



TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com

09.04.25



MAKENA NORTHCUTT reminded students at The Ohio State University Mansfield Convocation Ceremony that they will face many challenges, but that if they persevere and reach out for help, they will obtain more than they imagined possible.

Ohio State Mansfield welcomes students at convocation ceremony

"Today you sit here at the starting line, but know this, you belong here, you are capable and together we will create something extraordinary."

Those were the words of encouragement from senior education major Makena Northcutt, who spoke to a large crowd of students gathered for 2025 Convocation inside Founders Auditorium Aug. 25.

Northcutt recounted the many opportunities she has experienced through Ohio State Mansfield, including her time as a Buckeye Ambassador and most recently, a summer experience that allowed her to teach STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics), at military bases as far west as California.

She shared personal challenges she has experienced, and reminded students that they, too, will be challenged in life. At Ohio State Mansfield, they can count on a strong network of support from fellow students, professors and advisors.

"I've learned that some of the most meaningful parts of life don't happen according to a plan that you have made up," she said. "Sometimes the hardest and most unexpected paths can lead to the most beautiful moments."

Campus Dean Jason Opal said it's common for students to feel some anxiety at the start of a new year. Anxiety can stem from schoolwork, or the larger issues happening in the world. Whatever the cause, he encouraged them that their education will be a stronghold in the face of adversity.

"By sharing the moment that we are now sharing, you are securing yourself against the relentless changes of the world and you are building many futures around and in front of you," he said.

Opal encouraged students to challenge themselves with new opportunities, broaden their education and make the Mansfield campus uniquely their own.

"Let there be no mistake or forgetting that you are now students

(Continued on Page 7)

Ontario Police Chief releases statement on sentencing

A statement was released on Aug. 28, from Ontario Police Chief Tom Hill on the sentencing of a Feb. 11, 2024 shooting and kidnapping case.

"Today was a day of complete justice. The criminal thug who shot two innocent people was sentenced to 228 years in prison. As the Chief of Police in Ontario, I am humbled at the professionalism, bravery and courage of all of my officers. I am humbled at the bravery and courage of all of the victims that stood up today in court and gave survivor impact statements. Their bravery was inspirational."

"I am forever grateful for the work of Richland County Prosecutor Jodie Schumacher and First Assistant Terri Burnside. I am gratefully thankful to the jury of the criminal thug's peers who in wisdom and bravery found the criminal thug guilty on all 40 counts."

"I am grateful for the jurisprudence of Judge Naumoff and his wisdom. I am grateful for the leadership of Sheriff Steve Sheldon and the professionalism of his deputies and court staff through this process. I am grateful for Mayor Kris Knapp, Service Director Adam Gongwer and the entire Ontario City Council for the unwavering support of my department."

"I am so excited to announce Ohio Legislative Bill 229. Introduced by our own Mark Romanchuk which establishes a Law Enforcement Purple Heart award in Ohio for all Law Enforcement personnel seriously wounded in the line of duty."

"It establishes a special plate and fee waiver for our brave blue warriors. This is because of the bravery of Ofc. Dylan Bailey, Ofc. Joshua Rivers and Lt. Jeremie Barnhart. Ohio has officially stepped up to recognize the heroism of their law enforcement officers. It is also a solemn reminder of all of our blue warriors who have paid the ultimate sacrifice who gave their last breath in the protection of their community."

"Today was a good day. It was a collaboration of good against evil. I counted myself lucky as I looked around at a court filled with honorable and brave men and women of law enforcement."

"Finally, I wanted to say thank you to our family members who hold it all together. Our Wives, Husbands, Children, our Moms and Dads who give their treasure every day to stand the line between the good and the evil of this world."

"At the National Law Enforcement monument in Washington, D.C., it is inscribed these words of all of our heroes who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Inscribed it reads: 'It is not how these officers died that made them heroes. It is how they lived.'"

"Thank you to all of our law enforcement heroes who go out every day and put everything on the line. You are all my heroes. Because of how you live."

Walking and biking event on Sept. 29 will promote mobility and falls prevention

To promote mobility and falls prevention, a walk and bike event will be held Monday, Sept. 29, at the B&O Bike Trail, North Lake Park, 625 Hope Rd., Mansfield.

The event is free and open to the public from 9–11 am. There will be an opportunity to win a free wellness basket.

This event is an opportunity for social engagement and physical activity and will have information and resources provided by the Area Agency on Aging, Richland County Mobility Management and other community partners.

Participants can bring a bicycle for individual and/or group riding opportunities. Water will be provided.

Free RCT bus rides will be available to and from the walking event by calling 419-522-4504.

This event will be cancelled for inclement weather. No registration is required and for more information call 567-247-6487.

LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review
By Mandy Belczak Gurney



Katherine Center knows how to deliver a good story. And like all her others, *The Rom-Commers* was filled with good characters, funny moments and the classic build up of wondering if these two ever get themselves together enough to realize they are in love.

In *The Rom-commers*, Emma is an unknown but very talented screen writer and is asked to fix the script of a famous hollywood screenwriter who is writing a romcom that doesn't believe love is possible. Problem number two is that she has been her dad's constant caretaker for 10 years.

Emma has given so much energy in life to keep things under control and routine. If she lets

herself take the risk, will it pay off?

