



TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com

10.15.26



ONTARIO ART STUDENTS and CCP Oceanus students went to Huron, OH, to visit Old Woman Creek. Old Woman Creek is protected as a State Nature Preserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) because it is one of Ohio's best remaining examples of a natural estuary. The estuary serves as a field laboratory where scientists can study this naturally functioning system and as a place where visitors can learn about estuarine ecology in a natural setting.

Great Pumpkin Glow returns to Kingwood Center Gardens

The Great Pumpkin Glow will return to Kingwood Center Gardens Oct. 16–18.

Over 1,000 glowing jack-o'-lanterns will light the way through the garden estate, offering guests a festive fall evening. Visitors can stroll through vibrant displays, Scarecrow Row, the Greenhouse Glow and the Fluorescent Forest. Families can also enjoy a children's carnival, local food trucks, seasonal activities and more. A live DJ will entertain each night.

The Great Pumpkin Glow runs from 4–9 pm, Oct. 16–18. Advanced timed tickets are required and are available at kingwood-center.org.

Kingwood member pricing is \$10 for 13 years and older, \$5 for children 7–12 and free for ages 6 and under. Non-member pricing is \$12 for 13 years and older, \$6 for children 7–12 and free for ages 6 and under. Children under six years still require an online reservation for free admission.

Parking is at the Mansfield Senior High School parking lot (not Arlin Field), with entry via West Park Blvd. The only guest entrance is through the Kingwood Linden Road gate. Complimentary shuttles, including options for those with accessibility needs, will be available. Be sure to arrive during the half-hour window selected when purchasing tickets.

Community members are invited to visit Kingwood for community

(Continued on Page 2)

“Fall at the Falls” festival planned at Fleming Falls Preserve Oct. 18

The Friends of the Richland County Parks invite the community to celebrate the beauty of autumn at the Fall at the Falls Festival, Saturday, Oct. 18, from 11 am to 4 pm at the Fleming Falls Preserve, 2274 Fleming Falls Rd., Mansfield (Madison area).

This family-friendly festival will be a day filled with seasonal activities, outdoor adventures, food, music and local history. Visitors can enjoy autumn color hikes, hayrides, a campfire with s'mores, pumpkin decorating and face painting for children.

Food trucks will be available throughout the festival, offering a variety of options, including fall-themed treats such as caramel corn and apple dumplings.

In the afternoon, guests can relax by the campfire and enjoy live guitar music performed by Henry J. Konzack. Visitors will also have an opportunity to discover the rich history of Fleming Falls Preserve during a special presentation by guest speaker Christine McCreedy.

Admission is free, and parking is available on site. Community members are encouraged to bring family and friends.

Nationally Recognized Care, Close to Home

AT UH SAMARITAN
MEDICAL CENTER IN ASHLAND



Scan the QR code, visit
UHhospitals.org/Samaritan
or call **419-962-9553**.

 **University Hospitals**
Samaritan Medical Center

Letter to the Editor

This November, voters in the Madison Local School District will be asked to renew an important school levy. I encourage our community to vote yes.

This is a renewal levy, so passing it will not increase local taxes. It will help our schools continue providing students with the support and opportunities they need to succeed.

Our schools are already showing strong results. Madison High School recently earned a four-star rating from the State of Ohio for the 2025-'26 school year. The high school career-tech program earned five stars, the highest rating possible.

These achievements reflect the hard work of our students, teachers, staff, and administrators. Renewing the levy will help keep opportunities available for current and future students.

Please show your Ram Pride and vote yes for the Madison Local School District renewal levy this November. Supporting our schools means supporting our students and our community.

Ramona Applegate
Class of 1967 and long-time community member

•Great Pumpkin Glow returns to Kingwood Center Gardens

(Continued from Front Page)

pumpkin carving on Oct. 14 and 15 from noon to 8 pm. Carved creations will become part of the glowing pumpkin pathway. All materials are provided, and carvers receive free admission to the gardens on carving days. Please note that participating in the Community Pumpkin Carving does not include admission to The Great Pumpkin Glow event.

Special Hours Notice

Kingwood Center Gardens will be closed to the public during normal hours on October 16-18 to prepare and host The Great Pumpkin Glow. Additionally, the Gardens will remain closed on Monday, October 19, for post-event cleanup.

For more details or to purchase tickets, visit kingwoodcenter.org or call 419-522-0211. The Great Pumpkin Glow is an all-weather event; no refunds or exchanges.

Trunk-or-treat, touch-a-truck is Oct. 24

Richland County Children Services (RCCS), in collaboration with the Madison Township Fire Department, will host a trunk-or-treat and touch-a-truck family fun event on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 2-4 pm.

The event will be held in Madison Comprehensive High School's parking lot, 600 Esley Ln., Mansfield.

A rain date has been scheduled for Oct. 31, from 2-4 pm.

