



# TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com

10.30.25



**DOC STUMBO** organized the 22nd Annual Make A Difference Day Food Drive in downtown Mansfield. (More photos on Page 6)

## Make A Difference Day Food Drive raises over \$13,000

Photos and Article By Traci Little

"This is the best year yet," said organizer Doc Stumbo, beaming as totals rolled in from the 22nd Annual Make A Difference Day Food Drive in downtown Mansfield. The community showed up in full force on the brisk Friday morning, donating \$9,625 in cash and checks and an additional \$3,823 in food, for a combined total of \$13,448 to help restock the Wayfinders and Catholic Charities Hope food pantries.

Held in front of DLX / Dan Lew Exchange on the square, the event brought together volunteers, local radio stations and community members united by one goal — to fight hunger in Richland County.

"This kind of response reminds us what Mansfield is all about — people caring for people," Stumbo shared.

The annual drive, supported by sponsors including WMFD, Mix 106.1, 97.3 The Spur, 106.7 WRGM, 99.3 FM The Light and Dan Lew Exchange, continues to be a vital effort in ensuring local families have access to essential food and household supplies.

For those who missed Friday's event, donations can still be dropped off at Wayfinders and Catholic Charities from 10 am to 4 pm. Monetary gifts are also accepted year-round to support both food pantries in their mission to serve those in need. For information or to arrange a donation pick-up, contact Stumbo at 419-524-0733.

## Richland County Park District schedules events for this weekend

The Richland County Park District is celebrating its 60th anniversary and the public is invited to gather at Gorman Nature Center on Sunday, Nov. 2, from 1–3 pm, for guided hikes, animal displays, a campfire and smores, music, refreshments and a presentation by Richland County Park District Director Jordan Tackett.

The winners of the fall photo contest will be announced after attendees vote for their favorite photo submission. The first, second and third place winners will win gift cards to local businesses.

The day will include a social hour and activities listed above from 1–2 pm and from 2–3 pm there will be a presentation on the history and future of the district with the announcement of contest results.

The Richland County Park District will also hold a nature journaling event on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 10:30 am to noon, at the Fleming Falls Preserve. Participants can journal about the nature they see. No experience is needed, but participants are asked to bring a journal and any art supplies they will need. The group will meet in the parking area. A Nature Hikes & Educational Program will be held at Fleming Falls that day from 1–2 pm. Participants can join in a guided hike and learn about nature while taking in the scenic views.

## HEAP assistance available

The Ohio Department of Development and the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. has announced that assistance is available to help with 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 eight members and 60% of State Median Income for a household of nine or more members to pay their heating bills.

The benefit is applied directly to the customer's utility or bulk fuel bill. Older Ohioans may go to their local Area Agency on Aging office for help with assembling the required documents and completing the application or 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 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 and proof of disability (if applicable).

HEAP benefits are applied to energy bills after Jan. 1. Applications must be received by May 31, 2026. For more information call 419-524-4144 or 800-860-5799.

**Anita** ★  
**KOCHHEISER**

For Springfield  
Township Trustee

Paif for by Kochheiser for Trustee



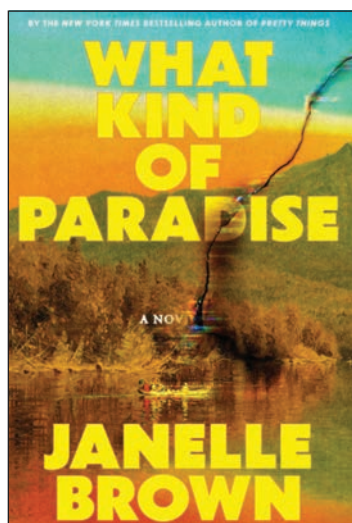
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**STATE SENATOR**  
**MARK ROMANCHUK**

## LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review  
By Mandy Belczak Gurney



Wow! *What Kind of Paradise* by Janelle Brown brought together my love of off-grid nature, conspiracy theories and a 90s coming of age story.

Jane was raised in Montana, and the only life she knows is with her dad. As she becomes a teenager, Jane starts to notice the secrets that have been hidden.

