



# TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com

02.13.25



## Pieces chosen for teen art and poetry contest

The Domestic Violence Shelter hosted the second annual Expressions: Teen Art & Poetry Contest during which six local teens each received a \$250 prize for their award-winning work.

The contest aims to raise awareness about teen dating violence, promote healthy relationships, and inspire thoughtful conversation within our community.

This year's winners included:

### Art:

Chloe Jeffers, 10th grade, "He'll Never Go Away"

Yeismar Toldeo, 12th grade, "Losing Myself"

Chloe Wetzel, 10th grade, "How Could I Refuse"

### Poetry:

Skyla Brosig, 8th grade, "Shadows of Love: a Teens Silent Storm"

Destiny Milton, graduated, "Shattered Echoes"

Jordyn Trunnell, 10th grade, "Her Voice Emerges"

"We are so proud of the teens who participated in this year's event, and we are blown away by the quality of each of the entries," said Shelter Executive Director Colleen Rice.

"It is a joy to celebrate the incredible talent of our local teens all while raising awareness about the dangers of teen dating violence and working to educate and empower our community on the topic."

The shelter began accepting submissions in January, and the juried art and poetry contest culminated in a catered event that was open to the public on Thursday, Feb. 6, at the Marketplace at Eisenhower Memorial Center on Ohio State University's Mansfield Campus.

Selected submissions were on display at the event and award winners in each category were announced and presented with their prizes.

Special thanks for supporting this year's contest and event go to Sutton Bank, Johnny's Mattress & Furniture, Johnny's Motorcars, KOSI, Directions Credit Union, BP Electric and Park National Bank.

The Domestic Violence Shelter has been aiding and empowering survivors of abuse, violence, and trauma since 1978.

The shelter offers survivors comprehensive support services and resources while working to prevent domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and teen dating violence.

For immediate assistance, call the 24/7 hotline at 419-774-5840. To learn more about the shelter and how to support its work visit [www.TheDVShelter.com](http://www.TheDVShelter.com).

## Kingwood Center Gardens 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."

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 chil-

dren six and under and free for Kingwood members.

Kingwood Center Gardens also offers educational programs about orchids for children and adults.

Learn more at [Kingwoodcenter.org](http://Kingwoodcenter.org) or call 419-522-0211.

## Local children invited to United Way book event

The United Way of Richland County's Big Red Bookshelf will hold an event on Monday, Feb. 17, from 10 am to noon at Richland Carousel Park, 75 N. Main St., Mansfield.

Students from Mansfield Senior High will be reading "The Pizza That We Made" and each child will get a copy of the book to take home. A free cookie, craft and carousel

rides will also be available, while supplies last.

The event is sponsored by United Way of Richland County and Mansfield Richland County Public Library.

United Way of Richland County is a local organization led by local people. Members of the board of directors and allocation members are volunteers.

LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review  
By Mandy Belczak Gurney



Mrs. Quinn's Rise to Fame by Olivia Ford is a truly precious story. If you love The Great British Baking Show then this book is for you.

Jenny is in the later years of life and marriage when she secretly applies for Britain Bakes. What unfolds is not just a surprise of a lifetime, but also reveals a secret history that even her husband didn't know.

Jenny is an endearing character that stole my heart. The audiobook was great too. I'm a sucker for a British accent in an audiobook.

My rating: ★★☆☆☆  
Follow my blog at Green Gurneys.com

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 [theresa@richlandswcd.net](mailto:theresa@richlandswcd.net) or 419-747-8685.

View, Print & Save Past Issues at [www.tribune-courier.com](http://www.tribune-courier.com)

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THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER  
— By Ian Stumbo —



This year's Oscar race has been without a solid frontrunner all season though things may have gotten clearer with Anora winning the producer's guild and director's guild awards over the weekend as well as the best picture prize at the Critics Choice Awards.

Mikey Madison stars as the titular character. Anora is a stripper at a club who becomes quite smitten with a young man named Vanya. When Vanya's father, a Russian oligarch, figures out his son and Anora have gotten married without his consent, he and his bodyguards do everything they can to annul the marriage and find a missing Vanya.

Director Sean Baker makes interesting movies. His movie The Florida Project from a few years ago was definitely one of them.