For more information or to sign up to decorate your trunk and pass out treats, contact RCCS Community Engagement Support Paula Caldwell at paula.caldwell@jfs.ohio.gov or 419- 774-4163.

THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —



Since it's October and spooky season, I thought I would take this week to review a definitive horror movie, 1978's *Halloween*.

Directed by John Carpenter, this movie really set off the whole slasher genre though this one does it right.

After young Michael Myers murders his sister as a child, he is sent to a psychiatric institute under the watchful eye of Dr. Loomis (Donald Pleasance). One night Michael escapes and returns to his hometown of Haddonfield where he unleashes a reign of terror as Loomis searches for his patient.

Shot on a low budget in southern California where leaves were bagged up and moved from location to location, this movie sets the atmosphere beautifully with Carpenter's chilling score and the creepy opening credits with the flickering pumpkin.

Of course this movie intro-

duces Jamie Lee Curtis as Laurie Strode. She is so understated as the responsible one amongst her friend group, babysitting as Michael stalks her.

The kills in this movie are great because they do so much without any gore.

Everything is effective because the story works as Myers is this unknown boogeyman that keeps the audience guessing.

There is so much done with lighting and the camerawork is masterfully done by the great Dean Cundey.

Halloween is a classic for a reason. Its one I watch every year and it has kept up with being so creepy and well done because of the scares, kills and performances. John Carpenter does a terrific directing job and this movie is a classic for a reason.



Banff National Park, Alberta, Canada • Photo By Mark Shutt

Vol. 66
No. 1

Tribune-Courier

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

PO Box 127, Ontario, OH 44862 • 419-529-2847
news@tribune-courier.com • www.tribune-courier.com
© All Rights Reserved

The Tribune-Courier is published by Stumbo Publishing Co., Inc. Advertisers should check their ad immediately. The Tribune-Courier is not liable for failure to publish an ad or for a typographical error or errors in publication, except that adjustment for Tribune-Courier errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. Marc A. Stumbo, publisher; Frank A. Stumbo, president/CEO (1961-2018); Betty E. Stumbo, co-publisher (1961-2017); Jenna M. Wolford, managing editor, general manager and feature/travel writer; Teresa Vore, office manager; Traci Little, photojournalist/advertising representative; Kris Leiter, sports writer; John J. Kirschenheiter, editor (1961-2008); Linda Fulmer, columnist (2005-2014). By-lined stories are opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the position of this newspaper.

News Briefs

With too many books to put out for the recent Fall Used Book Sale, the Friends of the Galion Public Library decided to make a special two-day sale featuring biography, vintage and history categories. Other categories will be offered as well.

The event will take place in the community room at the library, 123 N. Market St., Galion, on Friday, Nov. 6 from 9:30 am to 5 pm and Saturday, Nov. 7 from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm.

All media is offered on donation, and the proceeds go to support programs and materials for the library. For information call 419-468-3203.

★

The third annual craft show and vendor sale to support LifeWise Madison will be held Saturday, Oct. 17 from 9 am to 2 pm at Trinity Grace Fellowship, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield.

There will be coffee, hot chocolate, cider and donuts for sale from 9-11 am and sloppy joes, shredded chicken sandwiches, chips and water for sale from 11 am to 2 pm.

Donations to support LifeWise Madison will be accepted at the door.

★

The City of Ontario will host a city-wide trick-or-treat night on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 5-6:30 pm

★

Mansfield 1st Presbyterian Church, 399 S. Trimble Rd., Mansfield, will host a rummage sale on Friday, Oct. 9, from 9 am to 4 pm; and Saturday, Oct. 10, from 9 am to noon.

The sale will include a selection of clothing for children and adults, shoes, books, toys, housewares, furniture and more. Proceeds are used for local missions. For information call 419-756-7066.

★

All Souls Unitarian Universalist of Bellville, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Rev. Dr. Elaine Strawn on Sunday, Oct. 18, at 10:30 am. The topic will be "The Spiritual Dance: Moving from Comfort to Growth." For information visit www.allsoulsuohio.org.

★

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

the meal, with an additional \$2 for pie.

The next meal will be Oct. 21, with ham being served. Ken Huber, saxophonist, will perform.

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

★

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and The Domestic Violence Shelter of Richland County invites the community to help raise awareness, support survivors and bring the community together.

Remaining events include a community wellness event Saturday, Oct. 17 from 9 am to 1 pm at 44 W. 4th St., Mansfield.

Tickets are \$15 and available at <https://thedvshelter.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neon-events/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F52911>

★

The 33rd Annual Crestview Craft Show will be held Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9 am to 3 pm at Crestview Middle School, 1575 St. Rt. 96, Ashland.

Proceeds go to support the music department.

★

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, Oct. 24 and 25. 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.

