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

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12.19.24



Area Agency on Aging marks 50 years at annual meeting

Photos and Article By Traci Little

On Dec. 11, the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. celebrated its 50th Anniversary at the annual meeting held at the Mid-Ohio Conference Center in Mansfield.

The event welcomed nearly 260 attendees, including service providers, corporate board members, community partners and local dignitaries, to honor the agency's half-century of dedication to serving older adults.

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



MARGARET ANN RUHL was chosen as Advocate of the Year by the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging.

The annual meeting was supported by Platinum Sponsors Mechanics Bank, Freedom Caregivers and ES Consulting. Proceeds from the event will fund scholarships for students pursuing education or certification in fields related to aging services, emphasizing the Agency's commitment to fostering the next generation of professionals in this critical sector.

Chief Clinical Officer Diane Ramey and Board President Jason Painley presided over the gathering, celebrating the Agency's achievements in 2024 and its legacy of service since its inception in 1974. CEO Duana Patton, who has been a transformative leader since becoming the third CEO in 2006, shared highlights of the Agency's growth and its continued commitment to adapting to the evolving needs of older adults.

Jason Painley encapsulated the significance of the occasion, stating, "The 50th Anniversary of the Area Agency on Aging is a milestone that is not just a reflection of our past — it's a celebration of the present and a commitment to the future."

A central part of the event was the recognition of individuals and organizations whose contributions have been instrumental in advancing the Agency's mission.

The Project Collaboration Award went to the Richland County Regional Planning Commission. Executive Director, Jotika Shetty, said, "It was with great pleasure that we had the opportunity to collaborate with the Area Agency on Aging. I want to recognize my team who are here with me. They show up for the community every day and are truly invested in making sure the options, especially in transportation, are available to everyone in our community." They are recognized for their visionary partnership and commitment to improving transportation services for older adults and individuals with disabilities in Richland County.

The Elected Official Award was presented to Mayor Steven Schag of Shelby. Schag will enter his eleventh year in office, making him the longest serving mayor in the history of Shelby. He has served since 2015 and also is a former councilman! His collaborative nature has strengthened connections across the Area Agency on Aging's planning and service area.

"Every day I'm reminded that this role is not about me, it's about the calling to serve with humility, compassion and integrity. It is a

(Continued on Page 20)



RICHLAND COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING Executive Director Jotika Shetty is congratulated for receiving The Project Collaboration Award on Dec. 11, at the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. annual meeting.

Juvenile detention facility earns 100% rating four years running

The Richland County Juvenile Court was recently notified that the detention facility earned a 100% rating for the fourth consecutive year.

The Ohio Department of Youth Services conducted its annual audit and inspection and found the facility to be fully compliant with the more than 350 mandatory and recommended standards set forth in the Ohio Administrative Code. The code governs such areas as child safety and security, health care, and education, as well as food service, staff training, and facility administration.

The 25 bed facility provides a secure and rehabilitative environment for youth determined to be of potential risk to the community or themselves, and serves Richland and several other Ohio counties. Daily programming includes year-round educational classes by certified teachers, physical fitness activities, life skills training and various other activities.

"The operation of a detention facility is very complex. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the entire staff who made this rating possible" said Juvenile Court Judge Steve McKinley. Richland County Commissioner Cliff Mears wrote "Congratulations to all who contributed to this important accomplishment. Well done."



Photo By Ashley Kuhn Kauffman

THE CITY OF ASHLAND held a Christmas parade on Saturday, Dec. 7. The parade wound its way down Claremont and down Main St. Following the parade, a tree lighting was celebrated, complete with fireworks.

Red Cross offers gifts to donors

As holiday celebrations continue into December, the American Red Cross encourages donors to keep the blood supply top of mind by giving blood or platelets this month. Type O negative blood donors and those giving platelets are especially urged to give now to help ensure patients can continue to receive the care they need in the coming weeks.

Schedule an appointment this December by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Those who come to give Dec. 16–Jan. 3 will receive an exclusive Red Cross long-sleeved t-shirt.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities:

Wednesday, Dec. 18, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario; 7 am to 1 pm, K of C Hall, 208 Vernon Rd., Shelby; and noon to 6 pm, Planktown Country Market, 1921 Free Rd., Shiloh

Friday, Dec. 20, noon to 5 pm, Resurrection Parish, 2600 Lexington Ave., Lexington

Saturday, Dec. 21, 8 am to 2 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

Tuesday, Dec. 24, 9 am to 2 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

Thursday, Dec. 26, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

Friday, Dec. 27, 10 am to 3 pm, YMCA, 750 Scholl Rd., Mansfield

Saturday, Dec. 28, 9 am to 2 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

Tuesday, Dec. 31, 9 am to 2 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

Friday, Jan. 3, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —

A movie that is sure to be nominated this awards season is Edward Berger's *Conclave*.

Based on a book, *Conclave* stars Ralph Fiennes as Cardinal Lawrence.

Upon the death of the pope, Lawrence is tasked with being the manager of the conclave as the cardinals come together to choose a new pope. What Lawrence does not know is that being locked in the building will reveal many secrets that Lawrence has to maneuver, decipher and solve in order to make sure the cardinal that seeks to be the pope has a clean slate.

