



TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com

06.05.25



Grace Bryant brings hometown pride and passion to Miss Ohio

Photo and Article By Traci Little

With a bright smile and an inspiring message, Grace Bryant, this year's Miss Ashland, is ready to take the Miss Ohio stage by storm this June.

At just 23, Bryant is channeling her love for her community, her deep faith, and her unwavering dedication to service into every step of the competition.

"Anytime we talk about Ashland, I'm just filled with so much pride and excitement," Bryant shared. "This community has truly shaped me into the woman I am today, and it's an honor to give back in such a meaningful way."

Her recent appearance in the Ashland parade was an emotional milestone. "Seeing people of all ages cheering me on brought me to tears," she said. "It was my first real public appearance since we don't host a local pageant and feeling that love from my hometown meant everything."

While new to competing, Bryant has spent over six years on the production side of Miss Ohio and has been able to witness firsthand the power of this sisterhood. "We just finished camp, and I had the most fun bonding with the other women. It's like a family, and I feel so blessed to be part of it," she said.

A lifelong singer, Bryant is particularly excited for the talent portion of the competition. "Singing is what I'm most comfortable in—I've been doing it since I was a toddler, and it's always been my favorite way to express myself," she said. Her first solo was in third grade, and she's never looked back.

Equally dedicated to health and wellness, Bryant has been focusing on the fitness portion of the competition, a natural fit given her platform and passion. "I work out almost every day. It's not just about physical strength but about decompressing and taking care of my body and mind," she said. "I truly believe in living a healthy

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Ontario holds end of school year meeting

The Ontario Board of Education met for the final meeting of the school year on May 13.

Condrea Mason, food service director, gave a presentation about the food service budget, free and reduced lunch participation and healthy changes for next school year.

Aaron Hinchliffe, Central Region Manager with Ohio School Boards Association, presented Heidi Zimmerman and Brett Baxter with 10 Year Service Awards.

The board approved the employment of Stacy Crawford, special education supervisor, effective with the 2025-'26 school year, \$95,641 and Susan McBride, high school intervention specialist-MD, \$77,605.

Lily Rockwell was hired as the middle school transition resource specialist, \$45,712 and Matthew Lautanen was hired as a middle school seventh grade language arts teacher, \$59,499. Emily Gerak was hired as Stingel music teacher, \$47,134.

The five-year forecast was approved as submitted by the treasurer.

A one-year agreement was reached with the Ontario Federation of Teachers for the 2025-'26 school year.

A resolution authorizing the school district board to participate in the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission Classroom Facilities Assistance Program was approved.

Julie Buker, high school art teacher, will retire at the end of her 2024-'25 contract. It is the intent of the board to employ her as a high school art teacher for the 2025-'26 school year, pending the completion of all retire/rehire requirements. A public hearing will take place to discuss this matter at the June 10 board meeting.

The board approved the resignation of Stacy Crawford as Stingel Assistant Principal and Matt Keasal, middle and high school choir teacher, both effective at the end of the 2024-'25 school year.

Resignations also came from bus driver Steve Santmyer and middle school custodian Randall Thompson.

Revisions were made to the sign-in form used for public participation at board meetings based on an updated board policy.

Teachers approved for an eight-period per day schedule for the 2025-'26 school year include Julie Buker, \$8,379; and Jim Buker, \$8,739.

2025-'26 salary notices were approved as was the revision of the Special Education Model Policies Resolution that was board approved at the March 13 board meeting.

Eric Wellman was hired as the boys golf head coach, \$4,538.

The school district will participate in federal grants (IDEA, IDEA-B, Title I-A, Title II-A, Title IV-A) for the 2025-'26 grant year.

A nursing service contract was approved for Matt Wentz for the upcoming school year including right hours per day, 179 days, at an hourly rate of \$38.63.

Substitute teachers approved for the 2024-'25 school year include Cole Weiss, Stingel, OMS, OHS; and Lily Rockwell, OMS.

The board approved the 2025-'26 NCOESC certificated substitute list including updates. The North Central Ohio Educational Service Center 2025-'26 Service Agreement was also approved.

Substitute classified staff personnel hired include Anna Whittaker, custodian; Barbara Ker, secretary; Stephanie Barabani, custodian; Janine Mullins, custodian; Samantha Lee, custodian; and Chandice O'Brian, custodian.

A service contract between Ontario Local Schools and EJ Therapy for audiology services was approved and an agreement with LLA Therapy was approved for extended school year therapy services.

An agreement was reached with River Education Services, Inc. for alternative school placement for a student.

Ontario High School seniors were approved for graduation, pending completion of all local and state requirements.

(Continued on Page 7)

LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review
By Mandy Belczak Gurney



In *Broken Country* by Clare Leslie Hall, a past flame is back in town, a sudden death brings suspicion and the grief Beth has kept just under the surface is boiling over.

I honestly didn't love this book. I sort of know why other people are interested, but it wasn't for me.

I have great empathy for flawed characters and love redemption stories, but the redemption in this felt forced and unearned.

I will say the way the writer told the story — jumping from backwards to forwards and sometimes from the middle — was interesting. I liked the setting and the mystery was interesting, but many of the surpris-

es that were supposed to knock people's socks off, I already guessed.

In the end I didn't love the characters at all.

My rating: ★★☆☆

Follow my blog at Green Gurneys at GreenGurneys.com

New season of farmer's market begins June 12

The North End Farmers Market is back, opening for the season on Thursday, June 12.

Hosted by the North End Community Improvement Collaborative (NECIC), this weekly market continues to bring together local growers, makers and neighbors at the NECIC Urban Farm, 311 Bowman St., Mansfield.

The market is held every Thursday from June 12 to Sept. 25, from 4–7 pm, rain or shine.

With a variety of returning and new vendors, visitors can look forward to a fresh mix of locally grown produce, homemade goods, handcrafted items, food trucks and family-friendly activities.

The North End Farmers Market serves residents of all income levels. It accepts a wide range of payment methods including cash, credit/debit cards, SNAP, WIC and the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

For the most up-to-date information on accepted programs and matching benefits contact NECIC.

Those interested in joining the market as a vendor, food truck or community information table can apply online at <https://www.necic-ohio.org/programs/local-food-initiative/north-end-farmers-market-is-back>

For more information contact Tionna Perdue, NECIC Operations Manager, at 419-522-1611 or tionna@necic-ohio.org.



Library's summer program returns

The Mansfield/Richland County Public Library (MRCPL) invites the community to make this the brightest summer yet with the Summer Library Program, Color Our World, running from June 2 to July 26. Participants can take part at any of the Library's nine locations, at a Bookmobile stop, or online at mrcpl.org/slp2025.

Designed to spark imagination and prevent summer learning loss, the program offers engaging activities and exciting prizes for all ages. From in-person events and take-home projects to online challenges, Color Our World encourages everyone to read, create and explore all summer long.

This year's program features a vibrant lineup of live performers including Reptile Adventures, cartoonist Jeff Nicholas, Bright Star Theatre, magician Michael Mage, and Roots to Rhythm.

Bookmobile stops will also feature special appearances by Rufus the Dufus and comedian Jeff Wawrzaszek.

Participants can earn weekly and grand prize entries just by engaging with the program.

All prizes are tailored by age group, making this a fun and rewarding experience for all. Whether you're painting, reading, laughing, or learning, there's something for everyone.

To learn more about how to participate, view prize details, and see the full event calendar, visit mrcpl.org/slp2025. For Library hours, location information, and 24/7 access to digital resources, visit mrcpl.org.

Monthly book sale is this week

The Mansfield/Richland County Public Library (MRCPL) Evergreen Bookshop will be open for the monthly Friends' Used Book Sale on Friday, June 6, noon to 5 pm; and Saturday, June 7, 10 am to 3 pm.

A preview sale will be held for Friends of the Library members only on Thursday, June 5 from noon to 5 pm. Memberships may be purchased at Thursday's preview sale (\$3 per year for individuals).

Special pricing in June includes any printed materials with pink dots. These last chance books have a sale price of 25 cents. Most DVDs are half-price.

This sale is sponsored by the Friends of the Mansfield/Richland County Public Library (MRCPL). Materials (adult, teen and juvenile items) are library discards and public donations offered for sale at extremely low prices. The bookshop is stocked with "new to the store" items each month. All proceeds from the monthly sales sponsor enrichment activities provided by the MRCPL Main Library and its eight branches in Richland County throughout the year.

The Evergreen Bookshop is staffed exclusively by volunteers in downtown Mansfield at 37 N. Walnut St. (near the corner of W. Third St. & N. Walnut St., next to the Main Library).

For more information contact the Evergreen Bookshop at 419-526-4652.

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News Briefs

A 90th birthday party open house will be held for Carolyn Heydinger on Saturday, June 7, from 2–4 pm, at The Waterford, 1296 S. Trimble Rd., Mansfield.

Those attending should enter through the front entrance. Parking is on the side or back. No gifts please, but cards are welcome. Cards can also be mailed to Carolyn Heydinger, Room 158, 1296 S. Trimble Rd., Mansfield, OH 44906.

★
The Lexington Area Senior Citizens Inc., invites those 55 and older to attend meetings the third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 am. February through May, the group will meet at New Life Church of Christ (NLC of C), 195 W. Durbin, Bellville. Cost is \$17 for the meal.

Meetings June through December will be held at Der Dutchman, Rt. 96, Bellville. Meals are \$16, with an additional \$2 for pie.

The next meal will be June 25, with a pork dinner. The McCready Kids will perform.

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

★
Kid's Day at Charles Mill Marina, 1277 State Route 430, Mansfield, will be held Saturday, June 14, from 10 am to noon.