(Continued on Page 5)



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS from Richland Newhope Industries Inc. (RNI, Inc.) recently visited the Ohio Bird Sanctuary. Those attending were able to walk the trails and visit with sanctuary birds.



Help

STOMP OUT BREAST CANCER

in Richland County this October



30th ANNIVERSARY
Since 1990
**PAT KRACKER
BREAST
CANCER
FUND**
GET THOSE MAMMIES GRANTED

Round up your total to donate to the Pat Kracker Breast Cancer Fund.

OSU-M Theatre stages "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead"

The Ohio State University Mansfield Theatre and The Mansfield Shakespeare Company will present Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* Oct. 23-26 in Founders Auditorium on the Ohio State Mansfield campus.

Directed by Gary Kennedy, the production marks Kennedy's return to directing after several decades.

Stoppard's dark comedy retells *Hamlet* from the worm's-eye view

of two bewildered minor characters. Thrust into the spotlight, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern stumble through a world where reality and illusion blur, and where fate pulls them toward an ending they can't escape. The play marks its 60th anniversary this season and remains Stoppard's best-known work.

"What continues to impress me about *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* is how quickly it shifts from broad comedy to moments of genuine introspection," said Kennedy.

"It's a beautifully written play that invites audiences to laugh, reflect and connect with some very human questions about how we find ourselves where we are in life."

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead" is produced by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

Performances will be held at 7:30 pm in Founders Auditorium, Ohio State Mansfield, 1680 University Dr., Mansfield.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$6 for students, seniors and faculty.

Tickets can be purchased at 800-762-5646 or 614-247-4105, at the box office 45 minutes before showtime and online at go.osu.edu/mansfield_tickets for current students, faculty, staff and alumni. For more information email mansfieldtheatre@osu.edu or call the box office at 419-755-4045.



Church Directory

All Souls Unitarian Universalist

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

First Congregational Church

640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield
419-756-3046 • www.mansfieldfcc.com
Pastor Brad Bunn
8:30 am Chapel • 10:30 am Sanctuary
10:30 am Sunday School (nursery-high school)
10 am Monday Morning Bible Study

Lexington Church of the Cross

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

Ontario United Methodist Church

3540 Park Avenue West., Ontario
419-529-4345 • ontarioumc.com
Rev. J.P. Snyder
9:30 am Grace & Eggs
11 am Sunday Worship and Kingdom Kids

St. John's United Church of Christ

2010 Park Avenue West, Mansfield
(At Hope Lutheran Next to Drug Mart)
419-522-2813 • www.stjohnsmansfield.org
contact@stjohnmansfield.org
Pastor Faith Proietti • 11 am Sunday Worship
Office hours: Mon-Fri 9 am to 1 pm
AA Meetings M & F 10 am & noon;
Wed. noon Brown Bag and Sat. 6 pm

Trinity Grace Fellowship

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

G & M Body & Paint Shop

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

Wappner Funeral Home

Mansfield • Ontario • Ashland • 419-522-5211

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Dennis "Denny" James Berry, September 29
David H Burkhart, October 2
Phyllis "Lynn" Hunt, October 3
Curtis Junior Risner, October 3
Roy Allen Clifton, October 4
Roy Phillip Conn, October 4
William Joseph Scott, October 7
Susie J Wengerd, October 8
Vickie Sue Kahl, October 9
Justin Drew McKenzie, October 9

View Full Obituaries at www.dignitymemorial.com

Our Family Serving Your Family for Five Generations Since 1872



WAPPNER
Funeral Directors & Crematory

Three Locations to Serve You

Mansfield • 98 South Diamond St. • 419-522-5211
Ontario • 100 S. Lexington-Springmill Rd. • 419-529-2323
Ashland • 308 Claremont Avenue • 419-289-1552

www.wappner.com

•News Briefs

(Continued from Page 3)

★
First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Avenue W., Mansfield, will host a Heritage Organ Concert on Sunday, Oct. 25, at 4 pm.

★
The City of Ontario October meeting schedule includes Oct. 21, 6:15 pm, caucus and 7 pm, council. Meetings are held at the city building 555 Stumbo Rd., Ontario.

★
City of Mansfield Mayor Jodie A. Perry has announced that city-wide trick-or-treat is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 31, from 5-7 pm.

Residents who wish to participate are asked to turn on their porch lights. Young children will be out walking throughout the community. Please use extra caution when driving.

★
Mayflower Congregational Church, 548 N. McElory Rd., will host a beef goulash dinner on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 4:30 to 6 pm.

The meal will include beef goulash, coleslaw or applesauce, bread, dessert and beverage. Cost is \$10.

For information call 419-589-6612.

★
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

10th Annual Savor & Sip is Oct. 22

The 10th Annual Savor & Sip Silent Auction and Food Tasting will be held Thursday, Oct. 22, from 5-7:30 pm at the Mid-Ohio Conference Center, 890 W. Fourth St., Mansfield.