It was just the sweet and funny story I needed to capture my attention. I highly recommend the audiobook. The extra chapter and the author's note is worth a listen!

My rating: ★★★★★

Follow my blog at [Green Gurneys](#)
or at [GreenGurneys.com](#)

Knowlton will open Ghostlight Cabaret Series

The Renaissance Theatre announced the opening of its 2025-'26 Ghostlight Cabaret Series with "An Evening with Kelly Knowlton" on Friday, Sept. 5, at 7:30 pm in the Ghostlight Lounge at the Renaissance Theatre, 138 Park Avenue West, Mansfield.

Known as one of the region's powerhouse vocalists, Kelly Knowlton will treat audiences to an evening of standards, show-tunes and pop/jazz favorites. She will be accompanied by Renaissance Artistic Director Michael Thomas at the piano.

Knowlton has been featured in numerous Renaissance productions, including memorable roles such as Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Diana in *Next to Normal*, Phoebe in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* and the Fairy Godmother in *Cinderella*.

Beyond the Renaissance stage, she regularly performs throughout the area and is a frequent featured soloist with the Artistic Jazz Orchestra. Each \$30 ticket includes desserts, drinks and live music, ensuring a true VIP cabaret experience. Seating is limited, making early reservations highly recommended.

For tickets visit [www.rentickets.org](#) or call 419-522-2726.



Photo By Mark Shutt

Clydesdales will make appearance in Mansfield and at Bellville Fair

The world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales will march into Mansfield and Bellville this September.

A single horse will make an appearance for a photo opportunity in Mansfield on Sept. 10, from 5-7 pm, at The Brickyard, 21 W. Temple Ct., Mansfield.

The eight-horse hitch will be harnessed to the iconic turn-of-the-century beer wagon on Sept. 12, from 4-6 pm, at the Bellville Street Fair.

The Clydesdales' appearances in Mansfield and Bellville are one of hundreds made annually by three teams of traveling hitches based out of operational headquarters located at the St. Louis Brewery in Missouri.

Brought to the U.S. in the mid-1800s as draft horses used for farm work, Clydesdales today are used primarily for breeding and show.

The Clydesdales have been the mascot of Anheuser-Busch since 1933, when a team of these majestic horses was presented to August A. Busch Sr. to celebrate the repeal of Prohibition.

Nearly 90 years later, the celebrity horses are staples of fairs, festivals, and sporting events. Most notably, the Clydesdales have marched in two presidential inauguration parades.

The Clydesdales can also be viewed in St. Louis at the Anheuser-Busch brewery and at Grant's Farm, as well as at Warm Springs Ranch, the 300-plus-acre Clydesdale breeding farm located in Boonville, Missouri.

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News Briefs

Richland County EMA will host its 2nd Annual Community Preparedness Fair in partnership with Avita Ontario and the Ontario Center.

Last year, the Richland County EMA partnered with Avita Health Care and The Ontario Center to host a Community Preparedness Fair, which included 24 community partners. This year, the event has expanded to include not only preparedness information but also other valuable community resources and information.

The fair will be held Saturday, Sept. 20, from 1–4 pm in the Avita parking lot at The Ontario Center, formerly Richland Mall.

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, Sept. 27 and 28. Acceptable items include steel and aluminum cans, crushed milk jugs, detergent bottles, plastic bottles with number 1 or 2 on the bottom, broken down cardboard, all papers included with the newspaper but no other magazines or paper. Please remove caps from bottles and rinse all containers well.

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Bellville, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Rev. Dr. Elaine Strawn on Sunday, Sept. 7, at 10:30 am. The subject will be “What would Joanna Macy do?”

For information visit www.allsoulsuohio.org.

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 Sept. 17, with broasted chicken.

Hospice of Western Reserve will be in attendance and a collection will be taken for Richland County Humane Society. Those attending are asked to bring paper/cloth towels, cleaning supplies, newspapers, wipes, disposable gloves, canned food and Purina Cat or Dog Chow. For information visit www.lexasc.org. Dues are \$10 per year.

Trinity Grace Fellowship Church, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield, will hold community prayer meetings from 6:30–7:30 pm, Oct. 12 and 19. The public is invited.

Richland Early American Center for History will host the 9th Annual American Heritage Days at Southpark, 100 Brinkerhoff Ave, Mansfield, Oct. 4 and 5, from 10 am to 4 pm. Living history reenactors will demonstrate life in America in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Throughout the day there will be crafts, trades, demonstrations

Soil and water conservation will be celebrated September 11

The public is invited to attend the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD) Annual Celebration on Thursday, Sept. 11 at 11:30 am at the Area Agency on Aging Hawkins Corner, 2131 Park Avenue West, Ontario.

The celebration includes lunch, recognition of the Cooperator of the Year and Volunteer of the Year honorees and accomplishments of the past year. The cost is \$25 per person and reservations are required by September 4. Reservations may be made online at <https://richlandswcd.net/event/annual-celebration-4/>.

From 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, eligible voters may cast their vote for one open Board Supervisor position.

Eligible voters are individuals or businesses who own or occupy land within Richland County and are 18 years of age or older. Absentee voting is also available until Sept. 10 at 4 pm. Visit <https://richlandswcd.net/> for election information.

