TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com 03.05.26

Photos By Jeff Hoffer

A BIRD BANDING event with Steve McKee was held at Gorman Nature Center on Feb. 28. Birds are captured and a metal bracelet with a unique code is added to their leg. This allows the bird to be identified in the future and its movements can be tracked. During the free program, participants watched birds be taken out of nets to be identified and banded.

Reverse job fair returns March 24

The traditional job interview is getting a high-energy makeover. On March 24, from 10 am to noon, Richland County high schoolers won't just be looking for jobs, they'll be auditioning the workforce of the future at EmployMEpalooza 2026.

Hosted at the Richland Academy of the Arts, 75 N. Walnut St., Mansfield, this high-impact "reverse job fair" flips the script on hiring. Local sophomores, juniors and seniors will host their own displays, pitching their unique skills, creative portfolios and career aspirations to employers.

Spearheaded by the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development and OhioMeansJobs (OMJ) Richland County, this event bridges the gap between local classroom talent and industry needs.

Mentors and faculty are currently coaching students to build professional resumes and curate table displays. Employers can scout for seasonal help, part-time staff, interns or full-time graduates.

The event is free for both employers and students. Registration is required at https://portal.richlandareachamber.com/events/details/employmepalooza-2026-employer-registration-6398

Leadership transition announced by Richland Area Chamber

The Richland Area Chamber and Economic Development announced that Ellen Heinz, president and CEO, has submitted her resignation and will be leaving the organization in late March 2026.

"We're extremely thankful for the way Ellen has led and cared for this organization," said Jon Pierce, board chair. "She has done meaningful work here with strong results. From helping advance regional redevelopment efforts to strengthening key partnerships and supporting the growth of our team, Ellen has helped move the Chamber, Richland Community Development Group, and Mansfield Richland Area Educational Foundation forward during a season of real momentum."

Heinz' decision is driven by family considerations, and the board expressed its respect and support for that choice. While the organization is sad to see her leave, it is grateful for her leadership over the past two years and for the thoughtful way she is approaching the transition to ensure continued stability and success.

"The Chamber is in a strong place right now," Pierce added. "We have an exceptional team, an engaged board and continued momentum across our programs, partnerships and economic development efforts."

"It is with a heavy heart that I am leaving, but I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve this organization," said Heinz. "I am thankful for the support of our team, members, board leadership, community partners, and elected officials. It has truly been an honor to be part of Team Richland County."

The executive committee, working closely with the full board, is actively guiding a leadership transition focused on stability and continuity, while supporting both staff and members.

Day-to-day operations will continue without interruption, and the Chamber remains fully engaged in serving its members and advancing economic development throughout Richland County. Additional updates will be shared as next steps are finalized.

The Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development is the leading business advocacy and economic development organization in North Central Ohio.

Mansfield writer will speak at "Winter Author Experience"

Mansfield author Mark Sebastian Jordan will be speaking and signing books at the Bucyrus Public Library at 6 pm on Tuesday, March 24.

He will be presenting a slide show, taking questions about his works. Refreshments will be provided.

The second annual "Winter Author Experience" event is free and open to the public and sponsored by the Friends of the Bucyrus Public Library and the Friends of the Galion Public Library.

Jordan has written six non-fiction books including *The Ceely Rose Murders at Malabar Farm*, about the case of a developmentally disabled killer; *The Witch of Mansfield*, about the eccentric Phoebe Wise; *Get Busy Living,* a collection of behind-the-scenes stories of the making of the *Shawshank Redemption* movie; *In These Haunted Hills*, haunts and folklore of the central Ohio Highlands region; and his newest book, *The Maplehurst Murder* about the unsolved killing of Miranda Bricker in Mount Vernon in 1905. This latest book is due to be out in mid-March and will be available for purchasing at the event as well.

He has also worked as an award-winning journalist, poet and playwright for over 30 years and is regularly published internationally. He has been seen on such television shows as *Mysteries at the Museum*, *Ghost Hunters* and *My Ghost Story*.

Reservations are not necessary but seating is limited.

THE ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL Drug-Free Seniors visited Stingel Elementary recently.

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

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The Entertainment Examiner

— By Ian Stumbo —

The *Scream* franchise has been going strong since 1996 and the seventh installment, *Scream 7*, just raked in more money than all of the rest of them.

Neve Campbell returns as Sidney Prescott. She is raising her teenage daughter, Tatum, while trying to live a normal life with her husband, played by Joel McHale. Soon, a vengeful Ghostface killer is back and out for Sidney's family.

Original writer/director Kevin Williamson returns and brings a great deal of nostalgia to this movie, to good and bad effect. There are some pretty effective kills and Campbell is great back in the lead role. Courtney Cox returns as reporter Gale Weathers and Mason Gooding and Jasmine Savoy Brown return from the previous sequels.