Baker directs Madison to a great performance. She creates a unique and vulnerable character. A young girl looking for love

and then she is forced to fight back from having it all ripped away from her.



Anora has been getting a great deal of awards buzz since it came out and with all the controversy of the original perceived Oscar frontrunner Emilia Perez, this movie seems to have taken its place.

Anora is a solid and enjoyable movie with some funny moments and entertaining scenes. It would not be my personal choice for best picture though it is a very good and well made film.

Anora has been described as a type of Cinderella story gone wrong and that is appropriate. Mikey Madison puts it all out there with her performance and Baker directs a solid movie that is certainly one of the better movies nominated this year.



San Gimignano, Italy • Photo By Mark Shutt

# 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](http://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.

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Jacquie Zarley to present "What Would God Do?" on Sunday, Feb. 16, at 10:30 am.

For information visit [www.allsoulsuohio.org](http://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.

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](mailto:wallace.matt@richlandswcd.net) or call 419-747-8687.

First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Avenue West will be offering senior boxes of non perishable food provided by the Greater Cleveland Food Bank from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm or until supplies

run out. This comes with a 15 lb. box of fresh produce and a two lb. box of cheese. These items are free to those who qualify by age (60+) and low income guidelines. Recipients must have at least one person age 60 or older in the household.

These items are available on the fourth Tuesday of each month, year round. The distribution is held in the South Mulberry Street parking lot. The next distribution is Tuesday, Feb. 25.

The Sixth Annual Step into Spring will be held Friday, March 19 at the Richland Mall. Walking will be anytime from 9 am to noon.

Richland Newhope, Area Agency in Aging and Richland County Mobility Management are sponsoring this free event to celebrate Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and promote community inclusion. In addition to the walk, several supportive community vendors will be in attendance.

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](mailto:andersont@cacyohio.com) for details. If someone is thinking of harming themselves, call the local crisis helpline at 419-522-HELP (4357).

The Ashland Cancer Crusaders Relay for Life Team will host a Relay for Life Craft Extravaganza on Saturday April 5, from 9 am to 3 pm at Ashland County Fairground's Mozell Hall.

Along with vendors, there will be food and a 50/50 drawing. All money raised from the rental fees and the 50/50 will go to the American Cancer Society Relay For Life.

Richland Academy of the Arts. Explore, Create and be Inspired! [richlandacademy.com](http://richlandacademy.com)

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## Dr. Daniel Lee will present Alzheimer's Disease program February 20

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.

# 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

### Wappner Funeral Home

Mansfield • Ontario • Ashland  
419-522-5211

## Marion couple escapes fire thanks to Red Cross smoke alarms

When fire broke out at Sabrina Pierce and Harold Edwards' home on the morning on Nov. 2, 2024, it was the sound of smoke alarms that alerted them to a fire in the back of their home and gave them time to get out to safety to call 911. The free smoke alarms were provided by American Red Cross and installed by the Pleasant Township Fire Department.

Pierce and Edwards are one of more than 36,000 families in central and southern Ohio to receive lifesaving preparedness education and free smoke alarm installation through the Red Cross Home Fire Campaign since the program's inception in 2014.

The Home Fire Campaign is a nationwide Red Cross effort to reduce home fire deaths. Of the approximately 62,000 disasters the Red Cross responds to across the country every year, more than 90 percent are home fires.

The Red Cross plans celebrated these live saving efforts with the Pleasant Township Fire Department on Feb. 6.

Anyone who would like to have free smoke alarms installed in their home should call 844-207-4509 to set up an appointment.

## 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](http://richlandacademy.com) or contact the front desk at 419-522-8224 for assistance.



MELANIE FERGUSON teaches a criminology course at Ontario High School. Students took a field trip to the Ohio State Reformatory.

### Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

- Orvin Harlan Oswald, January 30
- James Edward Flory, February 1
- Janet Louise Peters, February 1
- Lori Ann Bongiorno, February 2
- Barbara "Barb" Kay Lewis, February 2
- William Shawn Fyffe, February 4
- Arthur Eugene Pamer, February 4
- Michelle Renee Black-Epps, February 5
- Clifford Merle Fearn, February 6

View Full Obituaries at [www.dignitymemorial.com](http://www.dignitymemorial.com)

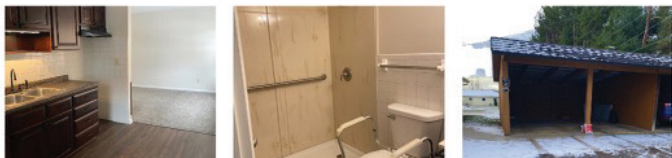
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## Home Energy Assistance Program can help residents with energy bills

The Ohio Department of Development and your Area Agency on Aging want to remind older Ohioans that assistance is available to help with their home energy bills.