Fiennes gives a terrific performance as Lawrence. He has a steely determination and also sadness at times as he does not desire the papacy though others see him a perfect fit.

Another cardinal named Bellini (Stanley Tucci) wants to make sure his viewpoints are honored.

Cardinal Tremblay (John Lithgow) was the last person to meet with the pope and there are rumors about that conversation and a few others in the mix are either unknown to this group or their viewpoints conflict with what others would deem acceptable.

Berger, who's last film was a truly excellent remake of *All Quiet on the Western Front*, gives an inside look at the pro-

cess of choosing a new pope, which was very interesting.

Every actor is great in their role, though this movie belongs to Fiennes, who is in every scene.

Isabella Rossellini gives a small effective performance as a nun who is trying to cover up some of these secrets.

Conclave is a good film, though not as engaging as I would have liked. Some of the mysteries are in-

teresting though not particularly shocking as they have been played out in other movies.

The movie really works when Fiennes is investigating and the moves he has to make to find the answers works very well in the confines of these claustrophobic hallways without any outside communication.

Conclave is a good film that is elevated by its performances and writing especially by the great Ralph Fiennes.

How the cardinals choose the pope and the entire behind the scenes look at that process is so interesting and the movie does a fine job showing that process while combining this story with a fine mystery as secrets unfold and choices are made.

This movie is now available to stream on Peacock.



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Tribune-Courier

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

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CHRISTMAS HOURS
Closed Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25

NEW YEARS HOURS
Closed Tuesday, December 31 and Wednesday, January 1

Merry Christmas

2384 Springmill Rd,
Mansfield, OH 44903

News Briefs

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, Dec. 28 and 29. 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.



Community Bible Church, 1043 Springmill St., Mansfield, will host a candlelight Christmas Eve service on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 4 pm. This will be a family service for all ages.



Richland County adults 60 and older are invited to penny bingo games on Mondays from April to December at the Lincoln Highway Event Center, 1361 Park Avenue East, Mansfield (Madison area). Bingo starts at 11:30 am with doors opening at 10 am.

Fifteen games of penny bingo and full house will be played. Cost is a penny a card for 15 games and a nickel a card for full house. This is a 100% payout. Snacks are provided.

To RSVP, call Kathy Boyle at 419-543-1813. These events are supported and funded by the Richland County Senior Services Levy, administered by the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc.



A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at Mansfield 1st Presbyterian Church, 399 S. Trimble Rd., Mansfield, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 6 pm. This is a family friendly event, where children are welcome and is a traditional Christmas Eve worship service of "Lessons and Carols". Those attending will alternate between scripture and song and conclude with the singing of "Silent Night" and the lighting of personal, individual candles to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, "the Light of the World."



Trinity Grace Fellowship, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield, will hold a hymn sing during its regular 9:30 am worship service on Sunday, Dec. 29. The church will also hold a Christmas Eve service at 7 pm on Tuesday, Dec. 24.



First Congregational Church, 640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield, has announced the holiday schedule. Each Sunday in December, Advent season will be celebrated with communion, special events and fellowship.

On Dec. 24, at 7 pm, a candlelight Christmas Eve service will be held. This special service is designed for all to reflect and remember the reason for the season. Held in the historic sanctuary, the services will be lit by candlelight.

Sunday services are held at 8:30 am and 10:30 am and all are welcome. Services are also broadcast via Facebook. Nursery services are available at 10:30 am. Elevators to each floor are also available.



All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Church St., Bellville,

will welcome Hayley Young and Jen Gibson to present an interactive and social justice-themed pageant at 6 pm on Tuesday, Dec. 24. This will also be a candlelight service.

On Sunday, Dec. 22, at 10:30 am the Advent Candle of Love will be featured with speaker Christopher Reynolds

A Winter Solstice Potluck & Sacred Fire Ceremony will begin at 1 pm, followed by the fire ceremony led by Christopher Reynolds at 2 pm. The group will gather at Sacred Stones Mystical Farm, 3072 Rt. 430, Mansfield. For information visit www.allsoulsuuohio.org.



LEXINGTON'S Nora B., Gabby L., Alexis F., and Cam T. represented Lexington at the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development's Young Leaders Institute. They toured businesses in Bellville and Butler and enjoyed lunch at the Wishmaker House in an igloo.



We're on a new-logo-every-138-years streak.

It's true. We have a new look. But we're still the same independently owned bank.

New look. Same us.



Ontario creates middle school assistant principal position

The Ontario Board of Education met Dec. 10, for the regular meeting. Stingel Principal Kimberly Johnson, third grade teacher Amanda Secrist and students gave a presentation about the Storyteller Society afterschool club.

The board approved creating a new administrative position entitled middle school assistant principal. Jordyn Eckert will serve in the position for one year and seven months, \$75,907.20.

The board approved revisions to the administrators/central office staff/other administrators salary and fringe benefit agreement.

