordinance No. 24-12 provides for permanent budget amendments and appropriations for March for parks, administration, general fund, streets C, M and R, assistance to the needy, sewer and water funds.

Resolution No. 24-14 authorized the execution of an agreement with the Lexington Baseball/Softball Association, Inc. for use of the ball fields at Lexington Community Park.

Resolution No. 24-15 authorized the execution of an agreement with the Lexington Soccer Association for use of the soccer fields at Lexington Patriot Park.

Councilman Kearns noted that the cemetery levy passed because of help from Attorney Studmund, the cemetery board and council. Kearns expressed his deep gratitude for everyone's help.

Elinor & T.W. Miller Foundation makes grant to Hospice of NCO

The board of directors of The Elinor & T.W. Miller Foundation, Orlando, FL, has approved a grant in the amount of \$10,000 in support of Hospice of North Central Ohio.

The grant is designated for "Camp Hope" children's bereavement camp, which is scheduled for June 17-18, 20-21 at Pleasant Hill Campgrounds. This special camp was established in 1996 by HNCO for grieving children ages 6-17 who have lost a loved one through death. The camp is staffed by a dedicated and trained team of bereavement specialists and volunteers.

Camp Hope is offered free of charge to qualified families except for a nominal registration deposit.

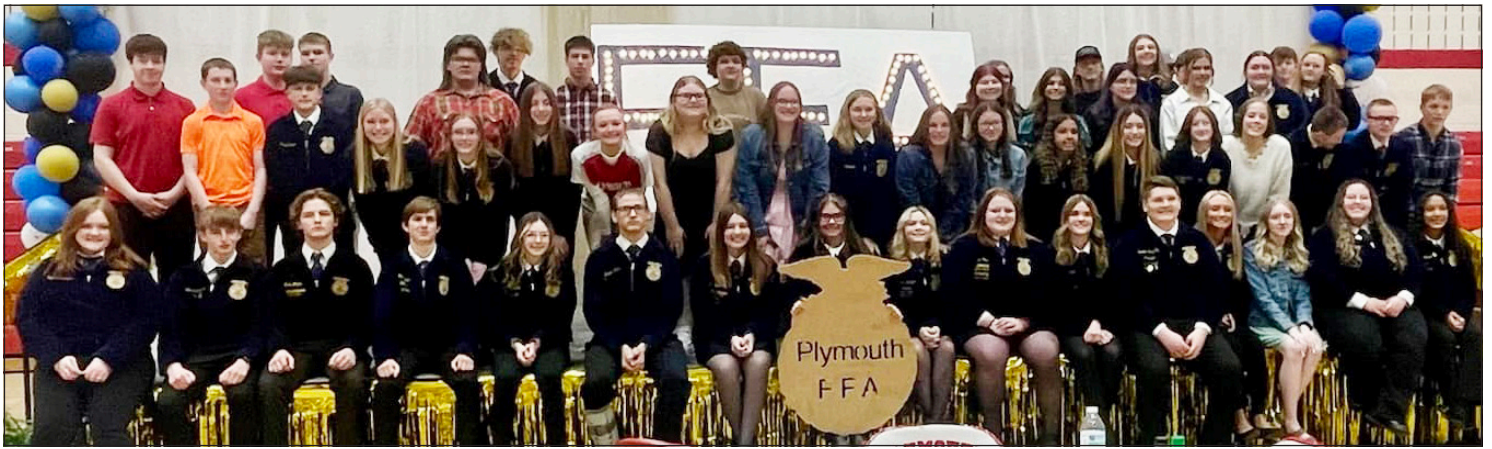
Ralph Tomassi, HNCO Chief Development Officer/Senior Administrator stated, "We are indeed grateful to The Elinor & T.W. Miller Foundation for their continued support of this special 'core' mission program. This grant makes it possible for HNCO to provide this camp without financially burdening families while perpetuating the memory and philanthropic spirit of two of Ashland's most notable citizens."

The Elinor & T.W. Miller Foundation, established in 2004, continues to be dedicated to the causes Bill and Elinor Miller loved most: education, health care, athleticism, spiritual health and community engagement. The Miller Foundation board continues to follow the Miller's leadership, honoring their vision and legacy through a commitment to serving the people and institutions of Winter Park, Florida and Ashland, OH.

Republicans elected to committees

The Richland County Republican Central and Executive Committee met April 9, and elected Marilyn John as chair of the executive committee, Bill Freytag as vice chair, Lu Blankenship as treasurer and Zoi Romanchuk as secretary.

Central committee officers elected were Megan Whatman as chair, Cliff Mears as vice chair and Jane Zimmermann as secretary. Newly elected members of the central committee were sworn-in to begin their four year term.



Plymouth FFA celebrates 100 years of agricultural education

By Nicole Beverage, Plymouth FFA Reporter

The Plymouth FFA hosted its annual FFA banquet Saturday, April 13. Nearly 300 members, supporters, alumni and guests were present at this event.

During the banquet, members were given awards and celebrated all their successes and hard work throughout the year. Goodbyes were said to members who have helped the chapter achieve so much over the past five years, and the new officers for the upcoming year were installed. To start the night out, there were many dinner selections, desserts and refreshments for guests to enjoy including Rader's Old Fashioned Ice Cream.

The chapter is also celebrating 100 years of agricultural education during the 2023-'24 school year. The chapter started out small and, at the time, only boys could join as Shiloh High School served as the home of the first Smith-Hughes Class in Richland County. Just as agriculture started out small with every family growing their own, over time and through dedication and investment, agriculture has grown and so has the chapter.