However, this movie has become the worst reviewed of the bunch. I, personally, did not believe it was as bad as many are saying though the last half of the movie was very lackluster including the anti-climatic reveal of the killers and their identities.

The final chase on the empty streets of Woodsboro is not as interesting as the busy streets of New York City. Also, isolating Sidney and her daughter for the last half is not as much fun as the whole cast being involved.

While *Scream 7* is not as bad as many are saying it still ranks near the bottom. Neve Campbell and the cast do a great job though some obvious scares, decisions by the characters and choices by the writers make this one not as memorable as many of the others.

Free "Lunch and Learn" event scheduled

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging Inc., and Knox County Job and Family Services will host an informative community event focused on keeping older adults safe.

This is a free "Lunch and Learn" for professionals who work with or serve older adults, the public, family, friends or caregivers of older adults age 60 and older. The program will focus on Protecting the Older Adults of Knox County.

A portion of the event will include learning how to recognize real estate red flags that could put older adults at risk as well as an overview of local programs and resources to help keep older adults safe as they age.

The program will be held Friday, March 20, from 11 am to 1 pm at First Church of the Nazarene, 807 Coshocton Ave., Mount Vernon.

This event is free to attend, however, registration is required by Thursday, March 5 at https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/taxsajm. For information contact Lori at 567-247-6477.

News Briefs

Ontario UMC, 3540 Park Ave West, Ontario, will host exercise/walking led by an instructor for various age groups every Thursday at 10 am. This is open to the community at no charge. This will include chair yoga, dance exercise, resistance bands and walking

★

The 20th Annual Road Apple Run 5K Road Race will be held Saturday, March 7, at Crestview Schools, 1575 Rt. 96, Ashland.

The Road Apple Run will be an out and back 5K race on a scenic country road in northern Richland County. Bordered by several Amish farms, the course is mostly flat with some slight upgrades.

Race day registration begins at 8:30 am in the commons area of Crestview High School. The race begins at 10 am.

Online and printed registration forms can be found at https://sites.google.com/site/roadapple5k/

First and second place will be awarded in each male and female age class. Classes are 10 and under, 11–12, 13–15, 16–18, 19–29, 30–39, 40–49, 50–59, 60–69 and 70 and older. All proceeds will support the school's cross country and track teams.

★

Franklin Township Firefighter's Association will host a pancake breakfast on Saturday, March 14, from 7–10 am. The breakfast will be served at the fire station, 505 Boyce Rd., Shelby.

Baseball and softball sign-ups will also be held at the event.

★

The Savannah Lions Club will serve monthly breakfasts on Saturdays, March 7 and April 11, from 6:30–10 am at Savannah Town Hall, 12 S. Main St., Savannah. Donations are accepted to benefit the Savannah Fire Department, youth activities and scholarships.

A free community lunch will be held March 18 and April 15.

For information about the Lions and details on the monthly community lunch schedules visit https://www.facebook.com/groups/834118952472158/

★

The Lexington Area Senior Citizens Inc., invites those 55 and older to attend meetings the third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 am at Der Dutchman, Rt. 97, Bellville. Cost is $17 for the meal, with an additional $2 for pie.

The next meal will be March. 18, and will include chicken. Those attending are encouraged to wear green.

For information visit the Facebook page at Lexington Area Senior Citizens (LASC). Dues are $10 per year.

★

Fish fry dinners will be held at American Legion Post 16, 747 S. Main St., Mansfield, (rear of Grotto Hall) on the third Friday of each month starting at 5 pm, until gone.

The dinner will include all you can eat Alaskan pollock, fresh cut fries, coleslaw or pea salad and dessert. Cost is $12. for adults and $7 for children under 12.

Chicken tender dinners are also available, but not all you can eat. Cost is $9 for adults for a three-piece meal and $7 for children under 12 for a two-piece meal. Carry-out is available.

★

All Souls Unitarian Universalist of Bellville, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Rainbow Eagle on Sunday, March 8, at 10:30 am. The subject will be "About Today & Future Prophecies From Indigenous Cultures." For information visit www.allsoulsuuohio.org.

★

The second annual Spring Craft Show to support LifeWise Madison will be held Saturday, March 7 from 9 am to 2 pm at Trinity Grace Fellowship, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield. Numerous vendors and crafters will participate. Donations will be welcome at the door.

For more information or vendor inquiries, contact Pam Adkins at pamelaadkins@lifewise.org or call or text 567-274-8532.

★

Richland County Mobility Management, in collaboration with the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc., Richland County Children's Services and Richland Newhope, will host a free community walk for all ages on Wednesday, March 18 at the Ontario Center (former Richland Mall) from 10 am to noon. Participants can stop by anytime during the event and walk as many laps as they like.

Participants can enjoy door prize drawings, community resource tables and free snacks.