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps Ohioans at or below 175% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of up to seven members and 60% of State Median Income for a household of eight or more members to pay their heating bills.

Applied directly to the customer's utility or bulk fuel bill, the benefit can help manage heating costs. Older Ohioans may go to their local Area Agency on Aging office for help with assembling the required documents and completing their HEAP application. They may also visit [www.energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://www.energyhelp.ohio.gov) to apply online or to download a copy of the application.

When applying, individuals need to have copies of the following documents:

- Most recent utility bills.
- A list of all household members (including birth dates and Social Security numbers).
- Proof of income for the past 30 days for all household members (12 months for certain income types).
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members.
- Proof of disability (if applicable).

HEAP benefits are applied to an individual's energy bill after Jan. 1, 2025. Applications for the HEAP program must be received by May 31, 2025.

For more information or assistance with applying for a HEAP benefit, contact Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc at 419-524-4144 and ask for a Navigator.

To be connected to a local Energy Assistance Provider call 800-282-0880 (hearing impaired clients may dial 711 for assistance) or visit [www.energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://www.energyhelp.ohio.gov).



ONTARIO STINGEL students met Cleveland Heights author Tricia Springstubb on Feb. 7. She spoke to students in K-5 in two assemblies. She also signed her books students purchased and had lunch with students.

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## 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-8wllIGPF\\_1s39EWYfKgyktbcg-UN0/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n5uD-8wllIGPF_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 offer a 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](mailto:roadapplerun@gmail.com).

## Ohio State Mansfield Theatre to perform 'Romeo and Juliet'

The Theatre Program at The Ohio State University at Mansfield and the Mansfield Shakespeare Company will present the classic *Romeo and Juliet* as part of the final production for the 2024-'25 series.

The play will be performed at 7:30 pm Friday, Feb. 28, Saturday, March 1 and Monday, March 3. A matinee performance is slated for Sunday, March 2, at 2:30 pm.

This cultural classic is a challenge and an opportunity for the acting crew, which consists of actors from the student body, faculty and local actors.

"*Romeo and Juliet* has sort of become a natural part of our contemporary culture," said Joe Fahey, the show's producer and professor of theater at Ohio State Mansfield.

"This play also has a great story, and we have a great 21-member cast who will be ready on opening night."

Some of the challenges with this play include the fight scenes, Renaissance-era language and scenes of intimacy and death.

"All plays present their own challenges and this one is no different, but we have a talented group of artists who are exploring this beautiful language, challenging themselves and bringing their own rich insights to the rehearsal process," Fahey said.

Romeo will be played by Javier Villalon Lopez, of Wil-

lard,; and Juliet will be played by Alayna Rickley, of Ontario. Other cast members include Scott Smith as Lord Capulet, Vivian Shenberger as Lady Capulet, Christian Kurtzman as Lord Montague, and Kylee Swank as Lady Montague.

All performances will be held inside Founders Auditorium at

Ohio State Mansfield, located on the first floor of Ovalwood Hall, 1680 University Dr., Mansfield.

Tickets are \$10 and \$6 and can be purchased at 419- 755-4045 or [mansfieldtheatre@osu.edu](mailto:mansfieldtheatre@osu.edu). Tickets can also be purchased at the on-site box office in Founders Auditorium beginning 45 minutes before each show.



OHIO STATE MANSFIELD PRODUCTION — Ruie Rutherford, Grayson Antreassian, Javier Villalon Lopez and Sam Potter practice for the upcoming performance of *Romeo and Juliet* at Ohio State Mansfield.

## USPS and U.S. Postal Inspection Service warn public about scams

With Valentine's Day approaching, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) want consumers to be aware they may be targeted for romance scams, a deceptive form of fraud that preys on individuals seeking companionship. These scams often start online but frequently escalate to requests for money or valuables sent through the mail, leading to devastating financial and emotional losses for victims.