The chapter gave out numerous awards including Most Involved, Top Sales Awards, Honorary Member, Honorary Business and other awards. Over 50 members were identified for receiving their Discovery, Greenhand or Chapter degree. Not only did the members get gifts, but many alumni, parents, photographers, farm field helpers, cooks and Career Development Event (CDEs) coaches were also recognized for their importance to the chapter.

Sarah Hoak and Walker Wallace were acknowledged for receiving their American FFA Degrees this fall at the National FFA Convention. Sarah and Walker have both worked very hard to be able to receive the highest possible FFA degree that less than half of one percent of FFA members receive.

President Braden Montgomery gave his retiring address as he has held the president office for this past year. Braden expressed how grateful he was for gaining a lifetime of memories, new friends, experiences and expanding his knowledge. Braden said, "I have realized that sometimes the road in front of you is not the path you are meant to follow. Do not fear change as it may be a gateway for greater opportunity."

Throughout his senior year, Braden began to construct his plans for the future. He has spent his final two years of high school working towards his associates degree in Engineering at North Central State College. He struggled to determine what he wanted for his future career until it became crystal clear. He wanted to continue his passion for FFA and agriculture by becoming an Ag teacher and FFA advisor. This fall, Braden will be attending Wilmington College majoring in agricultural education.

The honorary Member award was given to Mr. and Mrs. Tony and Pam Hugel. They are active members of the alumni and have helped for over 20 years. The honorary business award was given to Shepherd's Farm owned and operated by Dave and Candi Shepherd. Shepherd Farms has helped harvest and haul our grain whenever possible. Mr. Shepherd even takes the time to speak with our classes and have his employees share the latest technology with our students.

Recipients of the Discovery Degree included, Makayla Ashby, Xavier Beveridge, Makayla Bowman, Kensley Burrer, Anna Caughenbaugh, Gwen Cave, Destiny Conklin, Nevaeh Conrad, Lucas Distl, Sienna Kennison, Kailynn Leroux, Maliyah Leroux, Carson Lewis, Erika Montry, Blake Oney, Hunter Oney, Lance Rowe, Mason Stine, Lanie Stull, Gus Sutter and Bently Taylor.

Recipients of the Greenhand Degree include Caleb Crouse, Makayla Cunningham, Taylor Dean, Lincoln Distl, Aaliyah Grose, Kamryn Hall, Chiyo Harris, Gabe Hinkle, Gianna Hughes, Luke Kelbley, Seth Love, Kaylee Martin, Presley Martin, Isaiah Miller, Madison Montgomery, Anthony Moore, Benji Oney, Hunter Shepherd, Mya Stine, Kelsey Surgener, Dallas Thompson, Kendyll Tolbert, Ben Trimmer, Adelyn Vorhees, Ashley Watkins and Lilly Weaver.

Recipients of the Chapter Degree included, Nicole Beverage, Rylie Edwards, Morgan Follett, Rylee Gowitzka, Alyson Lewis, Miley Linstrum, Dillan Myers, Jaylen Scott, Camryn Wallace, Kristi Yeager and Blake Zidarín.

Top four fruit sellers were Nicole Beverage, Jack and Luke Kelbley, Alyson and Carson Lewis and Kristi Yeager. Top five strawberry sellers were Nicole Beverage, Aaliyah Grose, Aly and Carson Lewis, Kristi Yeager and Morgan Follett.

The 2023-'24 outstanding students included Nicole Beverage, Kristen Swingle, Katelyn Swingle, Braden Montgomery, Kailyn Leroux, Maliyah Leroux, Makayla Bowman, Luke Kelbley, Isaiah Miller, Matthew Gillum, Kyrsten Caudill, Brianna Flanagan, Kansas Huston, Ava Stine and Zach Miller. The Winner of the 110% award sponsored by Agcredit was Katelyn Swingle.

The State Food Science Team consisting of Katelyn Swingle, Ava Stine, Braden Montgomery and Chiyo Harris, placed fifth in the state earning a banner. Katelyn Swingle placed third in the state in Food Science earning a \$3,000 college scholarship, she also placed first in the District competition for food science. Braden Montgomery placed second in the District competition for food science. The state placing team will receive their state banner at State FFA Convention in May.

Ava Stine received a gold rating on her secretary book, Nicole Beverage received a gold rating on her reporter's book and Kansas Huston received a gold rating on her treasurer's book. They will all be walking across the stage and receiving their golden pins at State Convention.

The 2024-'25 officer team is as follows: president Katelyn Swingle, vice president Kristen Swingle, secretary Ava Stine, treasurer Kansas Huston, reporter Nicole Beverage, sentinel Isaiah Miller, student advisor Dallas Thompson, historian Matthew Gillum and parliamentarian Adelyn Vorhees.

The Plymouth-Shiloh FFA Alumni also gives out scholarships to hard-working members to help them to better afford their college tuition each year. This year Sarah Hoak, Douglas Reer, and Haley Felty were granted \$1200 scholarships. Sarah, Doug, and Haley have participated in many events over the years and have helped the alumni at numerous occasions. Braden Montgomery and Olivia Balkin were awarded \$700 alumni scholarships. Braden also earned a \$250

(Continued on Page 13)

VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System offers tele-emergency care

The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced the addition of tele-emergency care services for enrolled veterans in the Cleveland area. Enrolled Veterans can access this new service at the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center by dialing 216-791-3800 and pressing "3," effective immediately. Medical triage staff are available 24/7 and will guide the Veteran to the appropriate level of care, including tele-emergency care.

Tele-emergency care (tele-EC) offers veterans many of the same services they can receive in a traditional emergency room, but from the comfort of their own home. This helps prevent the veteran from having to drive in, potentially wait for hours in a waiting room, minimizes exposure to illnesses from other patients, etc. There is also no co-pay for these services.