It is so interesting and full of suspense, thought provoking, with plenty of surprises.

My rating: ★★★★★

Follow my blog at [Green Gurneys](#) at [GreenGurneys.com](#)

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[www.tribune-courier.com](http://www.tribune-courier.com)

## OSU-M will show award-winning film "The Farewell"

The Ohio State University at Mansfield will present a screening of the film *The Farewell* Oct. 29, at 6 pm inside Founders Auditorium.

In this comedy-drama, a Chinese family discovers their grandmother has cancer and only has a short while to live. They decide to keep the news a secret, and schedule a wedding to gather everyone together before she dies. An American member of the family questions this plan.

Directed by Lulu Wang, the film is loosely based on her own experiences as a Chinese-American interacting with the culture of her relatives. Yet it depicts something universal: the inevitability of losing our loved ones.

The film is being shown by the Bromfield Library and Information Commons and the Ohio State Mansfield Theatre Program, with support from the Ohio State University's East Asian Studies Center.

"The film was released in 2019 and has broad public appeal regardless of religious or cultural backgrounds," said Andrea Wittmer, head librarian at Ohio State Mansfield.

"It's about grief and loss but also the difference among the cultures and how all of us find ways to deal with situations that are difficult," said Joe Fahey, OSU-M professor of theater.

There is no cost to attend the screening. The organizers are planning a post-event discussion centered around grief, the inevitability of death and the film's approach to both.

The film is being shown through a grant from the East Asian Studies Center. To learn more about the event, Wittmer can be reached at [wittmer.7@osu.edu](mailto:wittmer.7@osu.edu) or 419-755-4090.

## THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —

Jeremy Allen White gives a terrific performance as Bruce Springsteen in *Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere*.

This movie chronicles "the Boss" in the early 80s as he is coming off a big tour and deciding what his next album should be.

He returns to his hometown, does a lot of reading including about the Starkweather murders in the 1950s and reflects on his own childhood with his mother (Gaby Hoffmann) and his abusive father (Stephen Graham).

The most interesting and best parts of the movie come when this research and reflecting leads him to making his acoustic album *Nebraska*. Springsteen just wanted to let these songs speak from themselves with no tour or promotion. The movie shows how the record company battled with this and how Springsteen at the same wrote songs that would eventually go on *Born in the U.S.A.* a couple years later.

White deserves to be recog-

nized for his work and his uncanny way he sounds like Springsteen when singing. The movie starts to drag at the end section when touching on Springsteen's depression during this time though it is so briefly mentioned its difficult to imagine why it was included at all.

Other supporting performances worth mentioning are Jeremy Strong who is great as his producer Jon Landau, Dave Krumholtz, Marc Maron, Paul Walter Hauser and Odessa Young as his love interest during this period.

*Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere* is a solid though not entirely satisfying film from start to finish. The elements about the music work very well though the inclusion of some more personal items are not as engaging. Jeremy Allen White gives everything in his performance and it is worth seeing for that alone.



As a recent graduate and honored alumna of the Madison School District, I am writing with the hopes of conveying the immense value of a Madison education — an experience that can be achieved and provided for our next generation through your vote of yes on our upcoming school district levy.

My name is Megan Reynolds, and I graduated from the Class of 2024. During my years at Madison, I was honored to serve as one of several valedictorians, president of the National Honor Society, a member of OCC Leadership and a varsity athlete in cross country, tennis, swim and track. I say this all not to boast, but rather to illustrate the mass amounts of opportunity and exposure I gained from being so deeply involved.

During my time at Madison, I had the privilege of leading a group of 45 National Honor Society members in serving our community, an experience that helped me discover my passion for business management, one of my current areas of study in higher education. I built friendships that extended far beyond the classroom — relationships that challenged me academically and strengthened me personally. I studied a foreign language for five years, began college courses as a junior, and was guided by teachers I could always rely on for genuine support and mentorship.