The event will offer sample tastings from food vendors, live music and the chance to bid on over 100 silent auction items.

Auction items include themed baskets, chocolates, gift cards, wine, sports tickets and more. Live entertainment will be by Avenue Blue.

Food vendors to date include Avita Health System, Bytchn Kitchen, Carbliss, Char-Bougie LLC, City Garden Cafe, Coney Island Diner, Deer Ridge Golf Club & The Black Dog Tavern, Exclusively Yours Catering, Cab2twist, LLC, Fazolis, Gionino's Pizzeria, Jackie's Cheesecakes, Jamaican Spice On Wheels, Millersburg Brewing, Reindeer Grill, Richland Carrousel Park Inc., Skyline Chili, The Hidden Acres Farm, Truckin Trav Street Food, Twisted Fig Tea, U R Worthy Catering and Westbrook Country Club.

A free souvenir pub glass and tote bag will be given to the first 300 to register. Cost is \$30 per person early bird through Oct. 9 and \$40 after.

To register call 419-522-3211 or register online at <https://richlandareachamber.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register?cid=0tpU28f842XDA9766i2256n9o0o2op6379BD2w7296DT-MO3207982p814072s77d>



STUDENTS IN BRITTANY RHODES' culinary fundamentals class have been busy learning about vegetables and the nutritional impact that they have on long-term health. They put their cooking skills to the test making vegetable pizza and vegetable quesadillas. Students had the opportunity to try out two different vegetable recipes with the focus on different color vegetables having different nutrients as well as flavor with raw vegetables verses cooked ones. They wrapped up the unit by playing Point Salad which is a strategy card game with students trying to build the highest scoring salad.

Elect **Robert A. FRANCO**

Richland County Probate Judge



**A COMMITMENT TO
FAIRNESS, RESPECT,
AND THE RULE OF LAW.**

*Experienced Probate and
Real Estate Attorney*



LEARN MORE >

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF ROBERT A. FRANCO, DALE M. LEACH TREASURER



THE ARMY MEDICAL TRUCK visited Madison Comprehensive High School to allow students and the community to get a close look at how Army medical teams train and care for people. Staff Sergeant Gibson, the local Army recruiter, helped bring the truck to the school. Visitors could try virtual simulations, practice life-saving CPR and see how Army surgeons train with real-life dummies. They also experienced what it is like to care for patients as a first responder and walked through displays showing artificial limbs, brain injuries and the tools Army medical teams use every day.

Applications accepted for Earth Day Native Tree Giveaway Program

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) has announced the opening of applications for an Earth Day Native Tree Giveaway Program, an initiative designed to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards.

The program provides regional school students (grades K-12) across the Muskingum River and Duck Creek watersheds with native tree seedlings to take home and plant. By encouraging students to plant and care for their trees, MWCD aims to foster a lifelong connection to nature while supporting conservation, flood control, and improved water quality throughout the watershed.

"Trees are one of our most valuable natural resources, benefiting air and water quality, stabilizing soil, and providing habitat for wildlife," said Craig Butler, Executive Director at MWCD. "This program allows students to experience those benefits firsthand, watching their seedling grow year after year."

Schools within the watershed region, which includes Richland and Ashland counties, are invited to apply to receive between 250 and 1,000 seedlings for distribution to students.

The 2027 giveaway will feature three native species: Chestnut Oak, Serviceberry and Tulip Poplar. These trees were selected to maximize biodiversity and support a wide range of growing conditions ranging from small yards to rural properties.

Applications will be accepted Oct. 2-28, on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested schools or authorized representatives should submit a completed application form, available at www.mwcd.org.

Awardees will receive a single shipment of bare-root seedlings ahead of Earth Day 2027.



SAPPLINGS — Students from Buckeye Career Center assisted MWCD staff in 2026 preparing the saplings for distribution.



**Scan to Subscribe
to the FREE Weekly Issue**
Or Visit <http://eepurl.com/hnS9N9>



MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

TURN YOUR HOBBY INTO HOPE

Turn **something you love** into a fundraiser to advance Alzheimer's care, support and research.