Further, choosing to utilize the VA for emergency care, whether through the tele-EC or in-person services, ensures a smooth continuity of care as the Veteran's medical providers will already have access to the Veteran's full medical record.

While veterans with life-or-limb-threatening injuries or illnesses should go to an in-person emergency room or call 911, tele-EC can serve Veterans with a wide variety of conditions, including cough, cold, flu and COVID symptoms, sore throats, COPD and asthma flares, eye redness and irritation, tick and other insect bites, skin infections, minor allergic reactions, GI illnesses, urinary tract infections, gout flares and muscle sprains/strains.

Focusing on treating the whole Veteran through health promotion and disease prevention, VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System provides comprehensive, seamless health care and social services for more than 134,000 veterans across Northeast Ohio. With 17 locations of care, including 12 outpatient clinics, two community resource and referral centers, a psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery center, a chronic dialysis center, and an outpatient surgery center, VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System's services are easily accessible to veterans in 21 counties. VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System also contributes to the future of medicine through education, training and research programs.

For more information about programs and services offered by VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System visit www.cleveland.va.gov or follow on Facebook @ClevelandVAMC.

Hospice of NCO receives energy cooperative grant for Camp Hope

The board of directors of The Energy Cooperative Operation Round Up Foundation has approved a grant in the amount of \$2,200 for Hospice of North Central Ohio.

The grant will be used to fund an Art Therapist at the 2024 HNCO Camp Hope children's bereavement camp scheduled for June 17-18, 20-21 at Pleasant Hill Campgrounds.

Camp Hope was established in 1996 in response to a growing need to provide grieving children with a safe and supportive environment to tell their story, receive validation from a trained and dedicated team of counselors and volunteers and to learn that death is a natural part of life, and that grieving is a natural response to that loss.

The camp is provided free-of-charge (excluding a nominal registration fee) to children ages 6-17 who have lost a loved one through death.

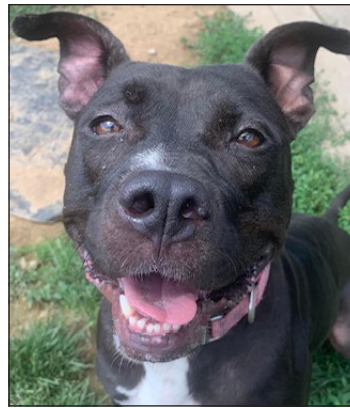
•FFA celebrates 100 years

(Continued on Page 12)

scholarship from the Red Cross and the winner of the Stanley Caudill Memorial scholarship was Olivia Balkin. These scholarships are made possible by supporters of the annual Plymouth-Shiloh FFA Alumni Tool Fundraiser which will be held on Saturday, Sept. 14, in Shiloh with doors opening at 5:30 m.

The Plymouth FFA chapter and the Plymouth-Shiloh FFA Alumni would like to sincerely thank all of our supporters who helped to make everything we do possible! We are so grateful for each of you!

This Week's Pet Looking for A Forever Home



Summer

Miss Summer is around three years old. She is a doll baby! Summer absolutely loves people but is dog selective.

According to the shelter, Summer's owners dropped her off in the outside kennels. Their loss, because she is so perfect. But look at her face! Summer happily allows volunteers to dress her up in fancy dresses for photo shoots. She is a lot fun.

Summer absolutely loves toys, and, more specifically, destroying toys. One of her favorite things to do is to slowly destroy a toy on a walk.

In a playroom, if there are

toys available, she ignores humans. When there are no toys, she is affectionate and likes to snuggle.

When she goes back to her kennel, Summer enjoys when humans crouch down so she can put her face in between her walker's chest and legs and will snuggle there as long as the human stays. Summer has been at the shelter since June of 2023.

Those interested in meeting any dog can contact or visit the Richland County Dog Warden's Office and Shelter, 810 N. Home Rd., Mansfield. Hours are 11 am to 4:15 pm Monday-Friday and 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday.

Currently, adoptions are on a schedule, based on the time the dog has been at the shelter. Dogs that have been at the shelter for more than a year are \$50, dogs there more than six months are \$100, dogs at the shelter longer than three months are \$125, and dogs there less than three months are \$150.

This fee includes spay/neuter, microchip, dog license, and some vaccines.

The shelter's current needs are volunteers to walk and play with the dogs as well as fill kongs for the dogs to play with when they are in their kennel, help with laundry or dishes, or clean the yard.

The shelter is always in need of bleach, laundry detergent and dog treats.

Spring concert scheduled for May 19

Area youth who make up the Mansfield Symphony Youth Strings will perform a spring concert at the Renaissance Theatre under the direction of Alora Eyerly on Sunday, May 19, at 3:30 pm.

The MSYS comprises some of North Central Ohio's finest string musicians, primarily in middle and junior high school, from a 12-county region, representing approximately 30 members this season who perform concerts onstage at the Renaissance and in the community. The MYS allows students an additional opportunity for musical growth by rehearsing and performing with other student musicians, allowing them to perform a wide variety of music.

Tickets are available at the Renaissance Box Office, by calling 419-522-2726 and online at rentickets.org. Adult tickets are \$10 while student tickets are \$5.

This season's youth strings group is primarily made of students representing the following schools: Malabar Intermediate, Lexington, Clearfork, Ashland, Homeschool, Ontario and Shelby.

