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02.06.25



VISION PANEL — Village of Bellville Mayor Teri Brenkus, Village of Lexington Mayor Bob Jarvis and City of Ontario Mayor Kris Knapp attended the 2nd Annual Mayoral Vision Panel on Jan. 29.

Richland County mayors share vision

Photos and Article
By Traci Little

The Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development hosted its 2nd Annual Mayoral Vision Panel on Wednesday, Jan. 29, at the Ontario Event Center. The sold-out event provided local residents and business leaders with firsthand insights into the future of their communities.

Mayors from across Richland County shared their plans for 2025, focusing on economic development, infrastructure improvements, housing initiatives, and community growth. Moderated by Jeff Parton of Park National Bank, the panel included mayors Teri Brenkus (Bellville), Wesley Dingus (Butler), Cassandra Fryman (Plymouth), Todd Hall (Lucas), Bob Jarvis (Lexington), Kris Knapp (Ontario), Jodie Perry (Mansfield) and Steve Schag (Shelby).

Key themes and discussion points included growth, infrastructure and community perception. Mayors emphasized the power of collaboration in addressing key issues such as economic development, aging infrastructure, housing growth and revitalization efforts.

Discussion also focused on improving the first impression of their communities through upgraded signage, zoning enhancements, and site develop-

ment to attract new businesses and residents.

Infrastructure & Growth — Mayors emphasized the need for investment in roads, water lines and revitalization projects. Several communities are working on improving their downtown areas and enhancing wayfinding efforts.

Housing & Development — Cities and villages are addressing housing shortages with new residential projects, zoning updates, and incentives for builders to attract families. Shelby, for example, is converting a former trailer park into 48 modular housing units.

Community Perception & Business Growth — Improving first impressions is a major priority. Mansfield Mayor Jodie Perry highlighted the city's rebranding efforts, new signage, and plans to address neglected properties. Ontario Mayor Kris Knapp discussed efforts to streamline business development and revitalize old commercial areas.

Some major highlights, issues and initiatives that each mayor presented included:

Lucas Mayor Todd Hall is focused on selling vacant city-owned lots to encourage new housing development. The quaint community of 589 residents has prioritized business revitalization and affordable

housing development.

Mayor Hall is focused on selling off vacant lots to encourage new home construction. Some additional priorities include promoting local businesses, including Pinhook Meats and Town Money Saver, supporting Lucas Community Center, which has become a hub for concerts and events, the crown jewel of Lucas, and addressing the village's need for a new school. "Our entire community identity is based on our school, and we need a better, more modern facility," Hall emphasized.

Shelby Mayor Steve Schag announced a multimillion-dollar expansion with a major manufacturer and improvements to Black Fork Commons Plaza. With 11 years in office, Mayor Schag highlighted Shelby's storied past and bright future. With the manufacturing expansion in the works, the city is making strides in housing development with 48 new modular homes replacing a former trailer park.

Other priorities include neighborhood revitalization and landlord accountability, expanding Black Fork Commons and continuing to work on the South Parklands area, restoring the historic Shaw Building on the corner of North Gamble and Main Street, and demolishing

(Continued on Page 8)

Roundabout has reduced crashes and injuries

When a 2018 Richland County Planning Commission study identified the intersection of E. Cook Road, S. Illinois Avenue and Mansfield-Lucas Road in Madison Township as the sixth worst in the county overall, and the worst among those under the county's jurisdiction, the Richland County Engineer's Office sought ways to secure funding and improve safety.

Data showed that from 2015-'18, the two-way stop intersection saw 21 total crashes — an average of five per year with 15 of those resulting in injury.

The Richland County Engineer applied and was awarded safety funding through the Ohio Department of Transportation's Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). The purpose of this program is to reduce traffic deaths and serious injuries on all public roads. Funding is available for projects in all stages of development and typically requires a minimum of 10% local match. ODOT safety funds contributed \$1.2 million of the total \$1.3 million construction contract cost.

With all funding in place, the county was able to move forward with the construction of a single lane roundabout at the intersection in 2022.

"The ability for the county to utilize the LPA (Local Public Agencies) process and safety funds administered by ODOT, made the improvement to this dangerous intersection a reality in a timely manner," said Adam M. Gove, P.E., P.S., Richland County Engineer. "Without this program, the county would have had to delay this project until other funding could be obtained."

The roundabout was opened in August 2022 and in the two years since its opening, crashes have decreased by 40% with an average of three per year and there have been zero injury crashes.

"While only the second roundabout in Richland County, the simple design of a single lane roundabout has proven effective in reducing crashes and injuries," said Gove.

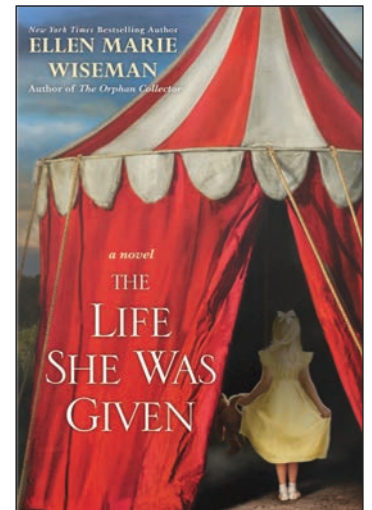


Chiesa di San Costantino, Italy • Photo By Mark Shutt

LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review
By Mandy Belczak Gurney



The Life She Was Given by Ellen Marie Wiseman is for lovers of *Water for Elephants*, *Before We Were Yours* and *The Orphan Collector*.

This is a story with dual storylines exposing some dark family secrets.

Lilly was born different, causing her to be hidden from the outside world. Just after The Great Depression she finds herself caught up in the world of a traveling circus dramatically changing the course of her life. Julia left her strict and loveless home at a very young age.

When she inherits the family horse farm, it sets off a search for answers to all the things hidden by the family farm. The circus setting is captivating, magical, and at times heartbreaking. A bit predictable for me, but still had beautiful characters to champion.

My rating: ★★★★★

Follow my blog at [Green Gurneys at GreenGurneys.com](http://GreenGurneys.com)

MRCPL will host Frederick Douglass exhibit

In recognition of Black History Month, Mansfield/Richland County Public Library announced the Frederick Douglass: Advocate for Equality exhibit on display at the main library Feb. 3 through 27.

The exhibit is in the second-floor lobby and is available during open hours. In this traveling exhibition, viewers can learn about Douglass' escape from slavery, his work as an abolitionist and his fight for equality for all individuals in the Jim Crow era. This exhibit explores his impact and life through his own words and in photographs and documents from the Gilder Lehrman Collection.

"There are such things in the world as human rights. They rest upon no conventional foundation, but are external, universal, and indestructible...I know of no rights of race superior to the rights of humanity," Frederick Douglass, *Our Composite Nationality*, 1869.

Frederick Douglass (1818-'95) was an anti-slavery advocate in America before the Civil War. When he came to Mansfield in 1857 he was only 39 years old and had published two autobiographies. Senator John Sherman of Mansfield knew Douglass when they both lived in Washington DC.

For hours visit mrcpl.org.

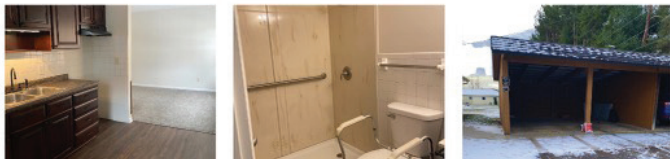
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News Briefs

The Lexington Area Senior Citizens Inc., invites those 55 and older to attend meetings the third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 am. February through May, the group will meet at New Life Church of Christ (NLC of C), 195 W. Durbin, Bellville. Cost is \$17 for the meal.

Meetings June through December will be held at Der Dutchman, Rt. 96, Bellville. Meals are \$16, with an additional \$2 for pie.

The next meal will be held on Feb. 19 with broasted chicken and entertainment by the Strut Your Stuff dancers. Those attending are asked to wear red.

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

★

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, March 1 and 2. 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 Feb. 12, Ontario Planning Commission meeting is cancelled due to no new agenda items.

★

CACY's Store it Safe Richland Program offers lock boxes for firearms, sharp objects and medications to protect and reduce risk of injury and save lives. Contact the CACY office at 419-774-5683 or andersont@cacyohio.com for details. If someone is thinking of harming themselves, call the local crisis helpline at 419-522-HELP (4357).

★

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Rev. Joan VanBecelaere to present "Wearing Your Heart On Your Sleeve" on Sunday, Feb. 9, at 10:30 am.