Employment was granted to certificated substitute teachers for the 2024-'25 school year including Lydia Ackerman, Stingel; Kente Baker, Stingel/middle school/high school; Natalie Johnson, Stingel/middle school/high school; and Whitney Davis, Stingel/middle school/high school.

Substitute classified staff personnel hired for the 2024-'25 school year are Bonnie Cheek, cook; Jennifer Forsythe, secretary; and Emma Mullins, cook.

Trinity Spackey was approved to compete with Ashland High School in OHSAA sanctioned gymnastics for the 2024-'25 school year. There will be no cost to Ontario Schools.

Extracurricular/supplemental staff personnel hired for the 2024-'25 school year are Maggie Love, freshman basketball cheerleading coach, \$865.50; Taylor Komives, high school wrestling assistant coach, \$3,637; Riley Kleshinski, middle school volunteer assistant coach, \$0; Jonny King, winter/spring strength coach, \$5,370; and Brian Foltz, eighth grade girls volunteer basketball coach, \$0.

The board approved the Health Reimbursement Arrangement Plan, effective Jan. 1, 2025 for employees enrolled in the employer's medical plan and are not eligible for HSA.

A transportation contract, in lieu of bus transportation, was approved for Ny'cier Jamison. A stipend was approved for Kari Tarvin as a piano accompanist, \$800.

Donations were accepted from Ontario Lions Club, Stingel school supplies, estimated \$100 value; Stingel PTO, \$100 for the Drug Prevention Fund; anonymous, \$2,420 for boys' soccer; and Tavens Container Inc., \$1,500 for girls basketball.

Warrior Wishmakers donations came from Jason and Carrie Moritz, \$100; Lauren Kehl, \$40; Ontario Chapter 256/Ohio Association Public School EMP, \$100; Randall and Shelley Harvey, \$100; Michael and Carrie Murray, \$120; Roger Nikiforow, \$25; Arnold's Landscaping, LLC, \$250; Brandon and Tara Hall, \$250; Minutemen Ohio

(Continued on Page 5)

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
Pastor Jay Jackson

9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship
Call about Prayer Groups, Small Groups, Bible Studies, Book Clubs, Pub Theology, Community Meals, Free Produce distribution and Senior Boxes.

Hope Lutheran Church

(Formerly St. Paul & St. Timothy)
2010 Park Avenue West, Mansfield
419-529-4351 • www.lutheranhope.org

Pastor Jonathan Stuftt
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>

G & M Body & Paint Shop

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

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 George Lee
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

Wappner Funeral Home

Mansfield • Ontario • Ashland
419-522-5211

Ohians can receive help from Home Energy Assistance Program

The Ohio Department of Development and the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging wants to remind older Ohioans that assistance is available to help with their home energy bills. The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps Ohioans at or below 175% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of up to seven members and 60% of State Median Income for a household of eight or more members to pay their heating bills.

Applied directly to the customer's utility or bulk fuel bill, the benefit can help manage heating costs.

Older Ohioans may go to their local Area Agency on Aging office for help with assembling the required documents and completing their HEAP application.

Those in need of assistance may also visit www.energyhelp.ohio.gov to apply online or to download a copy of the application.

When applying, individuals need to have copies of the following documents most recent utility bills, a list of all household members (including 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, 2025. Applications for the HEAP program must be received by May 31, 2025.

For more information or assistance with applying for a HEAP benefit, contact Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc at 419-524-4144 and ask for a navigator. To be connected to a local energy assistance provider, call 800-282-0880 (hearing impaired clients may dial 711 for assistance) or visit www.energyhelp.ohio.gov.

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

- Tina Louise Johnson, November 26
- Donald "Doc" Daugherty, December 7
- Terry Jean Roberts, December 7
- Tyler Shawn Jacobs, December 8
- Angela K Kipp, December 9
- Richard "Rick" Duane Ward, December 9
- Joann Elizabeth Boliantz, December 10
- Michael James Norris, December 11
- Larry E. Rush, December 13
- Arlene Catherine Sanford, December 13

View Full Obituaries at www.dignitymemorial.com

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- Ashland • 308 Claremont Avenue • 419-289-1552

www.wappner.com

Ontario creates new position

(Continued from Page 4)

Comp Managed Care Organization, \$500; David and Angela Eyerly, \$100; Nick and Kelley Caporini, \$100; OMS Penny Stall, \$1,522.36; Kari Tarvin, \$150; Doug and Danielle Basham, \$100; and anonymous, \$1,365.60. Facility requests were granted to Erika Myers, (Girl Scouts Troop #3591 and #3637) for use of Stingel for Girl Scout meeting; and Rose Feagin (Girl Scouts of Ohio Heartland) for use of Stingel library for parent meetings.

A date and time were set for the January organizational meeting and an appointment of President Pro Tem was made for the January organizational meeting. The next meeting will be Jan. 14.



WINTER

Reading Program

Join the 2025
Winter Reading Program!

Jan. 6 – Feb. 1

Read (or listen) to books,
get tickets,
win prizes!




www.mrcpl.org/wrp25



ONTARIO KEY CLUB members rang bells to collect donations for the Salvation Army recently. Photos are (top left) Alexis and Taylor; (top right) Faith, Bella, Will and Elton; and (below) Sasha, Joelle and Addi; and Sky, Zach and Grantham.



