



TRIBUNE-COURIER

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07.31.25



Pioneer makes preparations to begin new school year

As Pioneer Career and Technology Center prepares for Welcome Week open houses Aug. 6–8, the Pioneer Board of Education met July 21 to review the Student Wellness & Success Plan for the 2025–'26 school year.

The board hired Performing Arts Adjunct instructors David Crane, Dauphne Maloney, Lori Turner, Nick Ulery, Ethan Kerschner, Taylor Eagle and Seth Morrison.

The board approved College-Credit Plus courses for the 2025–'26 school year and an agreement with Lind, Mid-State Multimedia Group and Richland Source for Marketing Services for FY26.

Avita Health Systems was approved as the medical facility site for physicals for van and bus drivers.

An agreement was reached with Mid-Ohio Service Center for pre-school screening and English language learner services, as needed.

The MOU for Career Coach programs at district schools and a lease agreement with Renaissance Performing Arts Association were both approved. An agreement was reached with Crestline Exempted Village School District for on-board instructor services as was an agreement with Colonel Crawford Local Schools for food service director services for the 2025–'26 school year. An updated proposal for services with TNA & Associates was approved and course curriculum for the 2025–'26 school year was also approved.

Hirings include Kristopher Kowalski, director of business affairs, three-year contract; Joshua Barnett, home remodeling instructor, one-year contract; Michael Thompson; first responders instructor, one-year contract; Carlos Smith, Lucas Satellite Construction instructor, one-year contract; Daniel Burtcher; student services/EMIS coordinator, one-year contract; and Levi Myers; Shelby Satellite Vo-Ag instructor, one-year contract.

Salary adjustments were approved for John Burgess, Aaryn Evans, Daniel George, Gabriel Helbert, Elizabeth Heinlen, Emma Jenkins, Kelly Jung, Michael Millward, Mark Seitz, Amanda Snipes, Richard Ulmer, Maleesa Warner and Heidi Rietschlin.

Kris Bruce was granted two days extended service to attend the OATFACS Conference in Lewis Center, OH July 27–29.

Daniel Burtcher, student services/EMIS coordinator, was granted an additional 100 hours to the 2024–'25 extended time contract.

Karrie Davisson, workforce development coordinator, was awarded 20 days extended service, at the per diem rate for the 2025–'26 contract year. Hannah Thobe was hired as a part-time LPN instructor for adult education.

Substitute instructors hired for the upcoming school year include Cindy Bodkin, Kenneth Papay, Kelly Cofer, Rene Phillips, Laurie Dean, Lori Schneider, Michael Dean, Melinda Semerar, Gail Dick, Christine Smith, Angela Foster, Robert Staley, Michael Follett, Jessica Tabor, Cherie Gill, Joe Trolan, Julie Harless, Art Varga, Darren Jackson, Douglas Weinandy, Laura Leach, rittany West, Steven McLaughlin, Heather Witry and Anthony Miller.

Career coaches hired for the 2025–'26 school year include Jim Bauer, Vickie Hunt, Rick Beans Bethany Rachel, Mike Dean, Chris Schaaf, C Michael Follett, Jim Shaum, Dan Gorbett, Pam Stimpert, Kim Haldeman, Kathy Weidig, Lisa Heschel and Aaron Weltlin.

Substitute hirings include Dala Greenslade and Brenda Grove, substitute cafeteria/banquet workers; Kelli Cofer, Julie Harless and Jessica Tabor, substitute education aide; Julie Harless and Joseph Trolan, substitute early childhood education lead teacher/teacher aide; and Darren Jackson, Laura Leach, Katharine Sabourin, Jennie Stevens and Jessica Tabor, substitute secretary/office help.

The board approved an MOU with the Alpha Group for the Project Search Program and adopted Resolution 11-25 in appreciation of a donation from First Federal Community Bank.

Mike Grady was nominated as the official delegate and Chris Rothhaar was named as alternate to the Annual OSBA Business Meeting and Conference to be held in Columbus in November.



“Mighty Micah” Remembered: Lemonade stand at Kingwood to support pediatric cancer research

By Traci Little

When 12-year-old Micah Raymond Galuzny passed away in April 2024 after a courageous battle with Stage 4 Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma, he left behind more than heartbreak — he left a legacy of strength, faith, and quiet heroism. Now, his family is continuing his fight by raising awareness and funds for pediatric cancer research in his name.

On Sunday, Aug. 3, the Galuzny family will host the 2nd Annual “Mighty Micah Takes a Stand” at Kingwood Center Gardens during the venue’s Family Fun Day from 10 am to 4 pm. Visitors can stop by their lemonade stand — offering classic and raspberry lemonade — create bracelets and learn about the mission of Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation, a national nonprofit that supports childhood cancer research and families affected by it.

This cause is especially close to the Galuzny family’s heart. Each year when summer rolled around, Micah and his siblings loved doing neighborhood lemonade stands. In 2023, Micah and his five siblings raised \$521 by hosting an Alex’s Lemonade Stand at the end of their driveway throughout the summer. The first official event at Kingwood Center Gardens took place last summer, raising an impressive \$2,502. This year, the family hopes to reach a new goal of \$3,000.

“Kingwood has always been a special place for our family,” said Christine Galuzny, Micah’s mom. “We’ve spent so many days walking its paths together. Micah especially loved the LEGO Nature Connects exhibits they had there.”

Micah was diagnosed with cancer just after his 11th birthday in October 2022. Despite undergoing grueling treatments, he remained full of faith and resilience. Known throughout the community as “Mighty Micah,” he continued to play baseball for the Central Ohio Prime travel team, proudly wearing jersey #24 — a number that will be featured on event signs and shirts at this year’s lemonade stand. Micah even got to throw out the opening pitch at a Cleveland Guardians

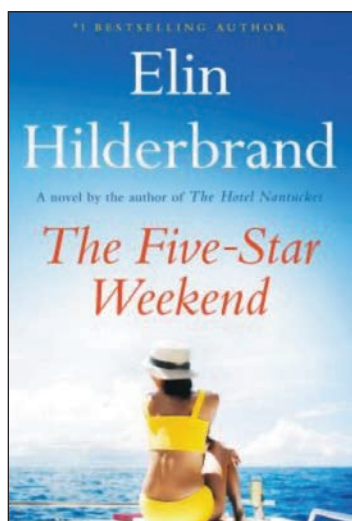
(Continued on Page 14)



LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review
By Mandy Belczak Gurney



Elin Hilderbrand books are like comfort food to me. They are never a risk, always faithfully a page turner, and in my hardest moments of life they aren't too heavy to bear. There is also something so special about the escape to Nantucket.

In her books, my mind goes there so easily like a welcome vacation. In *The Five Star Weekend*, women gather on Nantucket to help their friend grieve the death of her husband, but as is always the case, secrets are revealed, self discovery blossoms, mysteries are solved and it's all done on the fabulous island shores.

My rating: ★★★★★

Follow my blog at GreenGurneys.com

Area nonprofits can apply for women's fund

The Women's Fund of the Richland County Foundation is accepting grant applications from nonprofit organizations for programs that support women and girls.

For information about the process or guidelines, contact Foundation Community Investment Officer Bobby Rhea at brhea@rcfoundation.org or call 419-525-3020 to assure a program complies with the focus and guidelines.

Programs must occur between Dec. 1, 2025, and Aug. 31, 2026. The deadline for submitting an online application is Sept. 1.

Applications are available at richlandcountyfoundation.org.

The Women's Fund of the Richland County Foundation formed in 1996 to promote philanthropy among women and to provide funding for programs to empower women and girls.

Since its inception, the Women's Fund has awarded 333 grants.

Madison Stuff the Bus event is next week

The 2nd Annual Stuff the Bus will be held at Frenchie Roast, 1262 Ashland Rd., Mansfield (Madison area), on Sunday and Monday, Aug. 3 and 4, from 8 am to 1 pm.

