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06.11.26



COMMUNITY LEADERS gathered to help celebrate as Silver Birch of Mansfield held a ribbon cutting on Thursday, June 4.

Silver Birch gives seniors a chance to keep writing their story

Photos and Article By Traci Little

MANSFIELD — Shirley Zimmerman smiled as she cut the ribbon Thursday, drawing applause from residents, staff and community leaders gathered outside of Silver Birch of Mansfield.

The moment celebrated the opening of a community that aims to provide affordable assisted living while helping residents maintain the independence and dignity they value most.

Community leaders, state officials, residents and supporters gathered June 5 to celebrate the grand opening of the assisted living community at 300 Cline Ave. The three-story development is Ohio's first assisted living community offering 100 percent Medicaid-supported services, creating an affordable pathway for seniors who might otherwise struggle to access assisted living care.

The \$38 million development stands on the former Appleseed Middle School property and will ultimately provide housing for more than 100 residents in 120 studio and one-bedroom apartments. Residents have access to nursing services, therapy, meals, transportation, housekeeping and around-the-clock support while maintaining private living spaces designed to feel like home.

For Vermilion Development CEO David Cocagne, the project carries a deeply personal meaning.

"This year, the leading age of the baby boom generation turns 80," Cocagne said. "Like many of her peers, my mom can no longer live safely at home. But my mom still wants to live with as much dignity, autonomy and independence as possible."

(Continued on Page 6)

Senator Romanchuk secures over \$5 million for projects, facilities

State Senator Mark Romanchuk (R-Ontario) voted for Senate Bill 450, Ohio's Capital Budget, securing \$5,881,500 for projects throughout the 22nd Senate District.

The State Legislature generally approves a capital budget every two years, funding necessary improvements to public services and facilities across the state, including schools, infrastructure and mental health and addiction services.

"I'm proud to deliver funding for these projects supporting communities across the 22nd District," said Senator Romanchuk. "The funding secured in this year's Capital Budget will bring a significant economic impact throughout the region. I look forward to seeing the positive effect these investments will have on the lives of citizens in Richland, Ashland, and Medina Counties."

Projects that Senator Romanchuk secured funding for in the 22nd Senate District include Appleseed Community Mental Health Center, \$210,000; Hinckley Lake Facilities Renovation, \$250,000; and Mansfield Playhouse Project, \$1,000,000.

The Capital Budget also directs over \$600 million to new construction and facility upgrades at Ohio's public schools, nearly \$400 million to projects run by the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health, and over \$250 million towards supporting programs overseen by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Visit <https://www.lsc.ohio.gov/assets/legislation/136/sb450/in/files/sb450-capital-item-analysis-complete-analysis-as-introduced-136th-general-assembly.pdf> to view the full list of projects in the 2027-2028 Capital Appropriations Budget.

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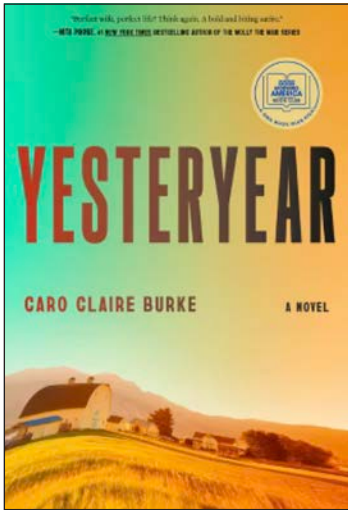
A Book Review
By Amanda Belczak

can get caught in the extreme decisions of the adults.

There were times I almost quit reading because it was such an odd and disorienting story, but I'm so glad I kept going. The way things come together in the end made it worth it.

My rating: ★★★★★

Follow my blog at amanda-belczak.com



Yesteryear by Caro Clarke Burke is such a wild ride.

A trad wife insta famous woman had a perfectly curated life. Then one day she wakes up to find herself in a home with children that are hers, yet she does not recognize them.

The story toggles back and forth filling in the answers to why she has a life she cannot recognize.

If you are looking for a character-driven story, this is not that. If you want to read a story that keeps you questioning and guessing, this is the one.

It's a book that questions a curated life lived online, calls out what can happen when a controlling belief structure is confused for faith and how children

Ontario Liberty Festival celebrates 250th with weekend full of activities

The Ontario Liberty Fest (formerly the Ontario 4th of July Festival) returns Friday, June 26 and Saturday, June 27, at Marshall Park in Ontario. This special edition of the festival celebrates America's 250th birthday with two days packed full of fun, community and patriotic celebration.

Friday night will kick-off the weekend with food trucks, a classic car show, live music and entertainment and family fun.

On Saturday, the day will begin with the Liberty 5K Run. The day will continue with kids games and activities, The Ontario Lions Club Frog Jumping Contest, festival games and competitions, live concerts and entertainment throughout the day, a parade, a VIP Area for adults and families, food vendors and a beer garden.

The weekend concludes with a laser show and the region's largest fireworks display, synchronized to music on WVNO Mix 106.1.

Bring your family, bring your friends, and join the community as we celebrate freedom, tradition, and America's 250th anniversary at Ontario Liberty Fest 2026.

THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER
— By Ian Stumbo —

Masters of the Universe is perhaps the first in a new franchise featuring He-Man.

Directed by Travis Knight, young Adam is whisked away to modern day Earth as he is trying to locate the sword that will take him back to his own time. Once there, he must unite with old friends and family to defeat the evil Skeletor.

Adam is played by Nicholas Galatzine, a great young actor who fits seamlessly into this role. Knight injects a great deal of humor that works throughout much of the film and really elevates it above the usual fare. A terrific supporting cast includes Idris Elba, Camila Mendes, Morena Baccarin, Alison Brie and Jared Leto. There are also some nice references to the 1987

original film with an appearance from its star Dolph Lundgren.

Masters of the Universe succeeds with how fun it is with good laughs, great action scenes and an overall look though the couple small criticisms come from an almost two and a half hour length which is too long for this movie and some of the joke's not landing as well.

In the end though, I definitely recommend this movie as one, even if you aren't familiar with the source material. From the director, cast, humor and sets, *Masters of the Universe* succeeds as great summer fun.



Richland County Park District to dedicate new flagpole on June 14

The Richland County Park District (RCPD) Board of Commissioners invites the public to the Gorman Nature Center on, Sunday, June 14, at 2 pm for the dedication of a new flagpole.

The ceremony will be held at Gorman Nature Center, 2295 Lexington Ave., Mansfield, with remarks prior to the flag raising to be held in the picnic pavilion. Light refreshments will be served after the ceremony.

"We're proud to finally be flying Old Glory over our park grounds," said Jordan Tackett, Executive Director of the RCPD. "This flag will be dedicated in honor of America's 250th anniversary and all American conservationists, whose legacy we proudly carry on. Our staff has been working hard to get the installation completed in time for the dedication on Flag Day." The flag displayed will be an all weather flag and illuminated at night so it may displayed at all times.

Flag Day commemorates the date in 1777 when the Continental Congress first approved the design for a national flag. In 1916 President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the date as Flag Day. In 1949 The U.S. Congress permanently established the date as National Flag Day.

The RCPD is dedicated to education, conservation and public programming. It currently serves as stewards of six parks throughout the county, featuring the Gorman Nature Center, Fleming Falls Preserve, and the B&O Bike trail. A seventh park, the Niss Waterfall Preserve, is scheduled to open by the end of June. The RCPD is supported by a levy passed in 2024 by the voters of Richland County.

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News Briefs

The Madison Township Lions Club will host a car show and swap meet on Sunday, June 28, from 10 am to 6 pm, at Madison Comprehensive High School, 600 Esley Ln., Mansfield.

There is a \$25 entry for the car show and swap meet vendor spots are \$25 for a 10'x10' space. Categories will include cars, trucks, race cars, motorcycles and RVs. RC car categories will be cars, trucks planes and boats.

Proceeds benefit pediatric cancer families, Madison Rams Boosters and local community projects.

To register call Steve at 419-632-0111. No alcohol is allowed on the premises.

★

Church of the Cross UMC, 236 Otterbein Dr., Lexington, will hold a rummage sale Friday, June 19, from 8 am to 3 pm. Cost is a free will donation which support local missions.

The church will also host a Wonderful Wednesdays Program for Families and Children June 10, 17 and 24 and July 1, at Lexington Community Park's Pavillion/Community Building on Plymouth St.

The events will run from 11:30 am to 1 pm and free lunch will be provided. There will be music, crafts and activities. Register at churchofthecrosslex.com.

★

Community Bible Church's youth group will host a rummage sale Thursday, June 18 and Friday, June 19, from 9 am to 3 pm. The church is located at 1043 Springmill St., Mansfield.

★

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

★

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 June 24, with a speaker from the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging.

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

★

The City of Ontario's 2026 Concerts in the Park will be held at the band shell in Marshall Park at 6 pm.

Concerts are scheduled for June 26, I Told You; July 7, Conne; July 21, Oolong Gurus; Aug. 11, Soul Town; and Aug. 25, Red Ball Jets.

This is event is free to attend. Lawn chairs and blankets are encouraged.

★

All Souls Unitarian Universalist of Bellville, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Morah Nancy Shimer on Sunday, June 14, at 10:30 am. The subject will be "A Jewish View of the Hebrew Bible." For information visit www.allsoulsuuohio.org.

★

A special meeting of the Ontario Board of Education will be held in the Ontario High School Library, 467 Shelby-Ontario Rd., Ontario on Wednesday, June 17, at 6 pm. This will held to discuss the development of tax policy with Rockmill Financial.

★

The Franklin Township Fire Department Ice Cream Social will be held Saturday, June 13, at Crestview Elementary School, 1575 St. Rt. 96, Ashland, from 4-7 pm.

The event will feature homemade ice cream, food, bounce house inflatables, Touch-A-Truck with multiple agencies, kids' activities and more.

★

The City of Ontario meeting schedule for June has been released. Meetings are held at 555 Stumbo Rd., Ontario.

The schedule includes June 17, 5 pm, economic development com-

mittee of the whole, meeting at the new construction on Clare Road; 6:15 pm caucus; and 7 pm, council.

The July schedule includes July 8, 1 pm, civil service commission and 4 pm planning commission; and July 15, 5:30 pm, personnel committee of the whole, 6:15 pm caucus and 7 pm council.

★

The Madison Ram Marching Band Alumni Football Game will be held Friday, Aug. 28, at the Madison Comprehensive High School and Stadium, 600 Esley Ln., Mansfield.

Practices are held Monday, Aug. 24, from 2:30-4:30 pm and Thursday, Aug. 27, from 6-8 pm, in the high school band room.

Musicians should report to the band room at 5 pm on the night of the event. The game begins at 7 pm. To sign-up visit <https://forms.gle/Ez93fK7YLoXQvVsk6>. Sign ups close on Friday, July 24.

For information email kfanning@mlsd.net or Imann@mlsd.net for the band and mpoland@mlsd.net for Ramettes.

★

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

Rt. 13 and 250 intersection will change to all-way stop June 23

Beginning Tuesday, June 23, the intersection of U.S. 250 and State Route 13/Fitchville River Road in Fitchville Township will be converted to an all-way stop intersection, meaning all approaches to the intersection will be required to stop. Currently, this intersection operates as a two-way stop requiring only traffic along SR 13/Fitchville River Road to stop before entering or crossing U.S. 250.

This intersection appeared on ODOT's Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) list. It was ranked as 2025 HSIP Rural Intersection #61 and a safety study was completed for this intersection. Between 2020-'24, there were 23 total crashes, 10 of which were injury crashes and 13 of which were angle crashes.

As a recommendation of the safety study, ODOT has decided to change the intersection from a two-way stop to an all-way stop in an effort to improve safety at the intersection.