Reasons to Support a No-Cost Pregnancy Center

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www.friendsofrichlandpregnancy.com
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Join us for a Preview Night
 Sessions Available at 5:30pm or 7:00pm

<p>Jan 7 Grades 1-6</p>	<p>Jan 13 Grades 7-12</p>
<p>Jan 23 PreK - Kindergarten</p>	<p>Jan 28 Independent Studies</p>

Priority Applications accepted until Jan 31
Limited Seats Available

APPLY NOW
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Cozy Simmer Pot
From The Home of Teresa Vore

INGREDIENTS

- 1 Large Navel Orange (1)
 - 3 1/2 cups Cranberries
 - 2-4 Cinnamon Sticks (2 to 4)
 - 2-4 Rosemary Sprigs (2 to 4)
 - 2 Tbsp. Whole Cloves (2 Tablespoons)
 - 1-4 Star Anise (1 to 4)
 - 6 1/2 cups Water
- (You can add more or less of any ingredient to your liking.)



INSTRUCTIONS

Cut oranges into slices. Add oranges, cranberries, cinnamon sticks, rosemary sprigs, whole cloves & star anise to your pot of water. Place on stove over medium high heat and bring to a quick boil. Lower heat and simmer on low uncovered. Refill water as needed.

Enjoy your simmer pot with its warm and inviting aroma.

Journey to Bethlehem returns

A journey that began 30 years ago will return Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 21 and 22 after a 15-year hiatus. "Journey to Bethlehem" is a 75-minute tour that visits 15 characters who experienced the first Christmas — the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Tours begin every 10 minutes from 3-5 pm each day at the ARC Empowerment Center, 378 Park Avenue West, on the east side of Sycamore Street.

"We know the story, we read it in the books of Matthew and Luke, we hear it in the carols, but I wanted people to hear the story from each of the persons who we know were there," said Paul Lintern.

With music mixed in, the tour begins with a conversation between Matthew and Luke, and each group is guided by its own shepherd who leads them to the Angel Gabriel, two prophets, an innkeeper and people who don't even identify as part of the Christmas story.

Lintern wrote the Journey to Bethlehem in 1993 for First English Lutheran Church, where it was performed nine years in a row.

An outdoor version of the Journey was held at Camp Mowana several times about 15 years ago, and "drive-through" versions of the Journey were presented.

Some cast will be reprising their roles from up to 30 years ago.

Reservations for the free event can be made by calling the ARC at 567-241-6781 for specific tour times, at 10 minute intervals, with up to 12 in a tour.



*Wishing You
A Merry Christmas
as we reflect
on the birth of the Savior*



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800-686-4585
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**THE NATIVITY
OF OUR LORD**



Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
Tuesday, December 24, 6 pm
Message: "Miracle of Christmas"

Ontario United Methodist Church
3540 Park Ave. West
www.ontarioumc.com





Piazza San Marco in Venice, Italy • Photo By Mark Shutt

Local, state and national DAR scholarships available

Various local, state and national scholarships are available through the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Each has separate requirements.

The Jared Mansfield Chapter local scholarship is open to all students, both genders, who will be attending OSU-Mansfield, NCSC or the Dwight Schar College of Nursing, Mansfield and pursuing any field of study.

The local scholarship is also open to high school graduating seniors. This scholarship is renewable, and the student may apply each year. Call Joedy Studer at 419-631-1015 for information.

The completed application must be postmarked by April 15.

The Ohio Society Daughters of the American Revolution awards the "Wings of Eagles" scholarship to graduating high school seniors, including those completing a certified home school program, in the amount of \$1,000 each.

Awards are based on academic excellence and financial need. All applicants must be citizens of the United States and legal residents of the state of Ohio and must attend an accredited college or university in the United States.

Visit OSDAR at ohiodar.org to obtain a scholarship application. All applicants must be sponsored by the local DAR chapter and applications must be submitted to the local chapter by Jan. 31.

The National DAR also offers scholarships in many different majors. All students will submit their applications using an online process at <http://dar.academicworks.com>.

Emailed or mailed applications will no longer be accepted.

**WISHING YOU
A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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Photos By Jenna Wolford
THE RICHLAND RURAL LIFE CENTER, 969 E. Crall Rd., hosted its 4th Annual Santa Breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 7. The meal included all you can eat pancakes with scrambled eggs, sausage, fruit and beverages. Children were encouraged to write a letter to Santa and had the opportunity to meet him and take photos. Following breakfast, visitors decorated cookies in Santa's workshop.

51 E 4th St Mansfield | (419) 513-5151

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The Finest Brunch
in the City!
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 11 am - 2 pm

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Photos By Traci Little

ARC EMPOWERMENT CENTER held its Deck the Halls with Children's Laughter on Saturday, Dec. 15 from 10:30 am to 3 pm. This holiday season the center had the privilege of bringing joy to over 600 children by providing them with gifts. A heartfelt thank you goes to all the incredible volunteers who made this possible.