All this to say, during my time at Madison, I was continually poured into by the staff, faculty and students, all of whom this upcoming levy would have a direct impact on. My hope for future Madison students is that they too can benefit from the same enriched and empowering education that shaped my success. Through voting yes on the income tax levy you will be supplying the district with the ability to provide the same education that I was so fortunate to receive, one that I believe all students for years to come should be able to enjoy. Your vote is more than just a mark on a ballot — it's an investment in the lasting success and growth of our community's future.

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## Tribune-Courier



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

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# News Briefs

The Village of Lexington has released upcoming events. Trick-or-treat will be Thursday, Oct. 30, from 5:30–7 pm. Light Up Lexington is set for Monday, Dec. 1, at 7 pm at Lex Landing.



The Women's Fund of the Richland County Foundation will announce this year's grant recipients during a luncheon Friday, Nov. 7 at Westbrook Country Club. The Women's Fund also will announce the recipient of the JoAnn Dutton Volunteer Service Award.

The award honors women who are leaders and devote a significant amount of time and energy in a meaningful way to local charitable organizations. The award was named in honor of JoAnn Dutton, former executive director of the Mansfield YWCA.

Richland Source Audience Engagement Editor Brittany Schock and reporter Katie Ellington Serrao will be the keynote speakers. They will share information on the Richland Source Series "It Takes a Village: Why Child Care is Everyone's Business."

Tickets can be purchased at [richlandcountyfoundation.org](http://richlandcountyfoundation.org), click the donate button then the events tickets tab.



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 on a special date, the second Wednesday of the month, on Nov. 12 with roast turkey. There will be a program from the Clearfork Vo Ag Department and the election of officers will take place.

The group will meet for lunch on Nov. 5 at Athens Greek Restaurant on Lexington-Springmill Rd., Ontario.

For information visit [www.lexasc.org](http://www.lexasc.org). Dues are \$10 per year.



The City of Ontario will have its Trick or Treat night on Thursday, Oct. 30, from 5:30–7:30 pm.



The Ontario High School Warrior Leadership Council is hosting a Veterans Day Continental Breakfast and Program on Tuesday, Nov. 11, at Ontario High School. Breakfast will be available from 8:30–9:15 am, followed by a program in the gymnasium from 9:15–10 am. Students are welcome to join veterans for breakfast, as long as they are included in the RSVP. To RSVP, call the high school office at 419-529-3969 or email Kayla Cain at [cain.kayla@olsohio.org](mailto:cain.kayla@olsohio.org).



Richland Public Health is now offering free Safe RX locking pill bottles and Detera drug deactivation pouches — two powerful tools to help residents safely store and dispose of prescription medications. These free resources are made possible through funding from the Drug Free Community (DFC) grant.

Both items are available to the public at no cost at RPH, 555 Lexington Ave., Mansfield.



**MECHANICS BANK** visited Lexington for a Haunted Hallways event last week, handing out candy to all the vampires, aliens, princesses and superheroes from the Mechanics Bank drive-thru booth.

## Shop Small scheduled for Nov. 22

The Richland Area Chamber has announced that its Small Business Saturday will be one week earlier this year — on Nov. 22.

The local Shop Small celebration will take place early to avoid the OSU vs. Michigan football game on Nov. 29. The event is a community-wide celebration of locally owned businesses with Chamber membership not required.

Businesses can register until Nov. 10 to be included in the special day. Each business will host a \$25+ prize drawing on Nov. 22 and invite shoppers to enter while visiting with no purchase required. Businesses then pick a winner and notify them that day, sharing a photo on social media and tagging @RichlandAreaChamber.

Shoppers can also scan a QR code at each store to enter for five \$100 county-wide grand prize drawings. The Chamber will notify grand-prize winners and distribute the winnings.

The Chamber invests thousands of dollars each year promoting Shop Small — Richland County. The only cost to businesses is a \$25 prize donation. Register as a vendor by Nov. 10 at <https://portal.richlandareachamber.com/events/details/shop-small-richland-county-2025-vendor-registration-6335>.



## 51st Annual Hillsdale

### ARTS & CRAFTS FALL FESTIVAL

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Entry

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HIGH SCHOOL

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and 30-A

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419.368.6841

# 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 and TeamKID and Youth Group

## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

200 West Third St., Mansfield  
419-524-4813 • mansfield1stcc1833@gmail.com  
Rev. David Zerby  
10:30 am Sunday Worship  
Office Hours: Tu., W., Th. 9 am to 1 pm  
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.