There are also drop off locations at Caliber Collision, 892 Park Avenue E., Mansfield, and VFW Post 3494, 853 Ashland Rd., Mansfield. An Amazon Wish list is available at <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/JR8ZMDAVN3M3>.

The event will benefit students in Madison Local School District.



THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —

Is Marvel finally back? It may be too soon to tell but with their last film, *Thunderbolts*, and the new release of *The Fantastic Four: First Steps* they seem to be getting back on the right track.

Set on an alternate Earth and with a very neat 1960s look, Reed Richards (Pedro Pascal) and Sue Storm (Vanessa Kirby) find out they are pregnant.

They have become superheroes overnight after an accident in space along with Johnny Storm (Joseph Quinn) who is Sue's brother and Reed's friend Ben Grimm also known as the Thing (Ebon Moss-Bachrach).

One day, the team is visited by the mysterious Silver Surfer (Julia Garner) and she warns of a menacing being called Galactus who is coming to destroy Earth after conquering many planets.

While the plot is a basic save the world story, everything is elevated to make this movie so enjoyable. The casting is terrific especially Pascal as Richards. He plays an extremely intelligent scientist flawlessly and a great

aspect of the movie is him constantly figuring things out with the other members of his team.

Marvel smartly made this movie a stand alone and its own

story with its own characters. With any Marvel movie today it seems like a homework assignment to catch and watch every single movie and series before you buy your ticket. Its nice to have a singular film and makes the experience more enjoyable.

The Fantastic Four: First Steps boasts great

direction from Matt Shakman who provides the right mix of action, dialogue and character development. The casting is great and certainly stay for the mid credits scene as it is a hint for the upcoming *Avengers: Doomsday* which will be out in late 2026.

Definitely see this movie on the biggest screen you can. Let's hope Marvel keeps putting movies out like this.



RCCS welcomes community to Family Summer Dayz Celebration

Richland County Children Services (RCCS) will host the First Annual Family Summer Dayz Celebration on Thursday, July 31, from 3–6 pm. at RCCS, 731 Scholl Rd., Mansfield.

The free afternoon will feature family-friendly activities, live entertainment, food trucks, games, prizes, free giveaways, bounce houses, furry friends from the animal shelter and dance performances by the YMCA Dance Team.

Youths and families will also meet local author of the children's books *Squad Goals*, *Bro Code* and *Money Makers in the Making*, Tena Sykes and student athletes from area high school sports teams.

This event is open to everyone. Representatives from local agencies and safety forces will have resource booths providing helpful information at the celebration. RCCS staff will also provide information about adoption and volunteer programs.

For more information call 419-774-4100.

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News Briefs

A special meeting for the Madison Board of Education has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 30, at 4:15 pm at the Madison Board of Education, 1379 Grace St., Mansfield.

State Route 97, between Dill Road and Etzwiler Road, closed Monday, July 28 for approximately 25 days for four consecutive culvert replacements. The detour route for eastbound motorists will be SR 98 to SR 13 north to I-71 north to SR 39 east to SR 603 south to SR 95 west to SR 97 and reverse for westbound motorists.

The estimated completion is Friday, Aug. 22.

First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Ave. West, Mansfield, offers a free produce distribution the second Tuesday of each month, April through November in the west parking lot.

The next free produce distribution will be Tuesday, Aug. 12, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. The church receives over 6,000 lbs. of fresh produce. This is open to lower income households, please bring a state ID, driver's license or proof of residence.

This is a drive through distribution in the west parking lot. Volunteers will load the produce into trunks or the back of vehicles. Please have vehicle empty and ready for loading. For information call the church at 419-522-0662.

The Pioneer Career and Technology Center Board of Education will hold its annual goal setting meeting at 9 am, Friday, Aug. 1, in the Pioneer CTC Community Room.

Mansfield Airport Day will be held at Mansfield Lahm Airport on Saturday, Aug. 2, from 2-10 pm.

The lighted drone show is back for a third year and there will be a food truck rally, aircraft fly-in, airplane and helicopter flights, free live entertainment and kids zone. There will also be a car, truck and cycle show. Admission and parking are free. Lahm is located at 2000 Harrington Memorial Rd., Mansfield.

For information call 419-295-2478.

The City of Ontario will host Concerts in the Park at Marshall Park's band shell from 6 to 8 pm this summer.

Remaining concerts are scheduled for Aug. 12, Soul Town Live; and Aug. 26, Oolong Gurus.

The 35th Annual Silver King Tractor Festival and Show will be held Aug. 1, 2 and 3 at Mary Fate Park, 200 Sandusky St. (Rt. 61), Plymouth. The Silver Kings of Yesteryear Tractor Club will host the event

that will include all brands of antique tractors and farm equipment, a parts swap meet for Silver King parts, vendors, entertainment, raffle items and a 50/50 drawing.

Set-up is July 31. For information call 567-275-1105.

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Bellville, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Rev. Dr. Elaine Strawn on Sunday, Aug. 3, at 10:30 am. The subject will be "Making a Connection."

For information visit www.allsoulsuuohio.org.

Kingwood Walks, hosted By Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, will be held Aug. 12, at Kingwood, 50 N. Trimble Rd., Mansfield, from 10-11:30 am.

No registration is required for this Mobility Steps event and gates open at 10 am. Check-in is at the welcome desk and admission is free if participating in the walk. Learn For more information on the walk contact Randy Hutchinson at 567-247-6483.

Mobility Steps meets at The Ontario Center (formerly Richland Mall) from 10 am to noon on the first and third Wednesday of every month (excluding holidays). Walkers meet at the Center Mall anytime between 10 am and 12 pm.

State Route 13, between Alpha Road and Omega Road, will close Monday, Aug. 4 for a culvert replacement.

The detour route for northbound motorists will be SR 13 to U.S. 224 east to U.S. 250 west to SR 13 and reverse for southbound motorists. The estimated completion is Friday, Aug. 29.

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 Aug. 20, with turkey and entertainment from Olivia Rayburn, music therapist and piano player.

The group will meet for lunch Aug. 6, at 11 am at Red Lobster in Ontario.

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

Buckeye Car Wash, 616 N. Lexington-Springmill Rd., Ontario, will host a Stuff the Bus event Saturday, Aug. 2, from 8 am to 7 pm

School supplies will be collected for Ontario students. Those who donate supplies will receive a free Gold Car Wash.

To submit a news brief item send an email with information to news@tribune-courier.com. To advertise in the T-C, email Traci at tribune.courier.traci@gmail.com.



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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.mansfielddfcc.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 & Children's Programming

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 Olivesburg 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

Rev. J.P. Snyder

9:30 am Grace & Eggs

11 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



Cammy Smith welcomed as new RAA visual arts instructor

Richland Academy of the Arts (RAA) welcomed Cammy Smith to the faculty as a visual arts instructor. Passionate about helping students of all ages discover their creative voice, she creates a welcoming, community-centered studio environment.

Smith is building a career at the intersection of art, education, and emotional well-being. She is currently enrolled in the Master's in Art Therapy & Counseling program at Ursuline College (projected graduation Fall 2027).

She earned her B.A. in Art (Studio) from Lourdes University with a Psychology minor and Pre-Art Therapy concentration.

August 11–13, Smith invites young creators to a Skateboard Deck Painting Workshop that turns a blank board into bold, rideable art. Inspired by the vibrant pop-art energy celebrated in Skate Ohio programming and guest artist Andre Miripolsky, this fast-paced, hands-on session welcomes students ages 8–18, no art experience needed.

Founded in 1991 and supported by the Ohio Arts Council and Area Agency on Aging, RAA exists to foster, through artistic expression, the creative potential within every individual.

Offering dance, music, visual arts, theater, and martial arts, and through the ongoing Empower the Arts Capital Campaign, RAA is modernizing studios and performance spaces to serve Mansfield's community.

Learn more at richlandacademy.com.



Richland County Parks District plans grand opening and open house at Fleming Falls Preserve

The Richland County Parks District will celebrate the completion of a \$400 thousand addition to Fleming Falls Preserve on Saturday, Aug. 2, from 11 am to 7 pm.