Wishing you a blessed Christmas
and Holiday Season

Merry Christmas

Pastor Larry Carnes
Sunday Service 9:30 AM
1592 Grace ST, Mansfield

TRINITY
GRACE
FELLOWSHIP
A GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH

Merry Christmas

ALZHEIMER'S
ASSOCIATION



Hope Lutheran Church hosts Christmas Celebration Cantata

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Hope Lutheran Church brought the community together for a delightful Christmas Celebration Cantata featuring the Mansfield Community Choir on Sunday, Dec. 15, at 3 pm in the Madison Middle School Auditorium.

The event was directed by Craig Green, with Carol Wigal serving as the rehearsal accompanist and narration provided by Debbie Knee. Attendees enjoyed an inspiring musical experience that captured the joy and beauty of the Christmas season.

The program featured a selection of beloved Christmas carols and hymns, arranged to showcase both traditional and contemporary pieces. The movements included "This Is the Season" with "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" (words and music by Phil Barfoot and Rebecca J. Peck, arranged by Lari Goss); "Christmas Angels Medley" (featuring music by Michael W. Smith and Jonas Myrin, arranged by Tom Fettke). This medley included classics such as "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "Angels We Have Heard on High" and "O Come, All Ye Faithful. Also featured were "Sleeping Adonai" (words and music by Heather Sorenson, with a solo performance by Katie Serrao).

The choir also performed "Sing We Now!" (arranged by Lari Goss), which included traditional hymns such as "Sing We Now of Christmas," "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" and "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen." Also performed were "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" (words and music by Mark Hall, Bernie Herms, Henry W. Longfellow and Dale Oliver, arranged by Dennis Allen); and "O Holy Night with Agnus Dei" (arranged by Don Marsh), this powerful conclusion left the audience uplifted and reflective.

The program began with a welcome message from Pastor Ann Cammann, followed by a carol sing-along led by Carol Wigal, accompanist. Attendees enthusiastically joined in, filling the auditorium with joyful singing and holiday spirit.

(Continued on Page 13)



Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays

SCHMIDT SECURITY PRO

SCHMIDT FIRE

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Merry Christmas

WIGTON
REAL ESTATE & AUCTION

2945 US Highway 42 Cardington | 740-362-0007

Locust Corners hosts open house

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Locust Corners Bulk Food & Deli hosted its annual holiday open house on Saturday, Dec. 14. This family-owned business began as a dream in the spring of 2013 when an opportunity arose to purchase a building just across the road from their home. With the help of many friends and their church community, that dream became a reality.

Known for their kindness and generosity, the family behind Locust Corners continues to enjoy meeting and connecting with members of their local community. Their loyal customers are a testament to the quality and care they put into their work, and they are deeply grateful for everyone's ongoing support.

Stop by Locust Corners Bulk Food and Deli to explore their fresh deli meats and cheeses, bulk baking ingredients, snacks, candies, and so much more. They also feature locally grown, seasonal produce. Feeling Hungry? Try their custom-made sandwiches—grilled or cold—or grab a slice (or whole) of their delicious pizza. Plus, enjoy complimentary coffee every day while you shop.

Hours are Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5:30 pm and Saturday, 9 am to 3 pm. The store is closed on Sundays.



ANDERSON GOOD, 10, passes out candy canes at the cappuccino bar.



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CHRISTMAS

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• Hope Lutheran hosts cantata

(Continued from Page 11)

The Christmas Celebration Cantata was a perfect opportunity for families and friends to gather, reflect on the meaning of the season, and celebrate through music and community. The Mansfield Community Choir's heartfelt performance and the evening's thoughtful arrangements created a memorable and moving experience for all who attended.

Hope Lutheran Church expressed gratitude to all participants and attendees for making the evening such a meaningful celebration of faith, joy, and the spirit of Christmas. Hope Lutheran, 2010 Park Avenue West, will host Christmas Eve services, Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 3 pm and 7 pm. The Sunday, Dec. 29 service at 10 am will feature lessons and carols. Visit lutheranhope.org for more information.



Photos By Traci Little

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



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MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL students helped at Crossroads Church's Blessings and Bows distribution day. They assembled, packaged and wrapped gifts for local residents in need, The MCS high school girls basketball team helped deliver gifts and cookies to local families.





ONTARIO'S WARRIOR LEADERSHIP COUNCIL helped with Crossroad's Adopt-A-Child program, which serves over 1,000 local children.

Merry Christmas, neighbors.

We wish all our neighbors peace, joy and love this Christmas season and beyond. We are blessed to be part of such a wonderful community.

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LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL students rolled up their sleeves to help organize and pack gifts for the Blessings and Bows Christmas Project at Crossroads Church in Mansfield. They worked to help spread holiday cheer to children in Richland County. They packed hundreds of presents.

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Photos By Traci Little

CHRISTMAS AT KINGWOOD continues at Kingwood Center Gardens through Dec. 30. The event includes a Community Tree Walk, a decorated Kingwood Hall and outdoor light trail. Festive shopping, seasonal dining and a variety of special events are offered, including visits from Santa and his reindeer, model train displays and live performances. Presented by Mechanics Bank, Christmas at Kingwood tickets can be purchased at <https://kingwoodcenter.org/christmas-at-kingwood/>. Tours are held from 3-9 pm and are closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.



