



**LOCAL STUDENTS** perform experiments during the "Put Your Heart Into STEAM" event at The Ohio State University Mansfield campus.

## Area students attend OSU's "Put Your Heart Into STEAM"

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Students and faculty from across Richland County (Lexington, Clearfork, Mansfield Christian, St. Pete's, Ontario, Fredericktown, Goal Digital, Richland School of Academic Arts, and Pioneer), gathered at The Ohio State University Mansfield campus on Feb. 14, for a unique and engaging event, "Put Your Heart Into STEAM," where science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) intersected with themes of love, passion and creativity.

This immersive experience featured hands-on activities led by faculty members, providing students with opportunities to explore new ideas in an exciting and interactive way.

School groups rotated between the following sessions throughout the day:

### Exploring Love Through Art and Theatre

Participants interested in the artistic side of STEAM explored "Light, Shadow and Love" with Associate Professor Kate Shannon. This session used camera-less photography to create images with light-sensitive paper, adding a romantic Valentine's Day twist. Meanwhile, theatre professor Joe Fahey led "Making a Scene," where students split into small teams to develop and perform their own 60-second dramatic scenes using theatre lighting, sound, and stage effects.

### The Psychology and Physics of Love

For those intrigued by human behavior, "Fall in Love with Psychology" invited students to reflect on how they perceived themselves and others through psychological activities. Faculty members Amy Brunell, Del Lindsey, and Phil Mazzocco guided participants through self-discovery exercises.

On the physics front, Senior Lecturer Stephan Frank challenged students' understanding of space and time in "Newton: 'Do you feel the gravity between us?' Einstein: 'No attraction! It's just curved space-time.'" This session demystified general relativity and demonstrated its counterintuitive concepts in an engaging way.

### Solving Crimes and Exploring Biology

For students with an interest in forensic science, "Solving a Crime of Passion" led by Professors Stephen Abedon and Adrienne Hopson

*(Continued on Page 6)*

## Ontario Mayor Kris Knapp releases State of the City

By City of Ontario Mayor Kris Knapp

I am proud and honored to share the State of the City of Ontario with everyone. It is important that we acknowledge those who are directly involved with our city every day.

I would like to start with a thank you to our administration, service safety director, administrative assistant, office personnel, police department, chief, captain, lieutenants, sergeants, patrol officers, K-9, school resource officer and dispatchers.

I would also like to recognize our mayor's court including the law director, magistrate and clerk; and the planning commission, zoning inspector, civil service, city council, clerk, committee members, treasurer, auditor, deputy auditor and income tax department.

So many work together to keep the city operational including the water and sewer departments, streets service department, parks department, recreational department, Ontario Youth Sports, Ontario Community Events, Ontario Senior Center, board of health representatives, the records retention appointee and the cemetery superintendent. All these individuals, either employed or volunteers, have an integral part of the city's day-to-day operation.

2024 saw a transitional change in many areas of the City of Ontario and ended on a positive mark.

The city began the year with local veterans opening our council meetings with the Pledge of Allegiance. We also started the tradition of Veterans Way on Lexington-Springmill Road by hanging community banners featuring local veterans. The City of Ontario completely funded the cost of these banners. This will continue in 2025.

We had a serious incident in February with an Ontario officer involved shooting. We are grateful that the individual officer is back on duty and is recovering from that incident. I would like to acknowledge the entire police division for their continued dedication to this great city.

As spring approached, there was a big discussion about the date of April 8, 2024. This was the solar eclipse. As quickly as the event occurred, the countless hours of preparation though our police and other entities in Richland County made this event a success. If anything, this helped the city prepare for any major events in the future.

A council meeting was held at Ontario High School in front of the student body allowing students to witness how a meeting works.

During the summer months, the Ontario Community Events became fully activated with the start of Summer Recreation and the Summer Concert Series.

Ontario Community Events also helps plan the biggest city event of the year — the fourth of July festival — which gives our city an opportunity to highlight many facets of our park and bring our community together with an exciting festival. We always appreciate the encore at the festival with the fireworks display provided by the Niss Foundation. We crowned three Miss Ontario queens — Miss Ontario Katie Bolen, Junior Miss Ontario Karlie Brinker and Little Miss Ontario Mila Morrison. Just before that week-long event, our city was able to obtain and move the M4201-Anticraft twin 40mm Duster, "Tank" to be displayed in Marshall Park. Many thanks go to Master Sergeant Brett Baxter and the 1486th Transportation Company.

Our city then went into a transitional administration period. Former Mayor Randy Hutchinson resigned before his term ended and transitioned into a new role outside of city government. We acknowledge and thank him for his dedication to the City of Ontario for the past 10 years. We wish him the absolute best in his future.

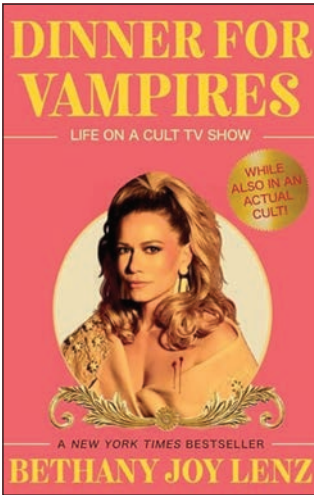
Five individuals submitted to the party and a new mayor was appointed to finish his term. Along with this transition, we have had a new service safety director and zoning inspector. Another transitional event that occurred at a similar time was the sale of the General Motors property owned by the city to ICP.

*(Continued on Page 8)*

LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review
By Mandy Belczak Gurney



Dinner for Vampires — Life on a Cult TV Show by Bethany Joy Lenz is a gripping story for more than just One Tree Hill fans.

Lenz tells the brave story of her experience living in a religious cult during her years while filming One Tree Hill.

She was bold, brave and is a beautiful story teller like she always has been in this memoir. I devoured the story in just a couple of days. What strikes me the most about her strength, is her ability to allow faith to still live in her soul when others abused the name of religion so badly. I highly recommend the audio-book, because Lenz reading her own story took me right back to One Tree Hill.

Follow my blog at Green Gurneys.com

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-8wIIGPF\_1s39EWYfKgyktb-cg-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, available 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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Vol. 64 No. 19

Tribune-Courier



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

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THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER — By Ian Stumbo —

The Marvel movies have been in a real up and down cycle since Avengers: Endgame in 2019.