For information visit www.allsoulsuohio.org.

★

The Malabar Farm Maple Syrup Festival will be held March 1, 2, 8 and 9, from noon to 4 pm. There will be syrup making demonstrations, horse drawn wagon rides and food and maple products for sale. The festival is held at 4050 Bromfield Rd, Lucas.

Rumpke Waste & Recycling Services will partner with Richland County Regional Solid Waste Management Authority (RCRSWMA) in its roadside cleanup effort. Rumpke has been keeping neighborhoods clean and green since 1932 and this year marks the sixteenth consecutive year that Rumpke has partnered with the Richland County Solid Waste Authority.

★

To aid in the Richland County Regional Solid Waste Management Authority (RCRSWMA) 2025 cleanup efforts, Rumpke will contribute \$15,000 of free disposal to the Solid Waste Authority at the RUMPKE Richland County Recycling & Transfer Facility.

★

Richland Public Health will host a Winter Hike for Health on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 9 am to noon. The free event will be held at Malabar Farm State Park, 4050 Bromfield Rd., Lucas. Hikers will meet at the visitor center. Pets are welcome but should be on a 6 foot leash. For more information call 419-774-4761.

★

The Richland County Republican Party Central & Executive Committees have scheduled a special meeting to appoint a member to the board of elections.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 6, Area Agency on Aging, 2131 Park Avenue W., Ontario, and will begin promptly at 4:30 pm.

★

The Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (RSWCD) will host a clinic about ponds and all that goes into planning and maintaining them.

Those with questions about a new or existing pond can attend three free pond clinic on Tuesday, Feb. 25 from 5:30-7:30 pm at the Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Ave., in Mansfield.

Steve Fender of Fenders Fish Hatchery is the guest speaker and

will be available to answer pond questions.

Register for the clinic at <https://richlandswcd.net/event/pond-clinic-5/>.

For more information contact wallace.matt@richlandswcd.net or call 419-747-8687.

Registration open for 5K

The 19th Annual Road Apple Run 5K road race will be held Saturday, March 1, at 10 am. Race day registration will begin at 8:30 am in the commons area of Crestview High School, 1575 OH-96, Ashland.

The Road Apple Run will be an out and back 5K race on a scenic country road in northern Richland County. Bordered by several peaceful Amish farms, the course is mostly flat with some slight upgrades. The biggest challenge will be avoiding the 'exhaust' from the frequent travel of the horse drawn vehicles.

The entry fee is \$25 and includes a free t-shirt if registered by Feb. 21. Entry also includes a raffle ticket for a chance to win gift baskets and gift cards.

To register online visit <https://registration.midohiorm.com/events/2025-road-apple-run-5k-road-race-12302024234>.

For a mail-in form visit https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n5uD-8wliGPF_1s39EWYfKgyktbcg-UN0/view

Awards will go to the first and second place male and female finishers in the age groups of 10 and under, 11-12; 13-15; 16-18; 19-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; 60-69; and 70+. Overall awards will be presented to the top first and second place in each gender.

The Savannah Lions Club will be offering a post-race breakfast by donation only.

All proceeds from the 5K will support Crestview's track and cross country teams. Donations are also being accepted to help pay for expenses. For more information contact Amy McFarland at 419-895-1700 ext. 18105 or roadapplerun@gmail.com.



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RCCS Board appoints Tara Lautzenhiser as new executive director

The Richland County Children Services Board has announced the appointment of Tara Lautzenhiser as the new executive director, succeeding Nikki Harless, who retired on Jan. 31, after more than 32 years of dedicated public service.

Lautzenhiser brings to her new role more than a decade of child welfare experience. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from The Ohio State University and a Master of Science in Criminal Justice with a concentration in forensic psychology from Tiffin University.

She began her career at Richland County Children Services (RCCS) in 2008 serving in various roles including Program Services.

A native of Mansfield, she knows the clients and the needs of the community. Lautzenhiser is passionate about child welfare, and making a difference in the lives of the children and families RCCS serves.

As the new executive director, Lautzenhiser will continue to foster a collaborative work environ-

ment that aligns with the mission and vision of RCCS. She is committed to the development of community partnerships and new programs that will support the well-being of families keeping children safe and families together.

Lautzenhiser will assume her new role on Feb. 3. The mission of Richland County Children Services is to lead the community in assuring the safety, well-being, and permanency of children at risk of abuse and neglect.

RCCS encourages the community to invest in the future of its children by providing opportunities to develop their social, emotional, physical, cognitive and cultural skills.

Its goal is that every child has a permanent, emotionally and economically stable family.

RCCS strives towards a community that values and supports the work of Richland County Children Services through its funding, provision of board leadership and excellence in county governance.



Church Directory

Clay Memorial Lutheran Church

1601 Amoy East Rd., Mansfield
419-747-6882

Pastor Carol Kilgore
Sunday School 9:15 am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Clear Fork Alliance Church

1008 State Route 97, Bellville
419-886-4333 • www.clearforkalliance.org
Rev. Matt Merendino

Rev. Mike Stine, Associate Pastor
9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship
Sunday Evening 6 pm Home Groups
Monday Men's Group 7:30 pm
Wednesday evenings: 6:45 pm Prayer Meeting
6:30-8 pm TeamKID and Youth Group

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

200 West Third St., Mansfield
419-524-4813 • mansfield1stcc1833@gmail.com
Rev. David Zerby

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

First Congregational Church

640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield
419-756-3046 • www.mansfieldfcc.com

Pastor Brad Bunn
8:30 am Chapel
10:30 am Sanctuary
10:30 am Sunday School (nursery-high school)
10:30 am Monday Morning Bible Study
7:30 am Wednesday Men's Breakfast

First English Lutheran Church

53 Park Avenue West, Mansfield
419-522-0662 • www.felc-mansfield.org

Pastor Jay Jackson
9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship
Call about Prayer Groups, Small Groups, Bible Studies, Book Clubs, Pub Theology, Community Meals, Free Produce distribution and Senior Boxes.

Lexington Church of Christ

230 Delaware Ave., Lexington
419-884-1532 • www.lccoh.com
Lead Minister Brandon Bogue
9 am Sunday School
10 am Sunday Worship

Lexington Presbyterian Church

35 Church St. West, Lexington
419-884-1330
Pastor Denny Nezrick
10:30 am Sunday Worship
<https://www.facebook.com/Lexington-Presbyterian-Church-117768414915815>

Mansfield 1st EPC

399 Trimble Rd., Mansfield
419-756-7066 • www.mansfield1st.com
Rev. Joseph Yerger
9 am Adult & Youth Sunday School
10 am Traditional Sunday Worship
ADA Accessible Nursery
and Children's Programming Available

Mansfield Baptist Temple

752 N. Stewart Rd., Mansfield
419-589-5413 • www.mbt.org
Pastor Rob Kurtz
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am & 5:30 pm Sunday Worship
7 pm Wednesday Service

Oakland Lutheran Church

2045 Olivesburr Rd., Mansfield
419-571-9920
Pastor Paul Lintern
9 am Sunday Worship

Ontario United Methodist Church

3540 Park Avenue West., Ontario
419-529-4345 • ontarioumc.com
Pastor George Lee
10:15 am Sunday Worship
10:15 am Kingdom Kids

St. John's United Church of Christ

68 Park Avenue East, Mansfield
419-522-2813 • www.stjohnsmansfield.org
Pastor Faith Proietti
10 am Sunday Worship
Office hours: Mon-Fri 9 am to 1 pm
AA Meetings M & F 10 am & noon;
Wed. noon Brown Bag and Sat. 6 pm
Clothing Ministry by appt: 419-512-9817

Southside Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

2055 Middle-Bellville Rd., Mansfield
419-756-3436
Pastor Paul Lintern
10:45 am Sunday Worship

Trinity Grace Fellowship

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

G & M Body & Paint Shop

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

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Alzheimer's Association presents "Navigating Anti-Amyloid Therapies for Alzheimer's Disease" with Neuropsychiatrist Dr. Daniel Lee

The Alzheimer's Association Northwest Ohio Chapter has announced that Dr. Daniel Lee, Neuropsychiatrist with OhioHealth Neurocognitive Clinic, will present a special program, "Navigating Anti-Amyloid Therapies for Alzheimer's Disease," on Thursday, Feb. 20 from 5:30-6:45 pm.

The event will be held at the Mansfield-Richland County Public Library in the community room, at 43 W. 3rd St, Mansfield.