## Grace Episcopal Church

41 Bowman Street, Mansfield  
419-524-2661  
Rev. Christopher D. Hofer, Priest-in-Charge  
Rev. Daniel Orr, Associate Priest  
Worship: Sundays, 8 am and 10:15 am  
Christian Formation for All Ages: Sundays, 9:15 am  
Food Pantry: Thursdays, 9–11 am  
2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 4–6 pm  
gracemansfield.org • facebook.com/GraceChurchMansfield

## G & M Body & Paint Shop

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

## Wappner Funeral Home

Mansfield • Ontario • Ashland • 419-522-5211

## 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 Church of the Cross

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

## Lexington Presbyterian Church

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

## Mansfield 1st Presbyterian Church

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 & Children's Programming

## 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 Olivesburg 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  
Rev. J.P. Snyder  
9:30 am Grace & Eggs  
11 am Sunday Worship and 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 School • 11 am Sunday School  
Bible Study Mondays 2 pm



Bellville • Photo By Mark Shutt

## Red Cross offering gift cards and A1C testing for donors

The American Red Cross urges donors to give blood or platelets now to help curb a drop in donor turnout this fall. Donors of all blood types and those giving platelets are asked to book a time to donate at a Red Cross blood donation center or community blood drive to help give hospitals the tools they need to care for patients ahead of the holidays.

To say thank you, all who come to give Oct. 27–Nov. 16, will get \$20 in e-gift cards to a choice of merchant, plus automatic entry for a chance to win one of three \$5,000 prizes. Schedule a time to give blood or platelets by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

November is National Diabetes Awareness Month. In November, successful donations will get free A1C testing, commonly used to screen for prediabetes and diabetes. (One test result in 12-month period; do not fast before donating).

Monday, Nov. 3, noon to 5 pm, 1 The Ontario Center, 2209 Richland Mall, Ontario

Wednesday, Nov. 5, noon to 6 pm, The Ontario Center, 2209 Richland Mall, Ontario; and 1–6 pm, Lucas Community Center, 252 W. Main St., Lucas

Thursday, Nov. 6, noon to 6 pm, Heartland Church, 2505 Lexington Springmill Rd S., Lexington

Friday, Nov. 7, 11 am to 5 pm, The Ontario Center, 2209 Richland Mall, Ontario; and 8 am to 2 pm, Clear Fork High School, 987 St. Rt. 97, Bellville

Tuesday, Nov. 11, noon to 5 pm, Berean Baptist Church, 2145 Middle Bellville Rd., Mansfield

Wednesday, Nov. 12, noon to 6 pm, The Ontario Center, 2209 Richland Mall, Ontario

Friday, Nov. 14, 11 am to 5 pm, The Ontario Center, 2209 Richland Mall, Ontario

## Drives accepting donations

Richland County Youth and Family Council is partnering with the Mansfield Police Department, Richland County Children Services, and First Call 2-1-1 to offer a Thanksgiving food giveaway for families in the community. The aim is to serve 150–200 families.

The Thanksgiving food giveaway will be Monday, Nov. 24, from 8 am to noon at the Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center, 890 W. 4th St., Mansfield.

Richland County families must call 211, 9 am to 4 pm, Monday–Friday, to register for the food giveaway. The deadline to register is Nov. 5. Families are not eligible if receiving a box from another organization.

Those wishing to donate items for the food giveaway can bring items to Michelle or Rico at Richland County Youth and Family Council, 171 Park Ave E., Mansfield until Oct. 31.

Suggested items include cream of mushroom soup, french fried onions, canned corn and green beans, canned cranberry sauce, dessert mix, canned pie filling, stuffing mix, instant potatoes, jar/packet gravy, boxed mac and cheese, canned yams, brown sugar, marshmallows and turkey pans. Call 419-774-5442 for information.