For every really good movie like Guardians of the Galaxy, Vol. 3, Deadpool vs. Wolverine, Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings and Spider-Man: No Way Home there is a not great or pretty bad installment such as The Marvels, Thor: Love and Thunder and Eternals. The Marvel films need to get back on the right foot and, unfortunately, Captain America: Brave New World is not that movie.

Sam Wilson (Anthony Mackie) has taken over for Steve Rogers and gets entangled in an international incident while trying to mend bridges with the new president Thaddeus Ross played by Harrison Ford who is taking over the role from the late William Hurt. Ross has his own secrets and Wilson along with the new Falcon (Danny Ramirez) must travel the world to uncover what is really going on.

Mackie is great in this role as the new Captain America as he has been established in several films and does what he can though the plot and the script are just very uninteresting and bog the movie down in a sense of confusion and boredom. The movie requires audiences to remember characters and plot points from the Eternals mov-

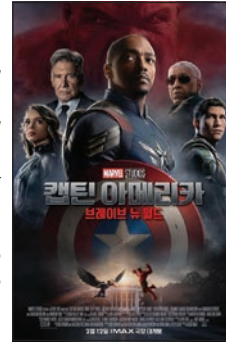
ie, The Falcon and the Winter Soldier Disney+ series and the 2009 The Incredible Hulk movie

which this movie almost feels like the sequel they always wanted to make. That is a lot to ask of an audience especially while trying to get your series back on track.

It is no surprise that the character of Red Hulk appears as he has been all over the advertisements and posters. That scene is the standout of this movie as Hulk and Captain America have a terrific fight scene together.

The other positives include the opening fight sequence and the performances by Makie and especially Ford. The new villain Sidewinder played by Giancarlo Esposito is there though he was added as a last-minute addition to the movie after many rewrites and it shows. Esposito is great as always though the character feels wedged in.

Let's hope the upcoming Thunderbolts and Fantastic Four movies get Marvel's juices flowing again because while this movie is certainly not terrible, it is less than great. There have been so many misfires from Marvel in the last five years, this is not a positive step forward for the series.



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# News Briefs

Lifewise Academy will host a fundraising concert benefitting the Madison program on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 2–5 pm at Paradise Church, 87 N. Illinois Ave., Mansfield.

Performances will be given from the Paradise Church Praise Team, Trinity Grace Sonshine Band, Mission Point Praise Team, Fusion Church Madison Praise Team, Laila Nicolaides, Joe Richards and Shelby Knipp. Refreshments will follow.

★

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 March 19 with roast beef and a performance by the Clearfork High School Artisans. Those attending are asked to wear green.

The group will also meet March 2, at 11 am, for lunch at Logan's Roadhouse in Ontario.

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 hear a sermon prepared by Rev. William Humphrey on "Universalism today, as a response to injustice" on Sunday, Feb. 23, at 10:30 am. For information visit [www.allsoulsuohio.org](http://www.allsoulsuohio.org).

★

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 Richland County Board of Commissioners has released the State of the County video.

This video highlights the 2024 year in review and includes presentations from Richland County Commissioners Tony Vero, Darrell Banks and Cliff Mears, as well as Richland County Administrator Andrew Keller, Clerk of Courts Denise Ruhl and Prosecutor Jodie Schumacher.

The video spotlights several of the county's important projects, community investments and financial position. It is the second annual State of the County video released by the commissioners as part of the board's emphasis on transparency and local government accountability. The video can be viewed by visiting <https://youtu.be/iv10bKvGBfw>.

★

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.

★

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.

★

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.

★

The Richland County Republican Party will host a First Monday Luncheon on March 3, in the Kobacker Room at DLX Events and Catering, 28 N. Main St., in downtown Mansfield. Guest speaker will be Lydia Mihalik, director of the Ohio Department of Development.

The event will be from 11:45 am to 1 pm. Lunches are \$10 and are optional. RSVP at 419-528-8223 or email [rcogop@gmail.com](mailto:rcogop@gmail.com).

The Richland County Republican Party will host the Lincoln Day Dinner on May 8., Vivek Ramaswamy will be the keynote speaker. Details will be released in the near future.

Join us for a free program!

Alzheimer's Association Northwest Ohio Chapter



*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!

Navigating Anti-Amyloid Therapies for Alzheimer's Disease with

Dr. Daniel Lee, Neuropsychiatrist

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](mailto:JenCMiller@ALZ.org)



Saskatchewan, Canada • Photo By Mark Shutt

## 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. is located at 2131 Park Avenue West in Ontario.

# 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.FirstChristianChurchMansfield.com)  
FB: FirstChristianChurch,Mansfield,Ohio

### First Congregational Church

640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield  
419-756-3046 • [www.mansfieldfcc.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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



**KINGDOM GRACE FELLOWSHIP** will host a March of Prayer night on March 16.

## March of Prayer returns to local congregations

A Year of Jubilee is the theme of this year's March of Prayer in the Mansfield and surrounding area. It is 31 nights of prayer services from 6–8 pm, each in a different location.

"This is the seventh year we have held a March of Prayer, and Biblically, seven is the number of completion, called a Year of Jubilee in the Old Testament," said coordinator Paul Lintern.

"That Jubilee offers a sense of fresh start, forgiveness, redemption of debt and restoration of lives," he added.

The first March of Prayer was an idea that came out of a series of prayer services held at St. Luke's Point of Grace, 2 Marion Ave., with Lintern and Jordon Baker recruiting the line-up.

"Although we had all 31 dates filled, others churches asked to be included, so we went another 19 days, until Easter that year," Lintern said. "The next year, Covid, stopped us 16 days in, but we continued another 45 days with nightly livestreams by a rotation of 12 individuals from their homes."

More than 90 churches have hosted a March of Prayer service, including for the first time, Greater Mitchell Chapel AME. Each host is invited simply to create a service authentic to their way of leading worship and invite anyone to come and participate. Nearly 260 March of Prayer services have been held over the years.