"Protecting the sanctity and integrity of the mail is our top priority," said USPIS Chief Postal Inspector Gary Barksdale. "This includes protecting customers from mail-related crimes, including fraudulent schemes like romance scams. Public awareness is critical in stopping these criminals before they cause harm."

Scammers create fake identities, often using stolen photos and fictitious personal details. They cultivate online relationships over weeks or months, building trust through social media, dating apps, or email and pledge their love early on.

Once trust is established, they fabricate urgent financial needs — such as medical emergencies, travel expenses, or business

problems — to solicit money.

Victims are pressured into sending cash, checks, wire transfers, or gift cards, making recovery difficult once the fraud is detected. Be cautious of online relationships that escalate quickly, especially if the individual avoids in-person meetings or video calls.

Look for inconsistencies in the person's profile and the information they share. Keep your personal information private.

Never send money, checks, gift cards, or personal finance

information to someone you haven't met in person. If you think it's a scam, cut off communication immediately and report it.

USPS and USPIS are ramping up public outreach efforts to help Americans recognize and avoid mail fraud. In addition to proactive law enforcement measures, the Postal Service is spreading awareness through multiple channels to raise awareness, including on social media platforms and by providing updated scam alerts, prevention tips, and reporting tools.

On the Mailin' It! podcast postal inspectors share true crime stories of real cases. These episodes highlight real cases where fraudsters have used the mail to target victims, reinforcing the importance of staying informed and vigilant.

If targeted by a romance scam involving the mail, report it to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service at [www.uspis.gov/report](http://www.uspis.gov/report). Victims should also notify their local law enforcement agency and the Federal Trade Commission at [reportfraud.ftc.gov](http://reportfraud.ftc.gov).

### Forget-Me-Not Flower Shop Inc.

#### Valentine's Day is Friday, Feb. 14

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**MRS. DITTY'S CLASS** at Ontario celebrated the 101st day of school in first grade. Students came to school looking like 101 dalmatians. They reviewed rhyming words by writing 101 words, discovered different ways to add to 101, made 101 snacks, made 101 tally marks, read about dalmatians and answered comprehension questions. OSU students Miss Kassie and Miss Taylor blew up black and white balloons for the kids to count.

Join us for a free program!

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



alz.org | 800.272.3900





**THE ONTARIO POWER OF THE PEN** teams traveled to Tiffin Middle School to compete in the Northwest District II Power of the Pen competition on Feb. 8. The students wrote in three 40-minute rounds against 17 other schools. At the end of the competition, the students enjoyed a pizza lunch before the awards ceremony. Ella Manns received seventh place out of all the eighth grade students and automatically qualified for the regional tournament at the Lima Campus of The Ohio State University in March. The teams anxiously await the final results to be announced later this week to see if other students will qualify for the regional tournament. Coaches are Kellie Ritchey and Amanda Secrist. Writers participating were Jeffrey Davis, Hero Graham Bay, Brooklyn Gobble, Zoey Jones, Ahyaan Saif, Chloe Siburt, Maddy Hocker, Kyleigh Kanouse, Ella Manns, Marisa Rodriguez, Sophia Sandwall and Zahrana Woods.

### Scholarships available to local students

The Area Agency on Aging announced the start of its 2025 Scholarship Program, aimed at supporting individuals pursuing higher education or certification in the field of aging or disability services.

The Foundation Board will award three scholarships to deserving individuals who demonstrate a commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of older adults and those with disabilities through their educational pursuits.

Scholarships awarded include \$2,000 for a student attending a 4- year university; \$1,000 for a student attending a 2-year college, technical school, center of education, or pursuing a certification; and \$1,000 for a student attending any type of higher institute of learning or certification and a retiree or staff member of the Area Agency on Aging or is a child (step) or grandchild (step) of an actively employed (full-time or part-time) Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. staff member.

The application deadline will be March 15, 2025.

Applicants are encouraged to visit the Area Agency on Aging’s website at [aaa5ohio.org](http://aaa5ohio.org) for detailed eligibility criteria and application instructions.

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc., located at 2131 Park Avenue West in Ontario, provides leadership, collaboration, coordination and services to older adults, people with disabilities, their caregivers & resource networks that support individual choice, independence and dignity.