Richland Correctional Institution (RiCI), in collaboration with Richland County Children Services (RCCS), is hosting a Holiday Toy Drive for youths in the care of RCCS. Currently RCCS has 170 youths in foster care.

Donations of new unwrapped toys and gifts can include baby toys, kids toys for age 1–13 -years-old and teenager gifts or gift cards.

Donations will be accepted now through Dec. 1, Monday through Friday from 9 am to 4 pm, at Richland County Children Services, 731 Scholl Rd. Mansfield; North End Community Improvement Collaborative (NECIC), 134 N. Main St., Mansfield; and Dollar Tree, 770 Ashland Rd., Mansfield.

For more information contact Brigitte Coles, RCCS Community Engagement Supervisor, at 419-774-4168 or [brigitte.coles@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:brigitte.coles@jfs.ohio.gov).

### Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Margaret “Maggie” Rose Fischer, October 16

June Evans, October 18

Victoria Ann Zack, October 18

Beverly Jean Graham, October 20

David Eugene Busler, October 21

Thomas B Haseltine, October 25

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

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## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Make A Difference Day Food Drive



**Re-Elect** 

**PAUL GLEISINGER**  
Springfield Township  
Trustee

I promise to continue being a good steward  
of your tax dollars. Please honor me with  
your vote on **November 4, 2025**  
Thank you, Paul Gleisinger



PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF PAUL GLEISINGER

Photos By Traci Little



## Fall Snack Mix

- 1 cup Caramel Chips
- 6 cups Corn Chex Cereal
- 1 cup Reese's Pieces or M&Ms
- 1 cup Mini Pretzels or sticks
- 8 ounces Chocolate Covered Pretzels (or other flavor)
- 1 cup Salted Peanuts
- 1 cup Candy Corn
- 1 cup Bugles

Melt caramel chips in a microwave-safe bowl.

Place the cereal in a medium-sized bowl and carefully toss with the melted caramel. Spread onto a parchment paper or foil-lined baking sheet and let it set up.

In another large bowl, toss the pretzels, candy corn, chocolate-covered pretzels, Reese's Pieces/M&Ms, Bugles and peanuts.

Once the cereal has firmed up, lightly toss it with the other ingredients. Store in an air-tight container.



Photos by Damon Callis

**Day Trippin' With Damon** – Letchworth State Park is located 35 miles southwest of Rochester, New York. Most people come to Letchworth State Park to see the three popular waterfalls: Lower, Middle and Upper Genesee Falls, which can all be easily found by travelling up the main road. There are several taller waterfalls that pour directly into the canyon as well as numerous smaller cascades throughout the park, accessible via the miles of trails. Visit <https://nyfalls.com/waterfalls/letchworth/> for more information.

## Pioneer CTC board accepts grants during October meeting

The Pioneer Board of Education met Oct. 20 and accepted grants from Carl D. Perkins for \$335,734.27 and Public School Preschool for \$46,750.

The board approved an updated Goalbook Toolkit Platform agreement with Mid-Ohio ESC and an updated Consultant Services Agreement with NCOESC.

Donations to the Rene Burtscher Scholarship Fund were accepted from Marilyn and Ray Mong, \$100; Ashland Umpires Association, \$600; anonymous, \$50; Emma Jenkins, Ashland, \$50; Annette Korbas, Greenwood, IN, \$500; and Keith and Karen Rittenhouse, Shelby, \$75. Chief Randy Washburn, Franklin Township Fire Department,

donated equipment with an approximate value of \$7,500 for the new First Responder lab.

The board approved student participation in the FFA National Convention, Oct. 29–Nov 1, at Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, IN; and the FCCLA Fall Leadership Training, Oct. 21–22, Perrysville, OH.

Al Sears, math instructor, will retire, effective June 1, 2026.

The board approved a supplemental contract of certificated personnel Mary Cosker, SIT team coordinator, for 2025–26, for up to 100 hours at \$22/hour.