An all-way stop is being implemented in accordance with new traffic control guidelines from the Federal Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

While some studies show that a roundabout would be ideal, an all-way stop is a more cost-effective solution that can be implemented immediately and improve safety quickly. ODOT will continue to monitor the intersection to ensure the all-way stop is operating as intended.

Signs have been posted along U.S. 250, SR 13 and Fitchville River Road.



Cadini di Misurina, Italian Dolomites • Photo By Mark Shutt

Renaissance Youth Opera Theatre to present "H.M.S. Pinafore"

Under the direction of Lori Turner, the Renaissance Theatre will present the Renaissance Youth Opera Theatre (RYOT) production of *H.M.S. Pinafore* by Gilbert and Sullivan for four performances on Saturday, June 27, at 2 pm and 7 pm, and Sunday, June 28, at 1 pm and 4 pm.

The production will be presented in the Ren's Theatre 166 space and is part of the Mechanics Bank Education Series, with support

from Buckeye Express Car Wash, Inc. General admission tickets are free for adults and students and are on sale now at the Renaissance Box Office, by phone, and online at rentickets.org. Seating is limited, and advance reservations are encouraged.

RYOT provides young performers with hands-on experience in acting, singing, dancing, and technical theatre. Whether on stage or behind the scenes, students are immersed in the creative process, learning from industry professionals in an engaging and supportive environment.

H.M.S. Pinafore is a classic comic operetta by Gilbert and Sullivan, the songwriting team that charted the course for modern musical theatre. This lively and humorous tale unfolds aboard the British ship *H.M.S. Pinafore*, where romance, mistaken identities, and social satire set sail for a delightful adventure. Featuring a talented cast of students in grades 2-12, this production brings to life the infectious melodies and witty lyrics that have made *H.M.S. Pinafore* a favorite for generations.

RYOT productions are offered as an opportunity for participation by students in second through twelfth grade, with this production featuring performers who are double-cast in roles within the show, allowing audiences to attend multiple performances as the cast changes each time.

H.M.S. Pinafore features the talents of twenty-two students, including Ella Aquino, Breah Boyd, Estel Bramlage, Evelyn Brumagin, Lillian Brumagin, Olivia Brumagin, Evalina Curtis, Olive Evans, Violet Fridley, Eliana King, Marilena Krueger, Steliana Krueger, Toby Lux, Elizabeth Pocock, Madelyn Rice, Gianna-Cosette Rohl, Caroline Sechrist, Evelyn Shaw, Molly Spoon, Halle Williams, Harper Williams, and Abby Yoak.

The cast is composed of youth aged 7-18 from Mansfield, Shelby, Lexington, Ontario and Ashland.

For additional information contact Lori Turner at lori@mansfield-tickets.com. The Renaissance Youth Opera Theatre program is part of the Mechanics Bank Education Series.

Church Directory

All Souls Unitarian Universalist

25 Church St., Bellville
419-886-3497 • www.allsoulsuohio.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@stjohnsmansfield.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

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Albert "Sam" Allen Sexton, May 30
Victoria "Vicky" Lynn Mergel, May 31
Bruce Douglas Bevan, June 1
Michael Allen Garverick, June 4

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Memorial Arrangements

Vernon Clifton Barnhill of Ontario, Ohio passed into glory on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, surrounded by his loving wife of 76 years and his devoted family.

Born on May 2, 1931 to Clifton and Gladys (Poland) Barnhill, Vern spent his life in the Richland County area. As a graduate of Madison High School, he was honored as Salutatorian of his class and furthered his academics at Bryan College in Tennessee. While in high school, he met his forever love, Joann Mildred Brook whom he married on March 12, 1950.



Early in their marriage, their mutual love for the Lord, directed their path to New Tribes Mission in Pennsylvania. Following their training, they returned home to the Mansfield/Ontario area to serve others in their community and involved the whole family in serving. Eventually, three of their children pursued full-time mission work and this continued to spread to the following generation.

To support his growing family, Vern started a business building homes. Known for his entrepreneurial spirit, he learned every aspect of building from the ground up. Beginning with the floor plans to the completion of the home, he then teamed up with his wife Joann who provided the final decorator touch.

As a true visionary, he began his business with a desire to build affordable, economical homes for people; some of whom needed a fresh start or a second chance to succeed. This stemmed from his desire to let people know that there is a God who loves them. He was a successful builder of over 300 homes in Richland County from the early 1950's to the last home he finished in 2025 at 94 years young.

His best known project was the Spring Village Development in Ontario where he single-handedly planned the entire allotment and creatively added a lake with surrounding homes for residents to have a taste of nature in their backyard.

Vern was a man with a strong work ethic and his children benefited as they worked along side of him to learn the value of hard work and in turn acquired many skills.

Dedicated to the Lord Jesus, his church, (Crossroads Ontario Campus, where he was a member), and teaching the Word, Vern's driving force was to tell others about the saving grace of Jesus Christ. He began this at home, bringing up his children to understand Biblical Principles and how to live by them. Family Bible studies and prayer enabled his children to all commit to becoming men and women of faith.

Several years ago, he wrote his book titled "Heart to Heart" which was his personal study and compilation of scripture to share the Good News with everyone he met. If you knew Vern, you couldn't miss his fervor to spread the gospel and proclaim Christ to family, friends, and those God put in his path each day.

Vern is survived by his wife Joann of 76 years, seven children, 24 grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. His oldest child, Gary (Anne) Barnhill went to his heavenly

home on Dec. 28, 1988. Vern and Joann's surviving children are Teresa Searcy, Loretta (Dean) Mundy, Larry Barnhill, Daniel Barnhill, Donald (Beth) Barnhill, Carolyn (Paul) Meiners, Ronald (Kimberly) Barnhill and daughter-in-law Anne Lashuay.

Also surviving are his siblings Charles Barnhill, John Barnhill, and Carol (Bill) Miller. He was preceded in death by his parents Clifton and Gladys (Poland) Barnhill, siblings David (Constantina "Colly") Barnhill, June (Lewis) Wilson, sister-in-law Lauretta Barnhill, sister-in-law Joan Barnhill and son-in-law David Searcy.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, June 19, 2026 from 6-7:30 pm in the chapel of Crossroads Ontario Campus at 636 S. Lexington-Springmill Rd., Mansfield.

In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to Life Outreach International (lifetoday.org/give). Vern and Joann have been passionate about this ministry and the help it provides to the "least of these" (Matthew 25:35-40).

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•Silver Birch gives seniors a chance to keep writing their story

(Continued from Front Page)

Cocagne said his mother's experience mirrors the reality facing millions of older Americans. While many need assistance with daily tasks, they still want the freedom to make their own decisions and continue living life on their terms.

"She still wants to write her own story," he said.

That philosophy has become the foundation of Silver Birch's mission.

The community was developed in response to what many leaders describe as the "silver tsunami" — a rapidly growing population of older adults entering a stage of life where additional care and support become necessary. Many of those individuals lack the financial resources needed for traditional assisted living options.

Ohio Department of Aging Director Ursel J. McElroy called the opening a significant milestone in the state's effort to make Ohio the best place in the nation to age.

"Today, that vision is becoming a reality,"

McElroy said.

She noted that years of collaboration among the Ohio Department of Aging, Ohio Department of Medicaid, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Housing Finance Agency and the Ohio General Assembly helped create a framework that made affordable assisted living communities like Silver Birch possible.

State Senator Mark Romanchuk also reflected on the years of work that led to the community's opening. He recalled first meeting with Cocagne nearly eight years ago when the vision for affordable assisted living in Ohio was still taking shape.

"I can't thank Silver Birch enough for simply doing what they said they were going to do," Romanchuk said. "That doesn't happen very much anymore in this world."

Romanchuk said the project transformed a once-vacant property into a place filled with life and opportunity for older adults in Richland County.

"As I drive by now, I don't see anything vacant. I see life," he said.

Mansfield Mayor Jodie Perry praised the investment and the attention given to making the community feel connected to its surroundings.

Walking through the building, Perry noticed local photographs and historical images displayed throughout the property, helping residents remain connected to familiar places and memories.

"You have set a very high bar for others to follow in affordable housing, not just in Mansfield, but across the state," Perry said.

For Executive Director Bobby Folden, the grand opening represented the fulfillment of a mission he has pursued throughout his career in senior living.

Folden shared the story of a future resident who recently signed a lease after believing she would never be able to afford a community like Silver Birch.

"She prayed every single night since they put a deposit down that she would be able to move in," Folden said. "For the first time in my career, I walked out of that lease signing with tears in my eyes."

He said the woman proudly sent photos of her new apartment to family members after signing the paperwork.

"It's mine," she told them.

That sense of ownership, security and belonging is exactly what Silver Birch hopes to provide.

Demand for the community has been strong. Of the 120 apartments available, 27 are already occupied and dozens more future residents have placed deposits. Folden said the response reflects a growing need for affordable assisted living options that provide both quality care and a sense of community.

Residents also have access to amenities designed to support active, independent living, including activity spaces, an art studio, theater chapel, salon, general store and full-service dining.

Today, residents are beginning to fill apartments with family photographs, treasured furniture and memories collected over a lifetime. Tomorrow, more seniors will arrive carrying their own stories.

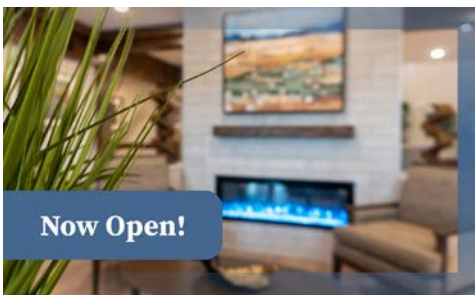
The ribbon may have marked the official opening of the building, but community leaders said its true purpose is much larger — ensuring older Ohioans can continue living with dignity, independence and peace of mind, regardless of their financial circumstances.



Senator Mark Romanchuk



City of Mansfield Mayor Jodie Perry



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Fresh Grounds Coffee House
 1621 W 4th St, Ontario

Brew'd Coffee & Donuts
 7 Main St, Hayesville

Bubble Bean And Sweets
 44 East Main St., Shelby

The Pickwick Place Cafe and Market
 1875 North Sandusky Avenue, Bucyrus

Revive Coffee Bar
 1201 Mill Rd, Bellville
revivecoffeebar.com

Marando's Cafe
marandoscafe.com
 @marandoscafe
 330-347-7058

The Cafe at Arbor Creek
 Gardens and Floral
 3052 Mabee Rd, Ontario

Honey B Express Coffee Trailer
 567-303-5248

Pronto Pizza and Coffee
 914 Ashland Rd, Mansfield
 419-589-7777

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Ohio Bird Sanctuary luau supports conservation efforts half a world away

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Tiki torches flickered along the pathways as Hawaiian music drifted through the trees. Bright flower leis added splashes of color while guests explored the Ohio Bird Sanctuary during an afternoon that blended family fun, wildlife education and conservation.

The sanctuary hosted its third annual Ohio Luau, also known as “Wings & Things,” drawing visitors for a unique fundraiser that supports one of the world’s rarest birds — the Hawaiian crow, or ‘Alaā.

For \$25 per vehicle, guests enjoyed a full day at the sanctuary while learning about the remarkable conservation efforts underway to save the endangered species. Educational displays lined the event space, explaining the history, decline and recovery of the ‘Alaā, a bird found nowhere else on Earth.

Visitors learned that Hawaiian crows once lived throughout their historic range before habitat loss, predators and disease pushed the species to the brink of extinction. By the early 2000s, the bird had disappeared from the wild entirely.