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER ➔

**DO WHAT
YOU LOVE
TO END ALZ**
ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

SCAN TO GET STARTED



alz.org/dowhatyoulove



24/7 HELPLINE 800.272.3900

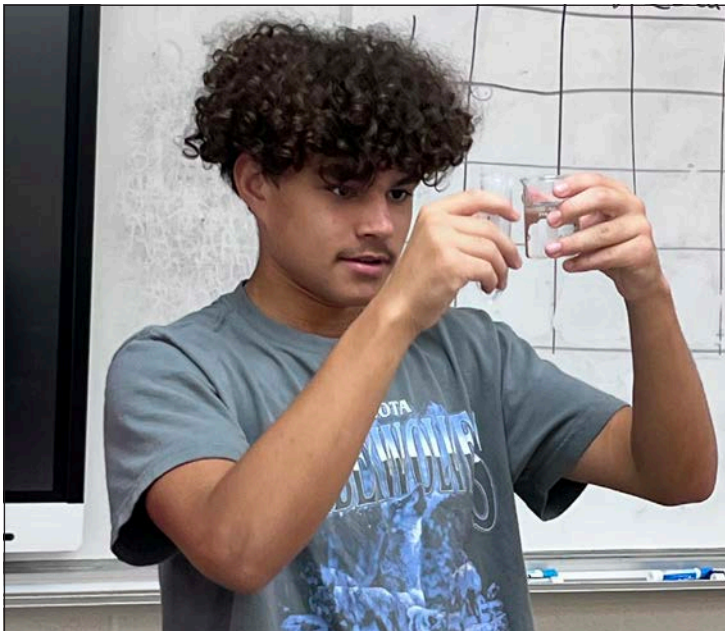
MRCPL to host Teddy Bear Concert

The Renaissance Theatre will host the first of its three Teddy Bear Concerts of the 2026-'27 Mechanics Bank Education Series on Saturday, Oct. 24 at 2:30 pm. "The Spooky Old House" will be held in the community room at the Mansfield/Richland County Public Library's Main Location, 43 W. Third St., in Downtown Mansfield.

Considered an annual fall family tradition, the performance features a humorous Halloween story, brought to life by artistic director Michael Thomas in an engaging musical adaptation that features audience participation, interactive storytelling with local actors and live musicians from the Mansfield Symphony.

With audience members sitting alongside the performers, and geared to children ages two through 10, each Teddy Bear concert offers an interactive element as well as a relaxed environment. Small audience sizes, lights up and low sound levels allow audience members with autism and other sensory-sensitivities to be accommodated at this performance.

Tickets are free for "The Spooky Old House," thanks to additional support from Mechanics Bank, Nationwide Children's and The Ohio Arts Council. To reserve tickets visit www.rentickets.org or stop by the box office at 138 Park Avenue West in Mansfield. For inquiries, call 419-522-2726.



MRS. WELCH'S BIOLOGY classes at Ontario High School used native aquatic plants, light and student-produced CO₂ to study photosynthesis first-hand.



THE YOUNG LEADERS INSTITUTE is a program at Ontario High School that helps selected sophomores develop leadership skills, explore career options and become more engaged in their communities. Throughout the program, students will collaborate with peers from across the district, explore the 20 tenets of culture, complete a team project and learn about the businesses hosting each session. "How to Be a Great Teammate," was hosted by Schmidt Total Protection.

Your local agent for home & auto

Call me for a quote today



Brian R Gates Ins Agcy Inc
Brian Gates, Agent

2021 Park Avenue West, Suite 100
Ontario, OH 44906-2259

Bus: 419-529-3888
brian@gatesagency.com
www.gatesagency.com



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL

State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas, State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX

State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL



Support Local Coffee Shops

Visit a featured location below, then email your order and visit date to tribune.courier.traci@gmail.com for a chance to win a \$20 coffee gift card!

Goldberry Roasting Company
1262 Franklin Ave, Ashland
goldberryroasting.com

Bloom Nutrition & Drink Bar
126 East Main Street,
W 2nd St Rear, Ashland

4th Street Coffee House
1996 W 4th St, Ontario

Pump and Grind
586 Park Avenue East,
OH-430, Mansfield

ADVERTISE
HERE

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

ADVERTISE
HERE

Revive Coffee Bar
1201 Mill Rd, Bellville
revivecoffeebar.com

ADVERTISE
HERE

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

The Green Bean House
230 Main St, Bellville
419-719-6026
@thegreenbeanhouse

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Ontario girls tennis team shares Mid-Ohio Athletic Conference title for first time in school history

By Kris Leiter

The Ontario High School girls tennis team has earned the Mid-Ohio Athletic Conference title for the first time in school history. The girls share the title with Marion Harding.

The Warriors regular season that concluded on Saturday, Sept. 26 with a 5-0 victory over Clear Fork. This gave Ontario a share of the Mid-Ohio Athletic Conference championship.

Todd Friend, in his twelfth year as head coach for the Blue and Gold, is excited for the new banner to be displayed in the O-Rena gymnasium. It will read "2026 Girls Tennis - MOAC Champions."

"Our athletic director, Ethan Pensante, sent me a picture of where the banner will be going," said Friend. "He told me they will have to dust that area off since girls tennis has never had a banner displayed there."

Looking back on the start of the season Friend recalled, "I had a feeling we were going to do pretty good, however, I didn't realize we would be 17-1 conference champions. When I started here 12 years ago, I think the girls were way under 500."