★

The City of Ontario March meeting schedule includes:

March 11, 1 pm, Civil Service Commission; and 4 pm, Planning Commission

March 18, 6:15 pm, Caucus; 7 pm, Council

Meetings will be held at 555 Stumbo Rd., Ontario.

★

A special meeting of the Ontario Board of Education will be held in the Ontario High School Library, 467 Shelby-Ontario Rd., Ontario, on Thursday, March 12, at 6 pm. The meeting will be to discuss the development of tax policy with Rockmill Financial.

★

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, March 28 and 29. Acceptable items include steel and aluminum cans, crushed milk jugs, detergent bottles, plastic bottles with number 1 or 2 on the bottom, broken down cardboard, all papers included with the newspaper but no other magazines or paper. Please remove caps from bottles and rinse all containers well.

★

Ponds can create a sense of serenity, a focal point and a source of recreation on a property. They can also be used as a source of drinking water, fire suppression and watering source for crops and livestock. Many think creating and owning a pond is as simple as digging a hole and letting it fill up with water. There are a lot of factors that must be considered before installing a pond including how to stock and manage a pond.

Those with questions about a new or existing pond can attend a free pond clinic on Monday, March 16 at 6 pm at the Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Ave., Mansfield. The Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (RSWCD) is hosting the clinic with Steve Fender of Fenders Fish Hatchery. Register for the clinic at https://richlandswcd.net/event/pond-clinic-6/. For more information contact wallace.matt@richlandswcd.net or 419-747-8687.

March of Prayer underway at Richland County churches

The Mansfield area's March of Prayer is a month-long, city-wide initiative centered on prayer, revival and collaboration.

It is one of the first major efforts under Godsfield, a nonprofit created to help put "feet to the vision" of prayer for Mansfield by unifying local churches under the name of Jesus.

Throughout the month of March, 31 different churches will host one night of worship.

Momentum for the March of Prayer has been building since December, when seven Mansfield churches participated in consecutive revival services called Fan the Flame.

The schedule includes March 3, Holy Trinity Lutheran; 4, Journey Life; 5, TBD; 6, Fusion Lex; 7, First English Lutheran; 8, Fusion Madison; 9, TBD; 10, Kingdom Grace Fellowship; 11, Oasis of Love; 12, The Arc; 13, The Way (at Freedom Ridge); 14, Foursquare Gospel Church; 15, Potter's House; 16, Mansfield Alliance Church; 17, TBD; 18, Avenue Church; 19, The River Church; 20, Belmont Community; 21, First UMC/Jesus Outreach; 22, Open Bible; 23, Latter Rain; 24, Paradise; 25, Abundant Life; 26, TBD; 27, Gracepoint Lexington; 28, TBD; 29, MIMA; 30, Southside Christian; and 31, Welcome Home Fest.

The March of Prayer will conclude on March 31 with a collaborative worship gathering hosted by The Welcome Home Fest, a partner of Godsfield. The location for that final night will be announced as plans are finalized. A full, updated calendar of host churches and locations is available online.

Organizers say the unity formed through Godsfield is already bearing fruit. Monthly Brown Bag Lunches have resumed, bringing pastors and ministry leaders together on the fourth Thursday of each month to continue building relationships and encouraging collaboration.

Additional city-wide efforts are already in motion, including the National Day of Prayer Parade on May 7, followed by a large community worship gathering known as the Festival of Hope.

Those interested in learning more, participating, or staying up to date on upcoming events can visit www.godsfield.org or follow Godsfield Mansfield at facebook.com/godsfieldmansfield.

Church Directory

All Souls Unitarian Universalist
25 Church St., Bellville
419-886-3497 • www.allsoulsuuohio.org
10:30 am Service and Sunday School
Adult RE Book Club (quarterly)

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 am Monday Morning Bible Study

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.

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
2010 Park Avenue West, Mansfield
(At Hope Lutheran Next to Drug Mart)
419-522-2813 • www.stjohnsmansfield.org
contact@stjohnmansfield.org
Pastor Faith Proietti • 11 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

Trinity Grace Fellowship
1592 Grace St., Mansfield
419-589-5890 • trinitygracefellowship.org
Pastor Larry Carnes
9:30 am Sunday Worship • 11 am Sunday School
Bible Study Mondays 2 pm

G & M Body & Paint Shop
1689 West Fourth St., Ontario • 419-529-2747

Wappner Funeral Home
Mansfield • Ontario • Ashland • 419-522-5211

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Anthony Tom Fanello, February 18
Craig Allyne Riggenbach, February 19
Janet Lee Bloom, February 22
Sandra Kay Tackett, February 22
Walter "Merle" Yoder Jr., February 22
Evelyn Marie Conners, February 25
Floyd Benjamin Adkins, February 26
Love Amstutz-Hays, February 26
Ernestine Obney, February 26
Deborah Lynn Tyree, February 27

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Pioneer student earns prestigious BEE Award at OhioHealth Shelby

Pioneer Career and Technology Center is proud to recognize student Emily Christopherson for receiving the prestigious BEE Award at OhioHealth Shelby, an honor recognizing exceptional support staff who demonstrate compassion, dedication, and outstanding patient care.