A light supper will be provided and pre-registration is required by calling 567-302-3610 or emailing JenCMiller@ALZ.org.

Dr. Lee will discuss how to navigate groundbreaking new treatments for Alzheimer's and other dementia. The Alzheimer's Association will also share information on valuable resources available free to the community and how to access them.

"There is exciting progress in Alzheimer's and dementia research that is creating promising new treatments for people living with the disease," said Pam Myers, senior director of programs, Alzheimer's Association of Northwest Ohio and Central Ohio Chapters. "It is important to learn as much as you can about which drugs are available."

"We are fortunate to have a dedicated and talented expert such as Dr. Lee to share his knowledge about available treatment options and the steps we should take with a healthcare professional to determine if a treatment is right for us or our loved one."

Daniel Lee, MD, received his medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine, where he also completed his residency in Psychiatry. He went on to complete a fellowship in Behavioral Neurology and Neuropsychiatry at the Northwestern University Meulam Center for Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer's Disease. Dr. Lee is board-certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and the United Council for Neurologic Subspecialties.

He has clinical interests in the diagnosis and management of cognitive syndromes and neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's, Lewy body dementia, behavioral variant frontotemporal dementia, primary progressive aphasia and posterior cortical atrophy. He comes to OhioHealth after serving as the clinical assistant professor for the Ohio State University School of Medicine. Dr. Lee

is a member of the American Neuropsychiatric Association and the American Academy of Neurology.

Those concerned about themselves or a loved one can contact the Alzheimer's Association Northwest Ohio Chapter at 419-537-1999 to schedule a care consultation and be connected to other free local resources.

To learn more about Alzheimer's or other related dementia, or to access free tools and resources, visit alz.org or call the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900.

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

- Glenn Howard Crabbe, January 21
- Charles "Charley" Lee Cain, January 25
- Shirley Louise Cornell, January 25
- Miriam Oreatta Penney, January 27
- Alma Faye Stanton, January 27
- Marjorie Rosetta Bailey, January 28
- Kathleen M. Fanello, January 29
- Nettie Marie Garver, January 29
- Frances Kay Wukela, January 31

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Alzheimer's Association Northwest Ohio Chapter

Navigating Anti-Amyloid Therapies for Alzheimer's Disease with

Dr. Daniel Lee, Neuropsychiatrist



Discover groundbreaking new Alzheimer's treatments with Dr. Daniel Lee, Neuropsychiatrist at OhioHealth Neurocognitive Clinic. Learn how to navigate these options and hear from the Alzheimer's Association about helpful resources and how to access them. We'd love for you to join us!

Thursday, February 20, 2025

5:30 pm to 6:45 pm

Mansfield-Richland County Public Library

Main Library Community Room

43 W 3rd St, Mansfield, OH 44903

A LIGHT SUPPER WILL BE PROVIDED.

Pre-registration is required.
Please call or email 567.302.3610
or JenCMiller@ALZ.org

Chamber announces RCDG Economic Excellence Awards winners

The Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development has announced the RCDG Economic Excellence Awards winners, who will be honored at the Chamber's Evening of Excellence Annual Meeting and Dinner held in February.

The RCDG Economic Excellence Awards highlight a business, individual, or organization

that has significantly impacted the growth and development of the local economy. The 2025 awardees are Tim Bowersock, Ideal Electric, Amy Wood and ArcelorMittal.

The Chairman's Award will also be announced during the event. Recipients of this award have demonstrated a long-standing commitment to community

service in the Richland County region. The winner is revealed through a popular video highlight reel presented at the event.

One outstanding woman in our community will also be honored with the ATHENA award, sponsored by Park National Bank. This award recognizes a woman for exceptional professional achievements, communi-

ty service, and dedicated support in empowering women to excel in their careers and leadership roles. A panel of past ATHENA Award recipients reviews the nominations, and a video highlight reel will be presented.

One final award will be Ambassador of the Year, awarded to an individual whose time and efforts promoted the Chamber and went above and beyond the call of duty.

The event will be held on Feb. 12, at the Mid-Ohio Conference Center. Cocktail hour starts at 5:30 pm, and dinner will be served at 6:30 pm.

Tickets and sponsorship packages available. Call the Chamber office at 419-522-3211 or visit <https://richlandareachamber.com> for more information.

Kingwood now hosting "Winter's Interlude"

Kingwood Center Gardens invites visitors to discover an enchanting retreat from the cold weather with Winter's Interlude - an orchid presentation at Kingwood Center Gardens.

More than 250 orchids, along with air plants and tropical plants, decorate the intimate space of the Orangery in the Display Greenhouse.

On display now through March 7, Winter's Interlude displays both common and exotic orchid species, shipped to Kingwood from as far away as Hawaii.

Kingwood Gardener, MacKenzie Cole, describes her design as "a combination of natural elements and beautiful architectural features that highlight the

unique beauty found in each plant. Orchids, air plants, moss, and other tropicals are hung from trees or mounted to vertical spaces to reflect their natural habit as epiphytes."

Most orchids are epiphytes, which means they grow on the surface of another plant, such as trees. MacKenzie invites guests to escape the cold and bleak winter weather. A visit to Winter's Interlude will bring vivid colors and delightful fragrances to your day.

Winter's Interlude is included with general garden admission to Kingwood Center Gardens. Garden admission is \$10 for non-members, \$5 for 7-18 years, and free for children six and under and free for King-

wood members.

Kingwood Center Gardens also offers educational programs about orchids for children and adults. Learn more at kingwoodcenter.org or call 419-522-0211.

Kingwood Center Gardens is a garden estate on 47 acres in Mansfield that once was the home of the innovative industrialist, Charles Kelley King. Kingwood opened as a public garden in 1953.

Learn more at kingwoodcenter.org.

Free open house about soil set for February 19

Healthy soil is necessary for healthy humans, wildlife, crops, flora and fauna to thrive. It can't be taken for granted because it isn't an endless natural resource. It can take over 100 years to create one inch of topsoil. That's longer than the average person's lifespan.

To raise awareness of the importance of soil in a fun environment, Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (RSWCD) in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) and Pheasants Forever is hosting "Get the Dirt on Soil Open House" Feb. 19 from 4-6 pm at the Longview Center in Mansfield, 1495 W. Longview Ave. The open house is free, family-oriented and open to all ages.

Richland County has 123 different soil types which is why soil testing is important. Participants will learn more about soil testing, conduct a soil erosion experiment, play Soil Hole (RSWCD version of corn hole), and make and enjoy a crowd favorite, dirt pudding. Additional activities are also planned.

Learn more about the Get the Dirt on Soil Open House at <https://richlandswcd.net/event/stupendous-soils-open-house/>. You may also contact sutter.theresa@richlandswcd.net or 419-747-8685.



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kimmyscucina

By Kim Sterry

PASTA WITH RATATOUILLE

Ingredients

- Eggplant, diced
- Summer squash, diced
- 2 zucchini, diced
- 2 red peppers, diced
- 1 large onion, diced
- 3 fresh tomatoes, diced (or one large can diced tomatoes)
- Olive oil
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced at italian seasoning
- 1/4 cup loosely packed fresh basil, thinly sliced
- Salt & pepper
- 1 lb pasta of your choice
- Ricotta cheese to put on top if pasta if you would like
- Parmesan cheese for grating
- Crush red pepper flakes

Instructions

In a large dutch oven, heat 3 Tbsp. olive oil. Add in the eggplant and some salt and pepper and saute until eggplant begins to brown. Remove and set aside in bowl. Add zucchini and summer squash next and repeat. Put in bowl with the eggplant. Add another 2 Tbsp. of oil to pan and add garlic and onion and saute for 5-10 minutes until it becomes fragrant and begins to brown. Add the red pepper in and cook for 5 minutes and then add the eggplant and squash back in. Add in tomatoes. Season with salt and pepper and simmer. Boil water for pasta while vegetables are simmering. When pasta is ready, portion in bowls or in serving dish and put ratatouille mixture over pasta. Sprinkle with some Crushed red pepper for some spice if you want and then, grate some Parmesan cheese over top (and ricotta if you are using it).

LIKE Kimmy's Cucina on Facebook & Instagram



Lifestyle Inspiration



Photo by Damon Callis



Day Trippin' With Damon – Columbiana County Ohio has numerous historic bridges including covered bridges. Located on the eastern border with Pennsylvania, Columbiana County



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Richland County mayors share vision

(Continued from Front Page)

the old power plant smokestack. “We have a lot of good things going on. Last year was wonderful and 2025 looks very promising with a bright future,” remarked Shag optimistically.