Friend has made great strides in his coaching tenure since 2015, when he landed in Warrior country. His wealth of experience touts a phenomenal school record of 175-69!

"All the praise goes to the girls because they're the ones playing."

"They are the ones buying into the program. They have challenging matches in tough conditions. I'm really proud of them. Again, it's not just the coaching. They're the ones that apply and do it."

"I think since I've started to coach, we've sent between 12 and 14 girls to districts and that's quite an accomplishment. There are many schools that never make it to districts."

"If you get to districts, you're in the top 64 players in the state of Ohio."

"First singles players and both of my doubles teams made the final four."

"This is an ultra-competitive, gritty and tough group. They play to win and I'm proud

of who they are on the court. They are polite and kind-hearted in the way they conduct themselves and care."

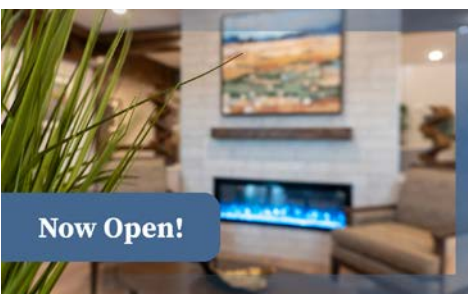
My first doubles team is Saylor Smith, who also plays softball, and Mady Yoha. Ellie Dawson plays singles and is an All-Ohio softball player. A lot of my girls play softball

as a multi-sport."

I asked Friend about the hierarchy of the team. I was surprised by his answer.

"There are only two seniors on varsity — Saylor Smith and Ally Bell — so almost everybody's coming back next year."

(Continued on Page 10)



Now Open!



SILVER BIRCH
OF MANSFIELD

Affordable Assisted Living For Seniors 55+

Silver Birch of Mansfield is proud to be the first fully Medicaid Waiver eligible Assisted Living community in Richland County!

NOW LEASING! (419) 709-8400

www.silverbirchliving.com | 300 Cline Avenue, Mansfield, OH 44907

RE-ELECT

Cliff Mears

RICHLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONER

NOVEMBER 3RD

EXPERIENCE • LEADERSHIP • RESULTS

Paid for by Citizens to Retain Cliff Mears.



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

●Ontario girls tennis team shares MOAC title

(Continued from Page 9)

"Next year, we will have some strong juniors returning, totaling nine. One of my best players, number two singles, is freshman Blake Schwartz."

As I chatted with Friend, he was very humble and his passion for the game was apparent, playing tennis since he was 12 years old.

"Tennis is something that everybody in my family always played, so that's why I started and am still going strong after 24 years."

Friend, a 1988 graduate of Mansfield Senior, notched the record books with the most wins in school history. His passion led him to play collegiate tennis for DIII Wittenberg in Springfield. He won the conference championship singles and doubles.

He then came back to the Richland county area and re-connected with Ron Schaub, head tennis pro at the well-renowned Lakewood Raquet Club in Lexington.

Schaub is a long-time household name for coaching incredible high school players from Lexington. Some have gone onto play collegiate tennis.

Friend played in a traveling league through the raquet club.

"We had a really good team. We were from "little" Lexington, beating Cleveland and Columbus teams regularly — it was a blast."

"I played for years on the USTA Adult Leagues. We would travel around the state of Ohio. Schaub taught me the game at Lakewood and he would typically travel with us."

"Our team played in a regional final in Toledo. I think we lost by one. If we had won, I think we would have went to Arizona for nationals."

As for landing the job with the Warriors, that came about in a slightly unconventional way. He wasn't sending resumes out looking for the job. The job found him. He was associated with the school and helping with other sports whne we was offered an opportunity.

"Somebody called me into the athletic director's office. They asked me if I would be interested in coaching tennis. I had never thought much about it. I was told, well, if you don't coach, we won't have a season. This was about five weeks before the season started."

"I decided to give it a try and you know, 12 years later, here I am."

ONTARIO VS CLEAR FORK · SEPT. 26
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER

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 September 16, 2026.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 26-18 – RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.

Abbey Beaver
Clerk of Council
Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 10-8, 15 '26) 21L

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 October 7, 2026.

The complete text of this Ordinance

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

RESOLUTION NO. 26-19 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND / OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-20 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PERFORM OVERHEAD SIGN SUPPORT IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS ON SR 309 IN THE CITY OF ONTARIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Abbey Beaver
Clerk of Council
Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 10-15, 22 '26) 36L

Historic Greenland deal secured to defend the arctic

**Submitted By Leigh Hartman, Public Affairs Specialist
U.S. Department of State Bureau of Global Public Affairs**

On Sept. 22, President Trump signed an unprecedented security agreement with the leaders of Denmark and Greenland guaranteeing U.S. security interests in Greenland, at no cost to American taxpayers.