The 2025 schedule includes March 1, Fusion-Madison, 2170 Park Avenue East; March 2, Zion's Refuge, 1400 Lucas Rd. (Rt. 39); March 3, Clay Memorial, Bowman and Amoy East; March 4, Awake, 3616 St. Rt. 39, Shelby; March 5, Oakland Lutheran, 2045 Olivesburg Rd.; March 6, The MAC, 291 W. Cook Rd.; March 7, Christian Life, 961 Springmill St.; March 8, Greater Mitchell Chapel AME, 182 S. Adams St.; March 9, Potter's House, 374 Willowood Dr. East, Ontario; March 10, Grace Fellowship, 365 Straub Road East; March 11, Providence Baptist, 112 W. Sixth St.; March 12, First United Methodist, 12 N. Diamond.; March 13, Salvation Army, 47 S. Main St.; March 14, Paradise Church, 87 Illinois Ave N.; March 15, Kingdom Life, 7 Consolidated Rd., Shelby; March 16, Kingdom Grace Fellowship, 105 Reba Ave.; March 17, First English Lutheran, 53 Park Avenue West; March 18, Holy Trinity Lutheran, 525 W. Cook Rd.; March 19, Journey Life Center, 2578 Springmill Rd.; March 20, Recovery Road, 378 Park Ave. West (ARC Empowerment Center); March 21, Open Bible, 1150 Rayfield Dr., with a performance by Glory Way; March 22, Sar Shalom (10:30 am), 2510 W. Fourth St., Ontario, featuring a guest speaker from Israel; March 23, Linden Road Presbyterian, 160 S. Linden Rd.; March 24, Mansfield Foursquare Gospel, 393 Davidson. St.; March 25, Abundant Life, 1085 Bedford Blvd, Ontario; March 26, Avenue, Gathering, 1756 Park Ave. West; March 27, River Church, 152 Cline Ave.; March 28, Faith Global Methodist, Rte 96, across from Crestview High School; March 29, Fusion, Lexington, 2200 Industrial Parkway; March 30, Gracepoint - Lexington, 1887 W. Cook Rd.; and March 31, Storyside, 541 St. Rt. 97, Bellville.

## Election polling locations change

The Richland County Board of Elections announced changes in a voting location for the May 6, primary election and all future elections.

The Berean Baptist Church located at 2145 Middle Bellville Rd. will no longer be serving as a polling location. This change affects the voters in the precincts of MAN 1A, MAN 1B, MAN 1E, MAN 1F, WASH B, WASH C and WASH F. These precincts have been moved to new locations.

The new location for MAN 1B, MAN 1E, MAN1F and WASH B will be the Apostolic Christian Fellowship Center, 305 W. Hanley Rd., Mansfield.

The new location for MAN 1A, WASH C and WASH F will be New Liberty Baptist Church, 2705 Lexington Ave., Mansfield.

The reason for this change is Berean Church sent the board of elections a letter of notification that they will no longer serve as a polling location for all future elections.

Voters in these precincts will be notified by mail of their new polling location. The board does not expect to make any other revisions unless an emergency situation would arise.

Voters are encouraged to take advantage of Ohio's ample early voting opportunities. The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail for the May 6 election is Tuesday, April 29. Absentee ballots must be postmarked by the day before the election in order to be counted, or can be dropped off at the Richland County Board of Elections, 1495 W. Longview Ave., Suite 101 in Mansfield, or placed in the locked and secured dropbox located in the rear, lower level parking area of the Longview Center.

Early in-person voting starts on April 8 at 1495 W. Longview Ave. lower level, and that is also the date that the board can start mailing out the absentee/mail ballots to the voters who requested one.

On Election Day, May 6, the polls will be open from 6:30 am until 7:30 pm. For more information call 419-774-5530.

### Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Mohinder Singh, February 10  
Dewie Wayne Burge Jr., February 11  
Fay J. Feeman, February 12  
Kim Earl Henthorn, February 13  
Shelia Mae Shaffer, February 13  
Jimmie Darrell Miller, February 14  
Delora Jean Thomas, February 15

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

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Ontario • 100 S. Lexington-Springmill Rd. • 419-529-2323  
Ashland • 308 Claremont Avenue • 419-289-1552

[www.wappner.com](http://www.wappner.com)

# •Area students attend OSU’s “Put Your Heart Into STEAM”

*(Continued from Front Page)*

allowed participants to conduct hands-on science experiments to solve a murder mystery.

Meanwhile, the “For the Love of Biology” session, hosted by Professors Carol Landry and Suma Robinson, featured various biology-based stations, including DNA extraction, Mendelian genetics, chromatography, and microscopic analysis of tiny organisms.

### AI, Chemistry, and Engineering: The Science of Love

The “Romance of a Perfect Prompt: AI, Word Games & Music” session, led by Mantra Das, Andy Kinney, and Brenna Truax, explored artificial intelligence’s ability to generate love-themed content, from images to poetry and music.

For chemistry enthusiasts, “The Chemistry of Love: Flowers, Candy, Kisses & Electrolytes!” featured hands-on experiments, such as investigating flower-like colorants, comparing ink types used in forensic science, and analyzing electrolyte content in popular drinks. Professors Tammy Siciliano and Faith Wygowski guided students in making edible DNA using candy.

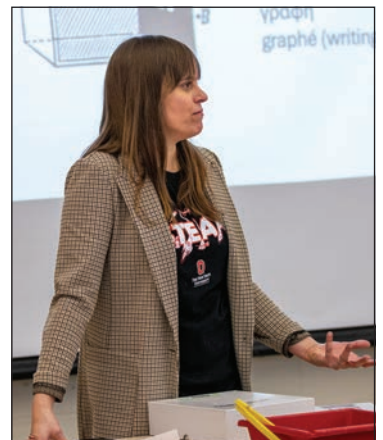
Engineering took center stage in “Engineering Cupid’s Catapults,” where Assistant Professor Juan Pablo Rincon helped students design and build successful catapults to launch various materials — including candy and conversation hearts.

### Anthropology and Automation: The Science Behind Love and

Students interested in anthropology participated in “Primates Leaping for Love & Chewing for Treats,” where Lecturer Stewart Jobrack guided an exploration into how fossilized monkey teeth could reveal social behaviors and relationships among primates.

Finally, for those fascinated by robotics and automation, “The Heart of Automation” with Professor Amber Rader allowed students to manufacture custom tokens and program a robotic partner to play tic-tac-toe.

This Valentine’s Day, “Put Your Heart Into STEAM” offered students an exciting way to explore the intersections between science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. Whether diving into psychology, solving a crime, exploring AI-generated poetry, or building an engineering masterpiece, participants left with a newfound appreciation for the wonders of STEAM — and maybe even a little extra love for learning.