A stipend contract was approved for Fritz Fagan, Skills USA Ways

(Continued on Page 9)

# ONTARIO LIONS PANCAKE DAY

**Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025 • 6:30 am to Noon  
at Ontario High School**



**Tickets: \$7 • Age 6 & Under Free**

Door Prizes donated by local businesses  
(Winners need not be present to win)

*Proceeds support local and world-wide Lions projects*

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## Rep. John votes in support of updating Ohio's marijuana laws

State Representative Marilyn John (R-Richland County) voted in support of Senate Bill 56, legislation updating Ohio's marijuana laws, ensuring protections for children and addressing the issue of intoxicating hemp.

The bill passed with bipartisan support and preserves the legal adult-use marijuana provisions approved by voters in Issue 2 (2023), while also working to promote public safety.

The bill clarifies Ohio's marijuana law and keeps adult-use marijuana legal (as approved by Issue 2) and maintains a 10% tax rate. It allows expungement for past minor marijuana possession convictions that are now considered legal.

The bill clarifies home use/growing rules and allows adult use on residential property. Home-grow is still allowed but banned in halfway and recovery houses as well as childcare programs. It eliminates the cannabis social equity and jobs fund/program.

The bill gives the Division of Cannabis Control (DCC) full authority to regulate marijuana from cultivation to sale and allocates 36% of marijuana tax revenue to host communities with dispensaries.

The bill bans public smoking and intoxication and restricts ads and packaging appealing to children and requires ads to be 500+ feet from schools and churches.

The bill limits the sale of intoxicating hemp products to licensed dispensaries and clarifies OVI laws, including banning passengers from smoking in vehicles.

The bill caps THC potency at 70% for extracts and keeps 35% for plant material and protects employer rights to prohibit employee marijuana use.

The bill creates a regulated pathway for Ohio-grown intoxicating hemp but only through licensed hemp dispensaries and bans sales to minors and in places allowing those under 21, closing current loopholes in gas stations/smoke shops.

It requires safety testing, potency limits, packaging rules and DCC oversight as well as safeguards against making products attractive to children or advertising to children. It applies a 10% excise tax, similar to the tax on marijuana.

It grandfatheres existing hemp dispensaries (as of Aug. 30, 2025) that meet state licensing requirements.

For hemp-infused beverages, it legalizes the manufacture, distribution, and sale of drinkable cannabinoid products (DCPs). Low-dose (up to 5mg THC) will be allowed in bars/restaurants for on-site consumption. Higher-dose (up to 10mg THC) will be sold in groceries/gas stations for off-site use only.

Products exceeding limits may be manufactured in Ohio but only sold out-of-state. This will be regulated by the Division of Liquor Control and taxed at \$1.20 per gallon, like high-alcohol beverages.

The bill requires clear labeling with THC amounts, ingredients and warnings.

Senate Bill 56 now returns to the Ohio Senate for a concurrence vote.

## •Pioneer board accepts grants

(Continued from Page 8)

and Means Advisor, \$500 payable after completion of duties verified by supervisor.

Jessica Cooper was employed as a career coach and Michele Karshner, Sarah Reiser and Mallary Gundrum were employed as substitute custodial workers. James Dunbar was hired as a substitute cafeteria worker. Meghan Haney was hired as a part-time Adult Education LPN instructor and Maria Perez will be an Early Childhood Education student worker.

Dannielle Barker resigned as a part-time cafeteria worker, effective Oct. 6 and Theresa Roth-Groth resigned as part-time adult education CNA instructor, effective Oct. 13.

The board approved the 2025-'26 Business Advisory Plan and Shelby City Council's proposed real estate property tax exemption. The board adopted Resolution 15-24: Reduction In Force and Resolution 18-25 to accept the construction design for the cafeteria expansion.



THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT at the newly remodeled Ontario library branch.

## Library launches new catalog

The Mansfield/Richland County Public Library (MRCPL) launched a brand-new online library catalog, Aspen Discovery, on Monday, Oct. 27. MRCPL's online catalog is the tool customers use to explore the collection and find materials they want and need.

"After careful consideration, we made the decision to provide a new catalog that would offer greater customization and an enhanced customer experience while also saving the Library a significant amount of money," said Chris May, library director.