Bellville Christmas Parade · December 7 · Photos By Jeff Hoffer





THE ONTARIO MIDDLE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL has been working hard this holiday season to pay it forward and help throughout the community. First, they collaborated and worked hard to design and paint a "warrior leader" snowman complete with his own letterman jacket for Kingwood Center Gardens. The snowman can be found on display at Kingwood. Second, they hosted a food and toiletry drive at OMS where nearly 2,400 items were donated to the HOPE Food Pantry. Top classes will be rewarded with pizza and ice cream. Lastly, students worked hard at the beginning of November with a fundraiser for H&K Watkins to raise money for children to sponsor this holiday. Through their efforts they were able to sponsor 12 children. They went shopping at Walmart to collect all needed items.



THE ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL Jazz Band performed at the Lake-side Pavilion at the Columbus Zoo on Dec. 4.

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•Area Agency on Aging marks 50 years at annual meeting

(Continued from Front Page)

privilege to lead this special community which has such a storied history and a bright future,” said Mayor Schag.

Margaret Ann Ruhl was chosen as Advocate of the Year. Ruhl has been an advocate for older adults, leveraging her extensive public service career to champion their needs. As a former Ohio State Representative and the Knox County Auditor, she has worked on legislative initiatives addressing workforce development, adult protective services, mental health, healthcare access, and financial security. These issues are critical to seniors’ well being and her engagement and support of Agency programs and services exemplifies her dedication to making a difference in the aging network.

The Award of Excellence went to Steve Andrews, Metropolitan Housing Authority. “To see people with a roof over their head and stability is an exciting thing! The ability to provide long term, affordable housing at The Ritters Run, and obtain permanent vouchers there so those will always be provided so they can stay affordable over the long term is nice to see come to fruition.”

“We also own and manage Turtle Creek Apartments off of Cook Road and Lexington Avenue, 158 Senior apartments with all utilities provided, free internet, free cable, and making sure our older residents have some place to call home that is affordable. The majority of our units there are covered by vouchers. That’s going to enable those living there to never pay more than thirty percent of their income,” said Andrews.

Under Andrews leadership, MMHA has excelled in its mission to provide stable housing for those in need. His commitment is exemplified by his efforts to significantly enhance housing resources in the community.

Doug McLarnan was inducted into the Hall of Fame (posthumously). McLarnan always upheld the Agency’s mission, with his commitments as a mentor who prioritized leadership development, ensuring the organization’s long-term impact. Even after his board term ended, he remained actively involved, offering guidance and advocating for senior housing solutions, particularly through his strong community ties in Knox County.

“We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Doug’s beloved spouse, Wendy McLarnan, and her family, for Doug’s incredible legacy. He’s made remarkable contributions. I have to say I have a personal con-

nection with Doug. There was a young woman who graduated from Mt. Vernon Nazarene College, and Doug took a risk on her and hired her at Children Services, and I’m here today because of Doug’s legacy and what he has contributed to my life personally. The Knox County Commissioners have also provided a proclamation that will be shared with the family in honor of Doug,” Chief Clinical Officer Diane Ramey remarked.

As the Area Agency on Aging celebrates its 50th anniversary, it continues to prioritize innovation and collaboration to enhance the quality of life for older adults. With the support of dedicated staff, community partners and visionary leadership, the Agency is poised to make an even greater impact in the years to come. For more information about the Agency’s services or programs, call 419-524-4144 or 800-560-5799.



City of Shelby Mayor Steve Schag



Photos By Traci Little

Foundation scholarship applications accepted through April 1

The Richland County Foundation has opened its college scholarship application earlier this year than in previous years.

The Foundation hopes students will take advantage of the earlier date to complete the application over the holiday break in December.

Richland County Foundation offers scholarships to graduating high school seniors, current college or career tech students, and non-traditional students.

Past recipients of an RCF scholarship are eligible to receive awards again. No scholarships through the Foundation are automatically renewable so applicants must apply each year.

New applicants, applying for college scholarships, including high school seniors must have at least a 2.5 grade point average (GPA), and returning applicants must have at least a 2.0 GPA, attend an accredited school and be a resident of Richland County, or a graduate of a Richland County high school.

The deadline for college scholarship applications is April 1.

The Foundation Board of Trustees also awards career technical education (CTE) scholarships to individuals who want to obtain certifications and credentials at accredited technical institutions.

CTE applicants must demonstrate academic readiness for their program through one of three ways: WorkKeys Skills Assessment, WebXam Test Report, or a relevant academic transcript. The applications will be considered as they are received, and the award determinations will be made within eight weeks.

All awarded scholarships will be sent directly to the school.

Scholarships awarded through the foundation are primarily based on the financial need of the applicant. Information used to determine needs includes tuition, books, fees, room and board expenses, as well as any institutional scholarships or grants being awarded to the student.