Plymouth Mayor Cassandra Fryman is tackling infrastructure challenges, including lead pipe replacement.

Straddling Richland and Huron counties, Plymouth is working to strengthen its infrastructure while preserving its small-town charm. Top priorities will be to replace aging water lines and remove lead pipes, continuing community events like the successful Christmas in the Village and supporting long-term planning efforts for sustainable growth.

“We are the tippy top of Richland County, and we are also split in half with Huron County, so I have a unique perspective with a lot of things that happen down here. Our village is small with a lower to moderate income, and we are doing our very best to make it grow and prosper,” said Fryman.

Mansfield Mayor Jodie Perry noted that the city’s population is growing again and emphasized efforts to change negative first impressions. She reflected on her first year in office and the city’s renewed population growth, with Mansfield nearing 48,000 residents.

Economic development is a major focus, including industrial park expansion and stronger partnerships with the Chamber of Commerce. Key initiatives for 2025 include strengthening economic development strategies and industrial growth, upgrading entryway signage to improve the city’s first impression, tackling housing and zoning improvements to encourage development, and addressing community perception by changing the narrative around Mansfield. “One of the biggest issues we have to tackle

is not just what’s happening in Mansfield, but how people perceive it,” said Perry.

Butler Mayor Wesley Dingus secured a grant for Memorial Park and is addressing aging water and sewer systems. With a modest population of 944, Butler is tackling aging infrastructure and working to bring in 277 new homes, a major boost for the small village. Water and sewer lines from 1938 need replacing, with some work starting in the spring of 2025. State road repairs are posing a financial burden, with costs rising from \$90K to \$121K. “We simply don’t have the funds to take on state road repairs when most traffic is just passing through,” Dingus noted.

Ontario Mayor Kris Knapp is working on strategic planning, zoning updates, and infrastructure projects to support growth.

“I’m the newest Mayor on this panel as I was appointed in August. I want to give a shout out to the former mayor, Randy Hutchinson, and thank him for what he has done for the city of Ontario for the past 10 years. I’m really excited in the transition looking to amplify the growth of Ontario,” said Knapp.

Bringing power infrastructure to the old GM property to attract new businesses, support the development of Avita Health’s new cancer center, improving zoning ordinances to make it easier for businesses to set up in Ontario, and enhancing signage and sidewalks, particularly near the school are some of Knapp’s goals. The City of Ontario will soon be home to a new Starbucks and Raising Cane’s franchises.

Lexington Mayor Bob Jarvis is focused on land expansion to accommodate future housing and industrial growth. With one year in office, Jarvis identified land availability as the village’s biggest challenge. Lexington is landlocked, and expansion is necessary to accommodate new housing and industrial growth.

It’s an issue the village is looking to resolve by extending Ohio 97 towards Hanley and Lexington Springmill roads. The village recently received a grant to do a feasibility study on the project. Other concerns include ensuring the village doesn’t lose critical state funding if it surpasses 5,000 residents and officially becomes a small city. Developing housing opportunities to support the growing population is needful. “We generated a lot of good enthusiasm and momentum after the first year here in 2024 and we’re looking to do some more here in 2025,” said Jarvis.

Bellville Mayor Teri Brenkus highlighted the village’s ice-skating rink success and the need for more retail businesses downtown.

With 1,971 residents, Bellville boasts the only village ice skating rink in the area, which has become a popular attraction. However, the community is facing economic struggles as downtown retail businesses continue to close.

Economic challenges and solutions include encouraging new businesses, particularly another bakery and more retail shops, addressing the financial burden of state-mandated road maintenance, and expanding community development efforts in the Clear Fork Valley. “Our village is beautiful, but without businesses in our buildings, there’s little reason to stop,” Brenkus notes.

Looking ahead to 2025, the Richland County Mayoral Vision Panel provided a platform for community engagement and collaborative problem-solving. Attendees gained a deeper understanding of the goals and challenges facing each municipality and how they can get involved.

As Richland County continues to grow, its mayors remain committed to fostering economic development, improving infrastructure and enhancing the quality of life for residents.

This event was hosted by the Leadership Unlimited Advisory Board and made possible by presenting sponsors. A special thank you to the Leadership Unlimited Alumni for facilitating this insightful discussion on the future of our region.



Mansfield Mayor Jodie Perry



Shelby Mayor Steve Schag



Lucas Mayor Todd Hall

PHOTOS BY TRACI LITTLE

Lexington Council puts sidewalk projects on hold

Lexington Village Council met Jan. 21 with Mayor Bob Jarvis presiding. Council members attending were council president Wynn Kearns, Keith Bacin, Michael Benson, Rodney Earick, Kim Little and Todd Wise. Also attending were law director John Studenmund, administrator Peter Them, Chief Troy Weaver and parks superintendent Todd Ward.

As reported by administrator Peter Them, all books are balanced and reconciled for 2024. Them thanked Rachel Fagan for her fantastic timeliness and helping out finance director Jim Banks. No issues were found. Mayor Jarvis added that Mr. Banks has reported to him and Mrs. Fagan can do the job alone.

Councilman Wise asked about the interesting revenue surge and Them explained it was a result of the sweep account and this was the resulting balance. Wise praised the significant number.

Councilman Bacin congratulated Chief Weaver of his overtime total of \$92. Chief Weaver explained that the small amount is a one event transaction. The actual total overtime has been combined with salary line item several years ago to mitigate frequent adjustments needed.

As reported by Administrator Peter Them, Columbia Gas has a project slated for this spring on Orchard Park Road. Traffic speed will be reduced like 2024's project. Council president Kearns asked if the project will have any bearings on the CNG finishing plant. Them said no and this event is general maintenance only.

A Certificate of Resources has been sent to Richland County. The official copy will be mailed.

Tristan Kraft and Officer Glennon will serve as public works and safety service board members respectively for 2025 for the grievance board.

A water main break on Stream Corners was repaired within a few hours. Shortly after this break, there was another break located at Fenway Boulevard and Valley H. The village was notified by the Lexington High School bus garage. A big thank you went to the water department and street department who had the repairs under control within the day.

A thank you also went to all service departments and employees for working as teammates to assure the village residents were safe during the bad weather. Councilman Bacin noted that many positive comments are being made regarding the village's street department employees. Council President Kearns added that all village departments cooperated during bad weather and got the job done. Kearns also thanked Them for job well done.

Councilman Wise asked about the water rate study. Them said he is meeting with KEM at the end of January.

A discussion was held regarding moving water bills to a monthly cycle. Councilman Bacin suggested letting residents know well in advance. Them will alert residents of the monthly billing change in advance, via newsletter. There will be more discussion regarding autopay for water. Wise suggested asking KEM for solution suggestions regarding ACH payment.

The committee meetings schedule includes:

Streets & Sidewalks Feb. 17 at 6 pm before council
Buildings & Grounds March 3 at 6 pm before council
Public Utilities March 17 at 6 pm before council
Finance March 17 immediately after council
April 7 will be available if necessary.

Everyone received an updated copy of 2024 actuals.

Councilman Little noted an illegally placed "for sale" sign posted at Steam Corners Road. Little also noted an orange pipe freely floating in the retention pond, also on Steam Corners Road.

Mayor Bob Jarvis reported that Edge Group has submitted the paperwork for \$425,000 grant money for the depot overlook/trailhead. This is step one to obtaining funds.

The Plymouth Street Sidewalk project at Community Park is currently on hold. The roadway, where the sidewalk would eventually exist, will require special permission from ODNR because of the existing flood plain location and contact with the Army Corp of Engineers. Possibly on hold until June 30, 2026.

The Fox Road sidewalk project is also on hold. The original grant monies cannot be applied to this project and the village will apply again. Date for completion is 2027.

Councilman Wise asked if the sidewalk for crossing from Patriot Park to Community Park could be a crosswalk only. The mayor stated that also does not look very promising. Them stated that the grading is the biggest issue. Mayor Jarvis said, if it is done it will be at village's expense and it is a very expensive project.

Councilman Wise asked a question regarding lane configuration on Main Street. Mayor Jarvis said that has been delayed until spring of 2026.

Councilman Bacin inquired about speed tables for Fox Road. Mayor Jarvis replied that more research will be necessary because it was noted that street plows could/would remove the tables.

Chief Weaver reported that the carpet installers will finish up the police department floors. He is also currently prepping two cruisers to sell on GovDeals.