The Mansfield Symphony Youth Strings includes:

Violin 1: Eliana Selvage, Gabriella Van Langevelde, Odin Sombrio, Cara Yetzer and Olivia English

Violin 2: Aiden Schmitt, Lillith Pennington, Simon Domka, Madeline Erlenbach, Jacoby Rapp, Aliya Auger, Cacie Norton and Niall Cavanaugh

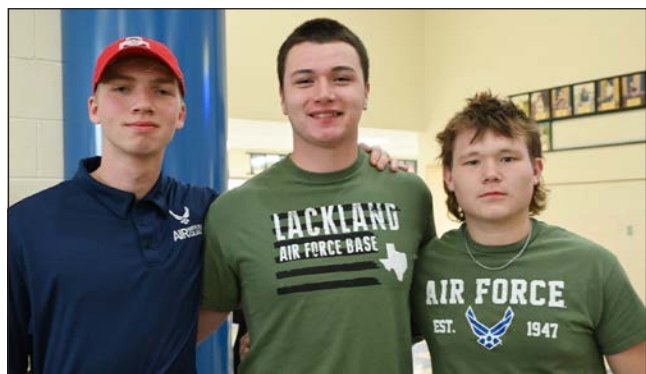
Viola: Annie Hostettler, Sydney Miley, Deacon Barrows, Zachary Hill, Olivia Casto, Jonathon Winans and Charlyze Polgsted

Cello: Nathan Jackson, Harrison Rice, Caiden Burkhart, Jonah Wilson, Jacob Javurek and Avery English

Bass: Tobias Newland, David Secrist and Aaron Hazlett

Ontario High School Senior "E Day"

Ontario High School seniors had a class meeting to receive information about prom and graduation. The school had "E Day" where the Class of 2024 wore their shirts to represent their employment, enlistment or education choices. They also took time to look at the letters they wrote to themselves when they were in the sixth grade.



Free native plant workshop scheduled for Wednesday, May 8

As gardening season arrives, the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD) is hosting a free workshop on native plants Wednesday, May 8 at 5:30 pm at the Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Ave., Mansfield.

Guy Denny, retired Ohio Department of Natural Resources Chief of Natural Prairies and Preserves Division, will provide a brief introduction on native plants and then open the floor up for a question-and-answer session.

This workshop is suitable for those considering using native plants and for those who are already using native plants in their landscaping.

Options to consider before purchasing plants are planting in the right location, blooming times, and if there is a desire to attract butterflies, bees and other pollinators.

The Native Plant Sale will take place after the workshop.

Richland SWCD encourages landowners to choose native plants when planning their garden or landscape. Native plants are more suited to our climate and soil and typically do better in our gardens than non-native species.

Native plants also provide excellent habitats and food for insects, pollinators, and wildlife.

Native plants have a strong root system, more soil is held in place which slows stormwater runoff and filters pollutants before they enter rivers, lakes, and streams.

To register for the workshop or for more information about the workshop and sale, visit, <https://richlandswcd.net/event/native-plant-workshop-and-sale-2/>, call 419-747-8688 or e-mail Contact@Richlandswcd.net.

Richland SWCD promotes 69th Annual Stewardship Week

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD), in partnership with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), is celebrating the 69th Annual Stewardship Week from April 28 through May 5, 2024.

This year's Stewardship Week theme is "May the Forest Be with You, Always." Richland SWCD is a member of NACD, which oversees the annual Stewardship Week program, one of the largest national annual programs that promotes conservation.

"Soil and water conservation are intimately intertwined with forest health," said NACD President Kim LaFleur. "This year's Stewardship Week recognizes the importance forests serve in the protection of soil and water resources, preventing erosion, purifying contaminants, and nurturing healthy watersheds."

Richland SWCD was formed to assist the people of Richland County with implementing conservation programs and promoting efforts that protect and improve natural resources.

During Stewardship Week, Richland SWCD encourages planting native trees, using rain barrels and installing rain gardens.

The public is also invited to attend the free rain barrel and rain garden workshop Tuesday, April 30 at 6 pm at the main location of the Mansfield Richland County Public Library, 43 W. 3rd St., Mansfield.

Reservations for the workshop may be made at <https://richlandswcd.net/event/rain-barrel-and-rain-garden-workshop-3/>.

Richland SWCD is a vital resource to those interested in expanding awareness about the importance of water as a resource for our communities and ecosystems.

Residents rely on water for drinking, cleaning, swimming, growing our food, and so much more. People, animals, and plants all need healthy watersheds to survive.

This year's Stewardship Week resources celebrating "May the Forest Be with You, Always" are available for free download on the NACD Stewardship Week website at [Stewardship Week - NACD \(nacd-net.org\)](http://StewardshipWeek-NACD(nacd-net.org)).

April recognized as National Stress Awareness Month

National Institutes of Health (NIH) observed April as National Stress Awareness Month.

Sources of stress can be as diverse as the people who undergo it, but one group that experiences stress day after day, occasionally for as long as 20 years, are the caregivers for people living with Alzheimer's disease.

More than 414,000 Ohioans, 11.3% of the state's population, are currently serving as unpaid caregivers for loved ones living with Alzheimer's disease. The challenges and stress from being a dementia caregiver can be overwhelming.

According to the Alzheimer's Association 2024 Facts & Figures report 63.7% of Ohio caregivers have chronic health conditions. Caring for a spouse with dementia is associated with a 30% increase in depressive symptoms compared with spousal caregivers of partners without dementia. Seventy percent of all dementia caregivers feel stressed when coordinating care for their loved one living with dementia.

Recognizing the signs of caregiver stress is the first step to getting help. The Alzheimer's Association lists 10 symptoms that can help identify caregiver stress including denial about the disease and its effect on the person who has been diagnosed. Another sign is anger at the person living with Alzheimer's or frustration at their inability to do the things they used to.

Social withdrawal from friends and activities and anxiety about the future and facing another day can also be a sign.

Depression that breaks the spirit and ability to cope and exhaustion that makes it nearly impossible to complete necessary daily tasks can be a sign. Sleeplessness caused by a never-ending list of concerns, irritability that leads to moodiness and triggers negative responses and actions, a lack of concentration that makes it difficult to perform familiar tasks and health problems that begin to take a mental and physical toll can also help identify caregiver stress.