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District develops, implements, and assists landowners, government agencies and our partners with a wide range of natural resource conservation programs.

and activities, including blacksmithing, games and children’s activities, open hearth cooking demonstrations and civilian and military reenactments. Admission and parking are free to the public. A food truck will be on-site.

U.S. 42, between Holloway/Eckert Road and Schmidt Road, is closed for 30 days for a culvert replacement. The detour route for eastbound motorists will be U.S. 42 east to SR 314 north to SR 97 east to U.S. 42 and reverse for westbound motorists. The estimated completion is Wednesday, Sep. 17.

Columbia Gas of Ohio urges homeowners and contractors to contact 811 at least two business days before beginning any digging project. This free and simple service helps prevent damage to underground utility lines and promotes community safety.

Calling 811 prior to breaking ground is a free and easy way to help keep you safe and your project on track.”

By calling 811 or visiting OUPS.org, residents are connected to the state system which coordinates with local utilities to mark underground lines using color-coded flags or spray paint. These markings help identify the location and type of utility lines.

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, Sept. 9, 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 church will discontinue the service next year.

To submit a news brief item send an email with information to news@tribune-courier.com.

The Visual Bucket List FOUNDATION

PRESENTS

Eyes in the Sky

A Hot Air Balloon Celebration

for Kids Losing Vision

in partnership with

ASHLAND BALLOON RIDES.COM

We're lifting spirits—and balloons—for a heartwarming celebration dedicated to children who are losing their eyesight. Let's fill the sky with color and their hearts with joy.

Join us for a day of Wonder, Courage & Community

Date: Saturday, September 6, 2025
Time: 6pm
Location: Freer Field 1301 Park St Ashland, OH 44805

Together, we can help these brave young dreamers see the world in a whole new way—one memory at a time.

All proceeds support our mission to provide opportunities and experiences to children with visual impairment diagnoses. These opportunities are intended to be a special visual memory that will last a lifetime.

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
10:30 am Sunday Worship
Office Hours: Tu., W., Th. 9 am to 1 pm
Christian Builders, Sunday, 9:30 am
www.FirstChristianChurchMansfield.com
FB: FirstChristianChurch,Mansfield,Ohio

First Congregational Church

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

236 Otterbein Dr., Lexington
419-884-2150 • Churchofthecrosslex.com
Pastor-Rev. Dr. Edna Stahl
Sunday Worship 9:30 am
Junior Church for 10 and under • Wesley Class 10:45
5th Sunday of the month-Do Something Sunday AA, Girl Scouts,
Yoga, Knotty Ladies
and Bible Study.

Lexington Presbyterian Church

35 Church St. West, Lexington
419-884-1330 • 10:30 am Sunday Worship
Pastor Denny Nezrick
https://www.facebook.com/Lexington-Presbyteri-
an-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 School • 11 am Sunday School
Bible Study Mondays 2 pm



Peanut Butter and Jelly Ministry has a busy, successful summer

Ontario United Methodist Church has had a Peanut Butter and Jelly Ministry for several years. This ministry offers food to families who qualify to receive assistance for student's lunches. The families sign-up and come and get food every week during the summer.

The church has many people who have helped to make this ministry a success including Ontario Local School staff who help with getting the information out to the families and for having the students collect breakfast cereal which was distributed to the families.

Many have contributed non-perishable food and also monetarily.

Each family qualifies based on the number of children they have. Items distributed include breakfast cereal, peanut butter, jelly, soup, canned vegetables, canned fruit, pasta, canned pasta, spaghetti sauce, mac and cheese, Hamburger Helper, rice and instant potatoes. Each week different items are given so not all weeks were the same. A snack was also given for each of the children.

Non-food items were available each week. Sometimes it was a roll of paper towels or a box of tissues, toilet paper or dish washing soap. On the July 4 week, the church included hot dogs, buns and the supplies for making a s'more.

One man who loves to help others provided eggs, fresh vegetables, garden plants and even flowering plants. Several people who had received the plants proudly showed pictures of the plants as they produced vegetables and bloomed.

The church would like to thank all the contributors and volunteers who gave of their time to organize the food for distribution and for those who did all the necessary paperwork to make this project a success. Volunteers also packed the food in bags and carried it to the vehicles. Many at the church offered to pray for prayer requests.

The church also thanks God for allowing it to reach out to the community and help people who need a little help.



Food vendor applications open for October Savor & Sip event

The Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development is planning its 9th annual Savor & Sip Auction and Food Tasting for Oct. 23 from 5-7:30 pm at the Mid-Ohio Conference Center in Mansfield.

Businesses in the food industry, such as restaurants, caterers, and food trucks, are invited to have a table at this event to offer tastings of their food and promote their businesses. There is no charge for Chamber member businesses to provide tastings. A non-member rate is also available.

The Savor & Sip event is a celebration of all things culinary in our area, from mouth-watering appetizers, entrees, desserts, pastries, and beverages from some of the area's finest restaurants, caterers, bakeries, delis, and beverage companies. Entertainment and a silent auction will also happen throughout the evening, allowing attendees to bid on a large selection of items.

This event is limited to 550 guests and is typically a sell-out crowd. Entry for attendees is \$30 per person when registered by October 15. Attendees will enjoy food samples from 20+ food vendors, and a cash bar will also be available. The public is encouraged to attend to enjoy the food and live music, along with getting a jump on holiday shopping by bidding on a vast number of auction items.