There will be a kid's boating education seminar, free 15-minute pontoon boat rides, face painting, games and prizes, a photo booth, food trucks, llamas and alpacas from Shady Lane Alpaca Farm, animals from Gorman Nature Center and giveaways courtesy of Outback Steakhouse, State Farm Insurance, Western Southern Bank and Modern Woodman. There will also be booths from Richland Soil and Water Conservation District and Richland County Solid Waste.

★
Family and friends of the late, Judge James D. Henson, will host an open house celebrating his life on Sunday, June 8, from 1:30–4:30 pm. Henson, who passed away on April 13, 2025, was a Richland County public servant for decades. Many remember him as a contributor to our community, a church pillar and a passionate family man. The open house will be held at First Congregational Church, 640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield.

★
CACY's Store It Safe Richland Program offers lock boxes for firearms, sharp objects and medications to protect and reduce risk of injury and save lives.

Contact the CACY office at 419-774-5683 or andersont@cacyohio.com for details. If someone is thinking of harming themselves, call the local crisis helpline at 419-522-HELP (4357).

★
Richland Pregnancy Services (RPS) is seeking volunteers with a passion for the unborn to assist in meeting the needs of clients who are facing an unplanned pregnancy decision.

All volunteers must express a faith in Christ, be part of a local church and hold a biblical world view. Volunteers play a vital role in carrying out the mission of RPS. Eight-Week volunteer trainings are required and are held Fridays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at RPS, 1560 W. Fourth St., Mansfield. Contact sydney@richlandpregnancy.com or call 419-522-8863 for more information.

★
Richland Academy's Strut Your Stuff Senior tap dance group will celebrate 25 years on Friday, June 13.

The free performance and celebration will be held at Richland Academy of the Arts, 75 N. Walnut St. Wine & hors d'oeuvres will be served at 5:30 pm with a 6 pm performance.

RSVP to 419-522-8224 by Monday June 9.

★
Dayspring will host the 6th Annual Hope Run 5K and 1 Mile Walk on Saturday, June 28.

The 5k and 1 mile will step-off at 10 am, beginning and ending at Dayspring, 3220 Olivesburg Rd., Mansfield. The course is cross-country with rolling hills and trails. The event will be held rain or shine unless there is extreme weather.

Cost is \$20 before June 2 and includes a guaranteed shirt. Race day registration begins at 9 am and remains \$20 but does not guarantee a shirt. Prizes will be awarded in every category.

An entry form can be found on the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/DayspringAssistedLivingCareFacility>.

Proceeds will benefit Friends of Dayspring in support of the next Dayspring Levy Campaign. For information call 419-565-3694 or email Rileyboy0907@gmail.com.

★
Lexington Church of the Cross UMC, 236 Otterbein Dr., Lexington, will host Wonderful Wednesdays from June 18–July 30, from 10–11:30 am.

The Wednesdays will include crafts, snacks, games, music and stories. A fiesta will be held Aug. 3, at 11 am.

For information and registration call 419-884-2150. For more information visit www.churchofthecrosslex.com.

★
Mansfield Christian School will host a garage sale June 4–7, from 8:30 am to 5 pm. All proceeds go toward sending a team to the Dominican Republic. The sale is located at 500 Logan Rd., Mansfield, in the Elementary Gym (Door 12).

★
All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Bellville, 25 Church St., Bellville, will host speaker Brian Moore on Sunday, June 8 at 10:30 pm. The subject will be "Living An Unhurried Life."

For more information visit www.allsoulsuuohio.org.

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

★
The 4th Annual Juneteenth Parade and Festival will be Saturday, June 14, from 10 am to 6 pm. The free day-long celebration will kick-off with a linedance party at 10:30 am in front of the Renaissance and the parade will step-off at 11 am at Marion Avenue and Park Avenue West featuring marching bands, drumlines.

Following the parade will be the festival in Central Park in downtown Mansfield featuring live music and entertainment, a vendor marketplace, food trucks, community choirs, health screenings, a kid's zone, wine tasting, line dancing and more.

The event will raise awareness about health equity, voter education and engagement, economic empowerment and education. This year's celebration includes youth basketball activities, and book signing featuring local authors. For information call 419-610-6334.

★
Richland County Children Services (RCCS) will host a free foster parent recruitment event on Wednesday, June 11, from 5–8 pm at Children Services, 731 Scholl Rd. In event of rain, the event will move to Malabar Intermediate School, 205 W. Cook Rd.

There will be free food, games, prizes, a balloon artist and performance from The Oolong Gurus.

Raffle prizes include a 6-month household membership for the Y, a Rigid Wet/Dry VAC from Home Depot, a Samsung Soundbar from ABC Warehouse and items from A Heritage House. No ticket is required for the raffle, just fill out a foster care inquiry card or be a current foster parent who brings a guest interested in fostering. For more information contact Mark Keck or Susie Curatti at 419-774-4100.

★
The Ultimate Veteran Adventures Golf Scramble will be a day of golf and giving back on Saturday, June 14 at Ashland Golf Club, 1333 Center St., Ashland.

The nonprofit supports U.S. veterans through outdoor recreational experiences and community. Funds are being raised to give veterans a trip to Alaska. All proceeds support Ultimate Veteran Adventures in creating healing experiences in the great outdoors.

Registration will begin at 8 am with a 9 am shotgun start. Cost is \$500 per team and includes carts, breakfast, lunch, dinner, photos and prizes. Spots are limited. To enter a foursome team or sponsor the event visit uvalgolf.org.

Call or text 567-359-0463 for more information.

★
Lexington Church of the Cross UMC, 236 Otterbein Dr., Lexington, will host a rummage sale on Thursday, June 12, from 8 am to 5 pm. Prices are by donation. Shoppers should use the preschool entrance.

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 and TeamKID and Youth Group

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

200 West Third St., Mansfield

419-524-4813 • mansfield1stcc1833@gmail.com

Rev. David Zerby

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: FirstChristianChurchMansfield, 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

10:30 am Sunday School (nursery–high school)

10:30 am Monday Morning Bible Study

7:30 am Wednesday Men's Breakfast

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.

Grace Episcopal Church

41 Bowman Street, Mansfield

419-524-2661

Rev. Christopher D. Hofer, Priest-in-Charge

Rev. Daniel Orr, Associate Priest

Worship: Sundays, 8 am and 10:15 am

Christian Formation for All Ages: Sundays, 9:15 am

Food Pantry: Thursdays, 9–11 am

2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 4–6 pm

gracemansfield.org • facebook.com/GraceChurchMansfield

G & M Body & Paint Shop

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

Wappner Funeral Home

Mansfield • Ontario • Ashland • 419-522-5211

Lexington Church of Christ

230 Delaware Ave., Lexington

419-884-1532 • www.lccoh.com

Lead Minister Brandon Bogue

9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship

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 Presbyterian Church

399 Trimble Rd., Mansfield

419-756-7066 • www.mansfield1st.com

Rev. Joseph Yerger

9 am Adult & Youth Sunday School

10 am Traditional 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

Oakland Lutheran Church

2045 Olivesburr Rd., Mansfield

419-571-9920

Pastor Paul Lintern

9 am Sunday Worship

Ontario United Methodist Church

3540 Park Avenue West., Ontario

419-529-4345 • ontarioumc.com

Pastor George Lee

10:15 am Sunday Worship and 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

Southside Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

2055 Middle-Bellville Rd., Mansfield

419-756-3436

Pastor Paul Lintern

10:45 am Sunday Worship

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

Ohio State Alumni to visit reformatory

Ohio State University alumni are invited to join fellow Buckeyes June 17 for an evening of storytelling, connection and cinematic history at the Ohio State Reformatory in Mansfield — famously known as the filming location for *The Shawshank Redemption*.

The evening is planned for 6–8 pm and will feature a brief presentation exploring the role of the reformatory in film and television, highlighting how filmmakers bring scenes to life on location.

Following the presentation, guests will embark on a guided tour of the site, stepping into the same halls and cells that have served as the dramatic backdrop for Hollywood storytelling.

“This is a Hollywood meets Mansfield type of event, with a heavy focus on Shawshank, but also the other films created here,” said Patti Connors, engagement officer with the Ohio State Alumni Association. “We look forward to an evening of networking and enjoying time together as fellow Buckeyes.”

The event is open to alumni, as well as friends and family of alumni, and will begin with networking over hors d'oeuvres and a selection of non-alcoholic beverages.

Registration is \$20 and required by June 13 for this exclusive event. Register online at go.osu.edu/C5qV

The Ohio State Reformatory is located at 100 Reformatory Rd., Mansfield. For more information contact Patti Connors at Connors.194@osu.edu.

Sale to benefit cancer patients

Ashland County Cancer Association will host a rummage sale supporting Ashland County cancer patients.

The sale will be held at Ashland County Fairgrounds, 2042 Claremont Ave., Ashland, Thursday, June 5, from 3–8 pm; Friday, June 6, from 9 am to 6 pm; and Saturday, June 7, 9 am to 2 pm.

The sale is held in the green and gold building. No early sales are permitted.

The sale will be held rain or shine with cash and debit accepted. Food will be available.

Boll will step down from Buckeye Imagination Museum

The Buckeye Imagination Museum has announced that it extends its heartfelt gratitude to exiting executive director Fred Boll for more than a decade of exceptional leadership and steadfast dedication to the museum and the broader Richland County community.

Boll began his journey with the museum — then known as the Little Buckeye Children's Museum — in 2013.

The museum released, "From the outset, he brought a visionary spirit that spurred a period of transformative growth. Under his guidance, the museum rebranded as the Buckeye Imagination Museum, expanded its mission, and emerged as a regional leader in

play-based education. Fred's passion for inclusivity, innovation, and community enrichment has left an enduring legacy."

Among his most notable accomplishments was a successful \$4.5 million capital campaign, with 96% of funds reinvested in the local economy; the grand opening of a new, accessible facility in downtown Mansfield in 2022; and the 2023 unveiling of an expanded second floor, welcoming teens and adults into the museum's imaginative spaces.