The new catalog will allow seamless integration of MRCPL's physical and digital collections to see all formats of titles, creation of usernames and passwords by customers, faster, more accurate searches, creation of reading lists and reading histories by customers and browsing of the collection from a mobile device.

The system change will cause all current library card pin numbers to default to the last 4-digits of the phone number on file for the customer account. Passwords will be changeable following the first log in to the new catalog.

"We are excited to implement Aspen Discovery, and we want to thank our customers upfront for their patience with our staff as we all acclimate to the new system. There will be a few items that will not be immediately available as we make this change, but our staff are dedicated to making this process as seamless as possible for our customers," said Mary Frankenfield, deputy director.

To learn more about the enhanced features of Aspen Discovery visit [www.mrcpl.org](http://www.mrcpl.org).

## Free musical tribute honors local veterans and service members

The community is invited to attend "Veterans' Salute," a free concert presented at the Renaissance Theatre on Sunday, Nov. 9, at 2:30 pm. This event recognizes the courage, service and sacrifice of veterans and their families, and stands as an open invitation to all to join in reflection, gratitude and musical celebration. Tickets are free and available now via the Renaissance Box Office, by phone at 419-522-2726, or online at [www.rentickets.org](http://www.rentickets.org).

"Veterans' Salute" brings together the Local 159's 80-member concert band alongside the vocal strength of the Mansfield Symphony Chorus in a program of patriotic, ceremonial, and reflective works. Under the baton of Local 159 President Michael Grady, the performance will include marches, anthems, choral selections and collaborative ensemble pieces to evoke pride, remembrance and unity.

"This concert is our heartfelt opportunity to recognize the service and sacrifice of our armed forces and their families," said Chelsie Thompson, president & CEO of the Renaissance Performing Arts Association. "We're proud to work alongside our musicians' union and symphony chorus to provide this moving tribute. Together, we hope this performance will serve as both a salute and a reminder that their dedication is never forgotten."

## Richland County celebrates breast cancer survivors

The Richland County community came together Wednesday evening Oct. 22 to celebrate Richland County women who defeated breast cancer. The event was held at Dan Lew Exchange and included appetizers, buffet style dinner, music, and door prizes. Rhonda Breit, Pat Kracker Breast Cancer Fund chair, was the host.

"The Pat Kracker Breast Cancer Fund has always been supported by Richland County residents, businesses, and media to help Richland County residents navigate the tidal wave of emotions and financial pain caused by this horrible disease," said Breit. "This was our third survivor celebration."

Twenty breast cancer survivor honorees attended with family and friends. In addition, the event was attended by other breast cancer survivors, bringing the total number of breast cancer survivors in attendance to twenty-seven.

The keynote speaker was Reneta Music, founder of Mansfield's Music Academy of Karate and Empowerment. Music, also a breast cancer survivor, spoke about "The Warrior Within."

Remarks were made by Dave Kracker, Founder of the Pat Kracker Breast Cancer Fund, and Patti Kastelic, former Director of Oncology at Ohio Health. The Litzinger family made a donation to the Fund in celebration of Kelley Litzinger who supported Richland County breast cancer patients and survivors for twenty plus years.

The twenty breast cancer survivors who were celebrated were Lisa Purdy; Carla Hale, Kathleen Ruley, Pat Dubose, Melissa Hedeem, Carolyn Toms, Meredith Walker, Sharon Ores, Kay Franklin, Linda Roberts, Wahnita Johnson, Nikki Rife, Pam Gerich, Rhonda Sylvester, Darlene Burton, Bambi Couch Page, Theresa Cains, Aggie Howard, Norma Streib and Toni Daugherty. All of their pictures can be seen at [helpmepat.org](http://helpmepat.org)

"These twenty women never gave up and never gave in" continued Breit. "Tonight was a night of celebration and appreciation of life. We are building a legacy in which Richland County breast cancer women will feel supported and celebrated."

For additional information contact Rhonda Breit at 419-610-4877.