Emily, a Medical Technologies student from Ontario High School, works at OhioHealth Shelby through Pioneer's Early Job Placement opportunity. She was nominated after a patient and his wife shared their positive experience during a leadership visit, following the patient's transition to Shelby after a lengthy hospital stay in another hospital.

The patient's wife recognized Emily for her kindness and encouragement, describing her as pleasant, friendly, and eager to help. Emily lifted the patient's spirits during a difficult day, and the family shared that her warmth and attentiveness gave them peace of mind knowing their loved one was receiving exceptional care.

In a statement from OhioHealth Shelby, leadership shared:

"Emily is outstanding in her connections with people, and her warmth and friendliness put everyone at ease. OhioHealth Shelby is very lucky to have a Pioneer student working for us who shows such eagerness and willingness to learn. Emily's future is bright, whatever path she chooses."

The BEE Award recognizes support staff who make a meaningful difference in the lives of patients and families.

Pioneer Career and Technology Center values its partnership with OhioHealth Shelby and many other regional employers, providing students with real-world workplace experience while supporting local workforce development. Emily's achievement reflects the impact of these partnerships on students, employers, and the community.

"We are incredibly proud of Emily and grateful for our continued partnership with OhioHealth Shelby," said Pioneer supervisor, Mr. Kevin Vargyas. "Experiences like this demonstrate how Pioneer students are making a positive difference in our community while building successful futures."

Pioneer Career and Technology Center remains dedicated to connecting students with career pathways that lead to employment, continued education and service to the community.

Dawn Berkshire RN; Nicki Scott MSN, RN, C-EFM Director of Nursing; Pioneer student Emily Christopherson; and Shannon Thrush MBA, BSN, RN Administrative Nurse Manager.

Emily Christopherson with her OhioHealth Bee Award

Grant opportunity will address social isolation and loneliness in seniors

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. is offering grant funding to support community efforts aimed at reducing social isolation and loneliness among Richland County residents age 60 and older. This opportunity is funded by the Richland County Senior Services Levy.

Older adults face an increased risk of social isolation and loneliness due to factors such as living alone, the loss of loved ones, chronic health conditions, and sensory impairments. These grants are intended to engage established, local organizations that bring community members together in meaningful ways.

The goal of this grant is for local organizations to expand existing programs and services to be more inclusive of at-risk older adults.

Successful applicants will demonstrate the capacity to incorporate older adults into existing or planned public activities, show the ability to provide a timely intake response and screening process for individuals expressing interest in participation, demonstrate the ability to serve referrals from the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging and other community organizations and administer required pre- and post-intervention screenings to determine the appropriateness of initial participation and to measure participant impact.

Awards of up to $10,000 are available per project with no matching funds required. The funding period is April 1–Dec. 31, 2026. No subcontracting is allowed without prior approval.

Applications are available at www.aaa5ohio.org/events/social-isolation-grant-opportunity-/

The application deadline is March 13, by 4 pm. For additional information or assistance with the application contact Trae Turner at 567-241-8923 or tturner@aaa5ohio.org.

Ohio Beef Youth Council hosts second Stockmanship Contest

Youth from across the state put their prepared speaking skills to the test during the Ohio Beef Youth Council (OBYC) Prepared Speech Contest on Saturday, Feb. 21, at the new Multispecies Animal Learning Complex on the The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences campus.

The Prepared Speech Contest is the second of five contests available to youth through the OBYC Stockmanship Program, sponsored by AgCredit. The primary objective of the Prepared Speech Contest is to give youth an opportunity to refine their public speaking skills while emphasizing the importance of communication, poise and proper industry terminology.

Contestants selected topics they were passionate about and delivered speeches that were evaluated on language, voice, delivery and overall knowledge of the subject matter.

The contest consisted of four age divisions: Beginner, Junior, Intermediate and Senior. More than 20 exhibitors participated. The top five individuals in each division are listed below:

Beginner Division Overall High Individual, Tyson Arnett, Richland County; Second High Individual, Ashley Shaver, Medina County

Junior Division Overall High Individual, Jordan Hartschuh, Crawford County; Second High Individual, Natalie Atterholt, Ashland County; Third High Individual, Sadie Hoffman, Fairfield County; Fourth High Individual, Dwight Hartschuh, Crawford County; Fifth High Individual, Claire Atterholt, Ashland County

Intermediate Division Overall High Individual, Grace Cade, Hancock County

Second High Individual, Lilly Gahler, Ottawa County; Third High Individual, Griffin Gahler, Ottawa County

Senior Division Overall High Individual, Emma Lewis, Lorain County; Second High Individual, Kelsey Kaeser, Ashland County

The contests are supported by the Ohio Cattlemen's Association and the Ohio Beef Council. These contests promote industry knowledge, hands-on learning and leadership development among Ohio's next generation of beef producers and advocates.