Nominations being accepted for City of Mansfield Mayor’s Beautification Award

The City of Mansfield has introduced the Mayor’s Beautification Award recognizing local businesses, organizations and residents who enhance the appearance, curb appeal and overall attractiveness of our community.

“Beautifying our city starts with the pride and commitment of our local businesses, organizations, and residents. Together, we can create a cleaner, more vibrant Mansfield that reflects the spirit of our community,” said City of Mansfield Mayor Jodie Perry.

This award celebrates those who take pride in their properties through landscaping, exterior improvements, cleanliness, creativity, and community spirit. The award program will run from April through October, with an additional recognition awarded in December for a holiday theme.

Nominations will be accepted monthly and must be submitted by the 10th day of each month, beginning in June for the July recognition. Subsequent monthly recognitions will follow the same nomination schedule.

Winners will receive public recognition at a city council meeting with a certificate from the mayor and a yard sign to display.

Nominations will be accepted for local businesses, non-profit organizations and individual residents.

To make a nomination, include the name of the business, organization or resident, address, contact person, phone number, email address and photos showcasing your property improvements, in an email to TGermann@mansfieldohio.gov.

This is an opportunity to showcase commitment to the community while contributing to a cleaner, more vibrant Mansfield. The city encourages community members to nominate deserving properties that help make neighborhoods a more beautiful and welcoming place.

Today, conservationists are working to restore the species through captive breeding and carefully managed releases. According to information shared at the event, five juvenile ‘Alaā currently live in the wild following recent release efforts, with additional birds being prepared for future release.

Displays also highlighted the important role corvids — the family of birds that includes crows, ravens, blue jays and magpies — play in ecosystems. As scavengers and seed dispersers, they help clean the environment and support plant regeneration. In Hawaiian culture, the ‘Alaā also holds deep cultural significance and is regarded as an ‘aumākua, or spiritual family guardian.

A portion of the proceeds from the luau, along with donations made during the event, will be directed toward Hawaiian crow conservation efforts. Organizers noted that the fundraiser has contributed more than \$1,000 to the ‘Alaā project over the past two years.

Adding to the authentic island atmosphere was Volcano Choy, founder of Hawaiian Island Entertainment LLC and HulaDancers.com. A Hawaii native, Choy has spent more than two decades bringing authentic Hawaiian cultural experiences to audiences across the United States and around the world.

Through traditional music, dance and cultural presentations, Choy shared Hawaii’s “Aloha Spirit” with attendees while helping connect visitors to the conservation story behind the fundraiser.

These events remind us that wildlife conservation often extends far beyond local boundaries. While guests explored the trails and exhibits of the Ohio Bird Sanctuary, their participation helped support efforts to restore a species fighting for survival thousands of miles away in Hawaii.

For many visitors, the luau provided an opportunity to learn, connect and play a small role in helping ensure the ‘Alaā once again thrives in its native forest home.



Apex Entertainment brings high-energy fun to Ontario Center

Photos and Article By Traci Little

ONTARIO — The sound of shattering glass, flying axes and virtual reality adventures now fills a corner of The Ontario Center as Apex Entertainment officially opened its doors with a ribbon-cutting celebration Monday afternoon.

Community leaders, chamber representatives and guests gathered at 2209 Richland Mall to welcome the new entertainment venue, which combines immersive virtual reality gaming, a rage room and knife and axe throwing under one roof.

Entrepreneur and business owner Toris Phinnessee Jr. thanked attendees for their support and credited his management team for helping turn the vision into reality.

“We’ve had a lot of people come in already,” Phinnessee said. “They’ve been the ones making sure everything is put together and running smoothly.”

The centerpiece of the facility is Another World VR, an expansive virtual reality arena that transports players into interactive missions where teamwork, communication and strategy are essential. Unlike traditional

home VR systems, the arena allows participants to move freely through a large open space while interacting with teammates in real time.

The attraction features six player stations, with some games accommodating up to seven participants. Players spend an hour battling enemies, solving challenges and exploring immersive worlds designed exclusively for the Another World franchise.

Just beyond the VR arena, the sounds of breaking glass and crashing objects echo from uSmash, Apex Entertainment’s rage room experience.

Guests wear protective gear before stepping into a private room filled with donated breakables. For 30 minutes, participants can safely release stress and frustration by smashing dishes, electronics and other objects with a variety of tools. Best of all, staff members handle the cleanup.

“It’s a pretty good spot to release anger, frustration and anything else you may be feeling in a safe, controlled environment,” staff members explained during the tour.

The venue’s third attraction, Blade Slang,

gives guests the chance to test their aim through knife and axe throwing. Designed for beginners and experienced throwers alike, the activity includes expert instruction and a dedicated target range.

In addition to individual experience, Apex Entertainment offers birthday parties, corporate outings, team-building events and group packages. Visitors can choose a single activity or rotate through all three attractions during an extended visit.

Currently operating by appointment, Apex plans to expand its hours as summer approaches. Phinnessee said the goal is to create a welcoming destination where families, friends and coworkers can gather, connect and make lasting memories.

From immersive virtual worlds and precision throwing challenges to stress-relieving smash sessions, Apex Entertainment offers a new way for local residents to unwind, compete and have fun close to home.

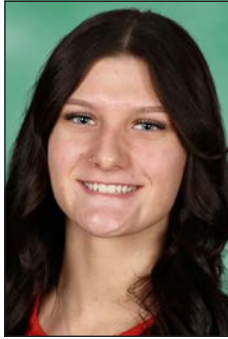
For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit Apex Entertainment online at apexent.co, follow the business on Facebook, or call 419-775-5072.



 *Madison Comprehensive High School Graduates*



**Lilliana
Allen**



**Allyson
Auflick**



**Cyrus
Baggett**



**Bradley
Baich**



**Payton
Bartolomea**



**Megan
Bays**



**Elizabeth
Bekeleski**



**Madison
Berry**



**Nathan
Bittman**



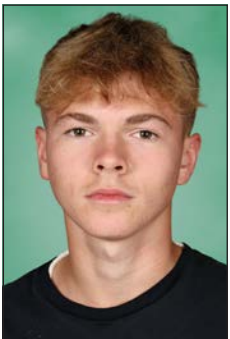
**Jordan
Black**



**Emily
Blankenship**



**Myla
Blankenship**



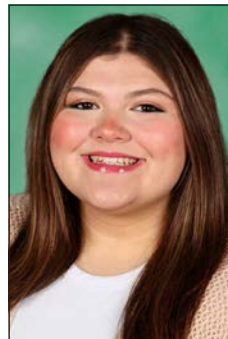
**Noah
Blust**



**Cruz
Boggs**



**Julianna
Boliantz**



**Brandi
Bowles**



**Bryce
Braden**



**Natalie
Brandt**

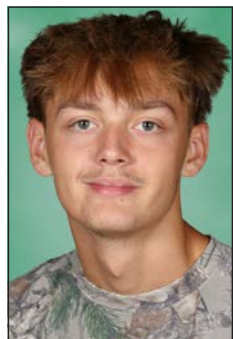
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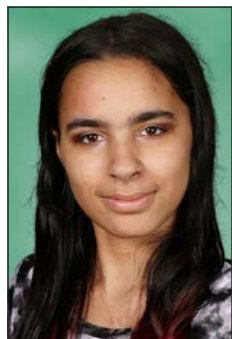
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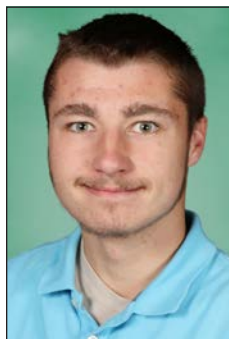
Madison Comprehensive High School Graduates



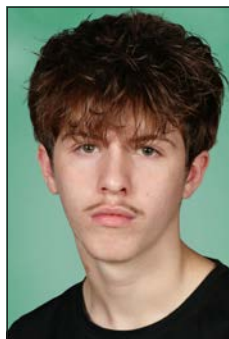
Carter Branham



Isabella Brown



Keaton Brown



Kevin Bryant



Emma Bumpus-Cathers



Paityn Butler



Isabelle Cardoza



Loren Carmel



Donovin Carmichael



Kennedy Carr



Ethan Cates



James Cecil



Christopher Chinn



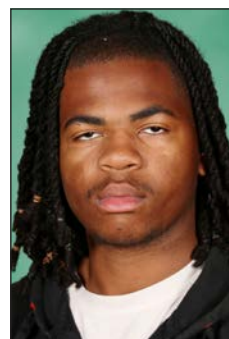
Aubrie Clark



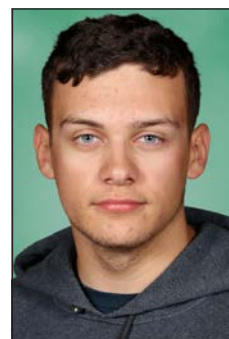
Jaselle Clark



Jordan Clark



Micah Clark



Justin Cline



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**Preston
Coffman**



**Jackson
Collins**



**John
Collins**



**Aubrey
Conn**



**Caleigh
Cook**



**Morgan
Cook**



**Xavier
Cooper**



**Gavin
Cupp**



**Laykin
Curry**



**Courtney
Cyrus**



**Evan
Cyrus**



**Emily
Daugherty**



**Sanaa
Davis**



**Callel
Davison-Valdry**



**Braedon
Dawson**



**Lillian
Delong**



**Hayley
Derrenberger**



**Isabelle
Detillion**

 *Congratulations*
GRADUATES!

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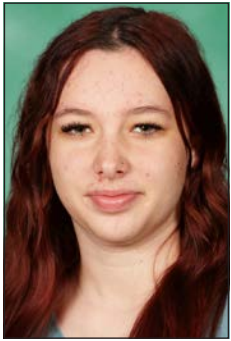
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Trinity Diebert