As reported by council president Kearns, the cemetery board and Troy Township Trustees held the annual organization meeting. Luke Whittmer is new chairman. They are currently reviewing rates for the cemetery. Disinterment rate charges are also being reviewed. Kearns is also working on payment for burial openings with the village. This was discontinued several years ago and will be re-instated for 2025.



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL Science Club members made boba after school recently.

Richland Academy offers free classes for senior residents

Richland Academy of the Arts (RAA) has announced the return of free classes for Richland County residents aged 60 and over. Through the sponsorship of the Area Agency on Aging, participants can engage in a variety of enriching classes, including:

- Drumming with Olivia Rayburn – Engage in rhythmic drumming to upbeat music while improving coordination, range of motion, and muscle tone.

- Ceramics with Autumn Cadle – Explore hand-building techniques like pinching, coiling, and slab building to create unique ceramic projects, finished with paint or sealant.

- Strut 2 with Erin Wolford – A welcoming tap dance class for all skill levels. Learn new skills and routines in a fun, supportive environment—no performance pressure! Tap shoes required.

- Stretch with Sarah Horrigan-Ramos – Improve mobility and flexibility with safe, adaptable stretches tailored to individual abilities.

To register visit richlandacademy.com or contact the front desk at 419-522-8224 for assistance.

For more information on available courses and registration, visit richlandacademy.com.



KCCC students qualify for BPA state competition

Knox County Career Center students competed in the Business Professionals of America (BPA) Region IV competition on Thursday, Jan. 23.

KCCC students in the Computer Network Technology (CNT), CollegeU-Business (CLGU), Digital Media and Software Development (DMSD) and Pre-Professional Mentorship (PPM) programs competed against students from Delaware Hayes High School, Delaware Area Career Center, Highland High School and Tri-Rivers Career Center.

BPA is a career technical student organization that allows students to compete in various competitions in the areas of Finance, Business Administration, Management Information Systems, Digital Communications and Design, Management, Marketing and Communications, and Health Administration.

On Friday, Jan. 31, BPA State Qualifiers in Region 4 were announced at the Region 4 Awards Ceremony held at the Willis Education Center in Delaware. KCCC had 47 students qualify for state in 26 events. The BPA State competition will be held on March 10th & 11th in Columbus.

Keyara Murphy, BPA Region IV Director, said, "The students did a great job competing in the BPA Region IV competition. All students prepared in different ways; reviewed resources for

tests, and created projects using specific software. All contests were scored by a professional from the content area. Students apply and improve life skills through these competitions."

The following students qualified for BPA State Toby Burak (CollegeU-Business) 1st Place in Fundamental Accounting; Jeffery Cook (CollegeU-Business) 2nd Place in Fundamental Accounting; Luke Moore (CollegeU-Business) 1st Place in Banking and Finance; Carson Hammond (CollegeU-Business) 3rd Place in Banking and Finance; Isaiah Campbell, Austin Hammond, Sami Lacksonen, Carter Thompson (CollegeU-Business) 1st Place in Financial Analyst Team; Laura Page (CollegeU-Business) 1st Place in Economic Research Individual; Samuel Lyons (CollegeU-Business) 1st Place in Fundamental Word Processing; Brooklyn Morand (CollegeU-Business) 1st Place in Fundamental Spreadsheet Applications; Elizabeth Swartzentruber (CollegeU-Business) 2nd Place in Fundamental Spreadsheet Applications; Nicholas McFerren (CollegeU-Business) 3rd Place in Fundamental Spreadsheet Applications; Jacob Spaulding (CollegeU-Business) 1st Place in Business Law & Ethics; Elliott Anderson (Computer Network Technology) 1st Place in Computer Network Technology; Ryan Snyder (Computer Network Technology) 2nd Place in Computer Network Technology; Brody Casebolt (Computer Network Technology) 3rd Place in Computer Network Technology; Brodrick Whittaker (Computer Network Technology) 1st Place in Device Configuration & Troubleshooting; Noah Abney (Computer Network Technology) 2nd Place in Device Configuration & Troubleshooting; Thomas Ary (Computer Network Technology) 1st Place in Server Admin Using Microsoft; Robert Lonsinger (Computer Network Technology) 2nd Place in Server Admin Using Mic-

rosoft; Ethan Kapper (Computer Network Technology) 3rd Place in Server Admin Using Microsoft; Tyler Ing (Computer Network Technology) 1st Place in Network Administration Using Cisco

Paul Dickerson (Computer Network Technology) 2nd Place in Network Administration Using Cisco; Tanner Burgess (Computer Network Technology) 3rd Place in Network Administration Using Cisco; Hunter Brooks (Computer Network Technology) 2nd Place in Computer Security; Elliott Anderson, Hunter Brooks, Tyler Ing, and Ryan Snyder (Computer Network Technology) 1st Place in Network Design Team; Aiden Colgan (Computer Network Technology) 1st Place in Linux Operating System Fundamentals; Hannah Blubaugh (Digital Media & Software Development) 1st Place in Fundamentals of Desktop Publishing; Olivia Stone (Digital Media & Software Development) 2nd Place in Fundamentals of Desktop Publishing; Jamison Purdy (Digital Media & Software Development) 2nd Place in Digital Media Production; Hannah Blubaugh, Leon Cornette, Joslynn Rine, and Olivia Stone (Digital Media & Software Development) 1st Place in Visual Design Team; Abigail Krabill & Caroline Reiss (CollegeU-Business) 1st Place in Global Marketing Team; Tessa Wahl (CollegeU-Business) 1st Place in Entrepreneurship; Tressel Bockover (CollegeU-Business) 2nd Place in Entrepreneurship; Jacob Spaulding & Luke Overholt (CollegeU-Business) 1st Place in Small Business Management Team; Kaden Talbott (Computer Network Technology) 1st Place in Interview Skills; Paul Dickerson (Computer Network Technology) 1st Place Advanced Interview Skills; Tanner Nutter (CollegeU-Business) 1st Place in Ethics and Professionalism; Cally Carpenter (CollegeU-Business) 1st Place in Prepared Speech

Katherine Bellman, Peyton Blakesley, Zander Patrick, Nathan Katz, and Wyatt Fisher (CollegeU-Business) 1st Place in Parliamentary Procedure Team; and Lillian Allen (Pre-Professional Mentorship) 2nd Place in Health Administration Procedures.



LEXINGTON EASTERN Spelling Bee participants were Charlie P., Caden L., Peyton F. and Addy M. Addy and Caden made the top 18 in Richland County and are headed to the Tri-County Bee.

News Briefs in Education

Kelly Wisner of Mansfield was named to the honors list for the fall 2024 semester at Mercy College of Ohio. To be named on the list, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.3 or higher and be enrolled for 6–11 credit hours. She is attending for a BS in medical imaging.



Simone Marshall of Mansfield graduated from Columbus State Community College on Dec. 13, 2024.



Local students have been named to the 2024 autumn semester dean’s list at Columbus State Community College. To be named to the list, a student must achieve a grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 or higher and be enrolled for six or more credit hours. On the list are Robin Koehler, Health Information Mgt Tech, Lexington; Travis Hickman, Associate of Science, Mansfield; Lauren Adkins, Associate of Arts, Mansfield; Felicia Arthur, Health Sciences, Mansfield; Violeta Colon, Digital Design and Graphics, Mansfield; and Anna Wittmer, Mansfield.



Robey Bolen of Mansfield, a graduate of Pioneer Career and Technical Center, has graduated from Baldwin Wallace University in Berea, OH, with a Bachelor of Arts: Sport Management.



Kendall Nolen, of Mansfield, was named to the Mississippi State University fall 2024 President’s List.

Nolen is among 4,569 students who have attained this honor. Students on the list achieved a 3.80 or better grade-point average, based on a 4.0 scale, while completing at least 12 semester hours of coursework with no incomplete grades or grades lower than a C.



Braylon Hess, of Mansfield was named to the Commonwealth University-Bloomsburg Dean’s List for Fall 2024.

To qualify for the list, the student must have earned a GPA of at least 3.50, on a 4.0 scale, in 12 or more semester hours of letter grades.



Ohio Wesleyan University language students are now able to earn the Global Seal of Biliteracy, an internationally recognized micro-credential that enables them to verify their linguistic abilities when applying for jobs or graduate school.