To participate in this event as a food vendor, call 419-522-3211 or email Lisa Duckworth at lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com. Attendees are encouraged to register via the event calendar at richlandareachamber.com.

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Thomas William Tracht, August 19
 Marilyn Ruth Kasper, August 22
 David Ray Brauchler, August 24
 David M. McCabe, August 24
 Judith "Judy" Marie Sadowski, August 24
 David Glenn Searcy, August 24
 John Foster Croft, August 25
 Barbara Raber, August 25
 Linda Rae Grogg, August 26
 Charles Chester Mabry, August 26
 Amelia "Jeanie" Jean Cotter, August 27
 McKinley Floyd Jewell, August 28

View Full Obituaries at www.dignitymemorial.com

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THE MISS OHIO 1ST ANNUAL 5K RUN/WALK will be held Saturday, Sept. 13. Both Miss Ohio Olivia Fosson and Miss Ohio Teen Allison Payton plan to attend.

Miss Ohio 1st Annual 5K Run/Walk planned for September 13

Photos and Article By Traci Little

The countdown is on and in less than two weeks, Mansfield will host the Miss Ohio 1st Annual 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, Sept. 13.

This brand-new event, themed "Chasing the Crown on Hallowed Ground," will take place at the historic Mansfield Cemetery, 389 Altamont Ave.

The event will be celebrated as a perfect way to kick off a crisp fall weekend with friends, family and neighbors.

The event is for everyone — a runner aiming for their best time or those who would enjoy a casual walk.

Registration begins at 8 am with the 5K run beginning at 9:30 am and the walk beginning at 10 am.

Families are welcome and kids 10 and under participate free with a registered adult.

Miss Ohio Olivia Fosson and Miss Ohio Teen Allison Payton both plan to attend.

Save by pre-registering for just \$25, or register the day of the event for \$30. Every dollar supports the Miss Ohio Scholarship Program, empowering young women to achieve their educational and professional dreams.

So grab your sneakers, rally your friends, and let's make this first-ever Miss Ohio Run/Walk a tradition to remember!

Sign-up at <http://run.missohio.org>.

Annual rummage sale planned for Oct. 1–4

Final preparations are being made for the annual rummage and bake sale at Trinity Grace Fellowship, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield.

The sale will be held Wednesday through Saturday, Oct. 1–4. Hours are 4–7 pm on Oct. 1; 9 am to 7 pm on Oct. 2; 9 am to 2 pm on Oct. 3; and 9 am to noon on Oct. 4.

Food will be available for purchase to eat in or take out.

The event is coordinated by Mary Reynolds and Peg Tinkham.

Area students graduate from Capital University

Capital University conferred degrees at the University's 175th Commencement Ceremony in May 2025.

Graduating were local students Ryan Brophy and Theresa Dz-ugan, both of Ontario.



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/nw ohio/walk




Richland Carrousel Park 75 N. Main Street , Mansfield

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

Admission is free to Strongman Champions League USA debut

The Strongman Champions League (SCL), the strongest league in the world, is making its long-awaited debut in the United States with a massive two-day strength event taking place on Sept. 19 and 20 in Toledo and Sandusky.

The weekend will bring together the strongest athletes on the planet with entertainment, food vendors, family-friendly activities and a full lineup of competition and surprises. The strongman contests will be the main attraction of the event, featuring elite international athletes battling it out across both days. Entry is free for both days.

The weekend kicks off with a high-energy preview event on Friday, Sept. 19 in Downtown Toledo, held near Maumee Bay Brewing Co. from 4–7 pm. This evening showcase will feature a never-before-seen medley of strength events, along with booths, favorite local food trucks, and exciting entertainment. Fans will have a rare opportunity to experience the intensity up close and meet the athletes ahead of the main competition.

The main day of the event takes place on Saturday, Sept. 20 along Shoreline Drive in Downtown Sandusky. This all-day event will include a limited beverage reveal, family-friendly attractions, fun entertainment, and exciting feats of strength performed. The Strongman Champions League USA competition, scheduled from 1–6 pm, will be the centerpiece of the day. Events include a truck pull, keg toss into the bay and other challenges.

For those unable to attend in person, the event will be live streamed with full coverage of the main day in Sandusky and highlights from Friday's kickoff in Toledo. Details about the broadcast, including how to watch, will be announced soon.

The Strongman Champions League is a global leader in strength sports, hosting 16 stages across the world each year. Now in its 17th season, the league is known for blending elite athleticism with iconic locations, cultural storytelling and jaw-dropping challenges. Its episodes are available on Amazon Prime and other major platforms. The debut of SCL USA is made possible through the support of regional partners including Shores & Islands Ohio, the Greater Sandusky Partnership, and Destination Toledo, as well as event partners and sponsors. For information visit www.strongmancl.com.

Donors will receive mystery bag

The American Red Cross asks donors to give blood or platelets now to help maintain a healthy blood supply. Donors of all blood types, especially those with types O positive and B negative blood, are urged to make an appointment to keep lifesaving blood products ready the moment patients need them.

The Red Cross and PEANUTS are once again joining forces and in celebration of the 75th anniversary of PEANUTS, those who come to give blood through Sept. 21 will get an exclusive Red Cross PEANUTS mystery bag with one of four special t-shirt designs.