Also considered is the information provided upon completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students completing the college scholarship application must complete a FAFSA; students applying for CTE scholarships should complete the FAFSA if it is a requirement for their program.

The FAFSA form is an application for federal student aid and can help students pay for college or career school. Upon full completion of the form, a Student Aid Index is generated, which is used to help determine a student's need for financial aid. Students should complete the FAFSA application as soon as it becomes available.

For information visit richlandcountyfoundation.org or contact Bobby Rhea at 419-525-3020 or brhea@rcfoundation.org.

Candy Cane Trail, Ashland, OH

Photos By Jeff Hoffer





Davenport named new president of Mansfield NAACP

The Mansfield Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) #3190 has announced that Alomar Davenport has been elected as the new president of the organization.

Davenport, who will serve a two-year term, was selected during the biannual election of officers held in November.

Joining Davenport on the executive committee are Dennis Baker as vice president and Yolanda Allen as secretary. Additionally, Winston Greene, Betty Palmer-Harris and Anne Rhodes were elected to serve as at-large members.

In celebration of the new leadership, the NAACP #3190 will host a community meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 6 pm. The meeting will be held at the NE-CIC Community Outreach Center, 486 Springmill St. The event aims to introduce Davenport and the new executive team to the community and outline the vision for the organization's future.

"We're excited to present our vision for the NAACP and engage the community in our ongoing mission to promote social justice, eliminate prejudice and secure equal rights for all," said Davenport. "This is a time for action and for building momentum in our fight for equality."

Leonard Dillon, the outgoing president of NAACP #3190, expressed his confidence in Davenport's leadership. "Alomar will do an excellent job leading the organization, and I look forward to assisting him in any way I can. I'm excited to serve under his leadership as a committee chair."

The Mansfield NAACP invites all community members to attend the meeting.

For more information call 419-522-8577.



STUDENTS FROM LEXINGTON'S KEY CLUB pitched in at the annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 7. The Lexington Kiwanis Club served sausage and pancakes to over 900 community members while Santa posed for photos, the PAC screened holiday classics, Una Voce sang carols and orchestra members performed in a festive strings ensemble.



BELLVILLE ELEMENTARY CONTEST RUNNERS-UP were from left to right, top to bottom) Saige Wolfgang, fifth; Alaina Porter, fourth; Cormac Kaufman, fifth; Lyla Sharp, fourth; Olivia Conner, fourth; Sadie Slone, fifth; Lucas Schoonover, fourth; Madeleine Fry, fourth; Miley Porter, kindergarten.



BELLVILLE ELEMENTARY held a contest for K-5 students to design the cover for the school yearbook. The winner was fourth grade student Aisy Mabry. Her artwork will be featured on the 2024-'25 yearbook. Bellville Elementary is part of the Clear Fork School District.



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL students worked together to decorate the hallways for Christmas. Each class had a theme: freshmen, Grinch; sophomores, Santa's Workshop; juniors, Blue Christmas; and seniors, Nightmare Before Christmas.



SEVERAL ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL students participated in the Mansfield Symphony Youth Orchestra concert at the Renaissance Theatre under the director of Stephen Domka.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Lady Colts narrowly fall short to Bellevue 44-46

By Kris Leiter

Redemption just might have been the word of the day in Bellevue's Lady Red pre-game notes for the game against the Clear Fork Lady Colts last Wednesday in the Colt Corral.

This was redemption from last year, Nov. 28, 2023, when the Lady Colts notched a victory in Bellevue by one single point (42-41).

Fast forward to this past Wednesday when Clear Fork (5-2, overall, 3-1 MOAC) hosted the Bellevue Lady Red (7-0, overall, 2-0, Sandusky Bay - Lake Conference). They would keep things close on the scoreboard, but not without a fight.

As the first quarter came and went and the second quarter ended, the score was 20-19, Colts leading.

Both teams would be fighting for the lead. With two lead changes, Lady Red was on the heels of the Lady Colts

Midway through the third quarter, the Lady Red snuck the lead at 28-27 and wrapped the third quarter, to hold at 36-33.

At 5:48 in the third, the Colts would not let things get complacent and were fouled by Bellevue but capitalized by dropping 2-4 free throws, along with a steal by junior Eliana Pelkey to take the lead back 40-39!

Lady Red would counter with a big 3 by 6' 3" junior Carrington Savage and another four lead changes would take place. Lady Red was now leading 42-40 with 4:05 left in the third quarter.

What a game! Neither team would lead by a margin of 4 points at any given time.

Enter quarter number 4 and what would it behold? How about another tie? At 3:47, Lady Red would foul sophomore, Haily Thrush.

Thrush would drop both free throws and edge the lead to 42-42! Who would break the deadlock? At 2:48 remaining, hence, Clear Fork household name, senior, Mel Blubaugh would sink another 2-pointer to gain the lead 44-42!

Could the Colts ring another victory bell for a two-fer victory to add to the victory column from last year's win?

As the clock would tick under a minute, the intensity was amazing! At :43 seconds, Bellevue flipped the script and sophomore Ellie Freitag hit a 3-pointer for another lead change to 45-44!