The university’s Department of World Languages and Cultures began utilizing the third-party assessment this fall, with 19 students earning the “functional fluency” biliteracy seal at the end of the semester. Biliterate students are able to comprehend (read and listen), speak, and write in two languages. (Those who are bilingual are able to speak in two languages.)

Local OWU language student Arianna Morris of Mansfield earned the micro-credential this past fall for French biliteracy



TWO TEAMS of Ontario fourth graders and three teams of fifth graders recently competed at MOESC in the first Academic Challenge meets of the year. They had a good time working together to earn the most points possible.

Honor and Merit Rolls

Madison Local Schools Second Grading Period

ALL A

Third Grade — Karter Allen, Lyncoln Collins, Cayne Comisford, Owen Elswick, Graciee Evans, Rayson Evans, Jekhi Finley, Stephen Fisher, Livia Foote, Owen Frank, Crue Henry, Grayson Hoehn, Ryleigh Holmes, Emma Horsley, Konnor Jessee, Lily Kegley, Caleb King, Myles Klecka, Abram Kliewer, Asher Larsen, Emeri Lewis, Malachi Lindsay, Isiah Lykins, Cobey Mccoy, Landon Mitchell, Stacey Montgomery, Edith Mount, Emme Neron, Theron Ogle, Hayden Ohl, Leah Peck, Madelyn Risinger, Jase Shiera, Ava Sigman, Xavier Vonstein, Evelyn Wake and Cassidy Wilson

Fourth Grade — Nevaeh Bond, Bexley Brandt, Kyson Brinker, Kyrie Byrd, Lillian Chambers, Seth Clark, Braxton Cole, Kylee Cushard, Natalie Debo, Andrew Finley, Ember Fry, Alexander Holt, Sawyer Howell, Evelyn Isenhardt, Teagan Kirsch, Grace Kunz, James Ross and Gabriel Utt

Fifth Grade — Ella Barr, Lincoln Bays, Isabella Beatty, London Hamilton, Zeke Markley, Peyton Meek, Kellen O'brien, Joseph (Joe) Reddy, Joel Robertson, Carter Smollen and Chazlyn Zehner

Sixth Grade — Annalise Barber, Amia Carroll, Lauren Foster, Hailey Hedrick, Roman Hipfl, Kennadi Knipp, Parker Larsen, Milo Mccann, Gavin Moore, Grant Mountz, Lelia Myers, William Owens, Zavier Roberts, Demari Roper, Elena Santiago, Eleanor Sidwell, Madelynn Thompson, Beckham White, Mackenzie Wiggins, Mckenzie Wingler and Spencer Wynn

Seventh Grade — Liam Barr, Gannon Conway, Abbigale Crist, Alyse Emery, Daevon Endicott, Samara Gillespie, Savannah Hamilton, Lainee Heston, Jordan Jeffers, Emma Lewis, Kaeleb Llamas, Declan Maddy, Carson Mcquillen, Kathryn Myers, Matthew Risner, Natalie Smith, Aryan Spencer, Alexander Weightman and Jersie Yunker

Eighth Grade— Jenna Bebout, Lainey Binns, Madelynn Carpenter, Alexander Dillon, Kordell Hardy, Troy Kegley, Andrew (Aj) Lowe, Cameron Montgomery, Mason Morrow, Tavian Porter and Morgan Turney

Freshmen — Zaylynn Ball, Isaiah Blust, Kaley Bowman, James (Jr) Broyles, Deanna Chipner, Carter Foley, Cadence Gushard, Owen Hendershott, Haylie Hutcheson, Journee Jaranowski, Camylle King, Kaden Lapene, Aerianna Massey, Angel Montanez, Malyaha Moore, Victoria Neal, Devin Peterson, Rachel Porter, Khloe Sayre, Allie Shambaugh, Landon Stone, Elle Washington and Makenzie Wynn

Sophomores — Alexis Cameron, Kinley Clow, Samantha Crist, Claire Durbridge, Trenton Ford, Kennedy Hofer, Cambree Howe, Kaiden Koch, Evan Larsen, Sophie Lowe, Darius Marsh, Taylor Mckown, Jordan Mcwilliams, Avery O'brien, Jaxson Shaffer, Allie Shradger, Isabella (Bella) Smith, Hudson Stacy, Keeli Stewart, Gabriela (Gaby) Vega-Wieland and Evan Williams

Juniors — Lilliana Allen, Elizabeth (Libby) Bekeleski, Madison (Maddie) Berry, Myla Blankenship, Morgan Cook, Courtney Cyrus, Evan Cyrus, Lillian Delong, Timothy Ellis, Brianna Fidler, Emma Finley, Camryn Gowitzka, Landon Harvey, Hayden Hatfield, Aubrey Hendrickson, Kaylin Johnson, Amya Joplin, Drew Kepple, Campbell Kiser, Tauren Lindsey, Isabella Liviskie, Jacob Lord, Christopher (Chris) Lucas, Nicholas Maglott, Aubrey McClure, Ashton Mcglasson, Chloe Mcwhorter, Macy Mounts, Jada Neal, Jalycia Nelson, Olivia (Liv) Penrod, Cameron Porter, Emma Reynolds, Jennah Richards, Nathan (Nate) Riddle, Zoey Robinson, Aryana Rogers, Elizabeth (Elle) Schwartz, Briana (Bri) Smith, Marhea Smith, Grace Speelman, Esther Stanfield, Kaylee Stone, Liam Stone, Anthony Studer, Rudy Webel and Jerry Wertz

Seniors — Andreus (Khris) Adkins-Tolbert, Isabella Allen, Draven Anderson, Ava Armstrong, Shyann Barnhart, Aleigha Bebout, Isaiah Bland, Emily Bogner, Devin Bond, Emily Brandt, Aaliyah Dombroff, Dryden Durbridge, Frank Fava, Ryleigh Foley, Elijah Fox, Lucas Garand, Landon Goad, Carter Heimbuch, Ashley Herder, Logan Hoffman, Ava Huff, Mason Jacobus, Natalie Markle, Hannah Markley, Gage Masters, Veronica Mawer, Allison Mckown, Emily Musgrove, Samantha Myers, Isaiah Ortiz-Martinez, Ian Parker, Jordan Parnell, Paige Patton, Mavenny Perkins, Sydney Phillips, Josslynn Pryor, Drake Ramey, Nevaeh Rhein, Camden Rhodes, Meghan Roberts, Madison Sackman, Brody Savage, Bresendra Shaum, Emma Speelman, Lillian Truax, Karis Vega, Angela Williams and Lela Zehner

HONOR ROLL

Third Grade — Lilyahna Adkins, Praxton Allen, Emily Allison, Kylie Arnett, Evan Baldrige, Thomas Bautz, Robert Beck, Blaire Belcher, Natalie Benton, Blake Binns, Jasper Blair, Noah Blankenship, Shaelynn Bond, Kymber Bowen, Josiah Brammer, Lyla Bristow, Paityn Brooks, Madilyn Bryant, Maddie Burkholder, Jaxson Carroll, Cody Cefalo, Ruger Childress, Jah'keise Colvin, Mason Crego, Abel Dewitt, Aubrey Elliott, Mason Enix, Jay'sean Favers, Gavin Fellure, Paislee Finley, Olivia Given, Beckham Gleason, Kohlsyn Hale, Layla Harvey, Chris Haynes, Melia Hogard, Oliver Hubert, Dalton Hudson, Lily Hudson, Ma'leaha Huffman, Nevaeh Kelly, Scarlet Kindinger, Madilynn Kline, Adrian Knight, Ellorie Lang, Braydon Lawrence, Corbin Lentz, Braxton Martin, Jill Mcmasters, Bailey Mcquillen, Lincoln Morrow, Lincoln Myers, Kainen Partin, Zeighla Perry, Parker Pfund, Amiyah Radcliffe, Mae Rhinebolt, Lilyana Richards, Remington Ruley, Aaron Shabbir, Divinity Shoaf, Karsyn Sigafos, Zayne Simpkins, Marlee Smith, Addie Stamper, Luke Stantz, Kaylie Stevens, Jace Stout, Johnathan Swanciger, Mckinley Tackett, Brendan Thomas, Liam Wake, Nate Walker, Averie Washington and Brynlee Young