"While the park has been open, dusk to dawn, for over a year now, with the completion of the Observation Deck, we wanted to show off everything this 168 acre facility has to offer," said parks operations director Jordan Tackett.

Those attending on Aug. 2, will be able to enjoy a wagon tour of the grounds, food trucks, hiking to the falls and attend three different presentations relative to Fleming Falls — history, nature and birds.

The funding for the new observation deck was raised by former Camp Mowana staff, campers and friends, in order to preserve the history of the property, which served as a Lutheran Church summer camp for 75 years, closing in 1919.

Tackett went on to say that the new structure will be dedicated at 3 pm with a ceremony, including several speakers familiar with Fleming Falls history, the architect for the project, and Richland County Commissioner, Darrell Banks. Those attending are encouraged to bring a lawn chair.

After the ceremony, visitors will be invited up to view a series of permanent placards placed about the perimeter of the observation deck. To conclude the day's schedule at 5 pm, guests are invited to gather at, what once was the "Chapel in the Woods" to share memories, sing camp songs and make s'mores.

Fleming Falls Preserve is located at 2294 Fleming Falls Rd., in Mifflin Township, just north of Mansfield. The park features trails, woods, meadows, creeks, cascades and waterfalls and two picnic pavilions.

HEAP applications being accepted

The Ohio Department of Development and Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. are offering assistance to help Ohio's families stay cool during the hot summer months.

From July 1 through Sept. 30, income-eligible Ohioans can receive assistance in paying electric bills, purchasing an air conditioner or fan or making repairs to a central air conditioning unit through the Ohio Department of Development's Home Energy Assistance Summer Crisis Program (HEAP).

The program assists low-income households or those that have a disconnection notice, have been shut off, are trying to establish new service, require air conditioning or those with a person 60 years or older living in the home with physician documentation that cooling assistance is needed. Qualifying medical conditions include lung disease, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and asthma.

To qualify, Ohioans must have a gross income at or below 175 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a family of up to eight members, and 60 percent of the state median income for a family of nine or more members. For a family of four, the annual income must be at or below \$56,262.50.

Registration takes less than seven minutes, and can be completed at energyhelp.ohio.gov. Click "Log into the EA portal," then click "Create an OHID," and follow the six-step account creation process. Ensure account security by setting up multi-factor authentication.

To apply, clients are required to schedule an appointment with the local County Community Action Commission. Documents needed at the appointment include most recent energy bills, a list of all household members and proof of income for the last 30 days or 12 months for each member, proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members, proof of disability (if applicable) and physician documentation that cooling assistance is needed for a household member's health. For more information call 419-524-4144.

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Larry Wilkes, July 1
Cynthia Sue Ramsey, July 17
Thomas Edward Hager, July 20
David Howard Hoffmeyer, July 20
Betty Jane Hunt, July 21
Floyd Truman Davis, July 22
Carolyn Anne Sneeringer, July 23
Gordon Earl Moxley, July 25

View Full Obituaries at www.dignitymemorial.com

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Ashland • 308 Claremont Avenue • 419-289-1552

www.wappner.com

Richland County Fair scheduled for August 3–9

The 175th Richland County Fair is coming Aug. 3–9 and among the many activities will be a concert featuring Christian music artists Jordan Feliz and Riley Clemmons on Tuesday, Aug. 5. Gates open at 6 pm with the concerts set to start at 7 pm. For tickets visit <https://app.fairs.com/e/4a69d5626f0f4591>.

Jordan Feliz is known for numerous hits including “Witness,” “Never Too Far Gone,” “Beloved,” “The River” and “Changed.”

Riley Clemmons’ top songs include “Miracle,” “Broken Prayers” and “For the Good.”

The fair’s opening day is Sunday. At 2 pm there will be a 4-H Dog Agility Show in the horse pleasure arena. A fair opening ceremony and flag raising will be held at the center flag pole at 3 pm. The Jr. Fair King & Queen Pageant and Coronation will be held in the John Hartz Building at 5:30 pm. Harness racing will also be at 5:30 pm.

The Bake-a-Rama Awards & Auction will be in the John Hartz Building at 6:30 pm. Heartland will perform in the Nature Park at 7 pm. They are a contemporary Christian band.

On Monday, the Ageless King/Queen Contest will be held in the John Hartz Building at 2 pm. The Horse Royalty Coronation will be held at 5 pm in the horse arena. Harness racing will be at 5:30 pm, followed by weiner dog racing. The Jr. Fair Dog Fun Show begins at 6:30 pm in the John Hartz Building. The Mid-Ohio Community Band will give a performance in the Nature Park at 7 pm.

On Tuesday, Mason Shane will give a performance of light rock and original songs in the Nature Park at 7 pm.

On Wednesday, a pie auction is planned for 5 pm in the Arts and Crafts Building. Keith Hunter will give an acoustic/easy listening concert in the Nature Park at 7 pm.

The rodeo will be held Wednesday at 7 pm. Grandstand seating is free with \$10 reserved seats available. Also at 7 pm will be the Jr. Fair Talent Show in the John Hartz Building.

At 1:30 pm, the Barnyard Olympics will be held in the show arena on Thursday. The Central Ohio Truck Pull Circuit and County Tractor Pull is also Thursday beginning at 5 pm. Grandstand seating is

included with admission with \$10 reserved seats, \$10 pit and \$20 back gate tickets.

The Johnny Appleseed Squares will meet in the Red Barn from 6–8 pm. The Draft Horse/Pony Under Saddle Fun Show will be in the Draft Horse Arena at 6 pm and the 4-H Style Revue will be in the John Hartz Building at 6:30 pm. The classic rock group Diminished will perform at 7 pm in the Nature Park.

The Light Horses “Easy Gaited Fun Show” will be at 10 am Friday and the Kiddie Pedal Tractor Pull will be in the show arena at 1 pm.

The Jr. Fair Showman of Showmen Contest is at 3:30 pm and Open Free Style Reining is at 5:30 pm. At 6:30 pm will be the Draft Horse/Draft Pony Pull in the Draft Horse Arena and Sweet Umbra will perform older classic rock at 7 pm in the Big Red Barn.

Motocross will begin at 7 pm on Friday. Gates open at 3 pm with practice until 5 pm. This is included with admission. \$10 reserved seats, \$10 pit and \$20 back gate tickets are also available.

The Jr. Fair Livestock Auction will be held in the Show Arena at 9:30 am Saturday. The Jr. Fair Recognition & Awards Program will be in the John Hartz Building at 4:30 pm. Saturday’s entertainment will be a demolition derby at 5 pm. This is included with admission with \$10 reserved seats and \$20 back gate seats available. Gone Sovereign, a classic rock and country band, will perform at the Red Barn at 7 pm. General gate admission includes most grandstand activities and is \$10 and free for children under 48 inches tall. A membership ticket (seven admissions) is \$40.

Senior Citizens Day is Monday, Aug. 4, with \$5 admission for senior citizens. Armed Forces Day is Thursday Aug. 7, from 8 am to closing. Admission is free with ID to all veterans and active duty.

Kids Day is Tuesday, Aug. 5, from noon to 4 pm. Ride wristbands will be \$10. Sunday through Wednesday, wristbands will be \$20 and Thursday through Saturday they will be \$25. Rides open at noon, Sunday through Saturday.

For the full schedule visit <https://richlandcountyfair.com>.