Photos By Traci Little

**MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL** juniors Taylor Clary and Maddi Hockman participated in the event.



*kimmyscucina*

By Kim Sterry

**FLANK (OR SKIRT) STEAK OSCAR**

**Ingredients**

- 1 Flank or skirt steak
- Salt & pepper
- Hollandaise sauce
- 1 Tbsp. freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, melted (1 stick)
- Pinch cayenne
- Pinch salt
- 2 cups or more crab meat
- Butter
- Lemon

**Instructions**

In a stainless steel bowl, vigorously whisk the egg yolks and lemon juice together until the mixture is thickened and doubled in volume. Over a saucepan containing barely simmering water, place the bowl the water should not touch the bottom of the bowl. Continue to whisk rapidly. Do not let the eggs get too hot or they will scramble. Slowly drizzle in the melted butter and continue to whisk until the sauce is thickened and doubled in volume. Remove from heat, whisk in cayenne and salt. Cover and place in a warm spot until ready to use. If the sauce gets too thick, whisk in a few drops of warm water before serving. Season steak with salt and pepper and grill or cook in cast iron skillet in oven. Steak should only cook for 10-20 minutes max depending on thickness. Slice on bias and place on platter. While the steak is cooking, melt 4-6 Tbsp. of butter in pan with 2 Tbsp. lemon juice and add the crab meat. You could even season with some Old Bay seasoning if you want. Heat through and set aside. To Assemble just add crab meat on top of the steak and drizzle with hollandaise sauce. Asparagus is a good addition to this if you would like.

*LIKE Kimmy's Cucina on Facebook & Instagram*



Photo by Damon Callis



**Day Trippin' With Damon** – The Strongsville, OH, area has a newly built covered bridge. The Walter F Ehrnfelt Covered Bridge is located on Whitney Rd. and even includes a stoplight. It is named after former Mayor Walter F. Ehrnfelt. The bridge replaces a former covered bridge.



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# Ontario Mayor Kris Knapp releases State of the City

(Continued from Front Page)

As fall approached, the city was awarded the Earth Stewardship Award from the Richland County Soil and Water Conservation District. The street department worked extremely hard to clean out Touby Run, which helps the storm water flow.

City council passed a significant ordinance which was the moratorium for the sale of marijuana inside the city limits of Ontario.

After months of meetings and countless hours of volunteer work, the city's comprehensive plan came together.

The city finished the year with an upgrade to the community room which had not been done in over 30 years. We also had our annual Ontario Police toy drive, a Christmas tree lighting and a breakfast with Santa.

The city had multiple businesses open or relocate in Ontario in 2024 including Stumps Aquatics and Exotics, Loft and Rails, Bath and Body Works, Akron Children's Hospital, Carter's-Osh-Kosh, Culvers, Eagle Loan, Hibachi Express, Vape City Smoke Shop, I am Boundless Child Care, The Void - Gaming and Hobby Shop, Peony & Birch Botique, A Touch of Home, Grocery Outlet, Fleets Fitness Center, Fourth Street Coffee, Fresh Grounds and the 4 Leaf Rover.

Starbucks will open this summer on the lot that previously housed Steak and Shake and the Denny's building, at the corner of Fourth Street and Lexington-Springmill Road, has been torn down to make way for a new Raising Cane's Chicken location to be built.

The Richland Mall is under new ownership and is now being called The Ontario Center. ODOT has approved plans to build on the Beer Road property and Avita announced a new cancer wing in the old Sears building.

2024 was a continually active year for our city. Multiple positions within the city had changes and our city council approved updates in the working and wage ordinances.

The police department ended the year with approximately 4,000 more calls for service than in 2023. A huge investment that our city took part in was the Flock camera system. Approximately 60 percent of the cases the police investigates now utilizes the flock system.

Unfortunately, felony cases were up 53 percent with many calls involving violence. There were over 1,600 traffic tickets issued, 1,100 waivers paid and over 1,800 charges heard in mayor's court. Our mayor's court revenue in 2024 was just shy of \$300,000 with the city keeping approximately \$231,000.

The police department increased its training due to having two

officers who can bring outside advanced training into Ontario. This is an enormous opportunity for our city as these classes allow our officers to attend for free and there is minimal travel and overnight accommodation.

With the accreditation that our police department received with CALEA, the recommendation is to have a department commit and keep all training records up to date and on file. This will be assigned to a supervisor with proper credentials to facilitate this task.

Finally, our city revenue went up by over seven percent excluding the sale of the GM property from 2023.

Even though a large budget was proposed for 2025, I am confident that our city, as in past years, should be below the anticipated budget. I am also happy to say that Ontario ended the year with many grand openings, opportunities and a comprehensive plan for an exciting transition into 2025.

As we look ahead into 2025, my goal as mayor is to implement the comprehensive plan. I plan to assist in the organization of a new Community Improvement Corporation (CIC). I want to collaborate with the citizens to improve the "Old Ontario" area, this is personal to me as it is where I grew up.

I will continue to improve our city's infrastructure by targeting old water and sewer lines and writing grants through the OPWC Regional Planning organization, as well as other state and federal agencies.

We did receive the OPWC grant to improve multiple waterlines and looping in 2025. We continue to improve our sanitary sewer and our I & I and continue open conversations with the Mansfield Mayor and administration.

I will also work to improve the safety of our roads, as our city received the ODOT safety grant in the amount of 3.9 million for a roundabout.

Council approved a new temporary budget for which we can improve our capital assets of new cruisers, plow truck, a lift truck and the Multi-Agency Radio Communication System.

I am happy to announce that our city recently received the ODOT Safe Routes to School grant which allows the planning and engineering for new sidewalks in our city. This will be an ongoing plan to improve the safety and mobility of our school students and citizens.

I will continue to keep lines of communication open with Congressman Jim Jordan and State Senator Mark Romanchuk, so that we may apply for grants to assist ICP in the infrastructure of electrical power.

It is a priority to develop the General Motors property with industry. I am working with BlueScope in creating a recyclable program for our parks. We all have an exciting opportunity to continue the success of this city.

We have multiple council seats including the auditor and the mayor up for election in 2025. I have turned my petition in and will look forward to having my name on the May 6 ballot.