Fourth Grade — Elena Allen, Embree Baker, Jonah Blust, Aubree Bond, Chloe Bridges, Lillian Brooks, Haydn Brown, Maddox Brown, Steven Burnell, Brogan Buzzard, Amelia Calhoun, Jayce Clark, Jessi Conway, Ryker Cullen, Brantin David, Abigail Davis, Max Duffner, Mason Edmiston, Jayden Estes, Allie Fellure, Lillian Hay, Graciee Henderson, Abel Hensley, Bryson Holloway, Aiden Howell, Arielle Jackson, Noel Johnson, Broderick Kanz, Harley Kindinger, Kinsey Kirkpatrick, Phoenix Lewis, Na'riah Likely, Jase Little, Kinidi Mcpeek, Abel Miller, Weston Miller, Marlie Morganstern, Maicie Moss, Elli Neal, Hazel Obar, Olivia Parks, Hudson Parsons, Lucas Perry, Ares Peters, Tyler Pezzuti, Buck Pipes, Nakeivia Powell, Toby Ransom, Lacey Reynolds, Brynn Sauder, Waylon Schoonover, Lexys Shrock, Conner Slone, Logan Smith, Ember Stamp, Blakely Swansstrom, Austin Toon, Ellie Vanwagner, Brynn Wheatner, Jacario Williams, Stormey Windsor and Mackenzie Wood

Fifth Grade — Zella Ball, Corinne Beal, Madalyn Best, Benton Brandt, Keylan Brown, Amir Byrd, Skylar Carlson, Kaiden Chan, Araina Charley, Wyatt Clark, Quinton Davis, Cade Deems, Madelinbe Dunlap, Peyton Hager, Naomi Houston, Kendle Keirns, James Lang, Paxten Leo, Olivia Mason, Joseph (Joe) Mcmasters, Baylee Mitchell, Clayton Mount, Jaxson Pennywitt, James Price, Tyler Salyers, Carter Shenberger, Isaiah Smith, Hailey Snelling, Emily Spillman, Aubrey Spurlock, Olivia St Clair, Peyton Toon, Jaxon Turner, Krostopher Washington, Hoyt Watson and Micheal Williams

Sixth Grade — Ashley Anschutz, Aaron (Aj) Baker, Faith Barney, Tanner Bays, Daniel Carpenter, Jaxon Conrad, Liam Cushard, Richard Davis, Lily Eckenwiler, Kaelyn France, Anthony Gitto, Frehley Gushard, Erin Johnson, Taelyn Kirsch, Abrianna Micallef, Robert Pipes, Mason Putney, Bryistol Salsar, Harper Sasis, Hagen Sauder, Kemonie Sims, Lorelai Sly, Sadie Smith, Lillian Suttle, Shawn (Jr) Sydnor, Myla-Jayne Wilds, Myah Williams and Caylee Yeager

Seventh Grade — Jaxson Bennett, Nola Bishop, Cameron Boyd, Lillian Bradshaw, Reagan Brooks, Ky-Lyn Byerly, Katrina Carson, Amelia Clayburn, Baylee Cushard, Rylie Davidson, Grady Davis, Rianne Davis, Karsyon Dravenstott, Traevon Endicott, Peyton Foote, Ian Forbes, Ziyonna Gladney, Jayden Gushard, Dillon Herder, Troy Horn, Izabella Kenner, Gabrielle Kline, Kiara Logan-Wakeley, Aziyah Mcknight, Faith Metcalf, Vaughn Miller, Brooklynn Moyer, Preston Patrick, Layla Perry, Marielle Peters, Casey Rachel, Charlize Rafeld, Peyton Ramirez, Alissa Rush, Gabriel Salyers, Kendal Shrader, Leo Stantz, Scott Steagall, Vincent Studer, Destiny Thompson, Aiden Washington, Mckenzie Williams, Brennen Wilson and Fenix Wyatt

Eighth Grade— Abigail Anschutz, Aleah Bara, Ava Bays, Makenna Berkshire, Carson Cook, Wesley Dawson, Lucas Eckenwiler, Hannah Evans, Gavin Faith, Aubree Fisher, Jack Foster, Bella Guardiola, Isabelle Hall, Arenal Hunsinger, Bryce Jacobs, Madison Kliewer, Brandon Maglott, Gabreilla Mickouma, Aryiah Miller, Lillian Mutter, Jaylonna Nelson, Daniel Norris, Addyson Powell, Gabriel Prater, Savanna Ransom, Amari Rasch, Miah Reid, Maddison Smith, Nevaeh Spurgeon, Cloe Taylor, Sofia Thompson, Drayden Tschantz, Cameron Williams

Freshmen — Sophia Allen, Hudson Bays, Cohen Brandt, Ashtin Carmichael, Logan Carmichael, Caliyah Clapper, Jarrod Cyrus, Alec Day, Kai Dean, Shiana Elliott, Corey Gilbert, Kaleia Gonder, Izaiah Gordon, Kayden Graf, Kendall Graham, Lawson Gray, Livia Grove, Amerah Reign (Amerah) Hapin, Izabella (Bella) Harris, Sydney Hazlewood, Cadence Hendrickson, Alana Henriquez, Jaxson Henry, Alexander Jenkins, Adalynn Jordan, Payton Kellner, Zaydien Longboat, Cailyn Lozier, Alexander (Alex) Maddy, Taja Melton, Cerenity

(Continued on Page 13)

Honor and Merit Rolls

(Continued from Page 12)

Montgomery, Aubrieanne Morton, Emma Myers, Landon Parsons, Nevaeh

Patton, Karalynn Ransom, Madison Riffe, Joseph (Joey) Roberts, Gracie Schaade, Gavin Spiess, Max Thomas, Destiny Thompson, Maci Whitesel and Phillip Wiggins

Sophomores — Alivia Adams, Gavin Baker, Caden Bishop, Anna Blanton, Kylie Carroll, David Clayburn, Kaylea Cole, Isabella Conway, Brianna Coulter, Lucas Davidson, Giavanna (Gia) Dipuccio-Resendiz, Landyn Dodd, Treyvin Glasser, Aliya Hall, Autumn Haynes, Travis (Tj) Hicks, Santanna Hoffman, Ashtyn Huffman, Chase Hunsinger, Mac'kel Johnson-Kawczynski, Layla Krizan, Joshua Maglott, Malachi Marsh, Kiya Mcconaughey, Kylie Merritt, Julieanna Miller, Cadence Mutter, Ashley Nikolaus, Bryce Ocheltree, Aubrey Ohl, Ravino Pena, Cadance Peters, Ellie Powell, Gage Ramey, Zackary Sanders Winters, Emily Saunders, Geraldo Sayre, Kylie Schaefer, Autumn Schroeder, Peyton Schulte, Zoi (Zee) Sealey, Lincoln Shepherd, Shiann Skeen, Cameron Smith, Kristopher Sutton, Lyla Walker, Kylee Werner, Knight Wolfe and Baylee Yost

Juniors — Payton Bartolomea, Megan Bays, Nathan Bittman, Cruz Boggs, Julianna Boliantz, Natalie Brandt, Micah Clark, Preston Coffman, John (J.C.) Collins, Aubrey Conn, Laykin Curry, Piper Donahue, Collin Faith, Ashley Gusta, Emmalie Hall, Maci Hergatt, Nathan Hoffman, Kalayah Johnson, Laney Lewis, Zachariah (Zach) Loretta, Nathanael (Nathan) Marks, Kavantray Marsh, Wyatt Martin, Deont'e Mcdaniel, Aaron Mcendree, Zoe Mcquillen, Kaleb Minch, Owen Morrow, Matthew Murray, Camdyn Neal, Corey Otey, Andrew Parish, Raygen Reiter, William Saunders, Johnny Smith, Bryce Speelman, Grady Spurlock, Jaxin Stancombe, Taylor Steffey, Morgan Steward, Kinlei Stoltenberg, Ashton Taylor, Alexander Thompson, Kayzia Thornley, Bryce Tudor, Ariyah Tufts, Courtney (Cole) Viocck and Audrey Ward

Seniors — Nathan Baldinger, Nikolas (Nik) Balg, Jacelynn Barley, Aiden Bartley, Ethan Bibler, Matthew Biller, Nya Bishop, Allyssa (Ally) Blasin, Tristan Blevins, Tevin Davidson, Kaitlyn Davies, Gracie Dotson, Kaden Fultz, Kayana (Kay) Garrett, Destiny Gebhard-Smith, Wyatt Geiger, Freddie (Freddie Gordon) Gordon, Alexander Hernandez, Alyse Huggins, Haylee Isenhardt, Ralph Jensen, Kiarra Johnson, Keiayrsah Jones, Olivia Kiley, Cameron Kuhn, Teddy Lane, Claire Lowe, Zion Mccraney, Gavyne Mcdaniel, Emily Merritt, Keira Mooneyham, Carter Moore, Calvin (Kane) Nelson, Damon Parnell, Sophia Parsons, Dakota Perseitz, Landon Rhinehart, Larissa Sarow, Cheyenne Schmidt, Faith Smith, Kaitlyne (Kaity) Smith, Trenton Speelman, Rhea Stanfield, Emma Stankovich, Leah Thomas, Gage Workman and Derek Yates



THE KINDNESS CLUB at Ontario took a monthly visit to the nursing home to visit and make a craft with residents.