Caregivers who experience any of these signs of stress on a regular basis should make time to talk to their doctor. In addition, the Alzheimer's Association offers a number of resources through www.alz.org specifically for those providing care for loved ones with the disease including a 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900.



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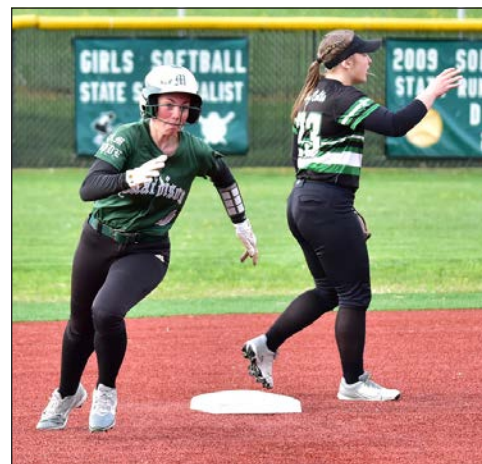
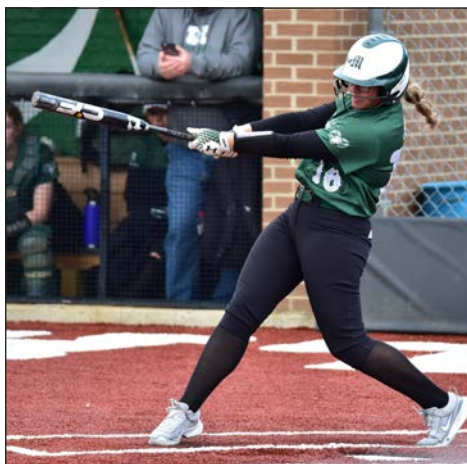
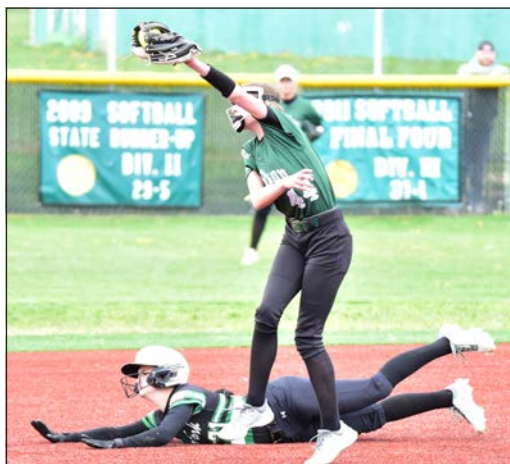
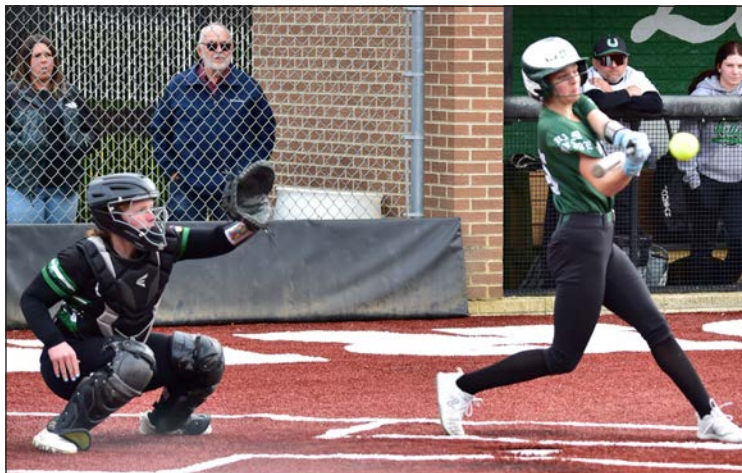





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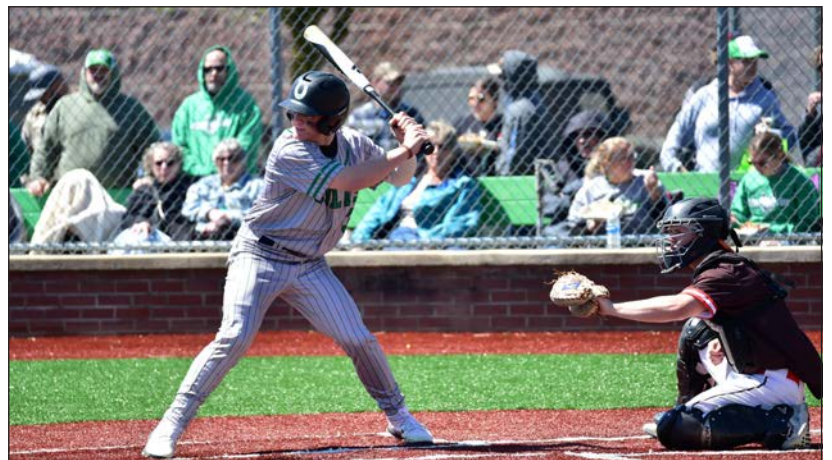
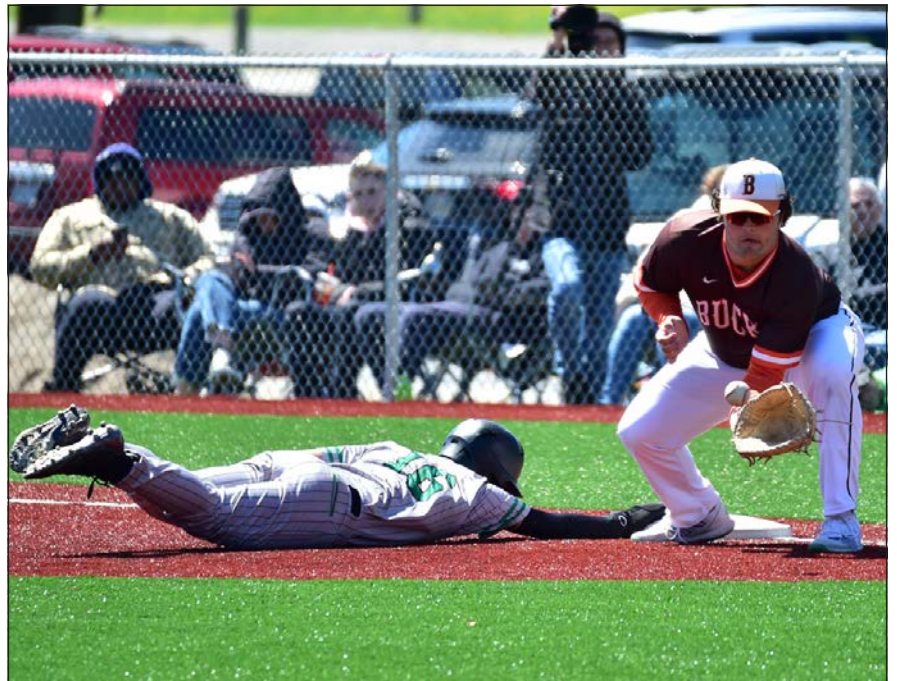
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS MADISON SOFTBALL · APRIL 19 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER
LADY COLTS WIN 5-7