I want to thank my Service Safety Director Adam Gongwer, our Chief of Police Tom Hill, all our city employees, each one of our city council members and my wife and daughters for their continued support.

There are multiple decisions, events and projects ahead of the great city. I look forward to putting the City of Ontario first and wish to lead this city into a triumphant and prosperous year.

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# 8,100 items collected during 3rd Annual Valentine's Card Drive

Youths in the care of Richland County Children Services (RCCS) will have a special Valentine's Day this year. The 3rd Annual Valentine's Card Drive received more than 8,100 items including cards, candy, and toys from the community.

In a county-wide appeal, RCCS, the Mansfield United Lions Club, RCCS and the City of Mansfield Parks & Recreation Department asked local schools, churches, organizations, businesses, and the community for to create or buy Valentine's cards for children in foster care.

"The response was incredible this year and we are so thankful for the compassion and support of our community. People from all over Richland County, and throughout the state donated items including families, schools, churches, businesses, public officials, colleges, and correctional institutions. One of the highlights of the community drive was receiving cards from media outlets News 5 in Cleveland and Richland Source. The inspirational cards, and poems show the youths that they are special and loved," said Brigitte Coles, Richland County Children Services, Community Engagement Supervisor.

"In Ohio there are more than 16,000 youths in foster care and unfortunately many of them do not have the chance to be part of Valentine exchanges. The Valentine's Day Card Project gives the community an opportunity to show children in foster care that they are loved, appreciated and not alone," said Coles.

RCCS also gave items to youths at the Juvenile Detention Center, Domestic Violence Shelter in Richland County, Wayfinders (former Harmony House Homeless Shelter), Akron Children's Hospital and Nationwide Children's Hospital in Mansfield and Foundations for Living residential treatment Center for youth.

"The Mansfield Parks Department loves being involved with this effort every year," said Angel Singleton, Recreation Coordinator. "A card is a simple and kind gesture that shows you care. The small effort really goes a long way."

"The Mansfield United Lions have prioritized supporting the foster children of Richland County for four years. We have pride that

the valentine card project has significant outreach with joy as the outcome," said Dr. Debra Weaver, co-President of the Mansfield United Lions.

Those interested in becoming a foster parent can call 419-774-4100 or go to [richlandcountychildrenservices.org](http://richlandcountychildrenservices.org).



**ANGEL SINGLETON**, City of Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department Recreation Coordinator, and **Tara Lautzenhiser**, Richland County Children Services Executive Director, prepare Valentine's Day gift bags filled with items for foster youths

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## Red Cross says donors are needed to build up blood supply

The American Red Cross urges donors to give blood or platelets in February to help build up the blood supply after thousands of donations went uncollected last month. People of all blood types — especially those with type O negative blood — are encouraged to make and keep their donation appointments so hospitals can continue to ensure critical care for patients this winter.

Since the beginning of the year, hundreds of blood drives have been canceled and more than 15,000 blood and platelet donations have gone uncollected due to severe winter weather and wildfires. As February continues, so does the potential for additional weather systems to disrupt blood drives. Flu and other seasonal illnesses are spreading, which could also force more people to cancel scheduled donation appointments, compounding the impact to collecting life-saving blood products.

To book a time to give blood or platelets, use the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

As a thank-you, all who come to give Jan. 27–Feb. 28, will get a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of choice.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Feb. 14-28:  
Wednesday, Feb. 19, 7 am to 1 pm, K of C Hall, 208 Vernon Rd., Shelby.

Friday, Feb. 21, 8 am to 1 pm, OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital, 335 Glessner Ave., Mansfield; and 10 am to 3 pm, YMCA, 750 Scholl Rd., Mansfield

Wednesday, Feb. 26, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

# Ontario teachers announce retirements

The Ontario Local Schools Board of Education met Feb. 11. Ontario Mayor Kris Knapp and Ontario City Council President Eddie Gallo discussed the Safe Routes to School Plan Grant that was awarded to the city and school.

High school principal Chris Smith gave an update on the NC State Associate of Arts Degree in business and Heath Sager, OHS Industrial Technology Teacher, gave a presentation on stem offerings at OHS.

High school assistant principal Jonny King gave a Warrior Wishmaker update and assistant superintendent Mike Ream gave a Literacy Handbook update.

The board approved the softball complex bid and contract Jim Buker was hired on a one-year contract as a returning retire/rehire for the 2025-'26 school year for high school industrial technology.

Accept the resignation for retirement purposes and the intent to rehire of the following certified staff personnel:

Tim Henige, high school social studies teacher, will retire, effective at the end of his 2024-'25 school contract. He intends to be a rehire for 2025-'26.

Tod Petit, elementary school counselor, and Heath Sager, high school industrial technology teacher, will also retire, effective at the end of the 2024-'25 school contract. It is intended that they will also be rehires for next school year.

A public hearing will take place to discuss these matters at the March 11, board meeting.

Maureen Johnson, seventh grade literature teacher, and Ted Mutti, middle school physical education teacher, will retire, effective at the end of their 2024-'25 contract

Vicki Walters, Stingel secretary, resigned, effective Feb. 14. Lindsay Cardwell, school psychologist assistant, resigned, effective Jan. 29. Cardwell was hired as the Stingel secretary, \$16,550.90,

effective Jan. 30 to June 19, 2025.

The board approved Barbara Kern and Madalynn Lutz as substitutes for Stingel/Ontario Middle School/Ontario High School.

Extracurricular/supplemental staff personnel hired for the 2024-'25 school year include Doug Basham, varsity baseball assistant coach, \$4,538; Jimmy Blevins, JV baseball coach, \$3,302; Pete Brophy, volunteer baseball assistant coach, \$0; Achilles Litao, volunteer boys tennis assistant coach, \$0; Meredith Remy, JV softball head coach, \$4,538; and Rick Remy, volunteer softball assistant coach, \$0.

Jeremy Bolen, Carlos Smith, Kyle Ward, Paige Vancura and Ethan Pensante were hired as track assistant coaches, \$2,722.80, (five coaches sharing three positions).

Peyton Perini was approved as a HomeBound instructor for the following school year at \$22.50 per hour, not to exceed a total of 20 hours of home tutoring services.

Contracts in lieu of bus transportation with Robert and Amber McGuire and with Christian and Stefanie Kuntz were approved.