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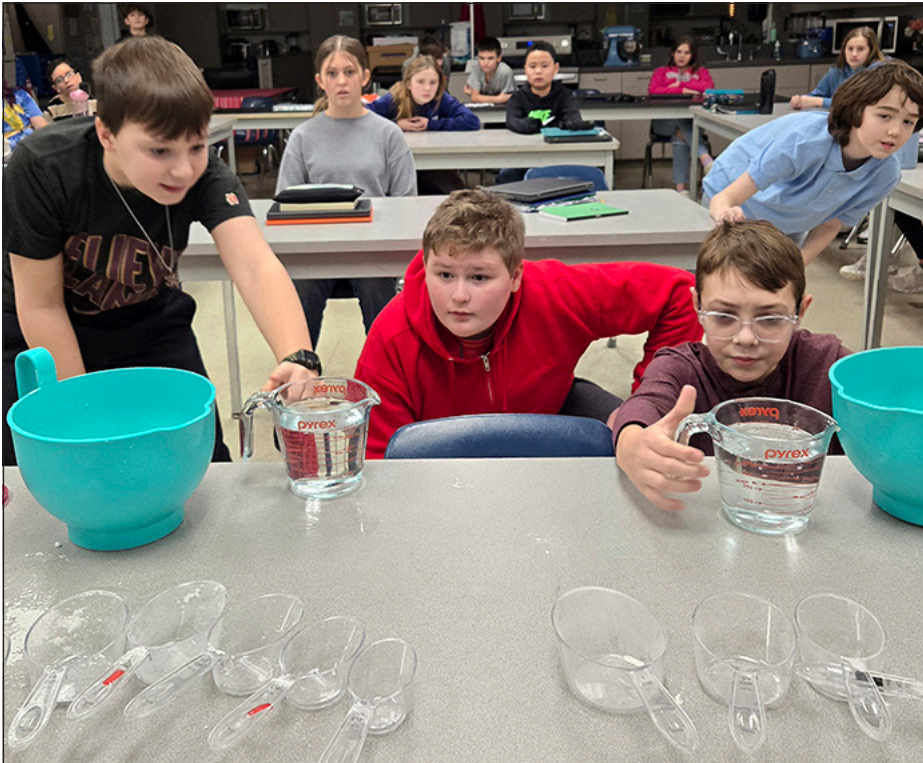
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SHELBY MIDDLE SCHOOL'S Student Leadership Team put their hearts into making over 90 Valentine's Day cards for the residents of Crestwood Care Center.



THROUGHOUT A 12-WEEK PROJECT-BASED COURSE, students at Ontario developed essential soft skills — goal setting, teamwork, critical thinking, and active listening — preparing them not only for kitchen labs but for lifelong success. Before participating in any kitchen labs students receive instruction on food and kitchen safety. Through discussions and interactive activities, they learn about cross-contamination, proper food handling, safe kitchen practices, ingredient measurement and utensil selection. A highlight of this unit is the Measurement Challenge, where students compete in a fun, fast-paced race to accurately measure liquid and dry ingredients. Over the next few weeks, students in 2nd and 3rd periods will apply these skills by preparing trail mix, making a slushy, cooking chili cheese dip, and baking cookies for the FCCLA dance. It's a delicious way to wrap up their final weeks before moving on to their last 12-week class.

# Ontario High School at the Cleveland Cavaliers Game



# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS MARION HARDING VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL · JAN. 28  
EAGLES WIN 63-43 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**MADISON VS MARION HARDING JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL · JAN. 28  
EAGLES WIN 26-12 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN**



# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS NEW PHILADELPHIA VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL · FEB. 7  
FIGHTING QUAKERS WIN 56-45 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**MADISON VS NEW PHILADELPHIA JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL · FEB. 7  
FIGHTING QUAKERS WIN 35-14 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN**



# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS NEW PHILADELPHIA FRESHMAN BOYS BASKETBALL · FEB. 7  
FIGHTING QUAKERS WIN 56-46 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN





# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights



## OHSAA girls basketball tournaments begin

By Kris Leiter

It's hard to believe it's tournament time again in high school basketball. This is the bittersweet time of year, as the regular season of high school hoops is winding down, but the post-season OHSAA playoffs will be sure to bring exciting action as well as some unexpected upsets.

The local girls teams started this week and are currently in the midst of the first rounds of the playoffs.