Boll's tireless efforts to create environments where people of all ages feel welcome earned national recognition, including awards from the Ohio Museums Association and the Ohio Travel Association for excellence in marketing and community collaboration.

Boll will be stepping down as executive director on Aug. 1. His decision reflects a personal milestone, as he prepares to welcome his first grandchild and assumes a new leadership role closer to family.

"The Buckeye Imagination Museum has been more than just a job — it's been a calling, and this community has been my extended family," Boll shared.

Buckeye Imagination Museum Board President Barrett Thomas commented, "Fred's leadership has been transformational. He has laid a foundation for continued growth and community connection that will serve us for many years to come."

"The museum is currently in a strong and stable position, well-equipped to continue serving families throughout North Central Ohio. In the coming weeks, museum leadership will share the next steps in the search for Fred's successor."

Founded as "Little Buckeye Children's Museum" in April 2011, Buckeye Imagination Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and today is located in downtown Mansfield's Imagination District.



Photo By Mark Shutt

News Briefs in Education

Heidelberg University has announced the names of 384 students who have earned academic recognition on the spring semester dean's list. According to Provost Dr. Courtney DeMayo Pugno, students must be enrolled full time and meet academic criteria set forth by the university to be named to the dean's list.

On the list are Kendall Fox, sophomore, of Mansfield; and Kylie Hendrix, senior, of Ontario.

★

Ohio Dominican University has named 304 students to its spring 2025 dean's list. Among those included on the list are Edward Devaney III of Mansfield; Elizabeth Zerby of Lexington; and Luke Zerby of Lexington.

★

The Pioneer Career and Technology Center Board of Education will hold a public meeting to discuss the proposed reemployment of retiring EMIS Coordinator Dan Burtcher and Director of Business Affairs Kris Kowalski. The meeting will be Monday, June 16, at 6 pm, in the PCTC Board of Education Conference Room, 27 Ryan Rd., Shelby.

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

James B Knackstedt, May 18
Mary Ellen Hedges, May 23
Elva York, May 24
Philip Martin Green, May 25
Margaret Bayer, May 26
John Dana McGinty, May 26
William Clyde McQuillen, May 27
Fredric Michael Zahn, May 28
Erich Eisenloffel, May 30

View Full Obituaries at www.dignitymemorial.com

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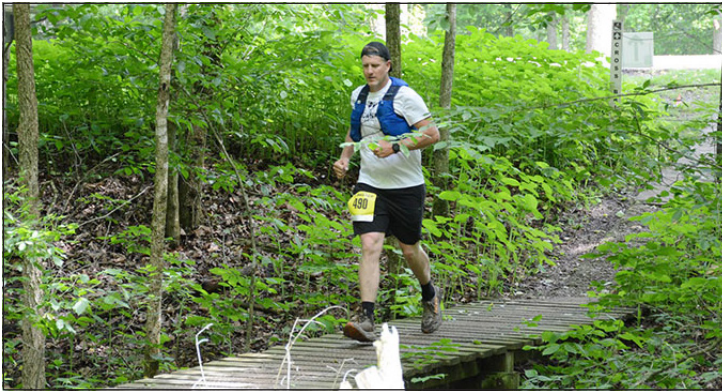


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Ontario • 100 S. Lexington-Springmill Rd. • 419-529-2323
Ashland • 308 Claremont Avenue • 419-289-1552

www.wappner.com



Photos By Jeff Hoffer

FOR 35 YEARS, The Mohican Trail 100 Mile Run, often referred to as the MO 100, has become one of the nation's premier ultra-marathons. The course circumnavigates Mohican State Park in a clockwise direction, beginning and finishing at Mohican Adventures. The 100-mile race began Saturday, May 31, at 5 am with the 50-mile race beginning at 6 am and the marathon at 8 am. Finishing the 100-mile first was Patrick Collins of Worcester, MA, with a time of 8:09:05.32. Nathaniel Cornelius of Lexington, KY, finished the 50-Mile first with a time of 2:57:39.59.

June recognized as National Safety Month

June is National Safety Month, and Columbia Gas of Ohio is sharing an important reminder with customers: when planning and carrying out home improvement projects that involve natural gas equipment and lines, don't do it yourself (Don't DIY)!

"Whether you need a natural gas appliance tune-up or to address a house line concern, please do not attempt to do it yourself," said Columbia Gas of Ohio President and COO Robert Heidorn. "Qualified natural gas professionals across Ohio can identify and remediate natural gas concerns safely, keeping your home and loved ones secure while maintaining your peace of mind."

Columbia Gas of Ohio owns and regularly inspects the gas lines up to the gas meter (service lines), including the meter itself. All lines from the meter into a home or business (house lines) are the responsibility of the customer.

What to take into consideration when working with a qualified

gas professional on home installations:

- Never install a furnace where someone sleeps.
- Contact a qualified professional if there is any change with appliances, such as no heat or overheating from a furnace/boiler, a yellow flame or the presence of soot around a burner on a gas stove, or a furnace or hot water heater fan kicking on and off.
- Make sure equipment is properly vented and adjusted by a professional and that it has an adequate supply of fresh air for safe, efficient combustion.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation and care for your equipment.
- Do not reuse flexible appliance connectors. Connectors should be replaced with the appliance.

For more safety information visit ColumbiaGasOhio.com/safety/home-safety/appliance-safety/safe-appliance-installation.

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S
ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

FIGHTING FOR A DIFFERENT FUTURE
SAVE THE DATE : 2025 Walk to End Alzheimer's - Saturday, September 13

SCAN ME!



alz.org/nwohio/walk





Richland Carrousel Park 75 N. Main Street , Mansfield

Event Details : Check in 9:00 am | Ceremony / Walk at 10:00 am

•Ontario Board holds end of school year meeting

(Continued from Front Page)

The board approved the off-school grounds solicitations calendar for the 2025-'26 school year.

A \$1,000 stipend was awarded to Joe Baumgard for conducting a youth football camp.

The board approved extending the contracts, through META Solutions, with Alfred Nickles Bakery, for supplying bakery products for the food service department for the upcoming school year; and Prairie Farms, for supplying dairy products for the food service department, also for the next school year.

A list of items for disposal was approved.

Donations were accepted from Brian and Heidi Zimmerman for OHS Teacher Appreciation, \$100; Scott and Kimberly Nething, OMS Adaptive Track and Field Day, \$100; Jerod and Lee Them, OHS Teacher Appreciation, \$100; Matthew and Laura Moravy, OMS Adaptive Track and Field Day, \$50; Dylann Larrabee Family, Warrior Wishmakers, \$25; Amy Hiner, OHS Teacher Appreciation, \$50; Brian and Michelle Gates, Stingel, OMS, OHS Teacher Appreciation, \$300; Buckeye Superstore, OHS Teacher Appreciation, \$250; anonymous, OHS Teacher Appreciation, \$100; Cori Kreger Agency LLC, OHS Teacher Appreciation, \$50; Ontario Athletic Boosters, Athletic Wish Lists, \$51,394; anonymous, Warrior Wishmakers, \$100; and Charities Aid Foundation America through State Farm, \$800, Tyler Gates/Stingel P.E. Teacher.

An hourly wage adjustment was made for Trey Booker, summer maintenance employee, \$16 per hour for the months of April, May and August; and \$18 per hour for the months of June and July.

The board approved extended time, not to exceed one day for Pre-school Play Based Assessments (SPED) for Emily Bogner, speech; Ally Morrison, psychologist; Kennedie Spencer, preschool intervention specialist; and Mackenzie Reese, general education teacher.

The board approved extended days for CCP teachers to attend required summer trainings, not to exceed two days. Teachers include Melanie Ferguson, Tim Henige, Roger Nikiforow, Jodi Cooper-Wentz and Meghan Willeke-Spurling.

Seven teachers to be paid two days for conducting kindergarten

screenings and assessments prior to the start of the 2025-'26 school year include Ashley Cooke, Hallee Brown, Amanda vanHarlingen, Brittney Hart, Ashley Scott, Julie Shreffler and Lindsey Thompson.

Facility requests were approved for Ontario Safety Town, Ontario Summer Swim Team, Aaron Eckert for youth football, Ontario Community Events (Kenn Spencer) for summer recreation and Logan Morrison for basketball games.

Randy Harvey discussed the New Auditor of State Financial Health Indicator Report. Keith Strickler discussed the open enrollment numbers.

Todd Friend and Brett Baxter gave an Ontario Athletic Council Report. Keith Strickler and Amy Hiner gave a Community Engagement Report.

The next board meeting will be held on June 10.

Cornerstone Caregiving and DAV join forces in support of veterans

DAV (Disabled American Veterans) has announced a new partnership with Cornerstone Caregiving, a leading non-medical home care provider with more than 270 locations nationwide.

Through the collaboration, Cornerstone Caregiving has pledged both financial support and in-home care resources in aid of the DAV Caregivers Support program. Through the program, veterans and their families receive tailored caregiver support and resources — including individual support from a trained specialist — at no cost.

Launched in 2023, DAV Caregivers Support provides online resources, risk screening, digital tools and personalized care plans to veterans who are caregivers and to those caring for veterans.