Donations were accepted from Don and Joan Hipsher, \$40 for Warrior Wishmaker; Melissa and Sam Weiler, \$750 for softball; and Joseph and Lynn Wechter, \$250 for boys varsity track.

The high school and middle school course offering guides for the 2025-'26 school year were approved.

Recommend that we stop the audio recording of board meetings and rely on the written board minutes as the official record of board meetings.

Strickler gave an update on the building going up behind the high school for the storage of the golf carts and the plans for the addition of golf simulators instead of a putting green.

They gave a Legislative Report and Amy Hiner gave a Community Engagement Report.

The next board of education meeting will be held on March 11.



**MRS. THOMPSON'S KINDERGARTEN CLASS** at Ontario had a great time celebrating the 100th day of school with a 100's Day Mystery. Students created secret agent badges, disguises and case files. The number zero was taken and they couldn't get to 100 without it. The class loved using magnifying glasses to identify secret numbers, creating spy formulas, and displaying their collections of 100 items. The boys and girls completed their missions and found "Zero the Hero" to save 100's day.

# Richland County Foundation funds homeless shelter renovation and other emerging needs in the community

The Richland County Foundation Board of Trustees approved grants totaling \$2,067,053 during its February meeting.

Competitive, field of interest and donor-advised fund grants approved by the board included grants for:

Wayfinders Ohio, the local homeless shelter, received a grant to renovate a building at 661 Park Avenue East to create a larger shelter. The current shelter at 124 West Third Street accommodates 58 people daily, while the new shelter will house 75 people daily. Last year, Wayfinders assisted approximately 700 individuals. A larger shelter would not only serve more people but also enhance their quality of life.

Catholic Charities received a grant to provide community emergency and adult advocacy services. Nearly one in four households in Mansfield and over 13.5% in Richland County live at or below the poverty level. More than 21% of Richland County renters are severely cost-burdened paying over 50% of their income for rent and utilities.

The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio received a grant for its Helping Hands program. The grant will offset the cost to house Richland County families at the Ronald McDonald House while their severely ill children are receiving care at Nationwide Children's Hospital. The cost to house one family per night is \$100 per room and families are asked to donate \$20 per night to help cover costs. However, the average donation in 2023 was \$4.70 per night.

The City of Mansfield received a grant to renovate the historic 1937 Works Progress Administration (WPA) bath house at Liberty Park. The goal is to transform the bathhouse into a pavilion that will serve as a multi-functional community space. The renovated bath house will feature ADA-compliant restrooms, accessible parking, a catering kitchen, outdoor grills, picnic tables, and a small club room for rental and storage.

The board of trustees approved grants from donor-advised funds which allow individuals, families, and corporations the opportunity to make grant suggestions to their favorite charities. Donor-advised funds are a flexible and convenient alternative to a private foundation. It is also a way to keep charitable contributions anonymous, at the preference of the donor.

Receiving grants from donor-advised funds were Altrusa International Mansfield, Alzheimer's Association, Northwest Ohio Chapter, Buckeye Imagination Museum, Catholic Charities, Community Foundation of Otsego County, Inc., Crawford County United Way, Discovery School, Domestic Violence Shelter, Family Planning of South-Central New York, Family Service Association, Fenimore Art Museum, Friendly House Association, Galion Community Center YMCA, Glimmerglass Festival, Grace Episcopal Church, Hartwick College, Heartwood, Helios Care, Highlands Nature Sanctuary, Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, Island Safe Harbor Animal Sanctuary Inc., Killbuck Water Shed Land Trust, Lucas Local Schools, Make A Wish Foundation, Mansfield Art Center, Marietta College, Morgan Art of Papermaking Conservatory & Education Foundation, Music Academy of Karate & Empowerment, Nature Conservancy, North Central Ohio Land Conservancy, North Central State College Foundation, North End Community Improvement Collaboration, Nuhop Center for Experiential Learning, Ohio Bird Sanctuary, Ohio Environmental Council, Ohio Heartland Community Action Center, Ocean Conservancy, Pathfinder Village Foundation, Inc., Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio, Raemelton Therapeutic Equestrian Center, Red Clay Ranch Equine Rescue & Sanctuary, Red Cross East Central Ohio, Renaissance Performing Arts, Richland Community Development Group, Rubies Women's Group, Salvation Army, Sierra Club Ohio, Springbrook Foundation, St. Paul Outreach, St. Peter's Parish, The Accomplish Collective, Inc., The New Store, Third Street Family Health Services, United Way of Ashland County, United Way of North Central Ohio, United Way of Richland County, The board allocated grants from donor-designated and agency funds. Agency funds are established by charitable organizations and can be endowed or non-endowed. The agency benefits from the Foundation's professional asset management, which allows the agency's staff and board to focus on providing services to their constituents., Designated funds provide annual support to the charities selected by the

donor. They offer the added benefit that if the organization ceases to exist the Foundation has the responsibility to ensure that the donor's original intent is met in seeking a new suitable organization. , The board approved grants from donor designated and agency funds to the following organizations:, American Red Cross, Ashland University , Buckeye Council Boy Scouts of America, Catalyst Life Services, Catholic Charities - Mansfield, Children's Dyslexia Center, Children's Theatre Foundation, Clear Fork Valley Foundation, Domestic Violence Shelter, First Christian Church, Mansfield, First Congregational Church of Mansfield Ohio, Friendly House Association, Friends of Richland County Park District, Habitat for Humanity Richland County, Kingwood Center Gardens, Mansfield Richland Public Library, Mansfield 1st Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Mansfield Art Center, Mansfield Cancer Foundation, Mansfield City Schools, Mansfield Playhouse, Mansfield Rotary Club Foundation, Inc., Mansfield/Richland Public Library, Methodist Theological Seminary, North Central Ohio Alzheimer's Association, North Central State College, North Central State College Foundation, Ohio Bird Sanctuary, Ohio Genealogical Society, OhioHealth Foundation, OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital, Ohio State University - Mansfield, Ontario Local Schools, Renaissance Performing Arts Association, Richland Academy of the Arts, Richland County Children Services, Richland County Children Services - The New Store, Richland County Historical Society, Richland Pregnancy Services, Salvation Army, Shelby Helpline Ministries, St. John's Church, Third Street Family Health Services, Trapshooting Hall of Fame Inc., United Way of Richland County, Volunteers of America, Wayfinders Ohio and YMCA of North Central Ohio.