Registration is open through April 4 for the next two contests — Skill-a-thon and Salesmanship — which will be held April 18 in Columbus. Overall OBYC Stockmanship awards will be presented in each of the four age divisions at the end-of-year OBYC celebration event planned for June 5 in Columbus, Ohio.

For more information about the Ohio Beef Youth Council and OBYC Stockmanship contests, visit www.ohiocattle.org.

Study accepting participants

The North End Community Improvement Collaborative, Richland County Transit and Richland County Regional Planning have teamed up to conduct a transportation insecurity research study sponsored by the University of Minnesota.

These local organizations are recruiting community members to participate in this study. The Mobility, Access, and Transportation Insecurity (MATI) study aims to understand barriers to transportation as well as the impact of transportation services on people's quality of life within Mansfield.

To study the effects of the targeted program for addressing transportation insecurity, this analysis includes data collection before and after the transportation service (a new early morning and late evening Richland County Transit bus route).

All participants are expected to complete an in-person travel behavior survey with Data Collectors. A smaller number of participants will also be invited to complete a qualitative interview.

Participants will be compensated $50 for successful completion of the survey. Participants selected for the interview will be compensated an additional $50.

Participants must be 18 to 64 years of age, currently working or looking for work, live in Richland County, experience transportation challenges and live within the study area. Visit https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id = lqPDPi5VbkaHVxbObL7Oag-6Ag_y1t2JBt8Gl339gXnlUOE03NEJZSDFFTDZWWERTOENWSDd-NNlgwOC4u to check availability.

Photo By Mark Shutt

Local band announces tour dates

Bellville area band, Yellow No. 5, has released a single "Be Mine" while announcing a tour.

From Rust to Dust, Yellow No. 5's first run of the year, kicks-off regionally in late March, with Ohio shows. The schedule includes Ashland on March 20, Loudonville on March 21 and Lakewood (The on March 22.

Their 16-stop tour will land them in Texas after covering 11 states in key cities such as Detroit, Chicago, Des Moines, Grand Island, Denver, Saint George, Las Vegas, Hollywood, San Diego, Glendale, Dallas and Austin.

"Be Mine" was recorded at Sonic Lounge Studio in Columbus, by chief engineer, Joe Viers.

Band members are Zach Reeder (drums/vocals), Nick Harris (bass/vocals) and Jeremy Lucas (guitar/vocals). They will be back on the road in May with Scotty Austin's, Rise Against the Monsters Tour, covering venues in Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Additionally, dates for a June tour are nearing completion and will be announced soon.

By August, Yellow No. 5 will have already performed more than 100 shows that include amusement parks, prominent clubs, an island and again for this year, The Whisky A Go Go.

"This is the busiest year in the band's entire history. We've never played this many shows in this many states," said, Jeremy Lucas.

This spike in the band's itinerary inarguably descends from a mix of strong DIY success mixed with their recent signing to M7 Entertainment. Earlier this year, Yellow No. 5's team expanded by adding a Grammy affiliated public relations company (Present PR), a legal firm (Delgado Entertainment Law) and a national promotional company (The Artist Cooperative).

For a complete list of shows, tickets, merchandise and ways to follow the band visit www.YellowNo5.net

ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL students in global foods class have been learning about Italian culture and cuisine. They wrapped-up their unit making spaghetti bolognese.

OSU-M to celebrate nation's 250th birthday with '1776' production

The Ohio State University is celebrating the nation's 250th birthday with a special performance of the musical *1776* at the Mansfield campus, one of many America250 activities within the university.

Adapted from a book by the same title, *1776* captures the drama and spectacle of what our founding fathers experienced as they decided to declare their independence from England.

The Theatre Program at Ohio State Mansfield is working with The Mansfield Playhouse to offer six performances, March 7–9 in Founders Auditorium, and March 13-15 at the Mansfield Playhouse.

The musical follows John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson as they attempt to convince the members of the Second Continental Congress to vote for independence and sign the Declaration. The only guarantees are drama, humor and lots of contention.

"The characters do a fair amount of arguing and bickering as they debate whether to declare intendance," said Heidi Ankrum, stage manager. "This is a good portrayal of what our forefathers experienced as they debated a decision that would ultimately lead to revolution."

The musical involves cast and crew from campus, as well as the broader campus community.

"This is a well-timed production because it is the 250th anniversary of the United States," said John Erme, an actor from Canton who is playing Roger Sherman.