"I am pleased to announce that the United States of America has entered into an agreement... that gives the United States permanent control over security and all other needs, in Greenland," said President Trump. "There will be NO COST to the United States!"

The agreement includes permanent basing rights and bars any U.S. adversary from establishing a base, military presence or sensitive investment in Greenland without American approval.

Greenland is strategically vital to the United States, the President said in his address to the United Nations General Assembly. With this agreement, the United States will have the complete ability to do what is necessary to defend the American continent.

"Your security is our security and our security is your security," Prime Minister of Greenland Jens-Frederik Nielsen said at the signing. "This agreement is historical."

The day before the signing, Secretary of State Rubio met in New York with the Foreign Ministers of Canada, Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The allies agreed that Arctic security requires continued investment to safeguard the region and deter strategic competitors.

The agreement settles long-standing American security concerns, and now protects America "in perpetuity," Secretary Rubio said in an interview with Sean Hannity.

"If missiles were ever launched at the U.S., they would come over the Arctic Circle and over the Arctic region," Secretary Rubio said in an interview with WABC Radio, "having that presence there will be the first line of defense against that."

Under the agreement, any non-NATO country that wants to make sensitive investments in Greenland must go through a screening process. With this agreement, "Greenland will forever be part of the strategic defense area of North America and exclude any adversary from it and the surrounding area," Secretary Rubio said on X.

The agreement expands the 1951 defense agreement between the United States and Denmark, which has been the basis for 75 years of security cooperation.

"We are strengthening our common security, boosting our common deterrence, showing our adversaries who we are, and we are doing it together," Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said at the signing.

"This is tremendous for Europe and for the United States and for everybody," said President Trump.



THE MADISON EIGHTH GRADE FOOTBALL TEAM traveled to Delaware, OH, to watch the Ohio Wesleyan University Battling Bishop Football Team take on the Wooster Scots. Ram football players attended along with their coach, John Foust and Madison's Middle School Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Andy Kepple. The young Rams toured the campus and enjoyed the game while cheering for their substitute teacher and Ohio Wesleyan Tight End Will Kepple. Kepple graduated from Madison in 2024. Students roared as he received a pass moving the ball forward 12 yards for a first down. While the boys look forward to playing for their high school, this opportunity gives them a glimpse into what they could do in their future by playing college football.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

**First Federal
Bank of Ohio**

THE RIGHT LOAN. THE RIGHT BANK.

LISA ANDERSON

Branch Manager/Loan Officer, NMLS 618735
landerson@firstfederalbankofohio.bank

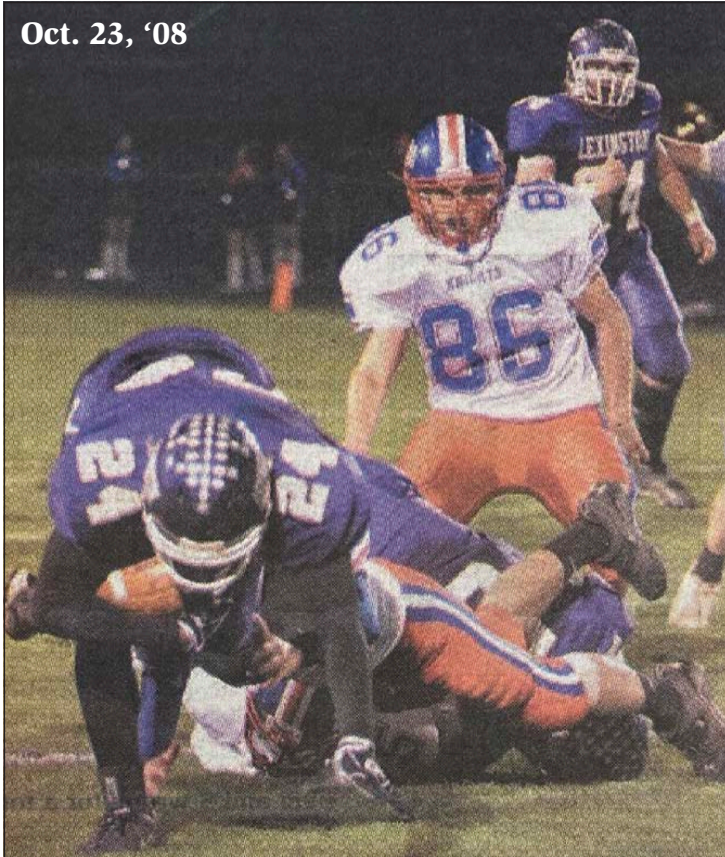
1728 W. Fourth Street
Mansfield, Ohio 44906

Phone: 419-529-4687
Fax: 419-529-4154



LOOKING BACK • THIS WEEK IN TRIBUNE-COURIER HISTORY

Oct. 23, '08



Bud Motter

LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL senior Antonio Pickens (24) picks up a first down and along with the run he passed the 1,000 yard mark this year. Playing only the first half due to a sore ankle, Antonio scored two touchdowns and picked-up 75 yards in just five carries. Pictured for West Holmes is Zach Estep (86). Lexington's record now stands at 9-0 with the 56-6 win. Stats showed a lop sided game with the Minutemen's 630 yards. Lex held West Holmes to just 151 yards.