The board of trustees awarded 18 scholarships to students attending a career technical education school. The scholarship committee implemented a rolling deadline for CTE scholarships to meet various enrollment deadlines. Aligning with Ohio's Attainment Goal, the foundation wants to help fill the gap between job openings and certified employees as well as lead the way to support workforce development through CTE scholarships.

A special grant went to YWCA Childcare Resource & Referral Report for America.



**RICHLAND COUNTY FOUNDATION (RCF)** Senior Community Investment Officer Siera Marth-May, Wayfinders Ohio Executive Director Miles Parson, RCF Community Investment Officer Bobby Rhea and RCF Board of Trustees member Jana Mulherin toured the new location for the homeless shelter at 661 Park Avenue East.



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Mansfield Christian team in 2022 with advisor Craig Klobatz

## RSWCD chosen to host Area 2 Envirothon for high school students

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District has announced it is hosting the 2025 Area 2 Envirothon.

High school students from 17 northeastern Ohio counties will come together on April 9 at the Cooke Family Wildlife Conservation Park in Richland County to participate in the Area 2 Envirothon.

The Envirothon is a competitive, outdoor academic team event for high school students. A unique and enjoyable learning experience, the Envirothon is designed to stimulate, reinforce, and enhance interest in the environment and natural resources.

Teams consist of five students, all from the same high school or home school team. An adult advisor must accompany the team but is not permitted to assist the team during competition. Each school may register up to three teams. Local schools are encouraged to form teams and register. To register, an adult advisor must complete a

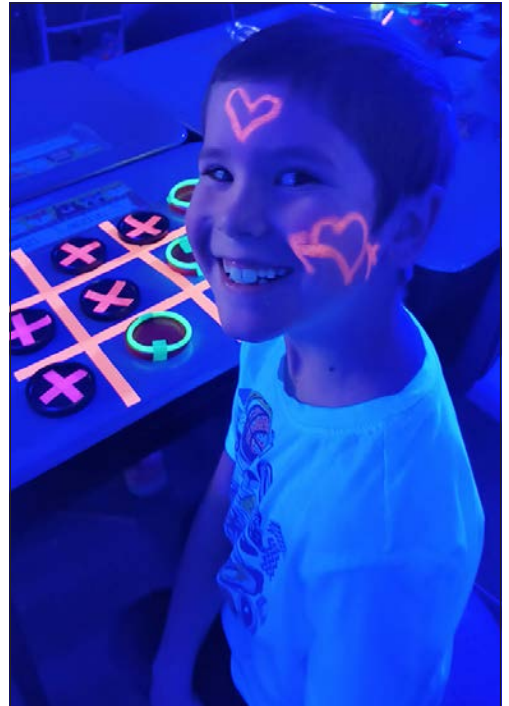
team registration form by March 5.

The Envirothon is financed by grants and donations from businesses and agencies. Without support, this wonderful event wouldn't be possible and help fund the competition, provide materials and resources and ensure a high-quality experience for everyone involved.

To register a team or sponsor the Area 2 Envirothon, visit <https://rlswcd.tempurl.host/residential/programs/> or call 419-747-8687.

In Ohio, the Envirothon is sponsored by the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation (OFSWCD), in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

Natural resource and environmental specialists from many agencies, organizations, colleges, universities, park districts and businesses write the Envirothon tests and volunteer at the event.



LYNDA DITTY hosted a Valentine's Day glow party. Each student passed out their Valentines, played games, danced to music and enjoyed a birthday treat from Kaelynn. Miss Bell helped paint their faces and decorate the room. Students earned the glow party after filling the "WOW DITTY-O'S" for good behavior.



FOR KINDNESS MONTH one of the things Ontario students wanted to do was give the staff a treat. They decorated a cart and filled it with treats for the staff. The Kindness Club also went to the nursing home to celebrate Valentine's Day with residents. The students helped them make a heart beaded ornament to hang in their room.

## Renovations commence at Richland Academy of the Arts

Richland Academy of the Arts (RAA) has announced that renovations have officially begun as part of the Empower the Arts (ETA) Capital Campaign.

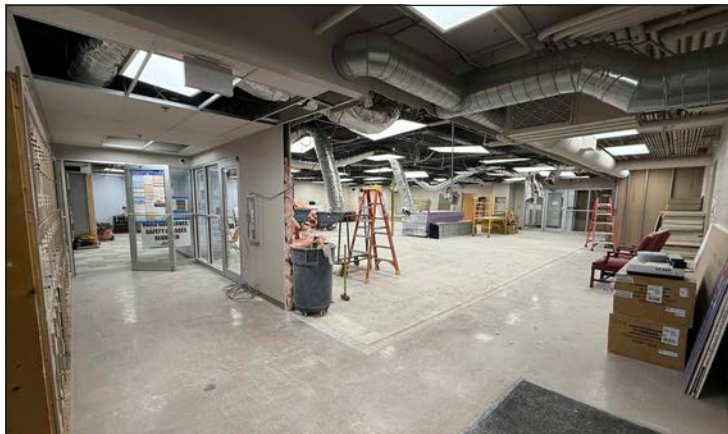
This milestone wouldn't have been possible without the community's support and C. Harris Consultants' guidance.

"We are deeply grateful to everyone who has helped us reach this phase of the project," said Dr. Michael Benson, executive director of RAA. "These renovations will allow us to create an even more inspiring space where artists of all ages can learn, grow, and thrive."

The first phase of RAA's renovation focuses on the tap-jazz studio, marking a major milestone in its journey of empowering the arts since 1991. As it works to enhance and modernize its creative space for the community, this renovation will provide tap-jazz students with a new, larger space to expand their knowledge and skills. The project is estimated to be completed in May.

During construction, RAA remains open for all regularly scheduled classes and lessons. RAA remains committed to providing high-quality arts education and creative programming for all ages. To learn more about RAA or support the Empower the Arts Campaign — whether through donations or by spreading the word — visit [richlandacademy.com](http://richlandacademy.com). Every contribution makes a lasting impact, helping to empower the next generation of artists.