This is Erme's first time acting, although the retired history buff says he watches 1776 annually and decided to get more involved. His family and friends are excited as well, and he is hoping as many as 30 of his own guests will attend the live performance.

"This play is both funny and serious, and you will learn something that will stick with you," he said.

DeShaun Williams is a freshman from Cleveland majoring in mechanical engineering. He will play John Dickinson – an attorney and politician from Philadelphia.

"As actors, we get to experience a lot of realistic conversation and we can really feel the presence of how it would have been in this period," said Williams. "Guests will get a good look at how our Declaration of Independence actually came to happen."

Performances at Ohio State Mansfield's Founders Hall will be held March 7, at 7:30 pm; March 8, at 2:30 pm; and March 9, at 7:30 pm.

Performances at the Mansfield Playhouse will be held March 13–14, at 7:30 pm; and March 15, at 2:30 pm.

This production is supported by the Ohio America250 Commission and Ohio State's America250 and is directed by Doug Wertz, artistic director of The Mansfield Playhouse.

All tickets for *1776* are $10 and $12 through https://www.mansfieldplayhouse.com or by calling 419-522-2883. Tickets are also available at the box office one hour prior to each performance. For more information contact fahey.9@osu.edu or 419-755-4276.

Pronto Pizza & Coffee serves up family, flavor and community pride

By Traci Little

MANSFIELD — At Pronto Pizza & Coffee, great food is only part of the story. What truly sets this Madison Township pizzeria and coffee shop apart is the family behind it — and the deep roots they've planted in the community they proudly call home.

Located at 914 Ashland Rd., in the Madison area, Pronto Pizza & Coffee is a locally owned, family-run business built on more than 50 years of combined experience in pizza making and coffee craftsmanship. The story begins with patriarch Charles, who started working in the pizza industry at just 16 years old and spent decades perfecting his craft before passing that passion on to his children.

Today, Charles works alongside his four children — Ashley, Katelyn, EmmaLee, and Spencer — blending first- and second-generation knowledge into everything they serve. From hand-crafted pizzas to freshly brewed coffee, each item reflects a commitment to quality, tradition, and care.

"Our brand isn't just pizza and coffee," the family shared. "It's community, sacrifice, and a lot of love."

That philosophy was put to the test when the family purchased the building that now houses Pronto — just before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Amid loss, rising construction costs, and unexpected challenges, the family persevered. One year later, they celebrated their first anniversary in business, grateful for the overwhelming support shown by Madison and Mansfield residents.

Pronto's menu offers something for everyone, from classic favorites to creative new offerings. Breakfast is served daily starting at 8 am, catering to busy professionals and early risers looking for a convenient, quality start to the day. Lunch and dinner feature fresh ingredients, bold flavors, and reliable on-time service — whether dining in, carrying out, or ordering delivery.

Recently, Pronto introduced its Brisket Double Feature, quickly becoming a customer favorite. The smoky brisket pizza and hearty brisket sub showcase the kitchen's willingness to push flavor boundaries while staying true to comfort-food roots. Daily specials and rotating menu additions keep things exciting for regulars and newcomers alike.

Beyond the food, Pronto's team plays a vital role in the welcoming atmosphere. The family credits their staff as the heartbeat of the business — a group that brings energy, care, and pride to every shift.

The Pronto family are fourth- and fifth-generation Madison residents and alumni, deeply invested in the area they serve. "The best part of family," they say, "is you — the customers."

Those interested in joining that family atmosphere can also explore employment opportunities, as Pronto Pizza & Coffee continues to grow and expand its team, at https://getprontos.com/join-our-team/.

With authentic recipes, strong local roots, and a genuine love for the community, Pronto Pizza & Coffee is more than a place to grab a slice — it's a reflection of perseverance, passion and hometown pride.

Pronto Pizza & Coffee can be contacted at 419-589-7777 with online and app ordering available.

Shelter has 24-hour helpline available

The Domestic Violence Shelter in Mansfield has a 24/7 hotline available at 419-774-5840.

Caller safety and well-being are a priority and the hotline is a confidential resource for everyone impacted by violence.

The line is not just for survivors. Any family member, friend or loved one of a survivor who needs support, guidance,or someone to talk to, are invited to call the hotline.

The Shelter now has positions open. They are posted at Indeed.com.

The Shelter can also be contacted at shelter@thedvshelter.com.

ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL FCCLA members competed at the Lorain County JVS on Feb. 28. Kennedy Sapp and Aadi Kightlinger competed in the regional competition with Kennedy Sapp earning gold in event management and Aadi Kightlinger earning a silver in interpersonal communication.

Galion library's Miss Nancy and Waddles will entertain children

Local author "Miss Nancy" Foss and her trusted friend goose puppet, "Waddles" will be reading her recently published book *Toast and Jam at the Library* to children and signing books in the Galion Public Library community room at 6 pm on Thursday, March 26.