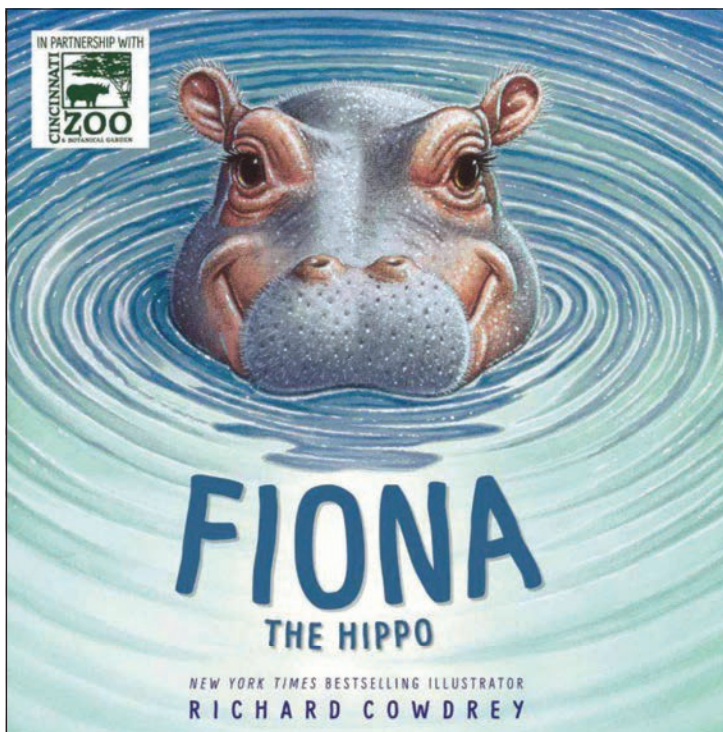
To date, over 1,600 caregivers have received resources to help improve relationships and reduce stress, depression and other adverse health outcomes commonly experienced by caregivers.

"Caregivers, often family members, provide essential support so care receivers can age with dignity and can remain in their own home as long as possible," said DAV National Adjutant and CEO Barry Jesinoski. "An estimated 8.3 million veterans are currently 65 or older, highlighting the immediate need for DAV Caregivers Support. Thanks to Cornerstone Caregiving, we can lighten the burden for more caregivers and care receivers."

Headquartered in Erlanger, Kentucky, DAV provides an expansive range of nationwide programs, such as benefits assistance, transportation to and from VA medical appointments, employment assistance and more — all at no cost to veterans and their families.

"Cornerstone Caregiving remains so thankful for the incredible sacrifice and service by our nation's veterans," said Michael Hillman, Co-Founder of Cornerstone Caregiving. "Partnering with DAV is our chance to give back to our outstanding service members who answered the call to serve our country. We are grateful for all they have done."

To learn more about DAV Caregivers Support visit dav.org.



FIONA THE HIPPO illustrator Richard Cowdrey will visit the Marvin Memorial Library, 29 W. Whitney Ave., Shelby, Thursday, June 12, from 6-7 pm. A book talk will be held with Cowdrey. The first 25 families will get a free signed copy of *Fiona The Hippo*, courtesy of the Friends of the Library. Guests can also bring their own copy to get signed.



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•Grace Bryant brings hometown pride to Miss Ohio

(Continued from Front Page)

lifestyle physically, mentally, and emotionally.”

Bryant’s journey to the Miss Ohio stage is as unique as her path in life. Growing up, she was more of an “artsy kid,” loving choir and musicals, but she’s found her professional calling in sports. Currently a graduate student in Sport Administration at Bowling Green State University, Bryant’s passion for sports took root unexpectedly.

“I started in broadcasting, but an internship in the football team’s video department changed everything,” she recalled. “I fell in love with the atmosphere of sports, even though I didn’t know much about football at first! It was such a special experience that led me to marketing and fan engagement.” Now, she hopes to work in social media and marketing for a professional hockey team one day.

Bryant’s Community Service Initiative, “L.A.C.E.S. – Limitless Accessibility for Children Experience Sports,” is deeply personal. “Growing up playing softball, I saw firsthand how expensive and political youth sports can be,” she said. “I want to make sure all kids,

regardless of financial barriers, have the chance to play and learn the life skills that come with sports.” 1 in 3 kids in underserved communities can’t access organized sports. Barriers can include cost, lack of transportation, inaccessible facilities, or limited inclusive programs. “My mission is to ensure that every child can experience the joy and benefits of sports.

She’s already taking steps, visiting local schools to read to children and show them how sports can be fun, healthy, and transformative. “It’s so special to watch kids realize that they can be leaders, and that sports are about so much more than competition,” she said.

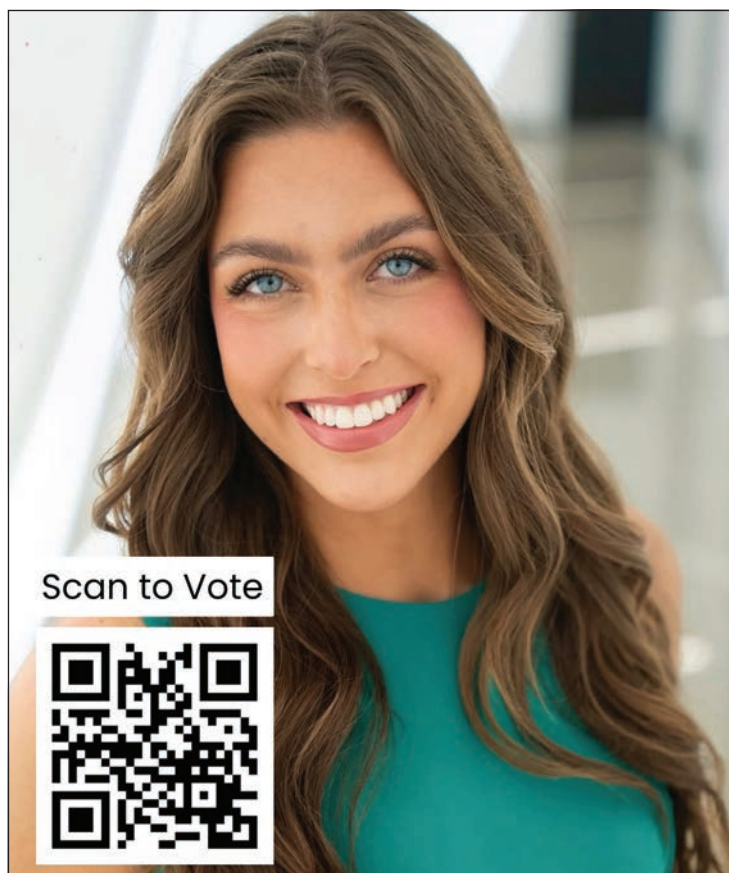
“Too many kids are left on the sidelines because of barriers like cost, lack of equipment, or limited opportunities. I’m here to change that! It’s not about building the next pro athlete; it’s about building great humans through sports.”

For Bryant, Miss Ohio isn’t just about the title—it’s about staying true to herself. “My faith, my family and friends, and expressing myself through singing and movement are my priorities,” she said. “The most important thing is to be authentic. The person you will see on stage is who I am in real life.”

As she heads into the competition, Bryant is embracing the challenges with confidence and grace. “It’s been tough at times being an at-large contestant with less time to prepare, but I know I’m capable of hard things,” she said. “I keep reminding myself that someone else’s success doesn’t take away from mine. We can all shine in our own way.”

Bryant is clear on what matters most. “I don’t believe this is a win – lose experience, but ultimately, a win – win one. My goal is to win Miss Ohio, but my mission is to win my experience regardless of the outcome,” she said. “No matter what happens, I’ll walk away proud, knowing I grew, made new connections, and had the most fun. And that’s a win-win to me.”

There is still time to donate new or gently used sporting equipment to help meet the athletic needs of youth in the Ashland community! Find Grace on Instagram @missashlandoh and follow her Miss Ohio journey.





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Small Town Sweet Treats



MANSFIELD RICHLAND COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY'S Ontario Branch is open again. The newly renovated library branch now includes outdoor patio with seating, a dedicated TeenZone and additional meeting spaces. A grand re-opening ribbon cutting was held May 22.

Tommy Boy Fest coming to Sandusky this August

As the classic Sandusky-based comedy *Tommy Boy* marks 30 years since its debut, the City of Sandusky, OH, is poised to honor the film with a multi-day festival.

Tommy Boy Fest will be celebrated Aug. 7-9, in the town that is home to the fictional Callahan Auto Parts, makers of brake pads.

In the film, Tom "Tommy Boy" Callahan III, (Chris Farley) hits the road with Richard Hayden (David Spade) to try and save his late father's company. The Sandusky community hopes fans of the comedy will hit the road and visit the town's beautiful waterfront for this fun commemoration.

It all kicks off with Destination Sandusky's weekly Party at the Pier event at Jackson Street Pier on Thursday, Aug. 7. The outdoor concert that night, sponsored by Shores & Islands Ohio, will be highlighted by The Menus, a popular Ohio rock band playing high energy covers for more than 40 years.

Activities planned for Tommy Boy Fest on Friday, Aug. 8 and Saturday, Aug. 9 include a downtown movie and television-themed classic car show, outdoor screenings of the movie on a giant screen at Jackson Street Pier, a "Tommy Want Wingy Throwdown" sponsored by Ability Works, character look-alike contests, a "sights not seen in the movie" Sandusky scavenger hunt and more.

The weekend will be highlighted by an appearance and Q&A session with the movie's director, Peter Segal. Segal will also be bringing his restored 1967 Plymouth Belvedere II GTX convertible, the actual vehicle used in the movie by Tommy and Richard to traverse the Midwest, for photo opportunities. Additionally, anyone local with

the name Tom, or Tommy, is invited to participate in a photo opp.

The festival coincides with Small City Taphouse's annual CLAG Brewing festival, also taking place in downtown Sandusky on Friday and Saturday. The beer festival will feature live music, a street party, beer releases, and more. Both events are within a few blocks of each other for easy enjoyment of the weekend.

Tommy Boy Fest is brought to the community by the City of Sandusky, the Greater Sandusky Partnership, and Shores & Islands Ohio. Full details and a schedule of events will be available at TommyBoyFest.com.

Road closed for Butler Summer Festival

SR 97 (Main Street), from College St. to SR 95, closed Wednesday, June 4, for the village of Butler Summer Festival event. This closure is managed by the village.