Piper Donahue



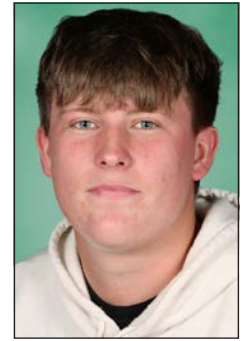
Hunter Drake



Camron Duncan



AJ Eddleblute



Chase Elliott



Timothy Ellis



Bryanna Elmore



Aiden Essick



Nathan Evans



Collin Faith



Brianna Fidler



Emma Finley



Bradley Fox



Emma Fugett



Hannah Fultz



Kaleb Gordon



Camryn Gowitzka

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**Ashley
Gusta**



**Alexis
Hairston**



**Emmalie
Hall**



**Kelsie
Harry**



**Landon
Harvey**



**Hayden
Hatfield**



**Aubrey
Hendrickson**



**Anaysia
Henriquez**



**Maci
Hergatt**



**Mason
Hermann**



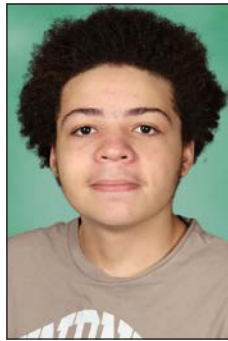
**Levi
Hess**



**Alyson
Hoak**



**Sabrina
Hoffman**



**Deondrae
Holt**



**Aaron
Hughes**



**Naudia
Isaac**



**A'Niyah
Jackson**



**Aymiah
Jackson**

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Randy Jamieson



Xavier Javens



Brennan Johnson



Kalahah Johnson



Kaylin Johnson



Emily Jones



Jamarion Jones



Amya Joplin



Riley Kallerson



Drew Kepple



Robert Kimes



Izabela King



Campbell Kiser



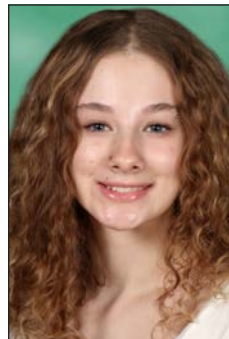
Estella Koppert-Smith



Bradlee Kotterman



Aaliyah Kuttler



Tauren Lindsey



Zane Lindsey

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Isabella Liviskie



Jacob Lord



Zachariah Loretta



Christopher Lucas



Nicholas Maglott



Nathanael Marks



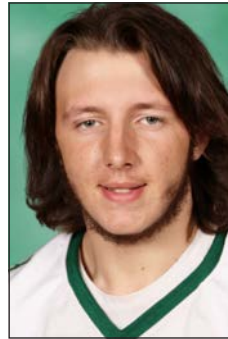
Kavantray Marsh



Wyatt Martin



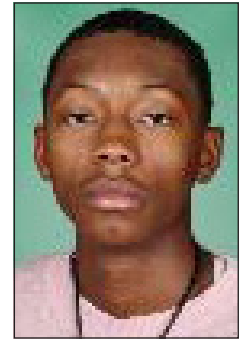
Jamelyn Mays



Hunter McConehea



Justin McCraney



Deont'E McDaniel



Aaron McEndree



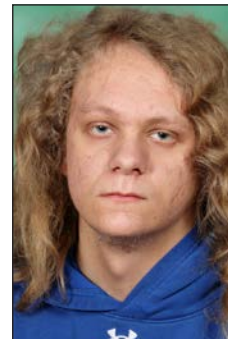
Ashton McGlasson



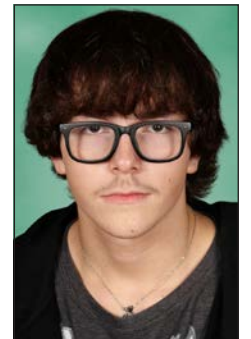
Spencer McKinney



Zoe McQuillen



Trevor Meadows



Jacob Miles



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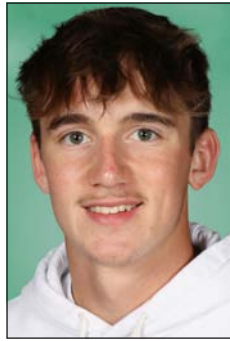


Congrats
GRADUATING CLASS OF 2026

Madison Comprehensive High School Graduates



**Kaleb
Minch**



**Owen
Morrow**



**Bryce
Muller**



**Annabelle
Murphy**



**Jalycia
Nelson**



**Avah
Newsome**



**Justice
Owings**



**Andrew
Parish**



**Olivia
Penrod**



**Cameron
Porter**



**Olivia
Price**



**Cruz
Rachel**



**Raygen
Reiter**



**Emma
Reynolds**



**Jennah
Richards**



**Andrew
Richardson**



**Nathan
Riggle**



**Zoey
Robinson**



**Congratulations
Graduates!**



2026 *Madison Comprehensive High School Graduates*



Aryana Rogers



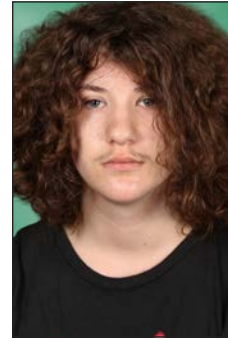
Lillian Rogers



Lily Sanderfer



William Saunders



Christian Schneider



Elizabeth Schwartz



Mason Seamans



Tyson Sheffield



Adrianna Shoemaker



Briana Smith



Johnny Smith



Katie Smith



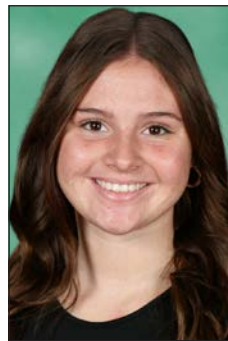
Marhea Smith



Collin Snyder



Bryce Speelman



Grace Speelman



Grady Spurlock



Jaxin Stancombe

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**Esther
Stanfield**



**Taylor
Steffey**



**Brianna
Stephens**



**Morgan
Steward**



**Kinlei
Stoltenberg**



**Kaylee
Stone**



**Liam
Stone**



**Anthony
Studer**



**Zandon
Studer**



**Lucas
Swanger**



**Kya
Swigart**



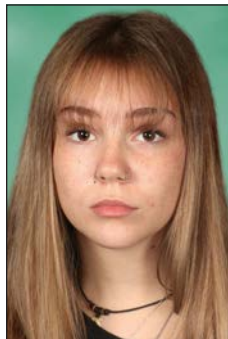
**Lillian
Symsick**



**Ashton
Taylor**



**Alexander
Thompson**



**Kayzia
Thornley**



**Bryce
Tudor**



**Ariyah
Tufts**



**Jocelyn
Turner**

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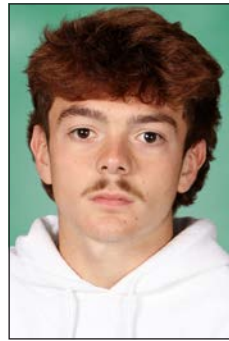
**Koltin
Urban**



**Courtney
Viock**



**Joseph
Walker**



**Julius
Walker**



**Audrey
Ward**



**Lillian
Waxter**



**Logan
Waxter**



**Rudy
Webel**



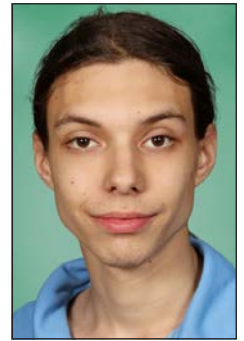
**Jerry
Wertz**



**Elias
White**



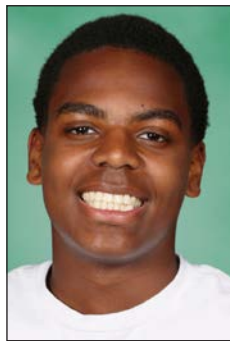
**Korbin
Wieland**



**Christopher
Williams**



**Danielle
Williams**



**Kenneth
Wright**



**Gracie
Young**

Not Pictured:
Helen Bricker
Landon Crank
Teyvion Durst
James Riggle



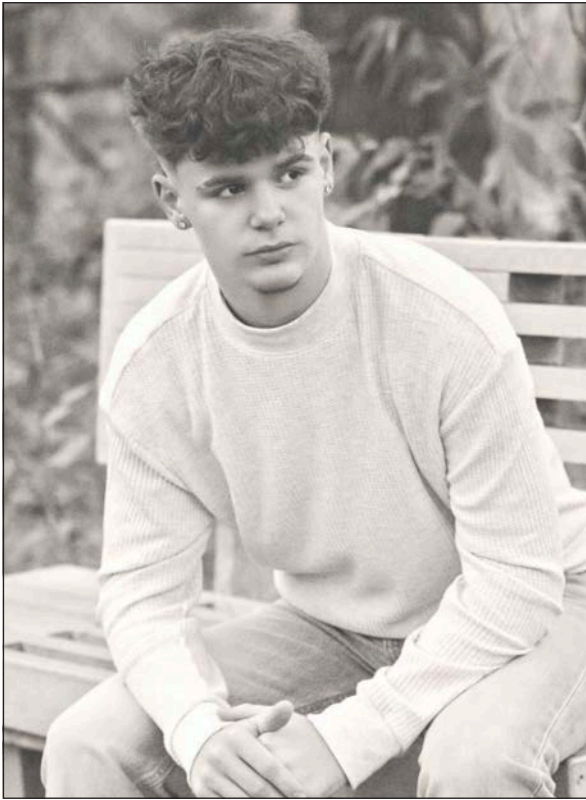
CONGRATULATIONS

MADISON COMPREHENSIVE
HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 2026!



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Madison Comprehensive High School Graduates



Timothy Ellis, Valedictorian

Timothy Ellis is the Madison High School Class of 2026 Valedictorian.

He is the son of Julie Wilkinson and Terry Ellis Sr. Timothy is an active member of Ohio Cardinal Conference Leadership, National Honor Society, executive committee and is treasurer of student council.

He is a manager at Culver's in Ontario and has been employed there since his sophomore year.

He was also a member of the track and field team for two years.

Timothy plans to further his education at The Ohio State University in Columbus where he will be majoring in business administration with a specialization in operations management.

He plans to use his degree to become an operations manager /owner operator of Culver's in the future.

Lillian DeLong, Salutatorian

Lillian DeLong is the Madison High School Class of 2026 Salutatorian.

She is the daughter of Laurel and Matt Bautz and Dustin and Samantha DeLong.

She is a four-year letter winner in track and field, three-year letter winner in soccer, a member of the yearbook committee, member of National Honor Society and a member of student council.

She is a two-time winner of the Hardest Worker Award in track and field and was Track and Field MVP her junior year.

Lillian plans to attend college and is deciding between Heidelberg University and the University of Mount Union where she plans to continue her track career and study exercise science to later become a physician assistant.

Valedictorian & Salutatorian

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Madison Comprehensive High School Graduates



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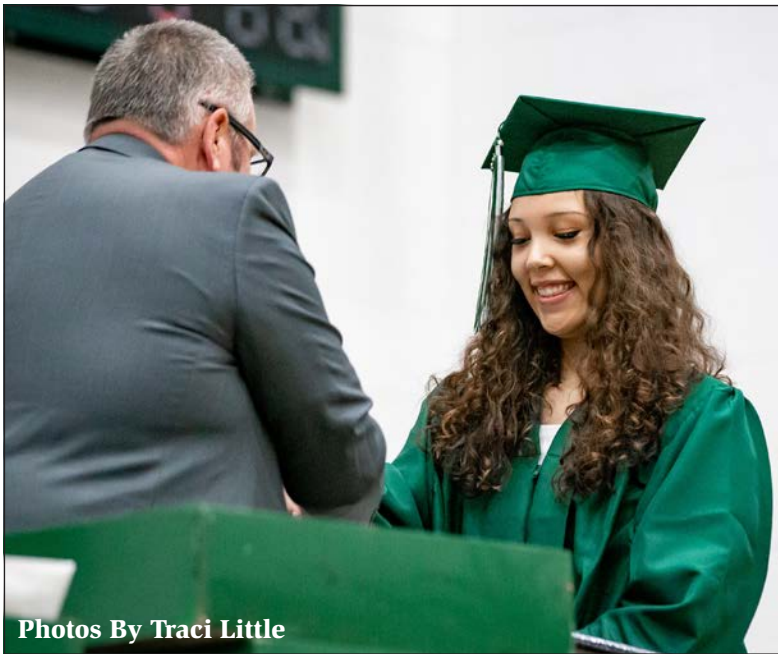


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Honor and Merit Rolls

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4th Nine Weeks

ALL A

Third Grade — Rashawn Alexander, Rayna Baker, Camden Bar, Lilyann Bransted, Braxten Cabell, Avery Fissel, Emily Foster, Kingston Hammond, Nicholas Harvey, Evan Holt, Kason Huss, Brylie Loucks, Waylyn Moore, Silas Ogle, Lucas Ohl, Kenley Oslie, Charleigh Pennywitt, Lillian Rowland and Hayes Sauder

Fourth Grade — Praxton Allen, Zoe Baker, Evan Baldrige, Lyncoln Collins, Owen Elswick, Jekhi Finley, Livia Foote, Grayson Hoehn, Ryleigh Holmes, Emma Horsley, Lily Kegley, Caleb King, Abram Kliever, Madilynn Kline, Asher Larsen, Bailey McQuillen, Stacey Montgomery, Theron Ogle, Hayden Ohl, Zeighla Perry, Madelyn Risinger, Braxton Shively, Ava Sigman, Novalene Smith, Johnathan Swanciger and Evelyn Wake