Richland County Fair • August 3–9, 2025

Tuesday Kids Day:

**Ride Wristbands \$10, 12–4 pm
48” and Under Free Admission**

General Gate Admission (Includes Grandstand) \$10
Admission for Children 48” and under is free!
Membership/Seasons Ticket (7 admissions) \$40

Senior Citizens Day

Monday, All Day

\$5 for Seniors

Armed Forces Day

Thursday, 8 am to closing

**Free with ID to all Veterans
& Active Duty**

Rides Open at Noon Sunday–Saturday (Wristbands: Sun.–Wed. \$20, Thurs.–Sat. \$25)

Richland County Fairgrounds • 750 N. Home Rd. Mansfield

For a full schedule of all events visit: richlandcountyfair.com

GRANDSTAND EVENTS:

Sunday, Aug. 3: Harness Racing, 5:30 pm

Monday, Aug. 4, Harness Racing, 5:30 pm

Tuesday, Aug. 5, Christian Concert Riley Clemons
& Jordan Feliz, 7 pm (Tickets: richlandcountyfair.com)

Wednesday, Aug. 6, Rodeo, 6 pm,
\$10 Reserved Seats

Thursday, Aug. 7, Truck/County Tractor Pull, 7 pm
\$10 Pit or Reserved Seating • \$20 Back Gate

Friday, Aug. 8, Motocross 6 pm
\$10 Pit or Reserved Seating • \$20 Back Gate

Saturday, Aug. 9, Demolition Derby, 5 pm
\$10 Reserved Seating • \$20 Back Gate



Photos by Damon Callis



Day Trippin' With Damon – Headlands Beach Sand Sculpture & Summer Market was held July 12 in Mentor. World-class sand sculpturist Carl Jara, a Northeast Ohio-native artist with 100+ medals including 14 World Championship wins, created four sculptures across Lake County's lakefront parks — Headlands, Osborne Park, Fairport Harbor and Madison Township

Interior design inspo



Transitional STYLE



Transitional Style

Transitional style decor blends traditional and contemporary design elements to create a balanced, timeless look. It's characterized by clean lines, neutral colors, and a mix of textures that create a sophisticated yet inviting atmosphere.

Hidden River Cave is small town's gem

Photos and Article By Jenna Wolford

This week our journey leads us to the small town of Horse Cave, Kentucky. You wouldn't expect to find a massive cave in the center of town, but that's exactly where you will find The American Cave Museum and Hidden River Cave.

Located in what looks like a classic store front on Main Street, the front doors opened to a charming gift shop and welcome area. We scheduled our tour and were introduced to our guide.

We were led to the museum's "backyard," blooming with flowers and plants, and followed a path that wound its way to the opening of the cave system.

As we began our one-hour tour, our guide gave the history of the cave and the town. As we descended to the opening of the cave, we could hear the sound of the rushing water from the two underground rivers that flow through the cave.

Much of the cave's history revolves around being a source of water for the town. In its very early days, residents would pay two cents to carry two buckets down to the cave to retrieve their drinking water.

The Village of Horse Cave was founded in the mid 1800s on land surrounding what was then known as Horse Cave. As early as 1879, attempts were made to set up public waterworks in the cave.

In 1888, Dr. George A. Thomas moved to Horse Cave and purchased the house and cave for both water and electrical power. Over the years, the process of retrieving the water changed many times — from a bucket trolley to a vertical shaft turbine.

An electrical generator was added in 1892 and provided electricity to the Thomas home, his dental office and two other buildings in town. Horse Cave became the first town in Kentucky to have incandescent lights.

Dr. H.B. Thomas continued to operate the waterworks after his father's death in 1905 and installed a large three-cylinder pump on the ledge above the stream in order to increase the capacity. This system remained in use until the early 1940s.

Indicating this rich history are the remnants of a turn-of-the-century hydroelectric generating system that once supplied the town with water and electricity. It rests in its original location at the mouth of the cave.

While using the cave as a source of water and electric, it was also being opened for tours. In 1916, a half mile-long section opened to the public. As part of a promotion a local contest was made to re-name the cave, and the name "Hidden River Cave" was chosen.

Groundwater pollution from domestic and industrial sewage became a real problem at the cave over the years and it closed in 1943. Contamination continued for nearly 50 years.

In 1987 the American Cave Conservation Association relocated its national headquarters to Horse Cave to open a national cave and karst center and to begin revitalizing the cave.

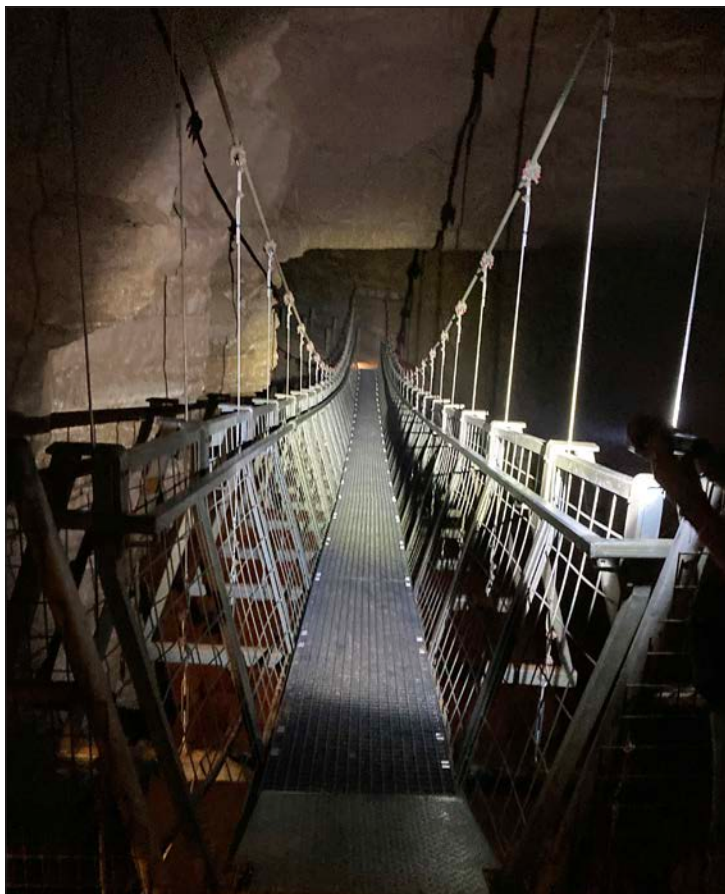
After a new regional sewage treatment system was implemented and sewage no longer drained into the cave, cleanup efforts began.

In 1992, the first phase of the center opened as the American Cave Museum. Since then, \$7.5 million has been raised for land acquisition, construction of the museum, additional exhibits, developing cave tours and to fund educational and conservation programs.

The museum and the cave have been called "the greatest cave restoration success story in the United States."

In 2013, a study found that the once polluted passages were now home to 21 types of cave species. In two decades, Hidden River Cave had transformed from one of the most polluted to one of the most

(Continued on Page 9)



•Hidden River Cave is small town's gem

(Continued from Page 8)

biologically diverse cave ecosystems in the world. Groundwater studies also concluded that the cave's water quality had recovered to near drinking water standards.

As we traveled through the cave hearing of the disheartening past, you never would have thought it was possible.

As many know, Kentucky had torrential rains this spring and Hidden River Cave had unprecedented flooding when the river's water level had a 100-foot rise. It needed only two days of rain to fill the cave but took three weeks to recede.

Lighting was washed away and pathways were covered in mud, but employees worked to clear the paths, temporary lighting was added and tours resumed. During our tour we were shown where the water reached in April and during previous flooding years, with 2025 having the highest mark. Some of these flag marks are located in the first dome room of the tour. The limestone dome covers about 2.4 acres of floor space.

As we traveled on, we soon reached a unique icon of the cave. Hidden River has the world's longest underground swinging bridge. The 100-foot long suspension bridge opened in 2018 as a way to cross the 50-foot canyon to reach Sunset Dome. The bridge was necessary for the tour but also makes a fun addition.



Provided Photo



After the completion of the bridge, excavation continued and the tour was finally extended four years ago to include the famous Sunset Dome. At approximately 250 feet in diameter and 100 feet tall, it is one of the largest free-standing cave domes in the United States.

The dome is named for its naturally highlighted colors of orange and yellow which resemble a sunset. We were able to stand in awe at the massive room which covers five acres and actually sits below the town's spotlight intersection.

After our visit to Sunset Dome, we traveled back our entrance path to return to visit the museum.

Museum entry is free and allows visitors to discover the history and science of natural caverns through educational and informative exhibits through a self-guided tour.