The detour route will be SR 97 east to College Street south to SR 95 east to SR 97, and reverse.

The estimated reopening is Sunday, June 8.



MICKEY'S (FORMERLY MICKEY MART) at 191 State Route 39 in Shelby held a grand opening ribbon cutting last month. The new store features a bright, spacious interior with Mickey's Chicken & Deli, a full-service Dunkin' Donuts and fueling stations. Guests also got a sneak peek at the upcoming Mickey's Dino-World Adventure, an immersive experience coming later this year.

Ontario High School Graduates



**Anna
Abrams**



**Devon
Addow-Roose**



**Cereniti
Adkins**



**Grayson
Ambrose**



**Xander
Anatra**



**Jaydan
Arnett**



**Mark
Ball**



**Kaitlynn
Barnett**



**Braden
Barnhill**



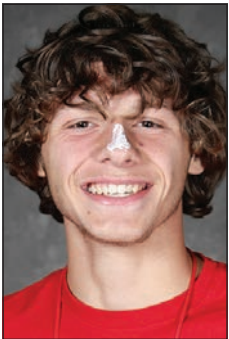
**Matthew
Bayes**



**Nyckolas
Beaver-Wilson**



**Jack
Belding**



**Logan
Bernat**



**Arialyn
Bischak**



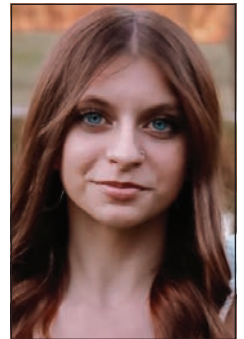
**Baylee
Black**



**Karson
Bohland**



**Katherine
Bolin**



**Shaylyn
Bryant**

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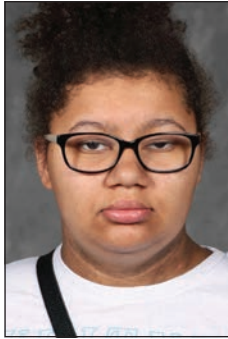


Ontario High School Graduates

2025



**Cameron
Bulakovski**



**Brooklyn
Caldwell**



**Maria
Calhoun**



**Taylor
Campagna**



**Madison
Carpenter**



**Bryan
Carrizal-Ramos**



**Jaydyn
Chaffin**



**Alea
Cook**



**Samuel
Crawford**



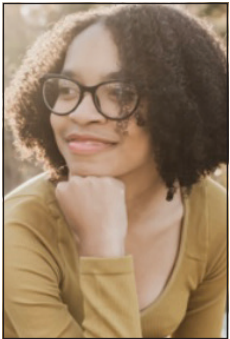
**Lena
Creed**



**Katelyn
Crider**



**Elizabeth
Criss**



**Jailyn
Decimus**



**Bailey
DelGreco**



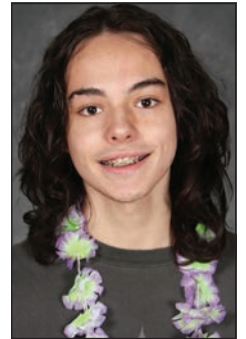
**Taylor
Dille**



**David
Draper**



**Gavin
Dunn**



**Ezra
Durbin**



Congrats 2025 Graduates!

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**Austin
Elliott**



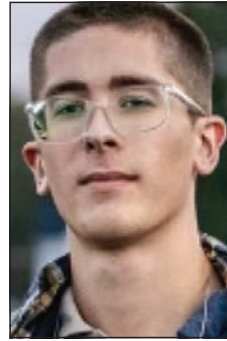
**Brooke
Eyerly**



**Marin
Fairchild**



**Addisyn
Fender**



**Brady
Fletcher**



**Aiden
Fox**



**Sophia
Fraley**



**Hunter
Frazier**



**Regan
Freiheit**



**Lita
Frost**



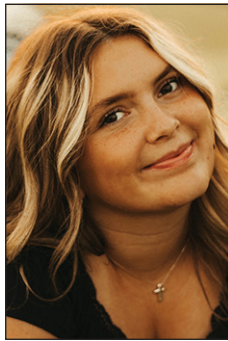
**Mitchell
Geer**



**Quentin
Gobble**



**Blake
Gregory**



**Natalie
Hall**



**Zoe
Hampton**



**Gavin
Hanna**



**Matthew
Hanning**



**Cayden
Hefner**



Ontario High School Graduates

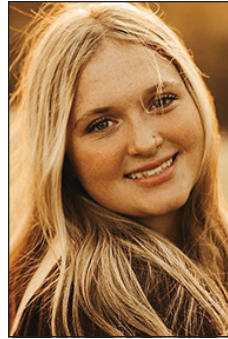
2025



Parker
Henderson



Ryder
Hensley



Isabella
Hill



Brooke
Holmer



Eden
Howard



Samuel
Jackson



Paradise
Jeru



Aaliyah
Johnson



Stella
Kaufman



Austin
Kelly



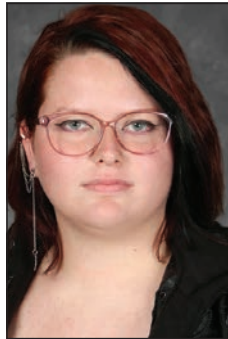
Abigail
Kern



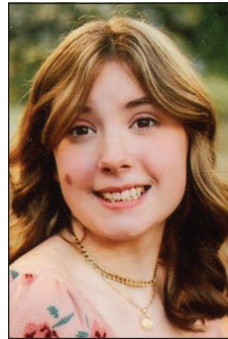
Sailor
King



Natalie
Kinney



Alivia
Knapp



Lindsay
Knecht



Kelsi
Krzeminski



Alanna
Lee



Jaren
LeHew

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2025 *Ontario High School Graduates*



**Grant
Lewis**



**Vanessa
Liu**



**Collin
Lorenz**



**James
Mahon**



**Kamden
Mason**



**Zachary
McChristy**



**Emma
McDowell**



**Rowan
McManes**



**Logan
Meyers**



**Emma
Mies**



**Bodpegn
Miller**



**Kolby
Miller**



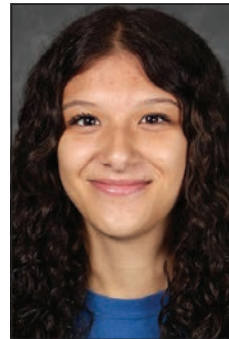
**Claire
Morrison**



**Dean
Morrison**



**Austin
Mullins**



**Makayla
Mullins**



**Kendra
Nelson**



**Alan
O'Blisk**

ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL | CLASS OF 2025

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Ontario High School Graduates ²⁰²⁵



**Khamarion
Oden**



**Adison
Oehrli**



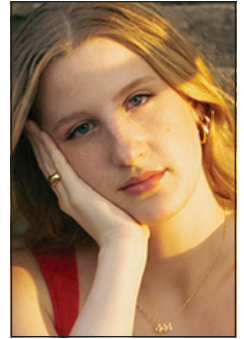
**Preston
Orewiler**



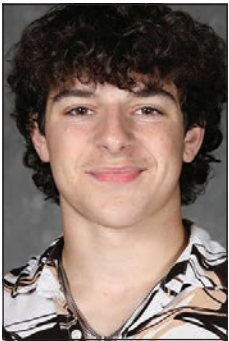
**Jayden
Parrott**



**Wyatt
Paxton**



**Kathleen
Pcione**



**Austin
Pence**



**Bailey
Phillips**



**Camden
Platner**



**Katherine
Pollock**



**Noah
Poole**



**Preston
Potter**



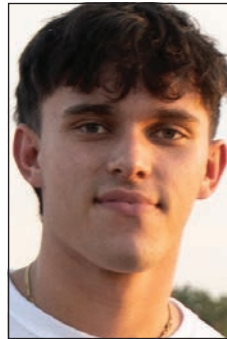
**Nissi
Powers**



**Anden
Price**



**Ryan
Racer**



**Ian
Rachel**



**Ethan
Radojcsics**



**Zoe
Reynolds**

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2025 Ontario High School Graduates



**Wyatt
Rietschlin**



**Addison
Risner**



**Evan
Ruhe**



**Evan
Saltzgiver**



**Thatcher
Samuels**



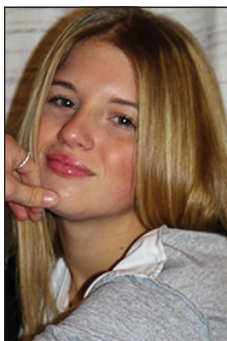
**Isabella
Schoonover**



**Laynee
Schroeder**



**Andrew
Seevers**



**Elaina
Seif**



**Makayla
Shade**



**Claire
Shaw**



**Victoria
Shepherd**



**Ethan
Sheriff**



**Rayvon
Skelton**



**Rebecca
Smith**



**Zoey
Smith**



**Landon
Sowards**



**Natalie
Spencer**



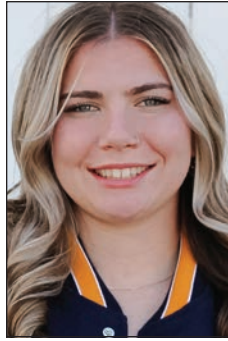
Ontario High School Graduates 2025



**Leila
Stevens**



**Mary
Studer**



**Lillie
Sturts**



**Grady
Taylor**



**Hayden
Them**



**Olivia
Thoman**



**Kaelynn
Thomas**



**Jakiah
Trammell**



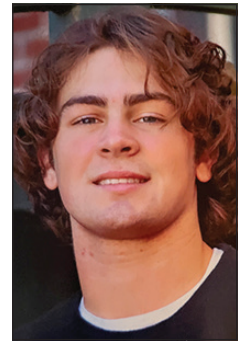
**Mason
Turnbaugh**



**Morgan
Turnbaugh**



**Ava
Underwood**



**Mason
VanTilburg**



**Adison
Viers**



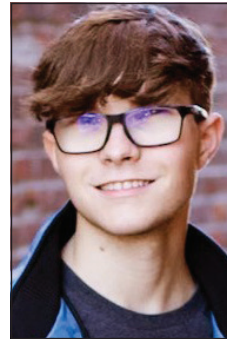
**Ayden
Wagoner**



**Carter
Walters**



**Anna
Ward**



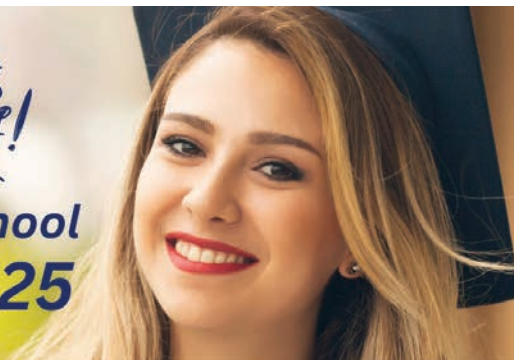
**Dylan
Weaver**



**Kennedy
Weiler**



Congratulations!
**Ontario High School
Class of 2025**



From The Ontario Local Schools Board of Education, Administration, Faculty & Staff