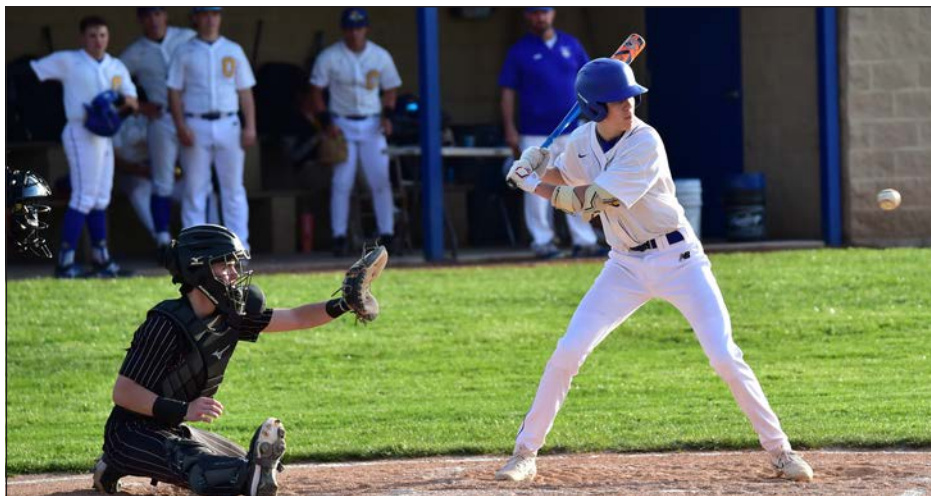
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS BUCKEYE HIGH BASEBALL · APRIL 13 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



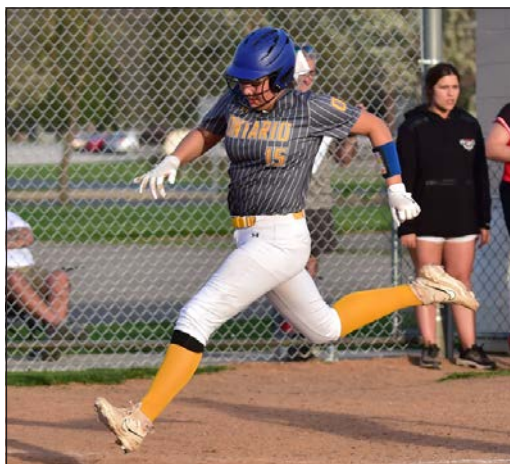
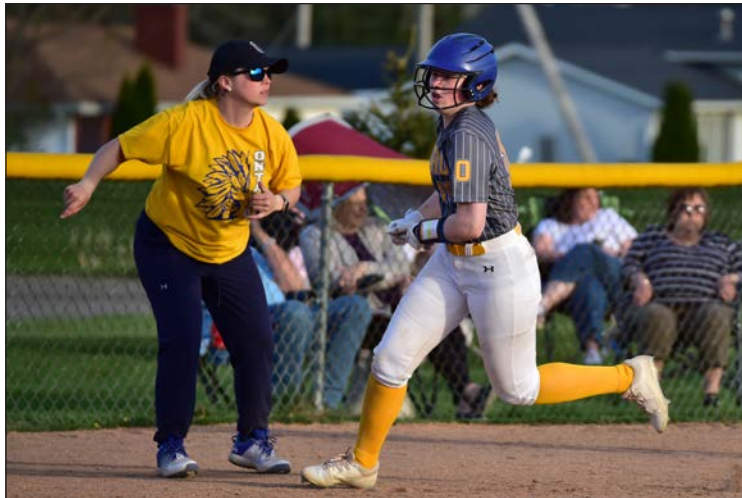
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS PLEASANT BASEBALL · APRIL 16 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