The museum gave a history of water drilling and how water is used in industry. The displays showed effects on water quality and gave ways we now work to protect ground water.

Two floors contain exhibits on karst geology, wildlife, groundwater, caving history archaeology. Special sections show the history of the Mammoth Cave area and its early residents.

The museum prominently features the story of Floyd Collins and his attempted rescue from Sand Cave. Newspapers from 1925 detailing the rescue attempts and speculation of fraud were framed on the walls. Many boasted that Collins should be rescued "tomorrow," but tomorrow didn't come soon enough.

The displays detailed the drama of the court cases as many believed the entrapment to be a hoax or for publicity.

Earlier on our trip we had visited Sand Cave. It is a short out-and-back easy trail just about 15 minutes from the museum. It has nice wooden walkways and a timeline of the events of Floyd Collins days trapped in the cave.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Hidden River Cave is perfect for all ages as long as you keep in mind that there are steps in and out of the cave. The tour is leisurely paced and on well constructed walkways and platforms. My teens both agreed that they favored Hidden River Cave even over the Mammoth Cave National Park tour we took earlier in the week.

The museum is open daily and guided tours are scheduled each hour. Reservations are not necessary for one-hour tours.

In addition to the guided cave tour, a 3-4 hour Off-Trail Cave Adventure Tour is offered to the adventurous. This tour includes walking, crawling and scrambling over rocks. Reservations are required for this tour and there is a two person minimum. Participants are required to be age 10 or older.

The nonprofit American Cave Conservation Association (ACCA) operates the cave and museum as part of an educational initiative to support the protection of caves, karstlands and groundwater resources. Both the cave and museum are pet friendly.

Hidden River Cave and the American Cave Museum are located at 119 E. Main St., Horse Cave, KY. For more information visit <https://hiddenrivercave.com>, call 270-786-1466 or email hiddenrivercave@gmail.com.



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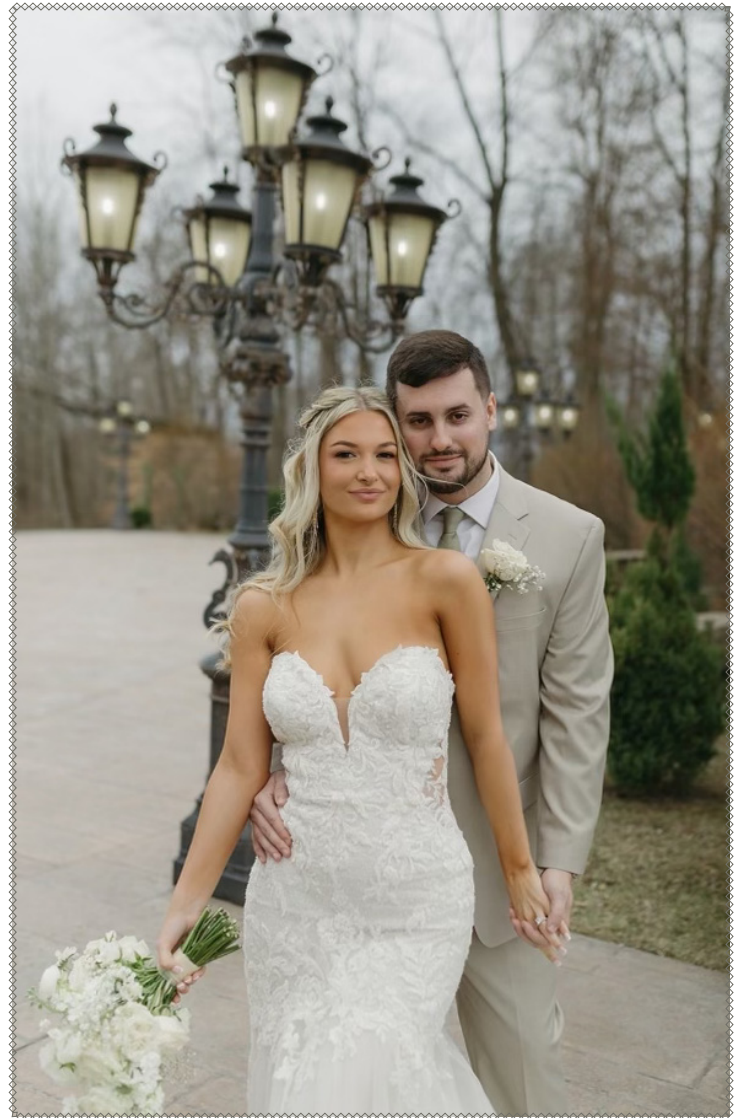
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Wishes and Weddings



*Mr. & Mrs. Brayden McKinney (Whitney Wendling)
March 15, 2025*

*Officiant: Ethan Taylor, Grace Church Norton, OH
Ceremony & Reception: Bella Amore
at Enchanted Acres, Dennison, OH*

*Photographer: Alexis Bandera with Mlstudiosny
Videographer: ML Studios LLC*

*Dj: One T Entertainment
Hair & Makeup: Manechic
Florist: Nikki's Perfect Petal Designs
Gown: Allure Gown, Dublin, OH
Dessert: Peace Love Little Donuts*



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Wishes and Weddings



Mr. & Mrs. Reno Colaianni (Olivia Rickert)

March 8, 2025

*Ceremony & Reception: Glass on Enchanted Acres
Dennison, OH*

Photographer: Kropp Photography

Florist: Audrianna's Floral Designs

Cake: Bake My Day

Gown: Sorelle Bridal Studio



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Wishes and Weddings



*Mr. & Mrs. Dylan Delic (Adrianna Gottschling)
June 19, 2025*

*Ceremony & Reception: The Club at The Strand
in Naples Florida*

Officiant: Dr. Walter Bodjanac

Photographer: Joyful Photography

Videographer: Diego Films

Hair & Make Up: Lavana Beauty

Dress: Vow'd at Easton Town Center

Honeymoon: Punta Cana

Residing: Willow Beach, Ontario, Canada



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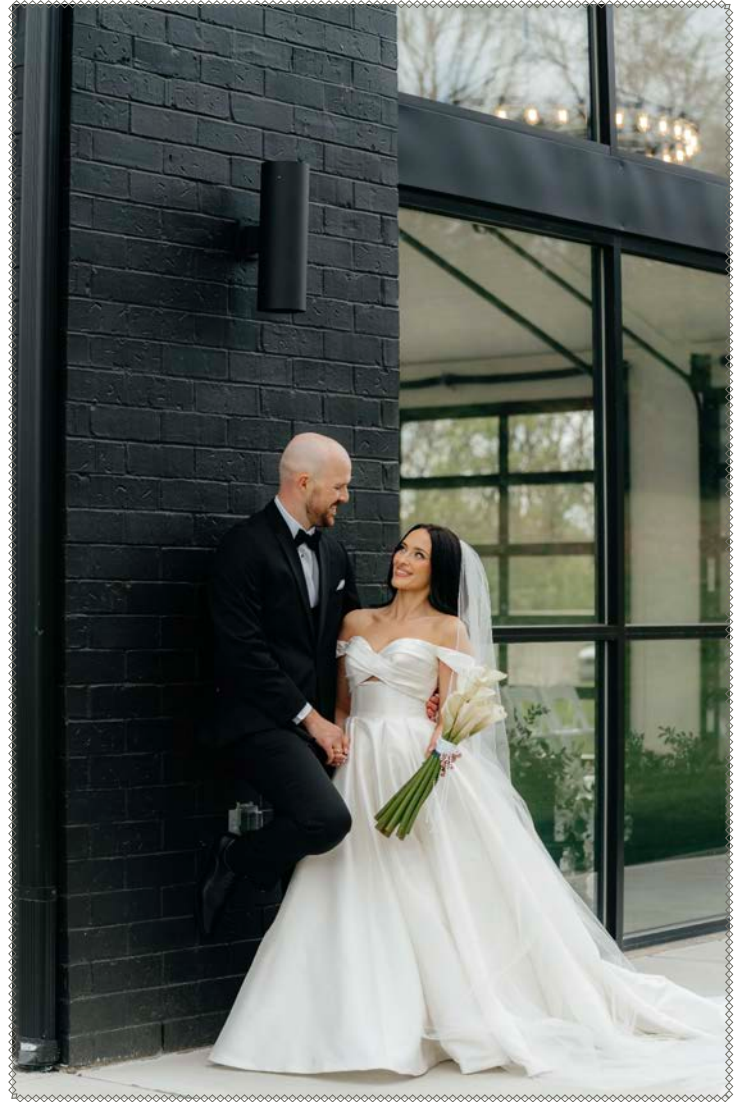
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you'll Always
Remember*