2025

Ontario High School Graduates



Brayden
Wendling



Emily
Whitaker



Andre'
Wilson II



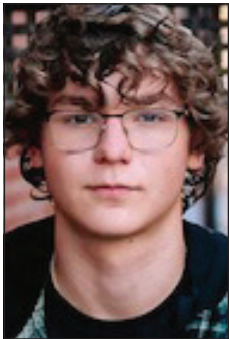
David
Winans



Nicholas
Wray



David
Yan



Dane
Yetter



Joshua
Yoak



Jayden
Yochem



Jack
Zahn



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Ontario High School Graduates

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2025

Ontario High School Graduates



Jack Belding

Summa Cum Laude Graduates

Jack Belding

Jack Belding is the son of Leeya Belding and Jack Belding.

He is a member of the football and track teams. He earned National Honors Society Honor Roll, the Governor's Merit Scholarship and placed in the top 5 percent for GPA in his class.

He served at Bob Evans and hosted at Olive Garden. He currently serves at Texas Roadhouse. He volunteered often at Stop The Overpopulation of Pets (S.T.O.P.) cat shelter spay/neuter clinic.

He participated in College Credit Plus program and attended The Ohio State University at Mansfield for his junior and senior year of high school.

In the future he plans to day-trade in the stock market and pursue a master's in finance at The Fisher College of Business at The Ohio State University.

He plans to launch a finance career in Columbus after graduation.

Arialyn plans to major in neuroscience as a pre-med student at Denison University where she will run track and field.

Cameron Bulakovski

Cameron Bulakovski is the son of Mandy Schonauer and Jimmy Bulakovski.

He was a member of the varsity golf team from freshman to senior year and was All Conference in golf.

He volunteers throughout Ontario.

Cameron plans to attend Bowling Green State University to pursue a degree in finance.

Taylor Dille

Taylor Dille is the daughter of Brianne Dille and Todd Dille.

She is a member of Warrior Leadership Council, Key Club, National Honor Society, 4-H and the varsity volleyball team.

She worked at Ever bowl, Whit's and Brown Derby Roadhouse and volunteered for the Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast and the Salvation Army Bell Ringing for all four years of high school.

Taylor will attend The Ohio State University and plans to serve in the Air National Guard of the Air Force.

David Draper

David Draper is the son of Jennifer Draper and David Draper.

He plays Ontario Youth Sports Soccer and is in the College-Now Engineering Program.

David plans to attend The Ohio State University for an Engineering Technology bachelor's degree.



Taylor Dille



Arialyn Bischak



Cameron Bulakovski

Arialyn Bischak

Arialyn Bischak is the daughter of Angel Bischak and Michael Bischak.

She is a member of Key Club, student council, National Honor Society, youth group, the track and field team and Drug Free Seniors.

She is an Academic All-Ohioan, class vice president and scholar athlete.

Her work experiences include Dairy Queen and Imperial Autism Connections. She is a volunteer at Avita Hospital, Arc Angel Foundation and Harmony House.



David Draper



Brooke Eyerly

ohiobirdsanctuary.com

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Phone: 419-884-4295

Ontario High School Graduates 2025



Sophia Fraley

Summa Cum Laude Graduates

Brooke Eyerly

Brooke Eyerly is the daughter of Angela Eyerly and Dave Eyerly.

She is a member of the Ontario High School Marching Band, tutors and is a member of her youth group.

Brooke plans to attend North Central State College for nursing.

Sophia Fraley

Sophia Fraley is the daughter of Deborah and Kevin Fraley.

She is a member of the girls golf team, theater, show choir, the Inclusion Matters Club and National Honor Society.

She was voted Most Outstanding Female Vocalist 2024 for show choir. She has worked retail all four years of high school and volunteered with National Honor Society.

Sophia will major in biology and minor in music theory at The Ohio State University Mansfield.



Regan Freiheit

Regan Freiheit

Regan Freiheit is the daughter of Julie Marsh and Ed Freiheit.

She attended North Central State College for bioscience for an associates degree. Regan is an honors student, honors histology. She was an intern at Avita's laboratory and job shadowed the histology department for an honors project.

She plans to work in a medical laboratory and possibly continue her education.

Blake Gregory

Blake Gregory is the son of Amanda Pearce and Dustin



Blake Gregory

Gregory.

He is a member of the marching band, jazz band, symphonic band, pep band, pit orchestra, National Honor Society, buddy mentoring program, Drug Free Seniors, peer tutoring, Inclusion Matters and Warrior Leadership. He earned the John Philips Sousa Award and works at OhioHealth in the dietary department. He will transfer to patient care.

Blake plans to attend North Central State College's nursing program to become a registered nurse.

Natalie Hall

Natalie Hall is the daughter of Jamie Cooley and Chad Hall.

She is a member of Warrior Leadership Council, the tennis team, Key Club, National Honor Society, Drug Free Seniors, Mid-Ohio Mentoring and the Ontario Middle School Buddy Mentoring program.

She is 2024 Mid-Ohio Mentor of the Year and works at Attorney Robert Franco's Law Office, the Shelby YMCA and the Ontario Youth Sports concessions. Natalie plans to attend the University of Kentucky to major in biology and go to PA school.

Parker Henderson

Parker Henderson is the son of Jennifer and Greg Henderson.

He is a member of the soccer and tennis teams, Academic Challenge and National Honor Society. He volunteers at Toledo Catholic Charities. Parker plans to attend Ohio Northern University to study mechanical engineering.



Natalie Hall



Parker Henderson



Samuel Jackson



Congrats

WHAT'S

class of
2025

SMOKEN

BBQ GRILLEN, SMOKEN, AND CHILLEN

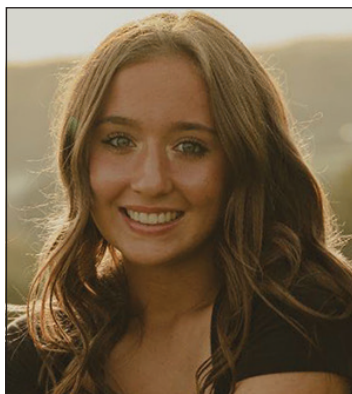
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2025

Ontario High School Graduates



Vanessa Liu



Rowan McManes



Emma Mies

Summa Cum Laude Graduates

Samuel Jackson

Samuel Jackson is the son of Jenny Jackson and Phillip Jackson. He was a member of the Ontario Golf Team for freshman and sophomore year and earned the Pioneer Director's Attitude Award, Pioneer Work Ethic Award and Ontario High School Highest Honors.

He worked at the Infield in Lexington for nearly four years and recently started working for WMFD filming, broadcasting and editing highlight reels for sports.

He plans to attend The Ohio State University to major in moving image production to learn animation. He would like to work for an animation studio and eventually start his own studio and create his own series.

Vanessa Liu

Vanessa Sky Liu is the daughter of Irene Lin and Charles Liu.

She is Ontario High School Class President, National Honor Society President her senior year, and Key Club President.

She is on the Warrior Leadership Council Executive Board and a member of the girls' tennis and swim teams, earning varsity letters.

She was the Ontario High School Boys Tennis Team manager and was named to North Central State College's Dean's List. She was named Most Improved Player (2023-24) for tennis and earned the Warrior Award. She was also a Scholar Athlete.

Vanessa volunteers in many capacities including for the Sal-

vation Army's holiday bell ringing and by assisting at a local dental office. She volunteers as a counselor with the Ontario Summer Recreation Department.

She plans to pursue a career in dentistry and has been accepted into the 4+4 program at the University of Akron with a major in biomedical science. This will guarantee direct admission into the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) Dental School after completing undergraduate studies at the University of Akron.

Rowan McManes

Rowan McManes is the daughter of Heidi McManes and Steve McManes.

She is a four-year member of the girls varsity soccer team and girls varsity swim team.

She played for Appleseed Premier Club Soccer for six years.

She is a member of National Honor Society, Warrior Leadership Council (executive, secretary, 4 years) and Drug Free Seniors. She helped in the Ontario Summer Recreation Program.

She takes College Credit Plus Classes (University of Findlay) and is a Scholar Athlete (4 years, was named Second team All District for soccer in 2022) and was on the senior prom court.

Rowan earned Highest Honors (4 years), was an Academic Banquet Invitee (4 years) and worked at Kroger, Black Dog Tavern and The New Store in Mansfield.

She will attend Capital University to pursue a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing.

Emma Mies

Emma Mies is the daughter of Karri Mies and Colbey Mies.

She is a member of National Honor Society, HOSA future health professionals and the varsity track team.