Clear Fork would need to stop the clock and with:10 seconds left, they would need to foul, and foul they did. Lady Red, senior, Hailey Rees would go to the free throw line with the lead 45-44.

At :02 on the clock, Reds would make 1 of 2 free throws, and would put Lady Red ahead by two points, 46-44!

As the final horn would sound, the Lady Red claimed redemption with a final of 46-44. Hats off to both teams!

Leading the scoring column for the Lady Colts was Mel Blubaugh with 18 points, along with four 3-pointers. Brinley Barnett tallied 9 points.

ONTARIO VS NORWALK VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 7



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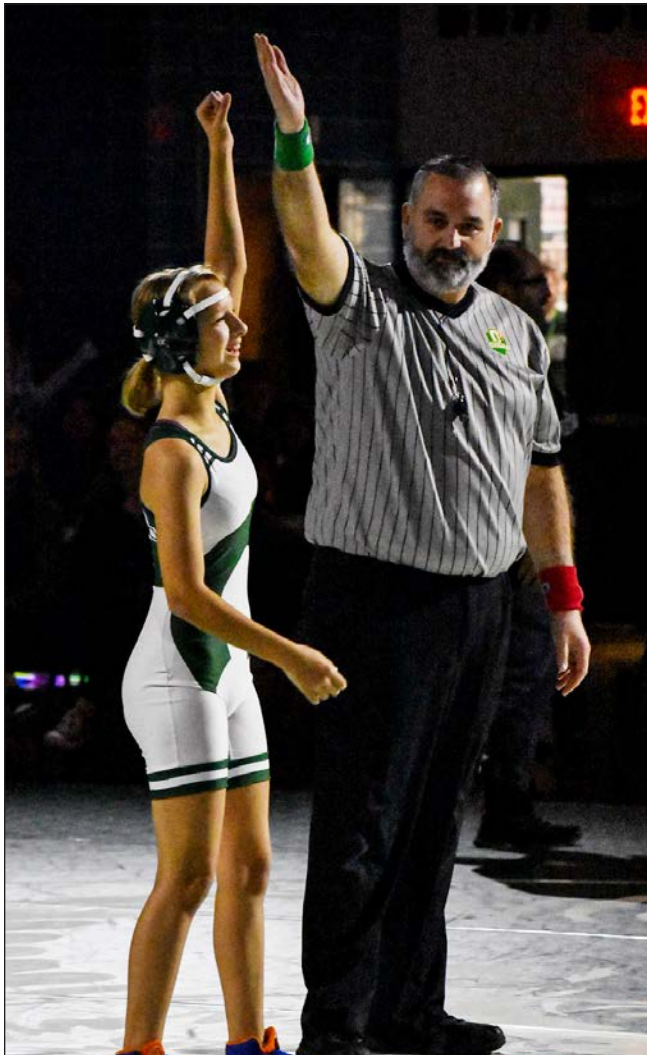
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MADISON VS GALION WRESTLING DUAL · DEC. 13 · COLTS WIN 39-33
PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS ONTARIO GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 10
MADISON WINS 50-46 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**MADISON VS ONTARIO GIRLS JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 10
MADISON WINS 43-38 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN**



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS MANSFIELD SENIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 13
TYGERS WIN 85-69 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS MANSFIELD SENIOR JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 13
TYGERS WIN 60-41 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



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 December 4, 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-23 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 193 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO REGARDING MUNICIPAL TAX, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

RESOLUTION NO. 24 – 15 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE 2024 ONTARIO COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-25 – AN ORDINANCE REZONING PARCEL #s 038-60-170-12-000 and 038-60-170-13-000 ON MABEE ROAD FROM R1- LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL TO B- BUSINESS DISTRICT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-29 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1137-STANDARD ZONING DISTRICTS; 1137.05 - B-BUSINESS DISTRICT; PARAGRAPH (C) CONDITIONALLY PERMITTED USES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Cathy VanAuker
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, OH
(T-C 12-12, 19 '24) (40L)



CLEAR FORK HIGH SCHOOL door decoration winners were first place "Starry Night," Mrs. Irwin's class; second place was a tie with a guest judge breaking the tie, resulting in second place, Mrs. Peterson's class with "Celebration;" and third place, Mrs. Hendrix, "Olaf's Love for Reading." A special mention went to Mr. LaPlante's class for the gingerbread house.



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Lisa Anderson
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Scholarship applications being accepted

The Marilyn Archer Annual scholarship information has been updated. All senior high school students in Richland County are eligible to apply for the scholarship by already having or opening a free savings account at Advantage Credit Union. Students can become a member at no cost.

For over 30 years, the credit union has awarded a \$1,000 check to a local high school graduate to help towards their college expenses.

With a 500-word essay, along with a high school transcript, list of extracurricular activities and statement of desire, one senior will earn \$1,000 towards making their first year at college a little easier.

Applications are due by Monday, March 31, 2025, at 5 pm.

If a student does not have a free Advantage savings account, the credit union will open one for them and make a \$5 deposit. Applicants may visit the office at 700 Stumbo Rd., in Ontario, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm. A valid government issued photo ID is required.