Fifth Grade — Allie Fellure, Andrew Finley, Ember Fry, Alexander (Xander) Holt Holt, Sawyer Howell, Malika Mion and Alaina Palmer

Sixth Grade — Ella Barr, Lincoln Bays, Madeline Dunlap, Timothy (Tj) Mion, James Price, Emily Spillman, Olivia St Clair, Avaya Stephenson, Gabriel Utt, Amelia Wamsley, Kolman Washington and Chazlyn Zehner

Seventh Grade — Annalise Barber, Tanner Bays, Jacob Bond, William Bundesen, Delaney Conway, Liam Cushard, Lily Eckenwiler, Lauren Foster, Hailey Hedrick, Roman Hipfl, Kennadi Knipp, Parker Larsen, Abrianna Micallef, Gavin Moore, Christian (Chris) Pennington, Damari (Mari) Roper, Harper Sasis, Hagen Sauder, Eleanor Sidwell, Lorelai Sly, Sadie Smith, Shawn Sydnor, Madelynn Thompson, Anthony Weightman, Beckham White, Mackenzie Wiggins, Myah Williams and Mckenzie Wingler

Eighth Grade — Jaxson Bennett, Reagan Brooks, Amelia Clayburn, Abbigale Crist, Rianne Davis, Jordan Jeffers, Emma Lewis, Faith Metcalf, Olivia Morris, Kathryn Myers, Matthew (Matty) Risner, Kendal Shrader, Natalie Smith, Alexander Weightman and Ethan Wingo

Freshmen — Abigail Anschutz, Ava Bays, Jenna Bebout, Makena Berkshire, Lainey Binns, Isabella Childs, Camden Conrad, Alexander Dillon, Hannah Evans, Jack Foster, Bella Guardiola, Isabelle Hall, Kordell Hardy, Arenal Hunsinger, Andrew Lowe, Brandon Maglott, Abigail McWilliams, Aryiah Miller, Mason Morrow, Jalyonna Nelson, Daniel Norris, Addyson Powell, Savanna Ransom, Amari Rasch, Rylan Rush, Avery Rust, Kallee Short, Kaysten Sly, Mackynzie Smith, Nevaeh Spurgeon, Cloe Taylor, Mylee Temple and Alden Washington

Sophomores — Lillie Baker, Zaylynn Ball, Henry Brinley, James (Jr) Broyles, Alec Day, Carter Foley, Lily Fox, Izaiah Gordon, Alana Henriquez, Mallie Hickey, Journee Jaranowski, Adalynn Jordan, Payton Kellner, Devin Peterson, Khloe Sayre, Gracie Schaade and Landon Stone

Juniors — Caden Bishop, Kylie Carroll, Kinley Clow, Kaylea Cole, Destini Conrad, Brianna Coulter, Samantha Crist, Gage Cyrus, Giavanna (Gia) DiPuccio-Resendiz, Landyn Dodd, Claire Durbridge, Trenton Ford, Nicolas Gatten, Kaitlyn Haring, Travis Hicks, Kennedy Hofer, Santanna Hoffman, Koree Kershner, Kirra Kiser, Evan Larsen, Sophie Lowe, Joshua Maglott, Malachi Marsh, Kiya McConaughy, Taylor McKown, Tyler Medley, Camden Moysi, Avery O'Brien, Ravino Pena, Branson Porter, Ellie Powell, Emily Saunders, Brayden Seymour, Jaxson Shaffer, Colton Shaw, Allie Shrader, Shiann Skeen, Hudson Stacy, Kristopher Sutton, Lyla Walker and Alaina Washington

Seniors — Payton Bartolomea, Megan Bays, Elizabeth (Libby) Bekeleski, Madison Berry, Myla Blankenship, Julianna Boliantz, Scott Calderhead, Courtney Cyrus, Emily Daugherty, Lillian DeLong, Timothy Ellis, Nathan Evans, Collin Faith, Hannah Fultz, Shiane Graham, Aubrey Hendrickson, Maci Hergatt, Aaron Hughes, Kalayah Johnson, Kaylin Johnson, Amya Joplin, Drew Kepple, Izabela King, Campbell Kiser, Tauren Lindsey, Isabella Liviskie, Zachariah Loretta, Christopher (Chris) Lucas, Nicholas Maglott, Wyatt Martin, Jamelyn Mays, Deont'e McDaniell, Zoe McQuillen, Owen Morrow, Macy Mounts, Camdyn Neal, Jalycia Nelson, Justice Owings, Andrew Parish, Cruz Rachel, Emma Reynolds, Jennah Richards, Zoey Robinson, Aryana Rogers, Landon Simpson, Briana Smith, Bryce Speelman, Grace Speelman, Grady Spurlock, Esther Stanfield, Liam Stone, Michael Truax, Ariyah Tufts, Jocelyn Turner and Audrey Ward

A & B HONOR ROLL

Third Grade — Cooper Allen, Emily Amstutz, Brody Bautz, Cassius Bell, Amelia Bowman, Aria Brooks, Isaiah Brown, Layla Brown, Em-

berlynn Buhrts, Leanna Calarke, Tabious Carter, Dominic Clawson, Sloan Coey, Madilyn Collmar, Harely Corey, Jaxson Dangelo, Rae-Lynn Davis, Braxton Day, Zoe Gibson, Robert Godshall, Ella Grant, Avery Hager, Asher Hill, Christopher Hill, Kasper Hooper, Alana Humphrey, Holden Hunter, Greyson Isley, Jamarah James, Kaden Keith, Raylyn Matz, Zariyah McIntyre, Brooks Miller, Karmen Nixon, Michael Petrik, Delilah Rigney, Maddox Roy, Delaine Salsler, Gabriella Salyers, Lincoln Sapp, Ella Sawman, Connor Schnuerer, Kenzlee Schnuerer, Dominick Smollen, Zoe Stevens, Jaxxon Swanciger, Mila Swigart, Kendall Turner, Ellis VanDriest, Xzavian VanWagner, Amaira Watson, Garrett Watson, Madalynn Webb, Blake Wingler, Wyatt Wooten and Brody Zeigler

Fourth Grade — Karter Allen, Emily Allison, Jayce Bishop, Karson Bishop, Noah Blankenship, Josiah Brammer, Paityn Brooks, Aeris Brown, Madilyn Bryant, Raylee Carmichael, Cayne Comisford, Mason Crego, Tanner Drake, Aubrey Elliott, Mason Enix, Rayson Evans, Stephen Fisher, Ezekiel Gamble, Olivia Given, Beckham Gleason, Harrison Greving, Layla Harvey, Crue Henry, Josephine Hill, Oliver Hubert, Dalton Hudson, Lily Hudson, Ma'Leaha Huffman, Ammity Jackson, Konner Jessee, Oliver Kestner, Scarlet Kindinger, Myles Klecka, Brooklynn Koeller, Ellorie Lang, Emeri Lewis, Luke Lewis, Malachi Lindsay, Ashton Longboat, Isiah Lykins, Cobey McCoy, Jillian McMasters, Landon Mitchell, Lincoln Morrow, Edith Mount, Logan Myers, Emme Neron, Juniper Parker, Cameron Parsley, Leah Peck, Marie Rhinebolt, Remington Ruley, Kinsley Sexton, Aaron Shabbir, Marlee Smith, Luke Stantz, Austin Stoots, Jace Stout, Jacob Sturgell, Brendan Thomas, Jocelynn Tindal, Liam Wake, Donald Ward, Averie Washington, Cassidy Wilson, Makenzie Woodhull and Olivia York

Fifth Grade — Emmalyn Adkins, Elena Allen, Embree Baker, Preslee Barney, Bexley Brandt, Chloe Bridges, Haydn Brown, Steven Burnell, Amelia Calhoun, Lillian (Lylli) Chambers, Seth Clark, Leon Couch, Kylee Cushard, Abigail Davis, Jayden Estes, Landon Hammond, Ada Havens, Vera Havens, Gracie Henderson, Bryson Holloway, Harley Kindinger, Kinsey Kirkpatrick, Teagan Kirsch, Grace Kunz, Paige Mathie, Maicie Moss, Ares Peters, Brynn Sauder, Conner Slone, Connor Slone, Mykelti Sly, Rowen Smith, Elysiah (Ellie) Vanwagner and Benjamin Wittig

Sixth Grade — Jade Anderson, Zella Ball, Aubree Baugh, Corinne Beal, Isabelle (Belle) Beatty, Benton Brandt, Braxton Brandt, Lewis Brinley, Araina Charley, Kaiden Chinn, Wyatt Clark, Carter Clow, Cade Deems, Layla Fix, Peyton Hager, London Hamilton, Laila Henderson, Naomi Houston, Abigail (Abby) Hunter, Kaliyah Keith, Bentley Kershner, Liam Kiser, James Lang, Olivia Mason, Joseph McMaster, Peyton Meek, Baylee Mitchell, Lily Morton, Kellen O'Brien, Joeseph Reddy, Tyler Salyers, Carter Shenberger, Isaiiah Smith, Carter Smollen, Hailey Snelling, Aubrey Spurlock, Jaxon Turner, Ace Washington, Kristopher Washington, Michael Williams and David Wood

Seventh Grade — Aubri Adkins, Za'mya Ajain, Ashley Anschutz, Aaron (Aj) Baker, Emma Blanton, Kimyah Branham, Jeffrey Brooks, Richard (Ricky) Davis, Paitlyn Erow-Board, Johnie Gorham, Amari Johnson, Emily King, Taelyn Kirsch, Branson Littleton, Leana McCurdy, Jesslyn McMaster, Wyatt Miller, Aubrie Mooney, Dane Moysi, Baileigh Patton, Dylan Pucci, Mason Putney, Zavier Roberts, Railynn Rollison, Elena Santiago, Jocelynn Shaffer, Landon (Lj) Stiffler, Lillian Suttle, Seth Utt, Myla-Jayne Wilds, Spencer Wynn and Caylee Yeager

Eighth Grade — Zane Baker, Liam Barr, Nola Bishop, Cameron Boyd, Ky-Lyn Byerly, Katrina Carson, Gannon Conway, Baylee Cushard, Rylie Davidson, Karsyon Dravenstott, David Elliott, Daevon Endicott, Peyton Foote, Ian Forbes, Lola Gieseman, Samara Gillespie, Cra'shawn Gordon, Savannah Hamilton, Dillon Herder, Laine Heston, Troy Horn, Izabella Kenner, Kaeleb Llamas, Aniyah Lloyd, Declan Maddy, Aaron Makeever, Carson McQuillen, Vaughn Miller, Macy Moore, Gabriel (Gabe) Orth, Preston Patrick, Casey Rachel, Alissa Rush, Gabriel (Gabe) Salyers, Addisyn Shopbell, Mariah Stacy, Jonas Stapleton, Sarah Weightman, Brennen Wilson and Jersie Yunker

Freshmen — Anna Ankrum, Alaina Ash, Jaylee Black, Chester Conley, Tynley Cook, Brennan Coulter, Gavin Faith, Aubree Fisher, Claire Gaunt, Shianna Harper, Kylee Herrick, Grady Hunt, Bryce Jacobs, Jon Jacobs, Bryleigh Jordan, Troy Kegley, Lily Ann Klecka, Madison Kliever, Leanna Lawrence, Kya Longood, Addalyn Lynch, Nyah Marcial, Helena Martin, Donald McCurdy, Gabriella Mickouma, Lillian Miller, Cameron Montgomery, Kiegon Neal, Gweneth Pennington, Tavian Porter, Gabriel Prater, Tyler Red Eagle, Miah Reid, Megan Rine, Trace Schafer, Chloe Schmidt-Payne, Maddison Smith, Garrett Spiess, Trenton Sweet, Sofia Thompson and Morgan Turney