She earned the Pioneer Junior Citizenship Award and works at TJ Maxx. In the past, she volunteered at the Shelby YMCA.

Emma plans to attend Mari-on Technical College to study to become an occupational therapist assistant.

Bodpegn Miller

Bodpegn Miller is the son of Deanna Miller and Alan Miller.

He is a member of the football, basketball and track teams, Drug Free Seniors and National Honor Society.

Bodpegn is a four-year varsity letter winner for football and two-year letter winner for track.

He plans to attend The Ohio State University and continue his football career.

Claire Morrison

Claire Morrison is the daughter of Elizabeth Shirk and Matthew Morrison.

She is a member of National Honor Society, Key Club, Warrior Leadership, yearbook staff, Rotary Club and is an office aide.

She earned CCP Academic Honors and the Ontario Academic Boosters Scholarship.

She is a cashier at Menards and volunteers for the freshman football concession stands and elementary classrooms.

She will attend Kent State to major in biology on a pre-med

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Ontario High School Graduates

2025



Bodpegn Miller



Claire Morrison



Camden Platner

Summa Cum Laude Graduates

track, with the ultimate goal of being a pediatric oncologist. She is am apart of the honors college.

Camden Platner

Camden Platner is the son of Michelle Huml and Timothy Platner.

During high school he has been a member of marching band, concert band, jazz band, symphonic band, pep band, national Honor Society, Science Club, theatre, Buddy Mentoring and Drug Free Seniors.

Camden earned the Academic Achievement Scholarship at the University of Oklahoma, as well as the Pathfinder NRTW Award and Welcome Home Award.

He is an usher at Cinemark and is enrolled at the University of Oklahoma as an energy management major with a finance minor. He will be pursuing a career in land and petroleum management.

Ethan Radojsics

Ethan Radojsics is the son of Jordan Radojsics and Benjamin Radojsics.

He is a member of marching band, symphonic band, jazz band, pep band, the pit-orchestra, National Honor Society, Buddy Mentoring, Peer Tutoring and Drug Free Seniors.

Ethan earned the Woody Herman Jazz Award, Patrick S. Gilmore Award and Highest Academic Honors (9-12).

He worked summers at Pleasant Hill Marina as a dock worker since his sophomore year.

He organized cans for OHS food drives and did bell ringing

at local supermarkets for The Salvation Army.

He will attend Ashland University for a degree in Science Education with a focus in chemistry and physics. He would like to teach at a local high school.

Evan Ruhe

Evan Ruhe is the son of Wendi Ruhe and Mike Ruhe.

He is a member of the soccer and swim teams, National Honor Society and Drug Free Seniors.

In swimming he is six-time All-Ohio, four-time MOAC Champion, MOAC Swimmer of the year and Academic All-America. In soccer he is MOAC 1st team and 1st Team District.

He is a lifeguard at Westbrook Country Club.

Evan plans to attend the University of Toledo to major in civil engineering and minor in surveying.



Ethan Radojsics



Evan Ruhe

Landon Sowards

Landon Sowards is the son of Tawny Brown and Ryan Sowards.

He is a member of the football, wrestling and baseball teams, National Honor Society and Drug Free Seniors.

He volunteers in the commu-for National Honor Society.

He was 2nd Team All-Ohio as a Linebacker in football. He placed sixth in the 190 weight class in wrestling

Landon earned the Brian Ward Award in football

He will attend Bowling Green State University and major in finance.



Landon Sowards

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Congratulations!
2025 Graduates

2025

Ontario High School Graduates



Grady Taylor

*Summa Cum Laude Graduates***Grady Taylor**

Grady Taylor is the son of Christy Taylor and Michael Taylor. He is a member of the football, wrestling and track teams and National Honor Society.

Grady has a window washing company and volunteers at M1 Church.

He will attend Marion Technical College for physical therapy.

Mason Turnbaugh

Mason Turnbaugh is the son of Trisha Turnbaugh and Wesley Turnbaugh.

He is a member of the wrestling and golf teams and is a three-time conference wrestling champion and three-time Gorman wrestling champion.

Mason is a two-time sectional wrestling champion and a district wrestling champion, placing third in the state for wrestling. He was named Academic All-Ohio and was a National Wrestling scholar All-American.

He will serve in the Ohio Air National Guard Cyber Intelligence and major in civil engineering at the University of Akron.

Morgan Turnbaugh

Morgan Turnbaugh is the daughter of Alison Turnbaugh and Nick Turnbaugh.

She is a member of National Honor Society, Buddy Mentors and Drug Free Seniors.

She is employed at Kuhn's Bridal and Formal Outlet and works at the OYS concession stand. She volunteers at The New Store. Morgan will attend Miami University for business economics.

Anna Ward

Anna Ward is the granddaughter of Annamarie Ward and daughter of Edward Ward.

She is a member of the soccer team and National Honor Society. Anna was named a Scholar Athlete and earned Highest Honors.

She has worked at Kroger since June 2024 and will attend The Ohio State University for dental hygiene.



Anna Ward

Kennedy Weiler

Kennedy Weiler is the daughter of Melissa Weiler and Sam Weiler. She is a member of National Honor Society, Drug Free Seniors, Warrior Leadership and the girls basketball and softball teams.

Kennedy earned the Governor Scholarship Award and was a Scholar Athlete for four years. She is also an Academic Award winner for four years.

She worked at Warrior Pizza and Ice cream for two years and volunteered for many girls softball and basketball camps and at the dog shelter.

Kennedy will attend Bowling Green State University in the fall to major in business marketing.



Kennedy Weiler

Jack Zahn

Jack Zahn is the son of Jen and Ken Zahn.

He is a member of the baseball, track and golf teams and Warrior Leadership Council, National Honor Society, Buddy Mentoring and Key Club.

He is employed at Snow Trails and Westbrook Country Club.

Jack will attend the Fisher College of Business at The Ohio State University.



Jack Zahn



Morgan Turnbaugh



Ontario High School Graduates



Senior Class Officers

President, Vanessa Liu
Vice President, Arialyn Bischak
Secretary, Rowan McManes

Departmental Awards

English: Ethan Radojcsics
Social Studies: Ethan Radojcsics
Visual Arts: Zachary McChristy
Music, Instrumental: Blake Gregory
Music, Vocal: Zachary McChristy
Theatre: Sophia Fraley
Foreign Language: Abigail Kern
Science: Ethan Radojcsics
Math: David Winans
Family & Consumer Science: Jailyn Decimus
Onarama (Yearbook): Eden Howard
Industrial Tech: Zachary McChristy
STEM: Devon Addow-Roose

Warrior Leadership Cords

Lena Creed, Eden Howard, Vanessa Liu, Zachary McChristy and Dean Morrison

Pioneer CTC Awards

Quality Performance Awards: Samuel Crawford, Samuel Jackson, Kendra Nelson, Noah Poole and Evan Saltzgeber

Presidential Awards

(3.5 unweighted GPA/85th percentile or higher in math or reading or two teacher/staff recommendations): Matthew Bayes, Jack Belding, Arialyn Bischak, Baylee Black, Madison Carpenter, Lena Creed, Jailyn Decimus, Taylor Dille, David Draper, Brooke Eyerly, Sophia Fraley, Regan Freiheit, Blake Gregory, Natalie Hall, Zoe Hampton, Samuel Jackson, Vanessa Liu, Rowan McManes, Emma Mies, Claire Morrison, Camden Platner, Ryan Racer, Ethan Radojcsics, Evan Ruhe, Isabella Schoonover, Elaina Seif, Claire Shaw, Landon Sowards, Grady Taylor, Jakiah Trammell, Mason Turnbaugh, Morgan Turnbaugh, Anna Ward, Kennedy Weiler, Emily Whitaker, David Winans and Jack Zahn

Governor's Merit Scholarship – Top 8

Jack Belding, Brooke Eyerly, Vanessa Liu, Ethan Radojcsics, Evan Ruhe, Landon Sowards, Mason Turnbaugh and Kennedy Weiler

Senior Student Aide: Isabella Schoonover

Scholar Athlete Awards – 2nd Semester

Kaitlynn Barnett, Matthew Bayes, Arialyn Bischak, Baylee Black, Katherine Bolin, Jaydyn Chaffin, Jailyn Decimus, Gavin Dunn, Brady Fletcher, Parker Henderson, Eden Howard, Abigail Kern, James Mahon, Rowan McManes, Ian Rachel, Evan Ruhe, Claire Shaw, Landon Sowards, Grady Taylor, Jakiah Trammell and Kennedy Weiler

Scholar Athlete: (Senior athlete in good standing with the highest GPA and earned at least 4 varsity letters): Landon Sowards

Archie Griffin Award: Baylee Black and Aiden Fox

Courageous Student: Kennedy Weiler

NFHS: Baylee Black and Evan Ruhe

Grit Street Award: Dean Morrison and Lily Secrist

Ontario High School Senior Athlete Awards:

(Lettered in three sports senior year or same two sports as junior and senior): Baylee Black, Logan Bernat, Eden Howard, Stella Kaufman, Rowan McManes, Dean Morrison, KJ Oden, Evan Ruhe, Claire Shaw, Landon Sowards, Grady Taylor and Kennedy Weiler

Ontario's Outstanding Athlete-of-the-Year: Kennedy Weiler and Landon Sowards

OHSAA State Award: Colonel Michael Howard

Military Cords: Taylor Dille, Eden Howard, Thatcher Samuels, Andrew Seevers, Mason Turnbaugh and Dylan Weaver

Eagle Scouts Award: Quentin Gobble, Blake Gregory, Wyatt Paxton, Wyatt Rietschlin and Thatcher Samuels

33 Forever Scholarship: Natalie Spencer

Sutton Bank Scholarship: Addison Viers

Richland County Foundation Scholarships: Cameron Bulakovski, Brady Fletcher, Paradise Jeru, Khamarion Oden, Ryan Racer, Ethan Radojcsics, Isabella Schoonover, Elaina Seif, Landon Sowards and David Winans