Additionally, there will be a number of golden tickets randomly in the mystery bags hidden throughout the country. Donors who find a golden ticket when they open their bag will have the chance to redeem it through an online form for all four t-shirts.

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

Wednesday, Sept. 3, noon to 6 pm The Ontario Center, Richland Mall, Ontario; and 7 am to 1 pm, K of C Hall, 208 Vernon Rd., Shelby
Thursday, Sept. 4, noon to 5 pm, Heartland Church, 2505 Lexington Springmill Rd. S., Lexington

Friday, Sept. 5, 11 am to 5 pm, The Ontario Center, Richland Mall, Ontario

Monday, Sept. 8, noon to 6 pm, The Ontario Center, Richland Mall
Wednesday, Sept. 10, 12–6 pm, The Ontario Center, Richland Mall
Thursday, Sept. 11, 8 am to 2 pm, Clear Fork High School, 987 St. Rt. 97, Bellville

Friday, Sept. 12, 11 am to 5 pm, The Ontario Center, Richland Mall
Saturday, Sept. 13, 8 am to 1 pm Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1951 Middle-Bellville Rd., Mansfield

Monday, Sept. 15, noon to 6 pm, The Ontario Center, Richland Mall



JASON OPAL, dean of The Ohio State University at Mansfield, welcomed a new class of Buckeyes during the Autumn Semester Convocation ceremony on Aug. 25. He reminded students that their education is one of the best ways they can safeguard themselves against the challenges of the world.

•Ohio State Mansfield welcomes students at convocation ceremony

(Continued from Front Page)

of one of the biggest, most influential, most respected universities in the United States of America,” he said. “Work hard here, stay on that path, finish your degree and you will have many choices in life.”

Agustí Muñoz-García, associate professor of evolution, ecology and organismal biology, told students their success is 70 percent dependent on their own effort, and 30 percent dependent on the support they receive.

He said the faculty and staff of Ohio State Mansfield understands their situation, whatever it may be, and is here for their support.

“You’re going to invest time and a lot of money and you’re going to add some more complications in your life, but be sure that the faculty and staff here will help you succeed and support you,” he said.

The ceremony also included presentations from associate deans Dawn Kitchen, associate professor of anthropology, and Cynthia Callahan, associate professor of English. The Autumn Semester officially began Aug. 26 and Welcome Week activities will continue through Sept. 7.



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL'S Key Club is kicking-off the year. Meetings are the last Wednesdays of the month in the OHS Library at 7:20 am.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN VS HILAND BOYS SOCCER • AUG. 29
HILAND WINS 5-3 • PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN VS HILAND GIRLS SOCCER · AUG. 29
LADY FLAMES WIN 6-3 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS ONTARIO BOYS SOCCER · AUG. 26 · COLTS WIN 5-0
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS GOLF



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS RIVER VALLEY VARSITY FOOTBALL · AUG. 29 · RAMS WIN 20-7
PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS RIVER VALLEY JV FOOTBALL · AUG. 30 · RAMS WIN 44-8
PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Colts have 2-0 start to a promising season

By Kris Leiter

The Clear Fork Colts have been kicking-up dirt in the corral down in the valley again with a 2-0 start to the season.

During the week one game on Aug. 22, Clear Fork took on Sandusky Perkins (Sandusky Bay Conference).

Clear Fork pulled out the win in the last seconds to drop last year's Division IV state runner-up, Sandusky Perkins 17-14! What a nip and tuck game! Talk about pins and needles!

As the first quarter would come and go, the score was deadlocked 0-0 after the first 12 minutes of play.

The second quarter, the Colts stampede came kicking, as they struck and tallied the first touchdown of the game. The Colt's sophomore Brayden Hayes (5'-9") notched the scoreboard with a 3-yard rush to making it 6-0, Colts. The extra point was successful by junior Nash Evans (5'-9") and the Colts then led 7-0.

As the third quarter commenced, the Pirates would even things up and they scored their first touchdown and extra point, tying things up 7-7.

What would the Colts do now? Perkins was slowly moving the ball with success.

During the the third quarter, the nip and tuck continued. The Colts rounded-up the wagon train and just a few minutes before the quarter would end, another score came from quarterback Marcus Hoefflich, connecting with a 25-yard touchdown to Ben Campbell to surge the Colts 13-7. With the Colts back on top, an extra-point kick by Nash Evans brought the score to 14-7.

During the fourth quarter, the Pirates showed why they were state-runners up and returned the favor by evening the score again on a 15-yard pass and successful extra point, now back to deuce, 14-14.

As both teams battled to the end for the victory, and time neared the end Nash Evans split the upright with a 28-yard field goal and finalized the win 17-14!

Marcus Hoefflich contributed to the stats as he was 12-of-22 passing for 124 yards and rushing nine times for 44 yards.

During the week 2 game on Aug. 29, Clear Fork took on Zanesville (0-2, Licking County, Buckeye Division. The Colts didn't allow a single point, leading to a 39-0 shutout in the Colt Corral.

The Colts' scoring was unique, consecutively adding one more point than the previous quarter. The first quarter they scored 12 points, the second quarter was 13 points and the third quarter equaled 14 points.