Sophomores — Rosanna Barger, Aniyah Bond, Kaley Bowman, Caliyah Clapper, Layla Cushard, Allysia Deems, Shiana Elliott, Ryan

(Continued on Page 32)

• Honor and Merit Rolls

(Continued from Page 31)

Fox, Kendall Graham, Cadence Gushard, Anyla Hence, Owen Hendershott, Cadence Hendrickson, Jaxson Henry, Sarah Holt, Camylle King, Alexander Maddy, Ayden McGlasson, Cerenity Montgomery, Emma Myers, Victoria Neal, Landen Pfund, Rachel Porter, Isabella Putney, Allie Shambaugh, Destiny Thompson, Jonathan Thompson-Wade, Kenley Turner, Elle Washington, Maci Whitesel, Markiah Wilson and Makenzie Wynn

Juniors — Alivia Adams, Leo Atwell, Noah Beidelschies, Anna Blanton, Alexis Cameron, David Clayburn, Isabella Conway, Sophia Curry, Lucas Davidson, Micah Finley, Aliya Hall, Chase Hunsinger, Chloe Jeffers, Mason Johnson, Mac'kel Johnson-Kawczynski, Kaiden Koch, Layla Krizan, Marisa Manlet, Christopher Manley, Hayden Mapes, Darius Marsh, Briar McConehea, Jordan McWilliams, JulieAnna Miller, Gage Ramey, Cameron Rinehart, Isabel Rush, Lena Sasis, Gerardo Sayre, Autumn Schroeder, Joseph (Wade) Seibert, Kaydence Sharp, Lincoln Shepherd, Isabella Smith, Keeli Stewart, Jesper Szameitat, Ariyah Tucker, Gabriela Vega-Wieland, Izabel (Izzy) Wamsley, Kyleigh Washington, Daniel Weightman, Emma Wilds, Knight Wolfe and Baylee Yost

Seniors — Lilliana Allen, Allyson Auflick, Bradley Baich, Bryce Braden, Carter Branham, Isabella Brown, Paityn Butler, James Cecil, Aubrie Clark, Micah Clark, Preston Coffman, John Collins, Aubrey Conn, Caleigh Cook, Laykin Curry, Evan Cyrus, Braedon Dawson, Emma Finley, Kaleb Gordon, Emmalie Hall, Hayden Hatfield, Nathan Hoffman, A'nyiah Jackson, Aymiah Jackson, Randy Jamieson, Brennan Johnson, Estella Koppert-Smith, Bradlee Kotterman, Nathanael Marks, Kavantray Marsh, Olivia Penrod, Olivia Price, Raygen Reiter, Stephane Rigaud, Elizabeth Schwartz, Katie Smith, MaReha Smith, Jaxin Stancombe, Morgan Stewart, Kinlei Stoltenberg, Anthony Studer, Zandon Studer, Kya Swigart, Alexander Thompson, Bryce Tudor, Lillian Waxter, Rudy Webel, Jerry Wertz, Elias White and Kenneth Wright

ClearFork High School 4th Nine Weeks

ALL A

Seniors — Alyssa Burger, Mattie Colegrove, Abigail Geary, Jasmine Johnson, Jozie Lloyd, Nicholas Martin, Austin McFerren, Kenadee Muntain, Bailee Riddle, Selena Ross, Faith Smith and Ashtyn Wine

Juniors — Jadalyn Brokaw, Mackenzie Daniels, Aubri D'Hondt, Jonathan Evans, Alaina Hawkins, Davis Hoeflich, Marcus Hoeflich, Joseph Lykins, Brody McGregor, Hudson Schag, Ella Schmidt and Owen Weikle

Sophomores — Alyssa Johnson, Luke Keever, McKenley Knuckles, Kylie Ludwig, Karlynn Mortimer, Quentin Rinehart, Caitlin Seward and Adelyn Snyder

Freshmen — Gabriella Bailey, Katie Beck, Brea Bieri, Coralene Cline, Marlee Cromer, Koltun Crunkilton, Morgan Crunkilton, Ameen Dorner, Brock Douglas, Brody Douglas, Elizabeth Dudley, Lincoln Ehrmantraut, Isabella Fenton, Kaitlyn Gerhart, Cierra Knecht, Ian Lang, Tyler Mack, Lillian McCready, Elijah Molina, Logan Oswald, Maissa Price, Brody Pritchard, Caylin Sellers, Beckett Slaughter, Audrie Thompson and Drayden Tschantz

HONOR ROLL

Seniors — Piper Black, Sabree Caudill, Reece Cook, Hansen Dornbirer, Cameron Lanker, Hadley Slaughter, Lilliana Trunzo, Sophia Wharton, Sophia Wilson and Makenna Wuertz

Juniors — Asia Bechtel, Mary (Max) Betts, Grace Burgholder, Layla Daugherty, Benjamin Dudley, Tiegana Franta, Charles Granholm, Maria Hatfield, Zachary Hill, Isabella McKenna, Evyn Morfin, Katrina Neal, Alekai Price, Ava Roberts, Isaac Ross, Hailly Thrush, Wade Traxler, Arianna Vanhooose and Austin Vanhouten

Sophomores — Aiden Armstrong, Ian Black, Dustin Borders, Nathaniel Buck, Gunnar Dill, Chesnei Flynn, Broghan Gatton, Alyson Geary, Audrey Haring, Adilynn Hickinbotham, Ashlyn Inman, Maria Knight, Jyllian Langer, Presley Lilly, Katelyn Lucci, Ethan McFerren, Adelyn New, Aubryn Nickoli, Kendall Oswald, Braylen Peteri, Emma Shultz, Caleb Snyder, Zhoie Steagall, Addison Thrush, Allison Walker, Malia Walker

Freshmen — John Angelas, Brevyn Bias, Millie Chamberlain, Lucas Colvin, Briawna Duncan, Violet Freeman, Jude Gailey, Aimee Greene, Elijah Jones, Ava Kime, Ethan Kline, Kaitlin Kline, Garrett

Lane, Riley Line, Stella Lynn, Mya Meyers, Makaelah Mills, Landon Palmer, Paige Reece, Eli Rinehart, Wyatt Scheid, Jakob Schmidt, Karli Shultz, Grace Smith, Joshua Snider, Brody Thompson, Jayden Weemhoff, Mason Weidemeyer and Ridge Wendling

MERIT ROLL

Seniors — Clement Britton, Jacob Brokaw, Addison Johnson, Gwyneth Jones, Jayden Kaylor, Andrea Kehl, Jadenn Lacey, Savannah Mazzola, Gannon O'Brien, Bryar Ousley, Christopher Ransom, Porter Schmidt and Jacob Zack

Juniors — Taylor Bly, Ava Boccio, Wesley Bunnell, Weston Coble, Carter Coole, Jakob Hamilton, Erika Hollar, Brynley Kirkpatrick, Avery McWilliams, Hayden Northrup, Rogan O'Leary, Mya Perry, Marley Pinkerton, Alex Schlosser, Peyton Sickles, Kaiden Thomas, Tristin Thornton and Adalyn Wise

Sophomores — Matthew Anders, Elyza Baumgardner, Rebekkah Briggs, Wyatt Bunnell, Payton Dewey, Brayden Hayes, Gage Hoffman, Malayna Kehl, Lucas Krzeminski, Keegan Lorentz, Kemilee Niswander, Marley O'Brien, Brody Oswald, Jaxon Oswald, Madilynn Peters, Paige Raike, Sophia Schag, Ashley Smith, Payton Snyder, Quinn Stover, Collin Thompson, Alina Van Horn, Alexis Walters and Barrett Walters

Freshmen — Kylee Bloomfield, Dean Bowman, Jackson Brubaker, August Burgholder, Alexander Crane, Ian Fuller, Emerson Gautreaux, Wade Hamilton, Kaleb Kvochick, Ashton McGregor, Lotus McKittrick, Evelyn Morfin, Kodak Muntain, Michael Ross, Brayden Ruckman, Chloe Sherman, Tenli Shultz, Raegan Sudol, Trey Swank, Troy Swank, Cooper Thompson, Riley Wade, Hadleigh Weikle and Braylee Wenger

News Briefs in Education

Ohio Dominican University in Columbus named 285 Students to its spring 2026 dean's list. To be named to the list, full-time undergraduate students must achieve a 3.5 GPA or higher after completing a minimum of 12 credit hours. On the list are local students Naomi Haring of Mansfield and Luke Zerby of Lexington.

★

University of Mount Union students have been named to the dean's list for the spring 2026 semester. On the list are local students Jacob Hathaway of Lexington, Joe Hathaway of Lexington, Olivia Houseworth of Ontario, Anna Perkins of Lexington and Lucas Starling of Lexington.

To be eligible, students must have completed at least 12 credit hours of traditionally graded coursework while achieving a grade point average of 3.550 or better with no letter grade below a B.

★

Ian Barnes and Ryan Mecurio, both of Ontario, graduated from Cedarville University in spring 2026 with undergraduate degrees.

★

Kendall Nolen of Mansfield was recognized as a Stephen D. Lee Scholar during Mississippi State University's spring 2026 commencement exercises.

Nolen is among more than 160 students who attained this honor among about 4,000 spring graduates. Stephen D. Lee Scholars have achieved a cumulative 4.0 GPA during their college careers.

Nolen, who studied communication, earned the Bachelor of Arts from MSU's College of Arts & Sciences.

★

Mansfield native Simon Manning was named to Slippery Rock University's dean's list for the spring 2026 semester. The dean's list consists of SRU undergraduate students who earned an adjusted semester grade-point average of 3.5 or higher, based on a schedule of at least 12 newly attempted and earned credits.



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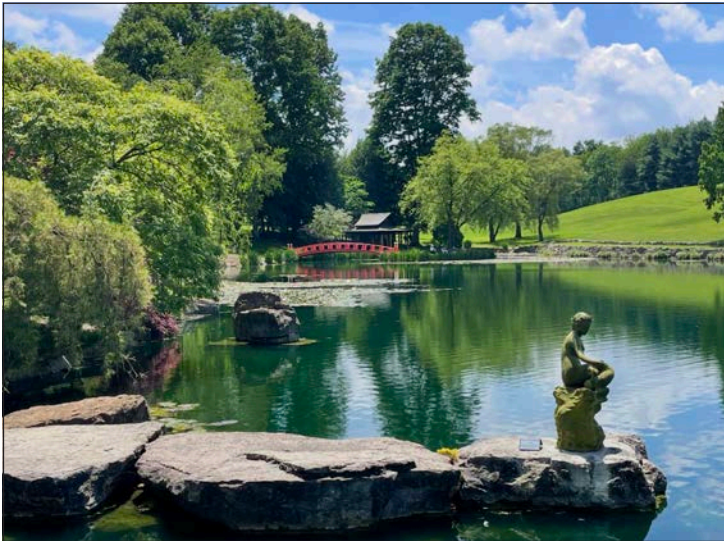


Photo by Damon Callis

Day Trippin' With Damon – Schnormeier Gardens is located in Gambier, OH. The gardens began being built in 1996 and have grown to include fifty acres of manicured lawns, ten lakes, a variety of garden areas and several waterfalls. The gardens are only open to the public on the weekends in June each year. For information visit <https://visitknoxohio.org/places/schnormeier-gardens>.

Mansfield's Juneteenth celebration expands with parade and festival

The annual Juneteenth parade and festival returns on Saturday, June 13, now hosted at Mansfield Senior High School, 124 N. Linden Rd. This free, all day community celebration will begin with the parade at 11 am featuring marching bands from Mansfield Senior, Columbus Linden McKinley and Columbus South Canton En-Rich-Ment Drumline, dance teams from across Ohio, local churches, businesses, community groups and political candidates

The Grand Marshal is Brigitte Coles, We ACT Co-Founder, Richland County Children Services Community Engagement Supervisor, author and former television broadcaster.