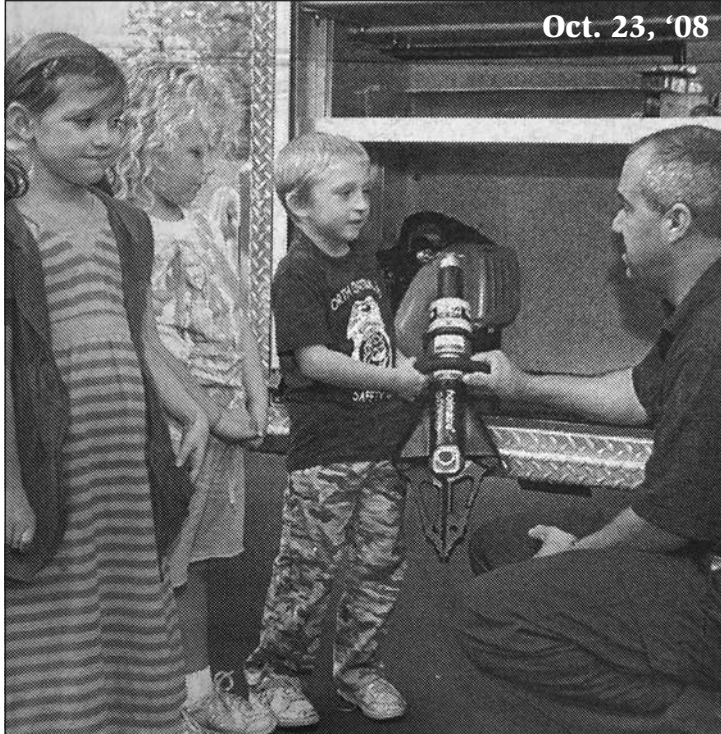


Oct. 23, '08

Submitted Photo

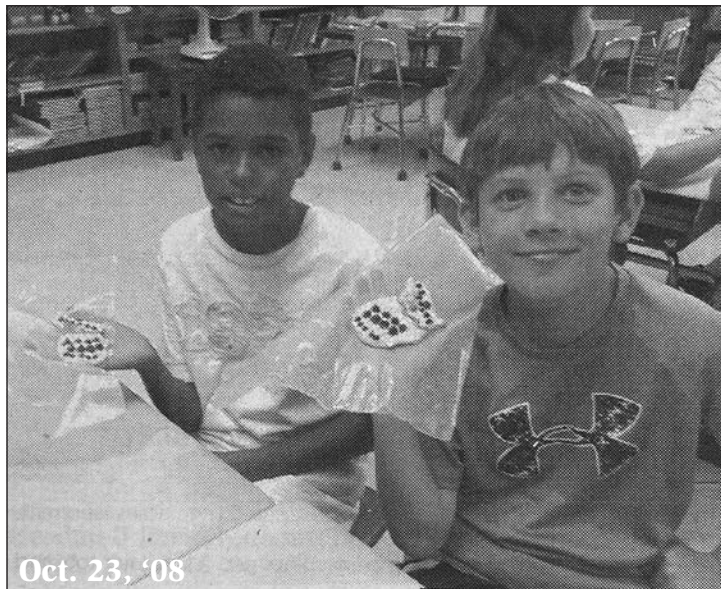
ONTARIO'S Alex Craze, Haley Pittman, Rachel Gombosch, Audrey Galat, Paige Rengert, Dayna Menard, Allison Chelski and Haley Cochran took five of the top eleven places to win the championship trophy in the junior high girls 1.6 mile race at the Mansfield Cat Pack Invitational.

Oct. 23, '08



Bud Motter

MADISON TOWNSHIP FIRE CAPTAIN Mike Shears helps Tanner Phelps, a first grader at Eastview Elementary School, to hold the Jaws of Life. Waiting their turn are first graders Mierra Griffiths and Alyssa Deel.



Oct. 23, '08

Submitted Photo

MADISON MIFFLIN Elementary fifth graders had a tasty lesson on landforms of the United States. Jarod Lykins and Caleb Perkins display their United States shaped cookie. Students iced the cookies with the Rocky Mountains (large chocolate chips), Appalachian and Sierra Nevada Mountains (small chocolate chips), the Mississippi River (blue icing) Great Lakes (blue M&Ms) and the Great Plains (green coconut). Students also labeled Washington, D.C. and Columbus. After learning where landforms and cities were students ate their cookie.