Dream Huge Realty Scholarship: Mitchell Geer and Landon Sowards

The Ohio State University, Alumni Club: Sophia Fraley

Linda Fulmer Kindness Initiative Award: Zachary McChristy

Bill & Eleanir Cassel Kline Scholarship: Madison Carpenter, Abigail Kern and Katherine Pollock

Betty Devore Scholarship: Ethan Radojcsics

Eric J. Grove Scholarship: Lita Frost

Franklin B. Walter All Scholastic Award: Vanessa Liu

Buckeye Girls State: Kaitlynn Barnett and Katherine Bolin

Academic Boosters Scholarship: Vanessa Liu, Claire Morrison, Ethan Radojcsics, Evan Ruhe and Kennedy Weiler

Global Biliteracy Seal Awards: Abigail Kern and Brayden Wendling

Marcia Baer Scholarship: Lena Creed and Paradise Jeru

OFT Scholarship: Mitchell Geer

Music Booster Scholarships

Rebecca Arnold Scholarship: Camden Platner
David Leyerle Scholarship: Ethan Radojcsics

McGowan Courage Award: Cayden Hefner

Strive Award: Addison Risner And Jakiah Trammell

Rotary Club Scholarship: Isabella Schoonover

The Robin B. Milner Life Scholarship: Paradise Jeru

SACA Certification Presentation: Devon Addow-Roose, Nyckolas Beaver Wilson, Gavin Dunn, Grant Lewis, Ryan Racer, Ayden Wagoner and Joshua Yoak

Honors Diploma: Jack Belding, Arialyn Bischak, Katherine Bolin, Cameron Bulakovski, Lena Creed, Jailyn Decimus, Taylor Dille, David Draper, Brooke Eyerly, Sophia Fraley, Blake Gregory, Natalie Hall, Zoe Hampton, Cayden Hefner, Parker Henderson, Brooke Holmer, Samuel Jackson, Lindsay Knecht, Vanessa Liu, Zachary McChristy, Rowan McManes, Emma Mies, Bodpegn Miller, Claire Morrison, Alan O'Blisk, Preston Orewiler,



2025

Ontario High School Graduates

Kathleen Pcione, Bailey Phillips, Camden Platner, Ryan Racer, Ethan Radojcsics, Evan Ruhe, Isabella Schoonover, Claire Shaw, Landon Sowards, Mary Studer, Grady Taylor, Jakiah Trammell, Mason Turnbaugh, Morgan Turnbaugh, Adison Viers, Anna Ward, Kennedy Weiler, David Winans, David Yan and Jack Zahn

Cum Laude: (Cumulative GPA of at least 3.67): Matthew Bayes, Jailyn Decimus, Brady Fletcher, Paradise Jeru, Elaina Seif, Brayden Wendling and Emily Whitaker



Magna Cum Laude: (Cumulative GPA of at least 3.83): Katherine Bolin, Madison Carpenter, Zoe Hampton, Brooke Holmer, Alan O'Blisk, Ryan Racer, Isabella Schoonover, Claire Shaw, Jakiah Trammell and David Winans

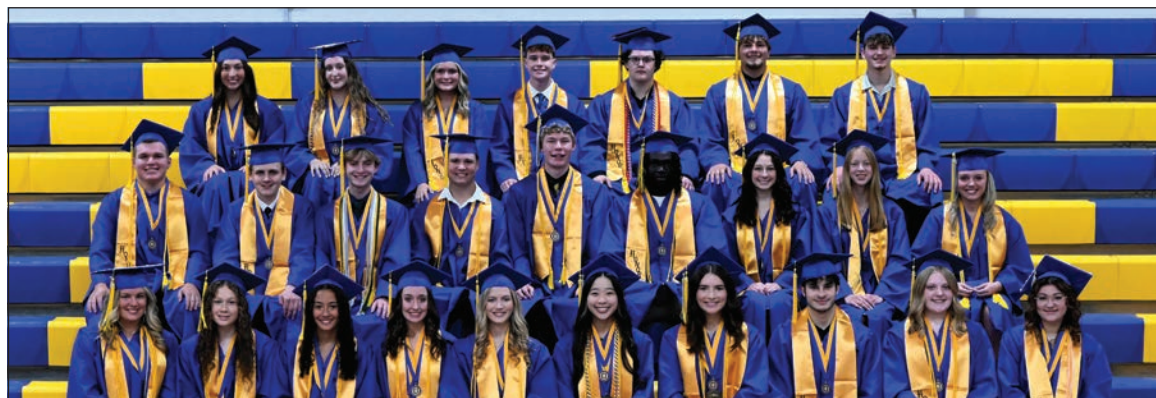


Congratulations Graduates!



Ontario High School Graduates

2025



National Honor Society:

Arialyn Bischak, Jack Belding, Katherine Bolin, Taylor Dille, Sophia Fraley, Blake Gregory, Natalie Hall, Parker Henderson, Brooke Holmer, Vanessa Liu, Rowan McManes, Emma Mies, Bodpegn Miller, Claire Morrison, Alan O'Blisk, Camden Platner, Ethan Radojcsics, Evan Ruhe, Claire Shaw, Landon Sowards, Grady Taylor, Jaki-ah Trammell, Morgan Turnbaugh, Anna Ward, Kennedy Weiler and Jack Zahn



Congrats
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CONGRATS TO THE CLASS OF 2025.



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Lady Lex softball marches to the Final Four

By Kris Leiter

It never gets old does it? Over the years Lexington seems to have sprouted some phenomenal athletes.

If you have been around Lexington sports for a decent amount of time, you would have to agree, we are very blessed to have had some really good girls high school softball in the village over the years.

The ladies of Big Lex are marching on to the state playoffs!

As of the publishing of this article, Lexington will have embarked into Summit County to compete at Firestone Stadium Wednesday, at 10 am, to tangle with a staunt undefeated Kenton Ridge Cougars.

The really cool thing I love about the post-season is that I enjoy looking at the opposing team's statistics. Since the team isn't from this area you can find out some "fun facts."

Let's lay the cards on the table about the Cougars from Springfield. They come into the contest with an unblemished record of 30-0 overall, and a conference record 11-0, first in the Central Buckeye Conference.

I will admit, in all my years, I haven't seen too many teams with an undefeated slate very often. Let's just say it's been awhile.

As I was looking up stats on Kenton Ridge, the one word that I kept saying was wow!

The Cougars have had a mind-boggling 14 shut-outs on the season. In the first game of the season, March 25, they played conference foe Sheridan and came out with a slim margin of victory of 1-0.

They have had 21 games of run-ruling the opponent after five innings and only allowed a total of 30 runs cumulative against all opponents the entire season.

They had three games of scoring more than 30 runs and scored 35-0, against Urbana. They were also 32-1 against Tecumseh and 35-0 against Meadowdale.

Let's look at the Cougar pitching for a moment shall we. Freshman Ivey Rastatter brings her undefeated 8-0 pitching record, with a 1.04 era into the mix. Rastatter has pitched 47 innings thus far, and while that in itself may not sound earth shattering as the Cougars have had 21 run-ruled games after five innings against their opponents, thus it makes sense.

She has 62 strikeouts on the books, while facing 180 batters on the year.

Offensively, another freshman, Lilly Foulk, leads the team in the batting column with a .684 average, following shortly behind is senior, Sydney Sloan with a .667 batting average.

As for Big Lex, they come to the table 25-3 overall, 10-2 and first place in the Ohio Cardinal Conference.

The only three losses on the year were from tough conference foe, New Philadelphia, 8-0 on March 25. Another close game was

against rival Madison 2-0 on April 15. The final loss in a tightly contested non-conference game was opponent Big Walnut 2-1.

As for shut-outs, can you say 10? Wow! Lex has also notched 19 times, holding their opponent to less than three runs! They have also penned 12 games in double-digit victories.

Lex comes well prepared with formidable pitching, as phenom senior Makaria Chapman wields the ball for Lady Lex. She brings an earth-shattering ERA of .97, and 260 strikeouts, with a season pitching record of 18-1 while facing 555 batters on the year.

As for hitting, Chapman tops the team swinging the lumber with an ERA of .571. Behind Chapman, is junior Kaylee Stull, ringing in the hits with an ERA of .429.

You should get your money's worth with this one!



Photo By Jeff Hoffer





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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held before the Council of the City of Ontario, Ohio, at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at the Ontario Municipal Building for the proposed 2026 Tax Budget. All persons interested in this issue are invited to attend and express their views.

Cathy VanAuker
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, OH
(T-C 6-5 '25) 12L

LEGAL NOTICE

The Springfield Township, Richland County, Ohio invites asphalt contractors to bid on Township's Road work for 2025. Sealed bids will be accepted until 6:00 p.m. on JUNE 23, 2025, at the Trustee's Office, 3700 Park Avenue West Ontario, Ohio 43083 at which time they will be publicly opened and read by the Fiscal Officer. Asphalt road resurfacing will be according to specifications available at the Trustees' Office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday Beginning JUNE 5, 2025. Also BID PACKETS can be printed from the springfieldtwprc.org website. The Road Foreman will be available to answer questions at (419) 529-2565.

All bids must be accompanied by a personal tax statement in accordance with state law and Ohio Workers Compensation and prevailing wage rate. Each bid will include a 10% bid bond as required by R. C. 153.54. Bids shall be clearly marked "2025 Road Improvement".

The Springfield Township Trustees reserve the right to reject any and all bids. All materials and equipment must meet state standards. All materials and equipment must meet state standards. The Trustees reserve the right to add or delete roads to stay within budget. The completion date is October 31, 2025.

Anita Kochheiser
Springfield Township
Fiscal Officer
City of Ontario, OH
(T-C 6-5, 12 '25) 40L



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