The parade starts at Arlin Field, proceeds down West 4th Street, and ends at Mansfield Senior High School. Attendees may line the entire route.

Parking is available, only during parade time, at Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center, 890 W. 4th St., Mansfield. Free shuttles will run one hour before the parade begins and one hour after it ends, transporting attendees between the parking area and Mansfield Senior High School, Festival-goers should plan to park at Mansfield Senior High School.

Once the parade arrives at the new festival grounds, the celebration expands into a full-scale community experience at noon with live music and entertainment, a vendor marketplace, food trucks, book signings with eight local authors, line dancing, community choirs, a health fair and family-friendly activities for all ages.

This year's entertainment lineup includes CONNE, Just Us and Chasing Dreams.

This year's event highlights health equity, voter education and engagement, economic empowerment and educational advancement.

For more information contact Enisia Lee at 419-612-4763 or princessendowment@yahoo.com.



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RPS Walk for Life draws strong community support

Photos and Article By Traci Little

MANSFIELD — Hundreds of walkers filled North Lake Park last Saturday morning for Richland Pregnancy Services' annual Walk for Life. Dark clouds loomed overhead, but the crowd never wavered.

The 2026 Walk for Life took place on June 6, 10 am at North Lake Park in Mansfield, bringing together individuals, families, churches, and community organizations to peacefully and publicly affirm the value of human life at every stage.

The event included a time for prayer and a strong turnout of 267 walkers, with current funds at an impressive \$42,981 raised. Top fundraising groups included Apostolic Christian Church (\$13,055), Berean Baptist Church (\$3,715), Walker Lake Church (\$3,545), Team Crumlick (\$3,030.50), Covenant Orthodox Presbyterian Church (\$1,455), Palmyra Church of Christ (\$1,400), AM Property Maintenance (\$630), Nora and Kendra Yoder (\$540), Saving Grace (\$500) and Mansfield Baptist Temple (\$400).

"This year's Walk for Life theme was based on 'Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.' — Psalm 139:16.

"Our Walk for Life is an annual event. It's such a fun, family event," said Amy Kahl, executive director of Richland Pregnancy Services. "We love having families and dogs come out, but all of the funds raised go directly to supporting life."

Kahl said the agency provides free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, STD testing, parenting classes, and Mom-to-Mom and Dad-to-Dad mentoring programs.

She thanked the community and sponsors for braving the weather and helping make this year's event a record-breaking success.

"I'm thankful for the overwhelming support despite the rainy weather today. We appreciate those that cherish the gift of life and their continual support to our community. As board president I am truly grateful for the excellent staff and volunteers that help raise funding so we can offer free services to our community," added Mike Getz.

Banner sponsors for this year's event included Apple of My Eye Imaging Studio, Confident Driving Academy, Mount Renovations and Covenant Presbyterian Church and Seven Weeks Coffee. Culligan Water kept walkers cool and hydrated at the Oasis of Love Church hydration station.

Additional sponsors included Tucker Creek Farm, AM Property Maintenance LLC, Whitaker Myers Wealth Managers Ltd., Walker Lake Baptist Church, Greg and Cheryl Boyce and Precision Lube and Wash.

Richland Pregnancy Services recently welcomed clients to its newly renovated facility at 1560 W. Fourth St., in Mansfield. The organization said all services are provided free of charge through the generosity of individual walkers, corporate sponsors and church sponsors.

"They offer so much for new moms and dads! They have a wonderful mentorship program to come alongside parents and even a boutique where parents can get cribs, clothes and items they need for a new baby. They offer moms an ultrasound, which helps make the pregnancy feel even more real and see the baby God has created inside them! Putting the visual aspect to the pregnancy is such a blessing!" said walker and supporter, Kelly Canfield.

Proceeds and donations from the 2026 Walk for Life will benefit Richland Pregnancy Services, helping provide services such as pregnancy support, parenting education, material assistance, and counseling.

Richland Pregnancy Services is a Christ-centered non-profit organization and a 501 C3 nonprofit/ministry/community organization. They are dedicated to affirming life by assisting women, men and families unprepared for pregnancy while providing a shoulder to lean on for women and men in need of our support.

For more information or to volunteer, call 419-522-8862.



"IT'S AN HONOR to work with an organization like Richland Pregnancy because they represent the kingdom of God in such an inspiring way," said Raymond Cochran Jr., Senior Pastor of Oasis of Love Church. "They give so many free tools and resources to help those with unplanned pregnancies. With the pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, clothes, food and follow up support provided after birth they really show that they care about life in and outside the womb. I think that is great!"

Richland Pregnancy Services Walk for Life



Photos By Traci Little

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Mid-Ohio Athletic Conference honors spring sports athletes

Photos and Article By Kris Leiter

This week's column starts with a little chuckle. As they say, "You only know what you know," and this week I learned of a connection between the Village of Waldo, OH and the Mid-Ohio Athletic Conference Awards.

"Where's Waldo?" you may ask — 11 miles south of Marion, right off St. Rt. 23.

Waldo is actually is big deal, bigger than one would think. With a population hovering around 300, it's unlike other small towns in America. It's actually nationally known for its half-inch thick bologna sandwich served up at the G & R restaurant, located at the only stop light in town. The "G & R" as locals call it, has been featured on the Food Channel for the colossal bologna sandwich, as well as other great menu items.

Trust me, it's worth the road trip, as I have been traveling there for over 30 years. Their pies will also melt in your mouth.

So how does this bologna-famous town cross paths with the MOAC awards?

Last week when a local coach mentioned the MOAC awards were being held at the All-Occasions Catering venue in Waldo, I thought it was a typo. But the important event IS held in Waldo.

Paul Hinds, the current MOAC assigner and a 22-year veteran official of high school basketball explained that the connection came when Harold 'Hal' Clase, a retired basketball official who owned the banquet facility, worked to accommodate the awards ceremony.

So with that mystery solved, we move to honoring local athletes who were recognized at the awards ceremony.

Our local MOAC athletes are from Clear Fork, Ontario and Shelby.

Clear Fork

First-Team All-Conference Individuals

Boys Track & Field: Ethan Black, Nash Evans, Davis Hoeflich, Marcus Hoeflich and Landon Mckee

Girls Track & Field: Taylor Bly, Katrina Neal, Taylor Richmond and Quinn Stover

Baseball: Landen Perry

Softball: Jada Brokaw

Tennis: Katie Beachy and Cooper Brokaw



Clear Fork's Quinn Stover

Ontario Boys and Girls Track & Field – MOAC Conference Champs

First-Team All-Conference Individuals

Boys Track & Field: Trevor Breitinger, Zander Chitwood, Tre Fowler, Jermel Powell, Brady Rowe, Elton Toska, Xavier Trent, James Unger Michael Ward and Jace Young

Girls Track & Field: Kenzie Goodlin, Willow Harris, Audrey Mahon, Kamryn Pelphrey and Ava Zehe

Baseball: Jaren Holden

Softball: Ellie Dawson and Morgan Pearson

Shelby

First-Team All-Conference Individuals

Boys Track & Field: Gavin Baker, Luke Blevins, Brady Bowman and Renner Gano

Girls Track & Field: Madison Henkel, Ashley Montgomery, Princess Timko and Yamiah Williams

Baseball: Quinton Albert and Kaleb Stairs

Softball: Natalie Kennard and Braylee Sturts

As we close this article, I would like to recognize Pat Lewis who has served as the athletic director at Shelby High School for 25 years. He is retiring with a total of 37 years in education and administration.

I and other sportswriters rely on coaches and athletic directors for vital information for our columns. He has always been willing to help out. Happy retirement!



Shelby's Pat Lewis



Clear Fork Tennis Coach Charles "Aaron" Wilson, Clear Fork Player of the Year Cooper Brokaw and his parents

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Major General Gary A. McCue honored with retirement ceremony

The Ohio National Guard hosted a retirement ceremony for Major General Gary A. McCue, who was serving as assistant to the commander air mobility command, and a promotion ceremony for Col. Darren E. Hamilton, incoming Ohio Air National Guard chief of staff, to the rank of brigadier general on Saturday, June 6, at the 179th Cyberspace Wing in Mansfield.

Major General Gary A. McCue served as the Air National Guard Assistant to the Commander, Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, from 2024 to 2026. In that role, he advised the commander and staff on air mobility issues affecting the Air National Guard and ensured Air National Guard requirements were incorporated into Air Mobility Command planning and operations.

McCue began his military career in 1983 and, following his commission, attended Undergraduate Pilot Training at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Throughout more than four decades of service, he command-



Maj. Gen. Gary A. McCue

ed at the squadron, group, and wing levels and held several senior leadership positions, including Air National Guard Deputy Director for Air Operations, Director and Chief of the Joint Staff for the Ohio National Guard, and Director of Staff for the Ohio Air National Guard.

He served as a command pilot with more than 5,300 flight hours and participated in Operations Southern Watch, Joint Forge, Coronet Oak, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Col. Darren E. Hamilton currently serves as commander of the 179th Cyberspace Wing in Mansfield, where he leads approximately 1,000 Airmen supporting the Air National Guard's first cyberspace wing.

Upon promotion to brigadier general, Hamilton will assume duties as the Ohio Air National Guard chief of staff, serving as the principal advisor to the commander of the Ohio Air National Guard and helping oversee the readiness, training and operations of more than 5,000 Airmen across the state.

Hamilton joined the 179th Airlift Wing in 1986 as a crew chief and later served as a flight engineer before earning his commission through the Academy of Military Science in 1994.

Throughout his military career, he has served in numerous operational and leadership assignments, including commander of the 164th Airlift Squadron, director of operations for Joint Force Headquarters and commander of the 179th Operations Group. He participated in Operations Restore Hope, Southern Watch, Joint Forge, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Freedom Sentinel.

He is command pilot with more than 5,000 flight hours in multiple aircraft and has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in aerospace technology from Kent State University and is a graduate of Air War College.

Mayor's summer intern chosen

Mayor Jodie Perry has announced the selection of Zetta Anderson as the 2026 summer intern for the mayor's office.

Anderson began in early June and is already gaining firsthand experience in municipal government and public service.

Anderson attends Miami University where she studies marketing. She was selected from a competitive pool of applicants citywide.

During the internship, she will collaborate with senior staff on key city initiatives, attend public meetings and support the mayor's office in its day-to-day operations.

"This internship reflects our commitment to cultivating the next generation of civic leaders and giving talented young people a meaningful opportunity. We are thrilled to welcome Ms. Anderson to our team," said Mayor Perry.

Richland Academy to offer free guitar workshops with OSU-M

Richland Academy of the Arts, through a community engagement initiative developed by The Ohio State University at Mansfield, will host free community guitar workshops this summer led by community volunteers, including some of the region's top guitar players.

Open to all skill levels, the seven-workshop series will provide a welcoming environment for participants to learn guitar through live demonstrations, guided practice and informal Q&A sessions.

Whether attendees are picking up a guitar for the first time or looking to expand their skills, each session offers practical instruction and personalized guidance.

The workshops are designed to be flexible and accessible, with no cost, commitment, or prerequisite experience required. Participants may attend any session that fits their schedule and loaner guitars will be available during class.

Each workshop will feature a different instructor, exposing participants to a variety of musical styles and approaches while fostering creativity, community connection, and a love of music.