This event is free and open to the public. Those attending are encouraged to purchase the book online at Amazon.com. and bring it in for signing. Refreshments will also be provided.

Miss Nancy has also completed a second book, *Caution! Goose Inside!* This book may also be available for purchase before this event.

Foss has been a children's librarian at the Galion Public Library since 2015.

Reservations are not necessary but seating is limited. Call the library for more information at 419-468-3203.

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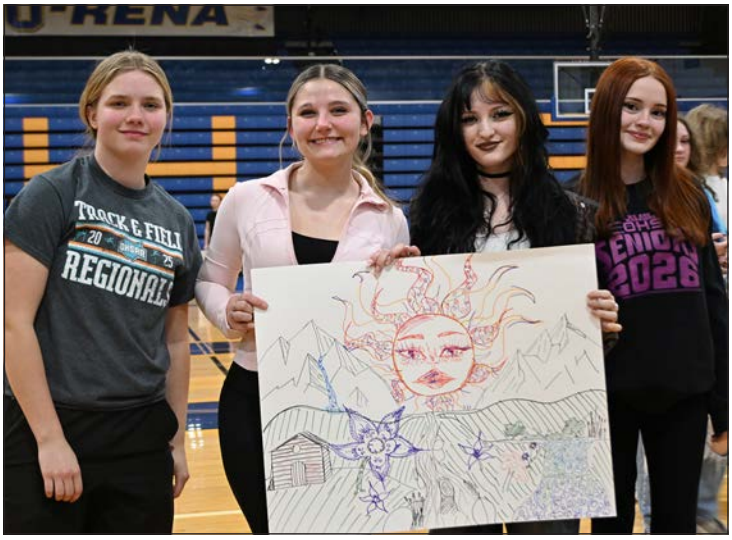

ONTARIO WARRIOR LEADERSHIP sophomores sponsored the annual Winter Games, a week-long competition between the classes. During lunches, the classes participated in the Oreo Cookie Face Race, Lunch Limbo and Hot Wing Challenge. Then, on Friday, there was an epic battle during an assembly featuring Grocery Bag Grab, Pizza Box Takedown, Class Creation, Teacher Trivia, and Cluck and Cover. The Class of 2026 won and took the coveted GOAT trophy.

KCCC students qualify for Business Professionals of America National Competition

Knox County Career Center (KCCC) students in CollegeU-Business, Computer Network Technology, Digital Media & Software Development and Pre-Professional Mentorship competed in the Business Professionals of America (BPA) State competition held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus on Feb. 23.

The BPA State Leadership Conference Awards Ceremony was held Feb. 24, where 20 KCCC students were recognized as Top 10 finishers in the state of Ohio. Of those 20, eight students qualified for the BPA National Leadership Conference, which will be held in Nashville, TN, May 6–10. To qualify, students in individual events had to place in the top eight, and students in team events had to place in the top three.

KCCC had eight students who qualified for the BPA National Leadership Conference. Sierra Shields (CollegeU-Business) finished in first place in Business Law and Ethics. Elizabeth Swartzentruber (CollegeU-Business) finished in second place in Advanced Spreadsheet Applications. Kale Oswalt (CollegeU-Business) finished in second place in Extemporaneous Speech. Logan Woolverton (Computer Network Technology) finished in second place in Server Administration Using Microsoft. Peyton Blakesley (CollegeU-Business) finished in fourth place in Integrated Office Applications. Ethan Kapper (Computer Network Technology) finished in fifth place in Server Administration Using Microsoft. Blake Spittle (Computer Network Technology) placed fifth in Computer Security. Zachary Taylor (CollegeU-Business) placed sixth in Banking and Finance.

KCCC also had twelve other students who placed in the Top 10 but did not qualify for nationals. Gabrielle Beck, Brooklyn Cook, and Jocelyn Scarbury (CollegeU-Business) finished in fourth place in the Small Business Management Team. Maggie Bond, Layla Joyner, Nevaeh Ward, and Eve Wells (Pre-Professional Mentorship) finished in sixth place for the Global Marketing Team. Isaac Danzuso, Gavin DeChant, Gage Kearns, and Kyle Maslowski (Computer Network Technology) finished in eighth place for the Network Design Team. Myla Miller (Digital Media & Software Development) finished in tenth place in Fundamental Desktop Publishing.

"We are extremely proud of our students who competed at the BPA State Leadership Conference. Knox County was under a Level 2 Snow Emergency, and KCCC was closed. Thank you to the parents who transported their own students down to Columbus to compete," said Kathy Greenich, KCCC Superintendent.

Greenich added, "We'd also like to thank Tina Krosse, Ohio BPA State Advisor, and Patrick Schultz, BPA's National CEO, for making it possible for the rest of our students to compete remotely. Without their help, our students would not have been able to compete for a chance to qualify for nationals."