BIOLOGY STUDENTS at Ontario High School are studying DNA structure and function. As part of the lab experience, students extracted DNA from a live strawberry. The DNA structure and extraction process is surprisingly similar to a human.



FOR THE PAST 12 WEEKS, the fifth grade at Ontario has had an officer visit once a week to educate the students on drug and alcohol prevention. Ontario does not have the DARE program anymore. When students completed the book "Too Good for Drugs," they were asked to write essays on "What is peer pressure and what are some strategies to avoid it?" Officer Dawson judged the essays and picked three winners. Winners were announced at a celebration. Essays were framed and students received a small goody bag. The winners were Abigail Guth, Evelynn Walton and Cali Dalton.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN VS OPEN DOOR CHRISTIAN GIRLS BASKETBALL JAN. 30 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN COACH MEGAN YOUNG achieved a remarkable milestone with her 100th coaching win for the Lady Flames. Her commitment to developing her players both on and off the court has been instrumental in the team's success. This achievement reflects her hard work and the impact she has made on the program.



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS ASHLAND VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL · FEB. 1
ARROWS WIN 54-34 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS ASHLAND JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL · FEB. 1
RAMS WIN 38-32 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS LEXINGTON VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL · JAN. 31
LEXINGTON WINS 63-49 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS LEXINGTON JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL · JAN. 31
LEXINGTON WINS 44-37 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



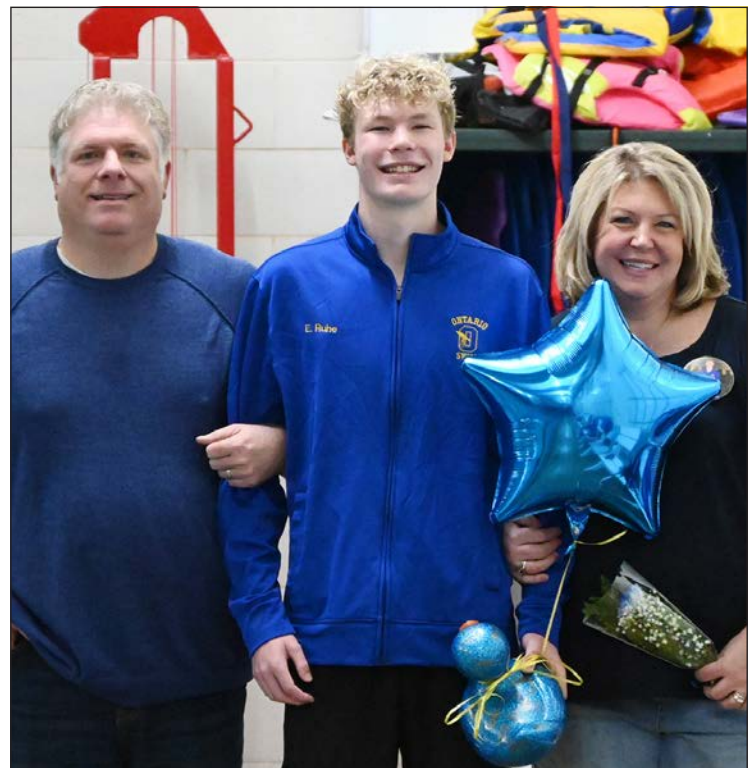
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS LEXINGTON FRESHMAN BOYS BASKETBALL · JAN. 31
LEXINGTON WINS 38-35 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL SWIM SENIOR NIGHT · JAN. 29



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS SHELBY VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL · JAN. 25
WHIPPETS WIN 65-48 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS SHELBY JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL · JAN. 25
WHIPPETS WIN 50-29 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS SHELBY FRESHMAN BOYS BASKETBALL · JAN. 25
RAMS WIN 55-45 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



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 January 22, 2025.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 25-01 – A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENT OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO TO SELL PROPERTY NO LONGER NEEDED FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES THROUGH AN INTERNET AUCTIONSALE DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2025.

Cathy VanAuker
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, OH
(T-C 1-30, 2-6 '25) (22L)

LEGAL NOTICE

The Troy Township, Richland County Annual Financial Report for 2024 is complete and available for public viewing at the Fiscal Officer's office in Township Hall Office located at 247 S Mill Street, Lexington, Ohio. Please call to schedule an appointment between 9:30am – 4:30 pm Monday to Friday.

Elizabeth Michalski
Troy Township Fiscal Officer
Lexington, OH
(T-C 2-6 '25) (13L)

LEGAL NOTICE

The Lexington-Troy Twp. Union Cemetery Annual Financial Report for 2024 is complete and available for public viewing at the treasurer's office in Troy Township, Richland County's gathering hall located at 247 S Mill Street, Lexington, Ohio. Please call to schedule an appointment between 9:30am – 4:30 pm Monday to Friday.

Elizabeth Michalski, Treasurer
Lexington-Troy Twp. Union Cemetery
Lexington, OH
(T-C 2-6 '25) (13L)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held before Council of the City of Ontario, during the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at the Ontario Municipal Building, 555 North Stumbo Road, upon a proposal to remove Section 1143.03 Design Standards, (g) Mini-Warehouses (2) Mini-warehouses shall be allowed in B-Business Districts as set forth in Section 1137.05(c) "Conditionally Permitted Uses".

All persons interested in this issue are invited to attend and express their views.

Cathy VanAuker
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, OH
(T-C 2-6, 13 '25) (19L)

Advertise a Garage Sale, Vehicle, Boat or other item for sale for just \$10 in the Tribune Classified Section
Send info to news@tribune-courier.com

Ohio State's sugarbush will be open for Maple Madness Tours and salamander search March 8

The sugarbush at The Ohio State University at Mansfield will be open to visitors on March 8, during the statewide Maple Madness Tour.

Pancakes and maple syrup will be served from 10 am to 5 pm, alongside educational tours of the 19-acre maple woods.

Tours will include the 1,200 taps and tubing system that run throughout the sugarbush and an operating evaporator boiling maple sap to make syrup.

"This is a great opportunity to learn more about the syrup making process, and to learn from state professionals who promote the maple mission," said Gabe Karns, visiting assistant professor in the School of Environment and Natural Resources.

"Come learn about the research we do here, and bring your own ideas and questions."

There will be tours of the horseshoe vernal pool, where visitors can check for spotted salamanders and ask questions of Marne Titchenell, wildlife program director at Ohio State.

These amphibians live in seasonal wetlands that fill with water in the spring and dry up during the summer. There will also be spotted lanternfly craft and coloring kits for children.

Maple Madness is a statewide tour and includes more than 40 producers.

The dates are March 1–2 and March 8–9 (the Ohio State site is only open on Saturday, March 8).

The full list of participants is available on the Ohio Maple Producers Association website, along with an interactive map.

The Mansfield event is free and there is no registration. Meet at the Mansfield Maple Pavilion and be sure and dress for the weather.

Maple enthusiasts can keep an eye on upcoming events by following the Ohio State Maple website, which includes Karns' monthly blog about maple happenings.

And if your sweet tooth is craving some Ohio State maple syrup, you can purchase yours online.

For more information, contact Hayli Skinner at 614-688-3421 or ohiowoods@osu.edu

Gov. DeWine's budget supports tobacco use prevention

Gov. Mike DeWine continued his legacy of standing up to Big Tobacco by including additional funding for tobacco prevention and cessation programs and increasing taxes on tobacco products in his proposed budget.

"Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Ohio, including 33.5% of cancer deaths," said American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Government Relations Director Leo Almeida.

"Gov. Mike DeWine introduced his budget recommendations, which included an increase in funding to \$10 million per year for the Ohio Department of Health's Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Program."

Additionally, the Governor proposed increasing the state's cigarette tax by \$1.50 per pack.

"The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network applauds the governor for standing up for public health and looks forward to working with the legislature to ensure that taxes on other tobacco products are also adequately increased."



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Branch Manager - Loan Officer