Richland Academy of the Arts was founded in 1991 and is located in the heart of Mansfield, on the corner of 4th Street and Walnut Street, beside the carousel. It is supported by the Ohio Arts Council and the Area Agency on Aging. RAA was established to enrich the lives of individuals and the community through the arts.

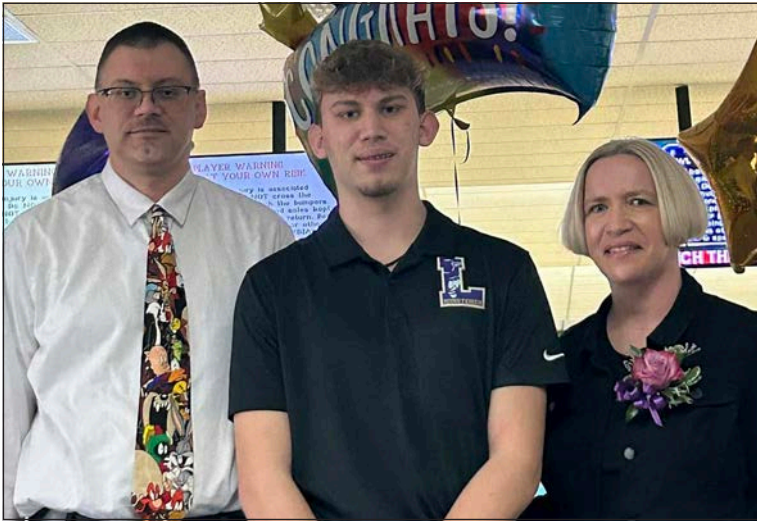


# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS MANSFIELD SENIOR FRESHMAN BOYS BASKETBALL · FEB. 13  
RAMS WIN 47-24 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights



**THE LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BOWLING TEAM** closed its regular season against Olentangy with a win 2423-2218 on Feb. 12 to improve to 12-6 overall. Senior Night was also celebrated, honoring four seniors. Varsity results were senior Bailey, 184-245=429; senior Daulton, 199-211=410; senior Logan, 195-167=362; John, 147-178=325; and senior Peyton, 140-176=316. Bakers, 177-201=212. Results for the JV team were Grady, 205-196=401; Dylan, 179-222=401; Rory, 198-144=342; Ethan, 177-150=327; Reace, 107-105=212; Connor, 110-98=208; Josh, 105-100=205; and Xander, 85-89=174. Bakers, 112-83-127. "Great job and congrats to this group of seniors," said coach Roger Long. "Proud of this team and these seniors as they continue to grow and succeed! Now we get ready to roll into the postseason!"

# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**CLEAR FORK VS GALION VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL · FEB. 13  
(DIVISION V SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP NORTHWEST DISTRICT III)  
CLEAR FORK WINS 65-26 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER**





# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**CLEAR FORK VS GALION VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL · FEB. 13  
(DIVISION V SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP NORTHWEST DISTRICT III)  
CLEAR FORK WINS 65-26 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER**



# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS ASHLAND VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL · FEB. 14  
ARROWS WIN 66-62 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS ASHLAND JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL · FEB. 14  
RAMS WIN 60-43 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**MADISON VS ASHLAND FRESHMAN BOYS BASKETBALL · FEB. 14**  
**RAMS WIN 52-40 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN**



# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON WRESTLING CONFERENCE • FEB. 15  
RAMS TAKE THIRD PLACE • PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



# CLASSIFIEDS

## LEGAL NOTICE ANNUAL REPORT

The Madison Township Richland County Ohio, 2024 Annual Financial Report is available for review at the Madison Township Hall, 817 Expressview Dr., Mansfield, Ohio 44905. You may call 419-589-9999 or email clerk@madisontwp.us.

Leanna Rhodes, Fiscal Officer  
Madison Township Trustees  
Mansfield, OH  
(T-C 2-20 '25) (11L)

## News Briefs in Education

Olivia Workman, of Lexington, earned dean's list honors at University of Tampa for the fall 2024 semester.

Workman is a sophomore majoring in Applied Sociology BA. Students must maintain a GPA of 3.75 or higher to be eligible for the dean's list.

## Ohio recognizes Brain Injury Awareness Month

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month, a time dedicated to shedding light on the staggering impact of brain injuries on Ohioans and the urgent need for increased resources and support. In Ohio, 1 in 4 residents has experienced at least one traumatic brain injury (TBI) in their lifetime, affecting over 1.6 million individuals. Additionally, Ohio has seen the highest increase in stroke prevalence nationwide over the past decade. Brain injury is a true public health crisis, yet Ohio remains vastly underfunded in providing essential services to survivors.

Despite the widespread impact of brain injuries, Ohio invests only five cents per resident in supports and services for survivors. This is a stark contrast to neighboring states such as Pennsylvania (42 cents per resident), Indiana (94 cents per resident), West Virginia (\$1.46 per resident), and Kentucky (\$5.27 per resident). Due to this lack of funding, Ohioans with brain in-

juries face significant challenges accessing the resources they need to recover, maintain independence, and participate fully in their communities.

"Brain injury is not a one-time event — it is a chronic condition that often affects individuals for the rest of their lives," said Lauren Holly, Executive Director at the Brain Injury Association of Ohio. "Beyond the survivor, brain injuries have a profound ripple effect on families and caregivers, many of whom must leave their jobs to provide full-time care. Ohio must do more to ensure survivors and their loved ones receive the support they desperately need."

Brain injury can result from a variety of causes, including traumatic brain injuries from falls, car accidents, or sports injuries, strokes, brain tumors, and even drug overdoses. No one is immune—brain injury does not discriminate, and anyone can be affected at any time.

Throughout March, the Brain

Injury Association of Ohio and advocates across the state are working to raise awareness and push for increased funding to better serve Ohio's brain injury community. Events, educational initiatives, and fundraising efforts will take place to highlight the urgent needs of survivors and their families.

To learn more about brain injury, available resources, or how to help, visit [www.biaoh.org](http://www.biaoh.org) or follow the Brain Injury Association of Ohio on social media.

The Brain Injury Association of Ohio is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for brain injury survivors and their families through advocacy, supportive services, education, and connection to vital resources. As the state's leading organization supporting those impacted by brain injury, we are committed to driving policy changes that ensure all Ohioans receive the care and services they need to thrive.

## 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 chal-

lenge 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 Willard,; 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.

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## 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 call 419-522-8224.