The Colts notched their first score 17 minutes after the opening kick-off. Devyn Oswalt rushed for a 27-yard touchdown to put the Colts first six points on the scoreboard. The extra point was not successful, keeping the score 6-0, Clear Fork.

As in the blink of an eye, seven minutes later, still in the first quarter, another Colt touchdown would ensue by Quarterback Marcus Hoefflich with a 38-yard touchdown pass to Nash Evans making it 12-0, Colts.

Jumping into the second quarter, Hoefflich was at it again, airing it out with a 26-yd touchdown pass to Jacob Brokaw, making it 18-0. Nash Evans topped it off with the successful extra-point kick, 19-0.

A pick-six would be credited to Devyn Oswalt, returning the ball 21-yards to the end zone with Clear Fork now leading 25-0 with the 2-point conversion not to be. A halftime lead of 25-0 is not a bad way to go into the locker room.

As the teams began the third quarter, the Colts added another touchdown by Hoefflich, ringing up the score like an adding machine with the Colts holding a comfortable lead of 31-0. The extra point was good, like icing on a cake, making it now 32-0.

As the third quarter was nearing completion, the Colts weren't quite finished and another score was in store. The Colts added a 3-yard rush into paydirt, making it 38-0 and the extra was good, making it 39-0.

The fourth quarter was ironic as neither team would score a single point.

It looks like the Colts are off to a good start as they move into week 3. Coming up this Friday, the Colts will be taking the wagon train on the road as they travel to Lexington for their first road game.

This should be a game to see, as Big Lex is holding steady with a .500 record at 1-1, with a win in week one over rival Ontario, 36-16. Lexington took a loss in week two against a staunch Shelby Whippet team.

Shelby had a nice run in the post-season last year, and represented well by going three rounds into the playoffs last year, getting defeated by Rocky River 35-7.



Photo By Jeff Hoffer

MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL held a hog roast before the soccer games against Hiland on Friday, Aug. 29. The event was free for all who attended.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Madison Community Youth Park: The Field of Dreams

Photos and Article By Kris Leiter

As I was setting up my interview with Dave Miller, local real estate agent and long-time Madison Community Youth Park board member, he mentioned there might be a few other board members joining our interview.

I usually find it challenging to coordinate interviews with one coach or player, but five board members? Of course, I gladly accepted.

I would dare bet that most of you have seen the Kevin Costner movie, *Field of Dreams* and heard the catch phrase, "If you build it, they will come," referring to a baseball field being built in the middle of a cornfield.

If you have ever driven by the Madison Community Youth Sports complex on State Route 430, it definitely is an eye-catcher.

Some may have wondered about the history behind the making of such a beautiful facility, well, it's your lucky day.

The land sits across from Forest Hills Golf Course in Mifflin Township. This plot of land wasn't anything that would draw attention to it back then.

The park is not just a cluster of ball fields but something a bit more if you look closer.

As we spoke during the three-hour interview, each board member told a piece of history that began their involvement with the park. I will say without exaggeration, they were always giving credit to others.

These five dedicated board members have 200 years of combined service.

Gary Boyd has been the park's board president since 1983. Other members are Dave Miller, John Eswick, Steve Kanz and Cindy Townley, who coordinates the concession stand. All these members played Madison Youth Baseball when they were youngsters.

Back in the day, approximately 1961, when Madison Township had Little League Baseball, things got started. The athletes played at the elementary school fields.

Miller reflected on the past, "We had an over 13-14-year-old team at the old Madison North Junior High. We called it the Triple M. As the ages went up there was Single-M, Double-M and Triple-M."

"We played at Mifflin, Eastview, Jesse Beer, Wooster Heights and Woodville. Wooster Heights and Woodville each had two fields."

The board members mentioned a plethora of fields around the area as they were all involved in youth sports in Madison, even in their high school days.

Miller added, "Steve Kanz and I graduated in 1971, John Eswick graduated in 1974 and Gary Boyd was in the Class of 1966."

As with anything in the infant stages, challenges can be the norm and dedicated people are a must. Passionate people make things happen that go unnoticed by the average person.

The name Jim VanTilburg and Madison go hand-in-hand and

Boyd gives credit to VanTilburg as one of the people who made things happen.

"VanTilburg took the Madison summer recreation job. He would have to find somebody in close proximity to the nine fields that he could leave a bag of bases. This would happen before each game."

"If you were playing at one of the fields, the home team would have to get there early, knock on Jim's garage door and take the equipment."

"We would start laying out fields. They weren't quite perfect, maybe 59 feet to first base, 75 feet to third," he chuckled."

"Back in the day, we were pretty good at baseball and pretty proud to be on a Madison team. We would go elsewhere to play and people had nice parks. We would say, 'why can't we do that? Why don't we have a sports complex?'"

"WMAN interviewed me when we were starting the park. They stopped me in my tracks in the interview when they asked why we needed it."

"We didn't really NEED it. The kids earned a good place to play. We had been pretty good playing on these fields which we also all mowed. If you hit a ball where the grass was higher, the better chance you had at scoring because you're fishing around trying to find it. There was no fence."

"When we were planning the park, I would drive around Madison looking for a location. I found ground on the back side of Jesse Beer where we could have four fields in a single location."

"The school board was hesitant as board members weren't as baseball oriented as myself and our other people. There was also the issue of a bar being located right up the road."