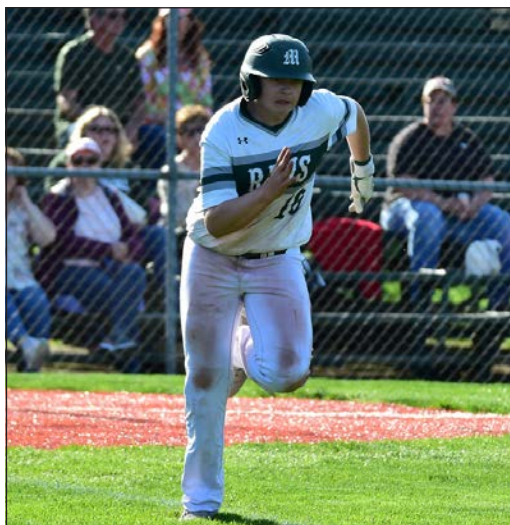
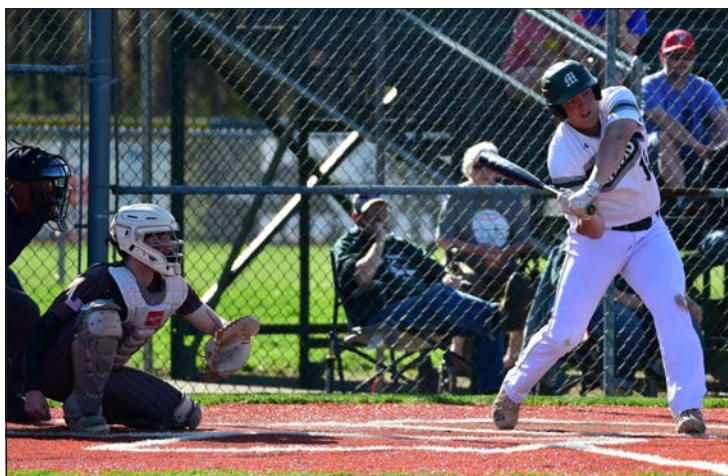
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS PLEASANT SOFTBALL · APRIL 16 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS MANSFIELD SENIOR BASEBALL · APRIL 18 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS HURON SOFTBALL · APRIL 18 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Mid-Season Baseball & Softball Results

Part 2

By Kris Leiter

The Lucas Cubs (3-5, 1-1, ranked fifth in the Mid-Buckeye Conference) are currently manned by head coach Courtney Church and assistant coach Bryan Forrest.

Things started off a little slow in the beginning for the Cubs, but they are currently on a three-game winning streak. The latest being April 15, in a close victory of 17-16 over the Colonel Crawford Eagles. There were no other statistics available at the time of this printing.

The Lady Cubs stats are (0-4, 0-1, ranked third in the Mid-Buckeye Conference).

The Madison Rams (2-7, 2-5, ranked seventh in the Ohio Cardinal Conference) are currently on a two-game winning streak. On April 16, they were victors over Mansfield Senior. The game was deadlocked 1-1 until the top of the eighth inning.

The Rams scored the winning run and toppled the Tygers for the win of 2-1. On April 18, they would again tame the Tygers. The Rams scored one run in the third and two runs in the fourth inning. They maintained a 3-run lead through six innings. Mansfield only scored two total runs in the top of the sixth inning and fell short to the Rams for a final of 3-2.

The recent Ram victory continues the perfect 12-0 record between the Tygers in the history of these two teams over the years.

There were no batting or pitching statistics available at the time of this printing.

The Lady Rams (7-5, 2-3, ranked fifth in the Ohio Cardinal Conference) have been coached by Doug Niswander since the 2016-'17 season. The Lady Rams are currently on a two-game winning streak. They notched recent victories on April 15 and April 18 over Elyria Catholic 3-1 and Huron 3-1.

Both Elyria and the Lady Rams scored one run in the second inning. The scoring favored the Rams in the fourth and fifth innings, notching one run in each of those innings. The Rams held the Panthers scoreless the remainder of the game.

The Mansfield Christian Flames (0-7, 0-4 ranked seventh, in the Mid-Buckeye Conference) are coached by Cory Branham and assisted by Ross Carter. Batting or pitching statistics were not available at the time of this printing.

The Lady Flames (2-3, 2-0 ranked first in the Mid-Buckeye Conference) are coached by longtime skipper Kelly Taylor, who has been at the helm since 2013. The Flames stand proudly in first place in the MBC, touting a 2-0 record.



THE ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL boys tennis team scored a win against Bellevue April 22. They are 8-2 for the season and undefeated in the Mid Ohio Athletic Conference (MOAC).

They have won two out of the last three games played, being victors over Crestline on April 15 and April 16, 7-6 and a slugfest of 20-15, respectively.

The Mansfield Senior Tygers (3-9, 0-7, ranked eighth in the Ohio Cardinal Conference) are coached by J.R. Davis.

They notched a recent win of 10-2 handedly on April 22 over the Sandusky Blue Streaks. Sandusky carries a 6-5 record and is always a fierce competitor in the Sandusky Bay Conference.

As the Tygers tangled with the Blue Streaks, the bats were hot in the 10-2 routing, as the Tygers tallied nine runs in the first four innings, and sealed the deal with one run in the seventh inning. They held Sandusky to only two runs in the fourth inning.

Leading the roar of the Tygers at the plate is sophomore Dominique Horn, who is holding a respectful .321 batting average. He has 32 trips to the plate and 9 RBIs on the season.

Also big kudos to junior Joshua Malone, who has been swinging the lumber quite well, with a solid .312 batting average, 43 plate appearances and a crushing 11 RBIs and three doubles.

Malone also has been wielding some good pitching digits. He has been toeing the rubber on the mound with 24 strikeouts in 13 innings pitched, while facing 56 batters. His ERA is a stout 2.05.



Ontario High School
Sophomore Emma Fagan

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD WITH CRESTLINE



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS



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 April 17, 2024.

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. 24 – 03 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ONTARIO AND VASU COMMUNICATIONS, INC. TO LEASE SPACE FOR COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES ON THE CITY WATER TOWER LOCATED ON PARK AVENUE WEST.