BPA is a career technical student organization that allows competition in Finance, Business Administration, Management Information Systems, Digital Communications and Design, Management, Marketing and Communications and Health Administration.

Pond fish sale orders being taken

The Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD) has announced orders are being accepted for the Pond Fish Sale until April 2. Customers may order Bluegill, Yellow Perch, Largemouth Bass, Fathead Minnows, Channel Catfish, Hybrid Bluegill, Redear Sunfish and White Amur. Pond conditioner, optimal fish food and plastic bags and ties may also be ordered.

Orders may be placed online at https://richlandswcd.net/event/pond-fish-orders-due-2/ or at the March 16 Pond Clinic. A minimum order of $30 is required.

All orders must be picked up April 10 from 8:30–10 am at the Richland County Fairgrounds Horse Barn. Customers should bring appropriate containers to transport their fish safely. Five-gallon buckets work well but must have an unscented poly liner to ensure fish have enough oxygen during transport. Customers should also have their containers filled one-third full with the pond water the fish will be transferred into.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS MADISON VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL SEMI-FINALS · FEB. 25
MINUTEMEN WIN 51– 42 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS MADISON VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL SEMI-FINALS · FEB. 25
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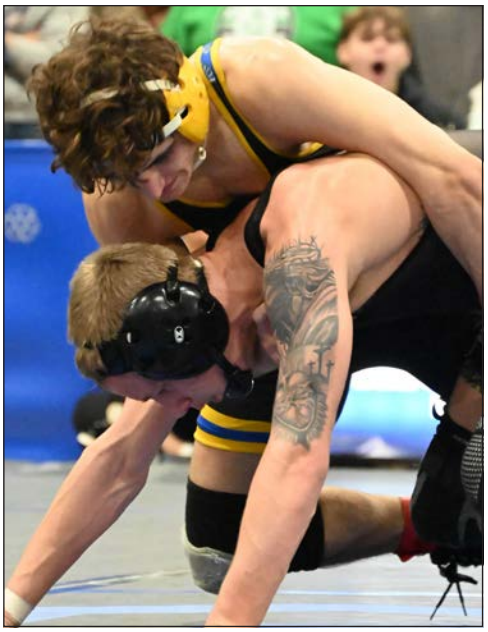
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING · FEB. 21

Warrior Placers (Team 3rd):
Ohl: Champion
McGinty: Champion
Gavin Miller: Champion
Turnbaugh: Runner-Up
Maglott: Runner-Up
Jimmy Unger: Third
Hunter Miller: Fourth
Rhinehart: Fifth
Mason Unger & Miles Ginn: Sixth



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL STATE SEND-OFF FOR SWIM & DIVE TEAM

Classifieds

LEGAL NOTICE

The following is a succinct summary of the legislation adopted by the Council of the City of Ontario, at their regular meeting held on February 18, 2026.

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. 26-02 – A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE 2026 ONTARIO SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN, A STRATEGY TO IMPROVE WALKING AND BIKING FOR RESIDENTS WITH INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROGRAMMING, WHILE INCREASING SAFETY, HEALTH, AND EQUITABLE MOBILITY FOR ALL.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-03 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE- SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR COMPETITIVE BIDS AND AWARD A CONTRACT FOR THE 2026 CITY OF ONTARIO PAVING PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Abbey Beaver
Asst. Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 2-26, 3-5, 2026) 31L

ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL sophomores Camila Perez and Kennedy Sapp created the March-themed Bulletin Board. They are members of Warrior Leadership Council.

Evergreen Bookshop sale is this weekend

The Mansfield/Richland County Public Library (MRCPL) Evergreen Bookshop will be open for the monthly Friends' Used Book Sale on Friday, March 6, noon to 4 pm; and Saturday, March 7. from 10 am t o 3 pm.

A preview sale will be held for Friends of the Library members only on Thursday, March 5, from noon to 4 pm.

Memberships may be purchased at Thursday's Preview Sale. Cost is $3 per year for individuals.

This sale is sponsored by the Friends of the Mansfield/Richland County Public Library (MRCPL). Materials (adult, teen and juvenile items) are library discards and public donations offered for sale at low prices.

The bookshop is stocked with "new to the store" items each month. All proceeds from the monthly sales sponsor enrichment activities provided by the MRCPL Main Library and its eight branches in Richland County throughout the year.

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

For more information, contact the bookshop at 419-526-4652 or visit https://www.facebook.com/EvergreenBookshopFOL/.

STUDENTS IN THE SPORTS MEDICINE & EXERCISE SCIENCE program at Knox County Career Center were taught about preventing thumb and wrist hyperextension and then had the opportunity for hands-on learning as they practiced taping and proper technique on each other. Students in the program apply physical therapy, injury recognition and athletic training to enhance rehabilitation.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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