Miller recalled, "So, back in the day, Madison had eight teams in each division. We had our own leagues at that time and Ontario had six teams in the 10-under."

"Ontario grew but then they started to dwindle down and each one of us only had four teams left so we started playing each other all the time. Gary had a group and so did Joe Sansalone from Ontario."

Boyd said, "Back then, we had over 600 kids. We were huge."

"I started speaking with others from Madison who had attempted to start a youth park but they were running into all the challenges we were. The process was started but it only got so far."

"They soon realized you need money and they all backed off. I talked to all these people back then, which shows you how stupid I am because I kept going," said Boyd.

"If you never start, you never get anywhere. So, I tried to round-up some people to help."

"In 1983 and we had a school levy and some residents were looking into where money was spent in the district. Jim VanTilburg was running the summer thing and the school picked-up any extra expenses."

"Some of the retirees thought the school money should be kept for the school and now they were looking for people in the community that were active in the summer program that VanTilburg was doing."

"We rounded-up some of the people that played high school sports and I became the person for Wooster Heights. A classmate of mine, Charles Schmidt, who played with VanTilburg, was in Woodville so he became the representative there."

"So for each of the other schools, he just picked someone that's active around one of the elementary school fields. That group of people became the board of the summer program. So now, we were doing this in conjunction with the school."

"They didn't know if our group of people could get funding and make it work so the school said they would figure out how to help us out."

"We still needed somebody to head it up and none of the kids' fathers really wanted to head up the league. However, the fathers were willing to help with their own respective schools."

(Continued on Page 16)



MADISON COMMUNITY YOUTH PARK board members include Gary Boyd, Dave Miller, John Eswick, Steve Kanz and Cindy Townley, along with twelve others.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

●Madison Community Youth Park: The Field of Dreams

(Continued from Page 15)

So how did Boyd become board president?

"My best friend Charlie Schmidt appointed me," said Boyd. "So I was president from that point on."

"Through the years, dads left the board once their sons got to a point of no longer playing. So, I either replaced people in those other schools, or I got rid of the process of fathers leaving when their kids got too old."

"I felt that process did not help anything. We had Hatfields and McCoys: Madison-North and Madison-South, with the South Illinois Railroad tracks were the dividing line. That had to change. We went to just putting everybody in and mixing them all for a draft."

Gary's concept of uniting everyone seemed to work.

"It's amazing when you play ball with anybody and they're on your team, it doesn't matter where they came from."

"These kids started becoming teammates and friends at eight, nine and ten years old. That makes all our teams better."

"That was really the start, because we had kids from Madison South and Madison North come to the junior high, and it's the first time that they became classmates and teammates."

"We got rid of that old concept, because back then we were 12-under and 10-under. We didn't have instructional leagues."

"With the new way, when the kids got to the junior high, they all knew each other already."

"It just made a ton of difference for all our programs. I think that's one of the best things that ever happened from getting rid of the Madison-North and Madison-South scenario."

"We got the parents together too, which is huge."

Miller says, "Uniting the kids and parents was the one thing we wanted to do. It was all orchestrated for that reason."

"I actually played Cub Scout ball in 1961, and when I came to Madison they played pitch-ball."

"We officially broke ground on the complex in 1987 and started playing here in 1989. We were still playing on nine fields up until 1987."

As with any ball park, you can't have baseball without good grub, right? Cindy Townley runs the concession operations and has been on the board for 15-20 years. She is also a Madison graduate. She

works at Mifflin Elementary as the head cook.

"My whole family was involved with our local Burger King stores in the Mansfield area," said Townley.

At the ballpark, Cindy makes the sloppy-joes and chicken sandwiches in-house.

"We use all-beef Ball Park hot dogs because I wanted to keep the tradition that Chuck Parton had started," said Townley.

"Our 'Chucky-Dog' is a fan favorite. It's named after a long-time integral member, Chuck Parton, who was the general manager for the local Burger King stores. He passed years ago and he had a vested interest in seeing the vision of the park come to life. Chuck actually owned the land where the complex sits today."

"We hear great remarks from all the traveling teams that come around, comparing our concessions to other ball parks. They come here to eat. They say they don't have to pack as much food."

As you can see, it takes a group of committed people and long-time board members for a project as big as a sports complex. It surely doesn't hurt having a long-time dedicated group of people who still continue to improve the facility.

"All together, we have 17 members. That's how many emails go out. They may not be able to make every meeting, but their names are on the board."

Look for part two about the challenges of financing the field complex in an upcoming issue.



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HOMESERVICES

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS SHELBY VARSITY FOOTBALL • AUG. 22
WHIPPETS WIN 56-14 • PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS WOOSTER GIRLS TENNIS • AUG. 15

PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR MADISON TOWNSHIP

ZONING COMMISSION HEARING

A public hearing is scheduled for September 10, 2025, at 7:00 PM at the Madison Township Office in the meeting hall, 817 Expressview Drive, Mansfield, Ohio 44905. The purpose of this hearing is to review and issue a recommendation on the following Zoning Amendments:

Motion No. 1, REF: 800.5 #2 a. Travel Trailers and or Recreational Vehicles shall be permitted in any District provided that when not in use it is parked no closer to the front property line than the required minimum front yard setback line. No more than one travel trailer may be used as a residence by a visitor on a owned/occupied property by a Madison Township resident for a period of Thirty (30) days provided that the above conditions are met.