Cathy VanAuer
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 4-25,5-2 '24) 23L

LEGAL NOTICE

In the Matter of the Adoption of Emeril Rae Crawford Case Number: 20245013 Richland County Court of Common Pleas, Probate Division.

Emonde Robert Adkins whose last known address is unknown is hereby notified that on the 18th day of March, 2024 a petition was filed in the Court of Common Pleas, Probate Division, Richland County, Ohio, 50 Park Ave. East, Mansfield, OH 44902, being Case No: 20245013, for the adoption of Emeril Rae Adkins and alleging that your consent as parent of said child is not necessary because you have failed without justifiable cause to provide more than de minimis contact with minor or to provide for maintenance and support of said minor as required by law or judicial decree for a period of at least one year immediately preceding the filing of the adoption petition or placement of the minor in the home of the petitioner. A consent hearing will be held on the 15th, day of May, 2024 at 10:00 o'clock A.M. and the best interest hearing will be had on the 11th, day of June, 2024 at 10:00 o'clock A.M. before the Judge of said Court at 50 Park Avenue East, Mansfield, Ohio 44902.

IF YOU WISH TO CONTEST THE ADOPTION, YOU MUST FILE AN OBJECTION TO THE PETITION WITHIN FOURTEEN DAYS AFTER THE PROOF OF SERVICE OF NOTICE OF THE FILING OF THE PETITION AND OF THE TIME AND PLACE OF HEARING IS GIVEN TO YOU. IF YOU WISH TO CONTEST THE ADOPTION, YOU MUST ALSO APPEAR AT THE HEARING AS SET OUT ABOVE.

YOU MUST ALSO APPEAR AT THE HEARING AS SET OUT ABOVE.

A FINAL DECREE OF ADOPTION MAY BE ENTERED IF YOU FAIL TO TIMELY FILE AN OBJECTION AND / OR APPEAR AT THE HEARING.

Kelly L. Badnell
Judge, Court of Common Pleas,
Probate Division, Richland County, Ohio
(T-C 4-11,18, 25 '24) 25L

LEGAL NOTICE

In the Matter of the Adoption of Ka'Zharriah A' Damonya'e Crawford Case Number: 20245014 Richland County Court of Common Pleas, Probate Division.

Danielle Brittany Gideon whose last known address is unknown, is hereby notified that on the 18th day of March, 2024, a petition was filed in the Court of Common Pleas, Probate Division, Richland County, Ohio, 50 Park Ave. East, Mansfield, OH 44902, being Case No: 20245014, for the adoption of Ka'Zharriah A' Damonya'e Crawford and alleging that your consent as parent of said child is not necessary because you have failed without justifiable cause to provide more than de minimis contact with minor or to provide for maintenance and support of said minor as required by law or judicial decree for a period of at least one year immediately preceding the filing of the adoption petition or placement of the minor in the home of the petitioner.

A consent hearing will be held on the 15th, day of May, 2024 at 10:00 o'clock A.M. and the best interest hearing will be had on the 11th day of June, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. before the Judge of said Court at 50 Park Avenue East, Mansfield, Ohio 44902.

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A FINAL DECREE OF ADOPTION MAY BE ENTERED IF YOU FAIL TO TIMELY FILE AN OBJECTION AND / OR APPEAR AT THE HEARING.

Kelly L. Badnell
Judge, Court of Common Pleas,
Probate Division, Richland County, Ohio
(T-C 4-11,18, 25 '24) 25L

Saturday is National Prescription Take Back Day

On Saturday, April 27, the METRICH Enforcement Unit will be partnering with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DA) and local law enforcement to present another Prescription Take Back event for the community. This event is sponsored by the Mansfield Division of Police, Richland County Sheriff's Office, Shelby Police Department, Lexington Police Department, Plymouth Police Department, Richland County Solid Waste Authority, Richland Public Health, Community Action for Capable Youth (CACY) and the Richland County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board.

Pills will be the only form accepted (no sharps, plastics or liquids.) It will be helpful to put the pills that will be disposed into a plastic bag or Ziplock bag prior to coming to the collection site. This is only for household unused or expired medications. No pharmacies, businesses, pharmaceutical sales reps, etc.

Richland County will have five locations for prescription drug drop off: the Richland County Solid Waste Authority facility, 1125 National Pkwy., Mansfield; Richland County Sheriff's Office, 597 Park Avenue E., Madison area; Shelby Police Department, 31 Mack Ave., Shelby; Plymouth Police Department, 48 W. Broadway St., Plymouth; and the Lexington Police Department, 44 W. Main St., Lexington. Each location will be open from 10 am to 2 pm.

For information call Lt. Steve Blust at 419-755-9677.

METRICH is a ten county decentralized task force in North Central Ohio whose mission is to improve the quality of life for citizens by reducing the availability of illegal drugs and weapons through proactive enforcement efforts. Citizens may report suspicious activity to the crime hot line at 419-522-7463 and www.METRICH.com

HEAP assistance is available

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps Ohioans at or below 175% of the federal poverty guidelines pay their heating bills. Ohioans can visit energyhelp.ohio.gov to apply online or download a copy of the application. Senior citizens may go to their local Area Agency on Aging office for help with assembling the required documents and completing their HEAP application.

Individuals will need to have copies of most recent utility bills, list of all household members (birth dates and social security numbers), proof of income for the past 30 days for all household members (12 months for certain income types), proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members and proof of disability (if applicable).

HEAP benefits are applied to an individual's energy bill after Jan. 1. The last day to apply for the regular HEAP benefit is May 31, 2024.

Those who need immediate assistance with energy bills should contact their local Energy Assistance Provider. For information or assistance with applying call 419-524-4144.

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