Wishes and Weddings



Mr. & Mrs. Wyatt Geesaman (Hallie Wilt)
April 26, 2025
Ceremony & Reception: Cliffside Acres,
Springfield, Ohio
Photographer: Sophie Fulkerson
Florist: The Flowerman, Dayton, Ohio
Gown: Bridal and Formal
Residing: Bellevue, Kentucky



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•“Mighty Micah” Remembered: Lemonade stand to support research

(Continued from Front Page)

game, PICC line in and all!

“Micah had a strong, stoic personality and the biggest heart,” Christine said. “He was truly a fighter.”

The Galuzny family has made it their mission to support others walking the same difficult road. Over the past year, they’ve hosted blood drives, collected toys, created memorial shirts to benefit other children with cancer, and now continue to advocate through this fundraiser.

One thing the family deeply appreciates about Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation is their care for the siblings of children with cancer — often the “forgotten warriors.” The foundation has sent thoughtful letters and gifts to Micah’s siblings: Brendan (his best friend and older brother), and younger siblings Eva, Joey, Milo, and Andy. Their ongoing kindness reminds the Galuznys that they’re not alone.

Even more meaningful, the foundation allows families to direct their donations to research specific to their child’s type of cancer. In Micah’s case, funds raised will support research for the rare and aggressive cancer he battled—where current treatments are outdated and survival rates are heartbreakingly low.

“We were told only 20% of kids diagnosed with Micah’s type of cancer survive five years,” Christine said. “There’s currently no cure. When we received that news, it was devastating—but we knew we had to fight with everything we had.”

With backgrounds in healthcare, Christine is a former music therapist in hospice care and Brian, her husband, is a pharmacist, the Galuznys were able to combine traditional and alternative medicine in Micah’s care. Their experience gave them a unique perspective and the strength to advocate fiercely for their son.

“Micah never wanted the spotlight during treatment,” Christine

shared. “But now, we believe it’s time to share his story—not only to honor his memory but to help other families.”

As Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month approaches in September, and with Micah’s birthday in October, the family views this event as the start of a season of service in his memory.

“We do this because Micah’s story didn’t end last April,” Christine said. “It lives on in every person who learns about childhood cancer because of him, in every family we can support, and in every dollar raised toward a cure. There’s not a day that goes by that we don’t talk about him or remember him in some way. Doing things in his name helps keep his spirit alive. There’s certainly no rule book on how a family should go about grieving the loss of a child.”

Kingwood’s Family Fun Day is free with garden admission and offers a full day of activities for children and families. All proceeds from the Galuzny family’s lemonade stand will go directly to Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation.

Those unable to attend the event in person can donate online. The fundraiser will remain open for seven days following the event. To donate or learn more visit <https://tinyurl.com/mry6zbrm>





STANDS AND EVENTS

2nd Annual Mighty Micah Takes a Stand at Kingwood Center Gardens

Organizer: Christine Galuzny

Fundraising Goal	\$3,000
Amount Raised	\$0

\$0




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MEMORY
OF
Micah
Galuzny**

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A passion for making a difference, Age 21+ with a background check, Strong Communication skills, PowerPoint & Email



Key Responsibilities:

- Present 12 educational sessions per year
- Schedule, promote, and deliver programs
- Help with chapter conferences as a speaker
- Refer individuals to local Alzheimer’s Association services and helpline



We Provide:

- Training & Support
- Skill-building in public speaking
- Opportunities to lead and serve locally



Roma, Italy • Photo By Mark Shutt

Nominations being accepted for ATHENA, economic awards

The Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development is accepting nominations for the 2026 ATHENA Leadership Award and the RCDG Economic Excellence Awards. Winners will be announced and honored at the Chamber's Evening of Excellence Annual Meeting and Dinner in February.

One outstanding woman in our community will be honored with the ATHENA Leadership Award, sponsored by Park National Bank.

The Richland Area Chamber became the new home for the ATHENA Leadership Award in 2016. It was previously awarded through the TWIN (A Tribute to Women & Industry) Committee in Richland County since 1989. A panel of past ATHENA Award recipients reviews the nominations, which are due Oct. 3.

The Chamber will also honor Economic Excellence Awards winners. The RCDG Economic Excellence Awards are an opportunity to highlight a business, individual, or organization that has significantly impacted the growth and development of the local economy. Economic Excellence Award nominations are also due Oct. 3.

Nominations for these awards can be submitted to the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development at <https://richlandareachamber.com/initiatives/athena-leadership-award/> and <https://richlandareachamber.com/initiatives/rcdg-economic-excellence-award-nomination/>.

The annual meeting will be held on Feb. 11, 2026, at the Mid-Ohio Conference Center, starting with cocktail hour at 5:30 pm, followed by dinner and awards at 6:30 pm. The early bird ticket price of \$50 is good through Monday, Feb. 2.

Sponsorship packages are also available. Call the Chamber office at 419-522-3211 or visit www.RichlandAreaChamber.com for more information.

Duana Patton elected president of USAgging Board of Directors

Duana Patton, Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. Chief Executive Officer, has been elected to serve as president of the board for Directors for USAgging.

The announcement was made during the 50th Annual USAgging Conference and Tradeshow held July 20–23 in Chicago, IL.

Patton's two-year term as board president officially began on Wednesday, July 23. She joined the board in 2018, starting her service as an alternate member representing Region V.

As board president, Patton will lead the national board in shaping policy and advancing programs that promote healthy aging and independent living. Her election reflects her longstanding commitment to advocating for older adults and her respected leadership at local, state and national levels.

"Duana's election as President of the USAgging Board is a testament to her outstanding leadership and commitment to serving older adults," said Jason Painley, Corporate Board President at Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. "Our board is incredibly proud of her and fully supports this opportunity for Duana to influence the aging network at the national level, all while continuing to lead with vision and purpose at the Area Agency on Aging."

Patton holds an MBA in health care and a bachelor's degree in business, both from Western Governor's University. She is also a John Maxwell Certified Speaker, Trainer and Executive Coach. She received certification as a Strategic Agile Organizational Leadership Coach and Consultant, as well as an Emerging Leader Training Certificate from the Rubi Ho Group and Miami University in 2017.

"Serving on the USAgging Board is both an honor and a privilege," said Patton. "Being selected and entrusted to serve as president is both humbling and inspiring. I have spent the past 30 years in the Aging Network, and I am committed to using my influence and energy to drive innovation and collaboration. I look forward to working alongside an incredible group of leaders."

USAgging represents and is the membership association for Area Agencies on Aging and Title VI Native American Aging Programs across the country. They play a critical role in driving innovation, strengthening local services, and informing national policy around aging issues.

For information visit www.usaging.org or www.aaa5ohio.org.



Airport welcomes veterans Aug. 9

The Ashland County Airport has announced a special Veterans Appreciation Day on Saturday, Aug. 9, from 10 am to 10 pm, dedicated to celebrating and supporting veterans and their families.

This uplifting, community wide event will feature a full day of complimentary activities, live entertainment, and tributes to the men and women who have served our country.

Event Highlights include a formal opening featuring local military honors, flag raising and heartfelt speeches; Veterans group picture taken right after opening ceremonies; performances by bands and artists throughout the day; an historic aircraft display with L5, PT26, BC12D, Stinson 10, T6 and a TBM Avenger.