Motion No. 2, Changing zoning I-2 to R-3 on Cairns Rd. to Crall Rd. west of Bowman Rd. to Leppo Rd, including Stevens Ct and the property located NE of Bowman St.

The proposed zoning text and development plan/maps are available for inspection and review during regular business hours at the offices of the Madison Township Trustees, located at 817 Expressview Drive, Mansfield, Ohio 44905.

This Public Notice is required to be issued by the Madison Township Zoning Commission.

After the conclusion of the hearing, the matter will be put to a final vote by the Madison Township Trustees.

Leanna Rhodes
Fiscal Officer
Madison Twp., Richland County
Mansfield, OH 44905
(T-C 9-4 '25) 45L

PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS (ORC 3313.46)

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received at the office of the Treasurer, Madison Local School District, 1379 Grace Street Mansfield Ohio 44905 11:00 am local time, on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 and will be publicly opened and read aloud immediately thereafter for furnishing all material and performing all labor necessary for the High School Boiler Replacement Project according to the scope of work below. Any prospective bidder may also view the site of the work by calling 419-589-2600 during regular business hours.

The project consists of the following Scope of Work:

Design and install a fully functional heating system including the following:

- 4 – Lochinvar FTX850N-M9
- 1 – TH5 519A-1G150-143 plate and frame heat exchanger to create separate loop for boiler only
- 1 – Caleffi NA546100AM 4" flanged ASME air dirt magnetic separator 400 GPM max
- 1 – Caleffi 574151A backflow combination auto fill station
- All supply, return, and drain piping required for a fully functional system
- All intake and exhaust piping
- All warranty per Lochinvar specifications
- Permits and factory start up

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids or parts of any or all bids to wave any irregularities in the bids received which do not impair the competitive nature of the bidding process. The Board reserves the right to choose among alternative bids for different materials, methods, and systems if within local state and federal requirements. The Board also reserves the right to seek clarification of bids after opening.

By Order of the Board of Education
of the Madison Local School District
Bradd Stevens, Treasurer
(T-C 8-28, 9-4 '25) 51L

LEGAL NOTICE

The following is a succinct summary of the legislation adopted by the Council of the City of Ontario, at their regular meeting held on August 20, 2025.

The complete text of this Ordinance may be viewed and copies obtained at the Office of the Clerk of Council, Ontario Municipal Building, 555 Stumbo Road, Ontario, Ohio, during regular business hours.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-08 – A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO KYLE WEBB FOR HIS SERVICE OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS TO THE CITY OF ONTARIO, OHIO.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-17 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING WAGES AND SALARIES FOR NON-COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT EMPLOYEES OF THIS CITY, REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 24-30, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Cathy VanAuker
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, OH
(T-C 8-28, 9-4 '25) 26L

Ohio Space Week will be celebrated

Organizations across the state are joining together to celebrate Ohio Space Week, Sept. 8–13. From the Wright brothers' first flight to pioneering advancements in space exploration, Ohio has been at the forefront of aerospace innovation for generations.

Ohio Space Week celebrates these deep-rooted contributions to the aeronautics and space industries, highlighting the people, institutions, and businesses that continue to shape the future of flight and exploration. Throughout the week, events will showcase how space technology impacts everything from national security to transportation and scientific discovery.

Students, professionals, and space enthusiasts can engage in hands-on activities, panel discussions, and networking opportunities throughout the week. Join us to celebrate Ohio's aerospace legacy, past, present, and future!

Sept. 8–10: American Astronautical Society's Glenn Space Technology Symposium at Case Western Reserve University — A conference of top industry leaders, professionals, and students featuring timely conversations focusing on the technological developments that propel us into the future of space exploration. Enjoy and engage in discussions on a variety of topics including propulsion, power, technological innovation, workforce development, and more. Key-note speakers will expand on the current state and future of the aerospace industry and valuable networking opportunities are built in throughout the event.

For more information and to register, visit <https://astronautical.org/glenn>.

Sept. 11: Ohio Space Forum at NASA's Glenn Research Center — Leaders in aerospace, government, academia, and research will gather to explore how Ohio is leading the way by enabling life and operations in space. This year's forum will spotlight cutting-edge research and development happening across Ohio; advancements in nuclear electric and nuclear thermal propulsion; key challenges and initiatives from the U.S. Space Force; workforce needs across the space industry; and the application of advanced materials in space environments. For more information and to register visit Orbitohio.com.

Sept. 12–13: Discovery Days at Great Lakes Science Center — Cleveland is home to NASA's Glenn Research Center, the only NASA center in the Midwest and a vital contributor to nearly every NASA mission. Join us for an immersive experience as NASA Glenn works to transform aviation, revolutionize space exploration, and inspire new discoveries for the benefit of all. Learn first-hand about NASA's major missions and cutting-edge technology during NASA Discovery Days. Designed to bring NASA and NASA Glenn outside the gate, attendees can expect virtual and augmented simulations to take a supersonic flight and venture into outer space. They will be able to meet real NASA stars, engineers, scientists, and special guests, who make the seemingly impossible, possible!

This event is free and open to the public from 10 am to 5 pm.

For more information on Ohio Space Week visit GreatScience.com/OhioSpaceWeek.

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