The schedule includes:

### Division III – Region 10 - NW 3 Sectional Girls Tournament (Semi Finals)

Mansfield Senior (6 seed) and Ashland (2 seed) Feb. 13, 7 pm, at Ashland High School

Madison Comprehensive (5 seed) and Sandusky (4 seed) Feb. 13, 7 pm at Sandusky High School

### Division IV – Region 14 - NW 1 Sectional Girls Tournament (Semi Finals)

Ontario (8 seed) and Bellevue (1 seed) Feb. 13, 7 pm, at Bellevue High School

Lexington (6 seed) and Shelby (2 seed) Feb. 13, 7 pm, at Shelby High School

### Division V – Region 18 - NW 3 Sectional Girls Tournament

Galion (7 seed) and Clear Fork (1 seed) Feb. 13, 7 pm, at Clear Fork High School

Crestview (6 seed) and Willard (2 seed) Feb. 13, 7 pm at willard High School

### Division VI – Region 22 - NW 3 Sectional Girls Tournament (Semi Finals)

Mansfield (5 seed) and New London (4 seed) Feb. 15, 2 pm at New London High School

### Division VII – Region 25 - NW 5 Sectional Girls Tournament (Semi Finals)

Crestline (6 seed) and Lucas (3 seed) Feb. 15, 2 pm, at Lucas High School



**THE ONTARIO LADY WARRIORS BASKETBALL SENIOR NIGHT** honored Edie Howard, Kennedy Weiler and Paradise Jeru on Thursday, Feb. 6. Ontario beat Highland 50–43. Paradise Jeru was the high scorer for the Lady Warriors with 19 points.

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# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN VS EAST KNOX GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL · FEB. 6  
BULLDOGS WIN 52-30 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER**



# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN VS MT. GILEAD GIRLS JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL  
FEB. 6 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER**



# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**MADISON VS ST. URSULA ACADEMY VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL · FEB. 6  
RAMS WIN 66-48 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN**



# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**MADISON VS ST. URSULA ACADEMY JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL · FEB. 6  
RAMS WIN 33-26 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN**



# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights



SEVEN ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL boys qualified for the district swim meet. All the girls placed in sectionals to advance to districts.



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL held a Letter of Intent signing ceremony recently. James Mahon committed to play baseball at Defiance College and Elaina Seif will attend Otterbein College to play soccer.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO SELL UNNEEDED, OBSOLETE OR UNFIT MUNICIPAL PERSONAL PROPERTY BY INTERNET SALE/AUCTION DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2025

Notice is hereby given that the City of Ontario intends to sell unneeded, obsolete or unfit municipal personal property by internet sale/auction during 2025. All sales shall be for cash, shipping or delivery shall be the responsibility of the purchaser, and the sales shall be made through websites as determined to be most effective and efficient in obtaining the best price. The representative of the City for the purpose of internet sales is:

Adam Gongwer  
Service-Safety Director  
555 Stumbo Road  
Ontario, Ohio 44906  
419-529-2495

servicesafetydirector@ontarioohio.org

Cathy VanAuker  
Clerk of Council  
City of Ontario, OH  
(T-C 1-30, 2-13, 27 '25)

## 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)

## LEGAL NOTICE

The Richland County Local Emergency Planning Committee Meetings for 2025 are scheduled for: January 22nd, April 23rd, July 23rd and October 22nd at 10am. Meeting location: Richland Public Health, 555 Lexington Ave, Mansfield, OH 44907 in the Corley Room. For more information contact Richland County EMA 419-774-5686..

Destiny Heinberger  
Administrative Assistant  
Richland County EMA  
Mansfield, OH  
(T-C 2-13 '25) (15L)

## 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 now through Feb. 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](http://mrcpl.org).

## Board meeting scheduled for Feb. 18

The Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Richland County will hold its monthly Board meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 5:30 pm, at the Community Action for Capable Youth (CACY) office, 1495 West Longview Avenue Mansfield.

For additional information call the board office at 419-774-5811.



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL anatomy and physiology classes took the ice bucket challenge. Students are learning about their sympathetic nervous system and the fight or flight response. Students tested their autonomic nervous system by recording their resting pulse rate before, during and after plunging their hand in freezing cold water. Most groups experienced an increase in heart rate when their hand was in the freezing water, typical in a fight or flight response.

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