There will also be face painting, bounce houses, a foam bash for children of all ages, food trucks, vendors and booths from veteran service organizations offering support and networking opportunities. Huey and Cobra rides will be available and free haircuts will be available for veterans from 1–3 pm.

Three hundred drones will take the air at 9:30 pm.

The event will be held at Ashland County Airport 700 TR 1102, Ashland. Admission is free for everyone. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/A.C.V.A.D> for more information.



MICHELLE MILLER, Richland County Youth and Family Council Executive Director, participated in the "Being A Reader Makes You A Leader" program on Friday, July 25, at North Lake Park. The City of Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department, Richland County Children Services (RCCS) and We ACT are helping youth become future leaders through the reading program. Miller read the book *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle. She gave the students stuffed animals to keep after reading the book. Community leaders are invited to come and read a book to those participating in the Summer Fun program and then talk about their careers. The goal of the program is to inspire youth to read and help build their reading skills and also meet community leaders. The program runs from June 9 to Aug. 1.



TEXAS ROADHOUSE brought a meal for officers and staff at the Ontario Police Department recently.

Richland Academy introduces Salsa for Scholarships

Richland Academy of the Arts (RAA) invites community members to "Salsa for Scholarships," a drop-in energizing, aerobic salsa class on Thursday, July 31, from 5:15–6 pm at 75 N. Walnut St., Mansfield.

For a \$5 drop-in fee, participants will "shake it" with Marden Ramos while learning salsa steps and grooving to Latin rhythms. All proceeds from this special event directly benefit RAA's Scholarship Programs, that supports students of all ages to pursue their artistic passions in dance, music, visual arts, theatre, and martial arts. This event

will kick off an annual series of special fundraising events that will benefit the programs.

The program offers funds that are need-based and merit-based, ensuring that financial barriers never prevent individuals from exploring the arts. Each year, scholarship awards assist students enrolling in classes across dance, music, visual arts, theatre and martial arts.

Since the programs' inception over 20 years ago, the funds have empowered recipients to grow creatively and gain confidence. Last year RAA awarded over \$18,000 to 83 students in

scholarships and received 125 scholarship applications.

Community events like Salsa for Scholarships sustain this support and expand access.

"As an organization committed to nurturing creativity and transforming lives, we believe everyone deserves the chance to explore their artistic potential," said Dr. Michael Benson, executive director of RAA. "Salsa for Scholarships brings our community together in a celebration of the arts."

For information call 419-522-8224 or visit richlandacademy.com.

Monthly book sale starts next week

The Mansfield/Richland County Public Library (MRCPL) Evergreen Bookshop will be open for the monthly Friends' Used Book Sale on Friday, Aug. 8, from noon to 5 pm and Saturday, Aug. 9, from 10 am to 3 pm.

A preview sale will be held for Friends of the Library members on Thursday, Aug. 7, noon to 5 pm. Memberships may be purchased at Thursday's Preview Sale (\$3 per year for individuals).

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.

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 information call 419-526-4652.

Red Cross offering gift card to donors

The American Red Cross is calling on donors to give blood or platelets now to maintain a steady national blood supply.

Book a time to give blood or platelets. Visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

Those who come to give Aug. 1–28 will receive a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of choice.

Plus, the Red Cross will per-

form free A1C testing, commonly used to screen for prediabetes and diabetes, on successful donations (one test result per 12-month period).

Visit RedCrossBlood.org/Test for more information.

Bloodmobiles are scheduled for:

Friday, Aug. 1, 11 am to 5 pm, The Ontario Center, 2209 Richland Mall, Ontario

Monday, Aug. 4, noon to 5 pm, The Ontario Center, 2209 Richland Mall, Ontario; and noon to 6 pm, Richland County Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Ave., Mansfield

Tuesday, Aug. 5, noon to 6 pm, Saint Paul Lutheran Church, 48 Church St., Bellville; and noon to 6 pm, Richland County Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Ave., Mansfield

Wednesday, Aug. 6, noon to 6 pm, The Ontario Center, 2209 Richland Mall, Ontario; noon to 6 pm, VFW Post 9943 Mansfield, 806 Grace St., Madison area; and 1–6 pm, Richland County Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Ave., Mansfield

Thursday, Aug. 7, noon to 6 pm, Resurrection Parish, 2600 Lexington Ave., Lexington

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course – Be A part of the Fun

By Kris Leiter

Hopefully you have enjoyed the past two weeks' articles on the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course.

Sometimes when I am in the process of compiling information for my columns and "AHA" light comes on. I find more relevant content than one article can hold so it grows to a series.

In the past few days, I realized that Mid-Ohio has so many more facets than what I covered and part three was born.

After reading my other articles Mid-Ohio, hopefully you're excited to know more about auto racing. There are a multitude of ways to get involved in the racing world. From driving a high-performance car to working as a volunteer or even as a fun-summertime job, you can make some great friends and put a few dollars in your pocket.

Permco MotoAmerica SuperBikes • Aug-15-17

I need to ask mercy from my motorcycle fans. For the past few weeks we have focused on auto racing, but this week it's their turn.

In a few short weeks, Mid-Ohio will play host to the Permco MotoAmerica SuperBikes which draws thousands of spectators. This event will conclude the final spectator event of the summer. This would be a great event to attend.

There are many spectator packages, ranging from VIP Tower passes with catering, VIP parking and meet-and-greets. If you love camping, there are various campground RV packages that can accommodate any outdoor enthusiast and if you want to come out just for a single day, there are daily passes available as well.

I was chatting with some friends last week, mentioning the events coming up. They grew up in this area and lived here their entire lives, but have never been to a race. It seems to be the case for many who live close to a major attraction but have never actually patronized the venue.

I had the privilege of working at the track one summer. I was amazed to watch these machines reach speeds of well over 100 mph in the back-straight-away and handling the "S" curves. It's quite exhilarating to watch!

AMA Vintage Motorcycles

The AMA Vintage motorcycles just finished up this past weekend. These classics are a tad slower compared to the high-speed Superbikes, but still quite fun to watch. This event showcases vintage bikes such as Indian, Harley Davidson and even pre-World War II. Let's not forget about the races — there are plenty of classes and divisions and a good possibility of seeing a bike-type that you may have never seen before.

These bikes come from all over the United States, even from around the globe. Some racers grew up in this area and moved away but still come back, year-after-year to reunite with friends and colleagues.

While these bikes were in town, riders and spectators could peruse the Vintage Motorcycle Days Swap Meet. The event is dedicated to all things motorcycle. You might even find a treasure that you've never seen before. I attended this event years ago and once I actually purchased a bike — I felt like a king!

This year had a record-breaking 850 vendors, toppling last year's 825. This event has been coined by the American Motorcycle Association (AMA), as "one of the largest, one-of-a-kind swap meets across the globe," not just locally or nationally, but internationally.

Every year, the week leading up to the 3-day weekend sees vendors traveling local roads with trailers loaded full of wares to buy, sell or swap. The event runs all weekend, concurrently with the Racing events.

An insider hint: if you wait until Sunday, things start winding down and you will probably be able to do some arm-twisting and bartering for an item and you just might strike gold and get a deal!

So, you have a year to prepare for next year's event — start saving your pennies and add this on your to-do-list.

High Performance Driving Course

Have you always wanted to brush the dust off of your street legal, high-performance sports car? A 3-day High-Performance Course

(HPC) includes learning about the track itself and about cornering techniques and physics. This course is led by professional instructors who are qualified to maintain safety and learning at the same time. On day three, there are lapping scenarios.

Karting

Professional Karting is alive and well at Mid-Ohio and is a way the entire family can get involved! Some may remember their childhood on a go-kart racing through cornfields. Our childhood carts were a small thing compared to the professional world of karting where speeds can easily reach 80-90 miles per hour!

There are a number of magazines to subscribe in order to learn more about this sport. If you search the topic, you will have plenty of good reading to bring you "up to speed" on this exciting sport!