The workshops are from 4-4:50 pm on these dates and will be led by these community volunteers:

Wednesday, June 10, Nate Wieland

Wednesday, June 17, Ricky Mitchell

Wednesday, June 24, Mantra Das

Wednesday, July 8, Ross and Thomas

Wednesday, July 15, Scott Osborne

Wednesday, July 22, special guest instructor to be announced

Thursday, July 30, Karl Wohlwend

Instrument access has been funded by the Office of Academic Affairs at The Ohio State University and the generosity of the Mellon Foundation. To learn more and to register online visit mansfield.osu.edu/guitar/free-lessons

Light Up the Valley 5K planned for Saturday, June 27 in Bellville

A Light Up the Valley 5K and one mile fun run will be held Saturday, June 27 in Bellville. The family friendly 5K will begin at 8:30 am. To register visit www.tinyurl.com/LUTV5K

The 5K is sponsored by Sunshine Girls Running Club.

The club is a Christ-centered running program that encourages girls to grow strong physically, confident mentally and rooted spiritually.

Through running, faith-based lessons and positive relationships, the goal is to help girls build confidence and resilience, develop Christ-centered character, enjoy movement and teamwork, understand their identity in Christ and experience a safe, encouraging community.

The program, designed for third through sixth grade, runs twice each year in the spring and fall and includes running practices that build endurance and strength and faith and character curriculum each week that focuses on one Christ-centered character trait that God gives us.

Lessons are age-appropriate and rooted in scripture.

Visit sunshinegirlsrunningclub.org or email info@sunshinegirlsrunningclub.org for more information.

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Local state champion athletes inspire community at Voices of Richland County Walk at The Ontario Center

Photos and Article By Traci Little

ONTARIO — State champion athletes traded medals for microphones June 3, sharing stories of perseverance and hard work with community members gathered for the Voices of Richland County walk at The Ontario Center.

The latest Voices of Richland County event, presented by Richland County Mobility Management, brought together community members of all ages to celebrate mobility, wellness and local achievement. This month's featured guests included state champion athletes from Ontario, Clear Fork and Crestview, whose accomplishments have made history for their schools and communities.

Participants were encouraged to walk at their own pace, whether that meant one lap around the center court or several miles over the course of the morning. The focus remained on movement, connection and building a healthier community one step at a time.

The spotlight first turned to Ontario High School's Division II state championship boys 200-yard freestyle relay team. Grantham Trumpower, Colton Montgomery, and Jack Rietschlin and Owen Walter (not present) captured the state title while setting a new Division II state tournament record of 1:24.32 — the first relay state championship in Ontario swimming history.

For Trumpower, the achievement represented years of early mornings, late evenings and unwavering commitment.

"Getting into high school, it's always a goal to try to accomplish

something like that," he said. "It's something you think about every day at practice. It never really leaves your mind."

He recalled the excitement of the championship race, where Ontario entered as the top seed but found itself trailing during the final. Trusting his teammates and the plan they had built all season, the Warriors rallied to claim gold.

"It was definitely the most exciting race of my life," Trumpower said.

Montgomery credited the team's close bond for helping fuel their success.

"We have a great group of boys, and we have just pushed each other to the max," he said. "We're always there for each other."

Rietschlin echoed those sentiments, pointing to both family and teammates as key sources of encouragement throughout his journey.

The event also featured Ontario wrestling standout Aiden Ohl, who captured the Division II 120-pound state championship and became the school's first state wrestling champion since 1999. Ohl finished his career with a remarkable 173-14 record and became the winningest wrestler in Ontario history. He is also the program's only four-time state placer.

When asked how he balanced academics, training and personal responsibilities, Ohl emphasized structure and discipline.

"I tried to divide up the day into sections so that I knew what I was doing and when I was going to do it," he said.

(Continued on Page 39)





State champions inspire at Voices of Richland County Walk

(Continued from Page 38)

Clear Fork sophomore Anthony Oscar shared his experience after becoming the first wrestler in school history to win an individual state championship. Oscar earned the Division II 144-pound title with a dominant 12-1 victory and recently qualified for the prestigious Fargo National Championships in both freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling.

Oscar said wrestling has shaped more than his athletic abilities. "Wrestling is not an easy sport at all," he said. "It definitely helps me in my outside life. It helps me get that discipline, get your work done and do what you need to do."

Representing Crestview High School, junior Naomi Gearheart reflected on her historic accomplishment as the first girls state wrestling champion in school history and the first girls state champion from Ashland County. Gearheart won the Division 145-pound title in dramatic fashion with a 12-11 victory.

She credited the support of her small-town community for helping fuel her success.

"Everybody knows each other, so everybody's supporting each other," Gearheart said. "It means a lot knowing that people are there for me."

The athletes received praise from coaches and mentors who empha-

sized that championships represent far more than medals and trophies. Clear Fork assistant wrestling coach Tom Stortz encouraged the athletes to appreciate the significance of what they have accomplished.

"Years later, you're going to look back on what you did and think about the grind and the sacrifice you made," Stortz said. "People in the community notice, and they appreciate it."

Ontario swim coach Brooke Trumpower reminded the student-athletes that the most valuable lessons often extend beyond competition.

"We don't always remember our times and places," she said. "But we do remember the lessons we learned from it."

She challenged the athletes to invest in younger generations and become mentors themselves, helping future students navigate the same journey toward success.

As walkers continued circling the court and conversations lingered long after the program ended, the event reminded us that championships are built through perseverance, support and community. The morning celebrated not only athletic excellence but also the values that connect generations — discipline, encouragement and the willingness to keep moving forward, one step at a time.

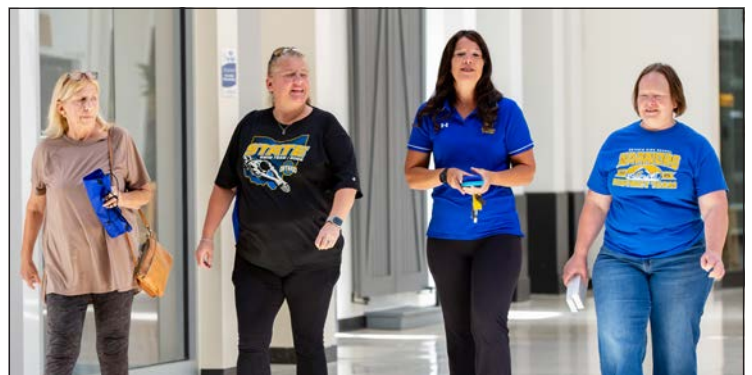
The Voices of Richland County walking series continues June 17 with local pageant queens and July 1 with Media Personalities serving as featured guests.



City of Ontario Mayor Josh Bradley



Photos By Traci Little



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 June 3, 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-15 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR OR HIS DESIGNEE (CHIEF OF POLICE) TO DONATE ONE (1) UNNEEDED AND SLATED FOR AUCTION PATROL CAR TO NORTH CENTRAL STATE COLLEGE POLICE ACADEMY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-16 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR OR HIS DESIGNEE (CHIEF OF POLICE) TO CONTRIBUTE \$2,000 FROM THE POLICE TRAINING FUND TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF WRESTLING MATS USED AT THE NORTH CENTRAL STATE COLLEGE POLICE ACADEMY FOR TRAINING PURPOSES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Abbey Beaver
Asst. Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 6-11, 18, '26) 35L

LEGAL NOTICE

The Springfield Township, Richland County, Ohio invites asphalt contractors to bid Township Road work for 2026. Sealed bids will be accepted until 6:00 p.m. on June 22, 2026 at the Trustee's Office, 3700 Park Avenue West Ontario, Ohio 44903 at which time they will be publicly opened and read by the Fiscal Officer. Improvements with "Chip & Seal" will be according to specifications available at

the Trustees' Office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday beginning June 6, 2026.

The Road Foreman will be available to answer questions at (419) 529-2565.

All bids must be accompanied by a personal tax statement in accordance with state law and Ohio Workers Compensation and prevailing wage rate. Each bid will include a 10% bid bond as required by R.C. 153.54. Bids shall be clearly marked "2026 Road Improvement".

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

The completion date is October 31, 2026.

Amanda Hike
Fiscal Officer
Springfield Township
Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 6-4, 11, '26) 37L

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Separate sealed bids for the 2026 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation in the City of Ontario, Ohio will be received by Michael Morton, Service-Safety Director, at 555 Stumbo Road, Ontario, Ohio 44906 until 10:00 AM, local time Thursday June 25th, 2026, and then, at said office, publicly opened and read aloud.

The Instructions to Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Plans, Specifications, and other contract documents may be examined at KE McCartney & Associates, 52 North Diamond Street, Mansfield, Ohio 44902 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

In order to be a plan holder of record and eligible to submit a bid, bidders will be required to purchase and download an electronic set of plans and bid documents via the KEM Web Site by visiting <https://kemccartney.com/project-bids/>. All documents become the property of the prospective bidder, with no portion of the payment being refunded.

The project includes the installation of approximately 2,666 LF of 8-inch cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) liner for sanitary sewer mains along with the CIPP lining and reinstatement of 22 sanitary sewer service laterals up to the right-of-way. The sanitary sewer service laterals consist of approximately 694 LF of 6-inch pipe. The estimated cost of construction is \$280,125.00.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any irregularity which does not affect the competitive nature of the bidding process or to reject any or all bids. Contract will be awarded based on the lowest and best bid. The City of Ontario may reject any or all bids on any basis and without disclosure of reason. The failure to make such disclosure shall not result in accrual of any right, claim or cause of action by any unsuccessful bidder against the City of Ontario.

Each bid must be accompanied by either an Ohio Revised Code Section 153.571 Bid and Performance Payment Bond in an amount equal to 100% of the bid; or, a cashier's check, bid bond, letter of credit to be duly executed by the bidder as principal and having as surety thereon, a surety company approved by the Owner in

the amount of 10% of the bid. Each bid must contain the full name of the party or parties submitting the proposal and all persons interested therein. All contractors and subcontractors involved with the project will, to the extent practicable use Ohio Products, materials, services, and labor in the implementation of their project. Additionally, contractor compliance with the equal employment opportunity requirements of the Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 123, the Governor's Executive Order of 1972, and the Governor's Executive Order 84-9 shall be required.

Each bid must contain the full name of the party or parties submitting the proposal and all persons interested therein. All contractors and subcontractors involved with the project will, to the extent practicable use Ohio Products, materials, services, and labor in the implementation of their project. Additionally, contractor compliance with the equal employment opportunity requirements of the Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 123, the Governor's Executive Order of 1972, and the Governor's Executive Order 84-9 shall be required.

The Owner intends and requires that this project be completed by Friday December 18th, 2026.

Bidders must comply with the prevailing wage rates on Public Improvements in Richland County and City of Ontario, Ohio as determined by the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, Wage and Hour Division, 614-644-2239.

First Bid Advertisement: Monday, June 4th, 2026
Second Bid Advertisement: Monday, June 11th, 2026
Bid Opening: Thursday, June 25th, 2026 at 10:00 AM

Cathy VanAuker, MMC
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 6-4, 11, '26) 95L

Ohioans reminded "Don't DIY!" for National Safety Month

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

"Plenty of home improvement projects are safe to 'do it yourself,' but performing work on a natural gas appliance isn't one of them," said Columbia Gas of Ohio President and COO Bob Heidorn. "It takes education, intensive training and hands-on experience to safely work with natural gas. That's why we always remind customers to hire a qualified professional when their natural gas equipment needs attention. Attempting to do the work yourself is never worth the safety risk."

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

What to take into consideration for home installations:

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

To find a qualified natural gas contractor near you, visit ColumbiaGasOhio.com/safety/find-a-contractor.

For more safety information on installing natural gas appliances and equipment, visit ColumbiaGasOhio.com/safety/home-safety/appliance-safety/safe-appliance-installation.





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