I know many people who started in the world of karting, and have passed the racing gene to their children and grandchildren.

There are so many different sizes and classifications, that it would take me another novel to go into detail.

In the past, Mid-Ohio has hosted karting races that take place during the season. Since these aren't classified as a general spectator sport, the main office has information available.

Sports Car Club of America (SCCA)

You may have heard of the Sports Car Club of America, a racing genre a bit like karting in that amateur racers can join.

This is mostly a volunteer organization, but there are many ways to become involved. It's just another great way to stick your toe in the water of auto racing. You can stay close-to-home with local races, or even become involved nationally. There isn't a minimum number of events you must attend, it's all based on your schedule.

Many live their dream by becoming an SCCA driver in this awesome organization. Most drivers race their own high-performance cars. This is much more affordable than the millions of dollars full-time race car drivers have in their budget. Family members can even be a part of the pit crew. Drivers compete in national races for major trophies.

Behind the scenes there are many areas to get involved. These can include being a spotter around the track watching for accidents, track debris and other hazards. Other positions deal with car line-up, timing and scoring, registration and inspection.

Another perk about joining this organization is that bigger races around the country will utilize SCCA personnel to assist in major racing events such as NASCAR, Indy Cars, IMSA and more.

Mid-Ohio Staff Positions

If you don't have time to travel the country, but like to dabble in motorsports and want to work locally, Mid-Ohio has options available. Staff positions within the Mid-Ohio office open from time-to-time. These can range from ticket sales to supervisor roles.

I had a chance to grab a few words with local staff member, Steve Wilkinson.

"I drive one of the shuttles, it will be going on three years and I am usually a corner Marshall. I spent 120 days out here last year. I also do some volunteering with the Lake Erie Communications."

"Most of the folks that are working the corners today are volunteers. I help out on security, and got volunteered to drive the shuttle three years ago and I'm still here."

"I'm retired and in the winter, I'm a lift operator at Snow Trails."

He reflected on a funny happening at the track.

"We were out here one time with this Volkswagen van and STP was giving away stickers. It takes an awful lot of stickers to cover an entire Volkswagen van, but it IS possible."

So, what does the season look like to staff?

"We start mid-march with the car clubs and we go until the end of October."

"I've stood out here in rain and snow sideways, you know, so I could wave a flag. The track was so slick."

(Continued on Page 18)

Springfield Township mosquito traps test positive for West Nile Virus

The Springfield Township was notified that Richland County Public Health set mosquito traps at Millsboro and Home Road and between Lexington-Springmill Road and Alta West Road on July 9.

Mosquitoes in these traps tested positive for the West Nile Virus. This is not a human infection case, but a positive West Nile Virus mosquito sample. The area has been sprayed to decrease the mosquito population and reduce the risk of West Nile Virus transmission.

Residents are asked to eliminate standing water and take precautions to protect themselves and loved ones from mosquito bites. Richland Public Health recommends residents follow these tips to help avoid mosquito bites:

- Make sure that doors and windows have tight-fitting screens.
- Repair or replace all torn screens in your home.
- Remove all discarded tires from your property.
- Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots, or similar water-holding containers.
- Make sure roof gutters drain properly. Clean clogged gutters in the spring and fall.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor saunas, and hot tubs. If not in use, keep pools/saunas empty and covered.
- Drain water from pool covers.
- Change the water in bird baths at least once a week.
- Turn over plastic wading pools, wheelbarrows, etc. when not in use.
- Clean ditches of obstructions so they drain properly.
- Eliminate any standing water that collects on your property.
- Check trees for cavities that hold water and fill them with soil, gravel, or sand.
- Remind or help neighbors eliminate breeding sites on their properties
- Use insect repellent and follow the label directions.

•Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course – Be A part of the Fun

(Continued from Page 17)

He spoke about meeting people from around the globe. "Last year, we had some guests from Germany. They brought in one of the international groups. We've had people from all over the world. It's really interesting, as you can imagine."

If being ON the track isn't your preferred position, food concessions can also be an option. Food trucks are popular at Mid-Ohio.

We were able to flag down one of the food vendors to get their thoughts on setting up their own truck.

Lori Stanley owns the hibachi bourbon chicken food truck with her husband and sister-in-law.

"We've been coming out here (Mid-Ohio) for about six years. We do pretty well and we try to hit all the big races as there are five spectator races during the summer."

"We have bourbon chicken and hibachi and sometimes we'll have a line that lasts for hours. We travel and do a little bit of everything. We do a lot of festivals, basically every weekend."

"My husband Keith sort of started this idea. One day he just said, 'Let's do a food truck.' He's been in the food business for awhile."

We usually stay in Ohio, but we've been to Kentucky and Indiana and we went to Daytona Bike Week this year. It was cool."

Staff positions are almost endless with possibilities for maintenance workers, security and guest services.

Volunteer groups can also earn community service hours by parking cars, running shuttles and helping in other ways.

For information visit <https://midohio.com>.

Richland Gives registration is open

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

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

Richland Gives is designed to encourage people to contribute to local nonprofits they care about through a single giving website. The Foundation hosts the day to build capacity, grow philanthropy and make the community stronger.

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

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

The Richland Gives donation period is from Nov. 17 at 7 am through Dec. 2 at 7 pm.

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

The Richland County Foundation, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3), was established in 1945 as a way for individuals to pool and invest their gifts for the long-term good of Richland County and its residents.

The foundation helps people in Richland County give back to their community by investing their gifts wisely so that grants can be made to improve the quality of life for all the county's citizens. Working together with donors, the foundation meets important needs today and plans for a strong future.



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THE STEM SUMMER CAMP was held on The Ohio State University Mansfield campus July 21-25, for youth in sixth through eighth grade. Students gain hands-on experience and learn how to survive in space. Over 100 applications were received and OSU expanded the class from 36 to 48 participants. The camp was instructed by Ohio State professors in biology, engineering and math and a NASA Solar System Ambassador.

Will Laskey named Intercollegiate Tennis Association Scholar Athlete

Will Laskey, a graduate of Madison Comprehensive High School, is one of 11 Baldwin Wallace University men's tennis student-athletes to be recognized by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) as a 2024-'25 Scholar Athlete.

To qualify for scholar athlete recognition, a player must carry at least a 3.50 GPA for the academic year and have been listed on the institutional eligibility form.

Laskey is one of 1,114 NCAA Division III players and 11 of the 14 OAC student-athletes to be honored.

The Yellow Jackets, who were also named an ITA All-Academic Team with a 3.526 grade point average, finished the 2024-25 season with an overall record of 15-5 and a 2-2 mark in the OAC. BW advanced to the OAC Tournament semifinals.

Free leadership training available

Registration is now open for an upcoming Leadership Series 1 training — a free, two-day professional development opportunity designed specifically for individuals moving into supervisory roles or those seeking a refresher in core leadership principles.

The training will be held at the Ashland Public Library, 224 Claremont Ave., Ashland, on Tuesday, Aug. 5 and Wednesday, Aug. 6, from 8 am to noon.

The training is being funded by a grant from the Ashland County Community Foundation and is open to anyone that lives or works in Ashland County.

Training topics include leadership and supervision, effective communication, conflict management and teamwork.

Registration is limited to 25 participants, two per company, and is required by Monday, Aug. 4. To reserve a spot email rblankenship@ncstatecollege.edu or call 419-755-4767.

Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program available

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc., in partnership with the Ohio Department of Aging, has announced the return of the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) for income-eligible older adult residents of Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Richland, Seneca and Wyandot counties.

The program provides income-eligible seniors with \$50 in vouchers to purchase locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs, and honey at participating farmers' markets and roadside stands.

All new applicants and past participants must apply online at <https://www.aaa5ohio.org/services/sfmnp-1/>

The fastest and most convenient way to apply for the SFMNP program is through the online application form.

An email address is required to complete the electronic form. Applicants in Ohio who register with an email address will receive a confirmation email once approved and can begin using their \$50 benefit beginning May 15.

For application assistance call 567-247-7101.

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

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