Karla Hale



Pat DuBois



Antonio Daugherty



Pam Gerich



PHOTOS BY TRACI LITTLE



Kathleen Ruley



Lisa Purdy



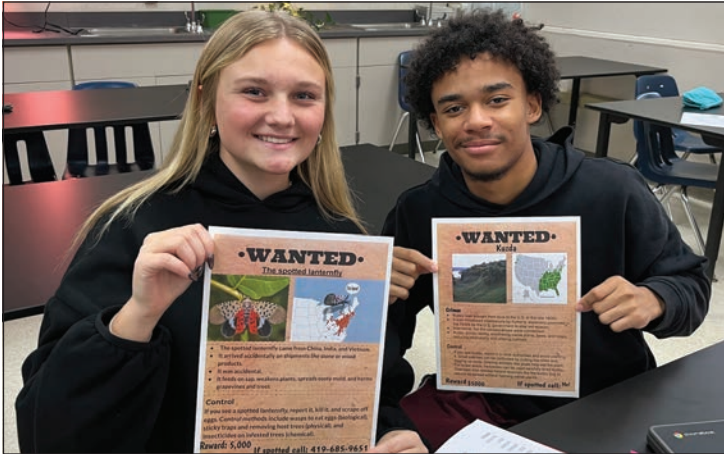
Wahnta Johnson



PHOTOS BY TRACI LITTLE



**THE KNOX COUNTY CAREER CENTER'S** Student Services Department was awarded the 2025 Ohio School Counselor Association (OSCA) RAMP Up Ohio Award at the Ohio School Counselor Conference. KCCC was one of two schools to earn this award. Derek Fisher, high school principal over student services, commented, "Congratulations to school counselors Melissa Nowicki and Clarissa Bush for being awarded the RAMP Up Ohio Award at the 2025 Ohio School Counselor Conference. RAMP Up Ohio demonstrates to administrators, school boards, staff, families and the community at large the school counseling program's commitment to supporting the mission of the school and district. Our school counselors continue to exemplify the highest standards of what it means to be a school counselor."



**STUDENTS IN TONYA WELCH'S** Environmental Science class at Ontario High School created wanted posters for invasive species in Ohio.

## Women's Fund honored with Groundwork Champion Award

Groundwork Ohio recognized the Women's Fund of the Richland County Foundation with the 2025 Groundwork Champion Award, in honor of its ongoing commitment to help alleviate child care barriers across Richland County.

Women's Fund chair Amy Hiner, chair-elect Amy Goyal and Richland County Foundation President Allie Watson accepted the award during Groundwork Ohio's Momentum 2025 conference on October 23. Groundwork Ohio is a nonpartisan advocacy organization focused on improving the lives of young children and their families through policy and public awareness.

For several years, the Women's Fund of the Richland County Foundation has awarded grants to make quality child care affordable and accessible to women in the local community, as the organization believes that child care is critical for women's economic mobility. From joining Groundwork Ohio's women's coalition, attending advocacy days, presenting key data on child care challenges across the state, and sharing lived experiences during webinars, The Women's Fund of the Richland County Foundation embodies the true definition of a champion.

The award honors long-standing cross-sector partners who have helped lay the groundwork for change through steadfast leadership, meaningful collaboration, and bold investment in the early childhood movement.

"The Women's Fund is energized by the efforts of other civic groups who help elevate the conversation in our communities like Groundwork Ohio."

While the challenges around child care are the same across many communities, we believe solutions are best identified and addressed through local synergies and partnerships," said Women's Fund Chair Amy Hiner.

In 2018, the Women's Fund surveyed the community to better understand the specific and unique needs facing women's economic mobility in Richland County. Access to quality and affordable child care was identified as one of the biggest barriers to women's participation in the workforce.

To meet this need, the Women's Fund along with community partners have invested \$338,000 to reduce barriers for childcare providers and improve the quality of care available to children.



### Alzheimer's Association Northwest Ohio Chapter CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS



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2nd Tuesday of each month

# KCCC's Landscape Management & Design Program finishes third at OGIA's Ohio High School Landscape Olympics

Knox County Career Center's (KCCC) Landscape Design & Management program won third place at the 10th Annual 2025 Ohio Green Industry Association's (OGIA) Ohio High School Landscape Olympics (OHLO), which was held at Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster.

KCCC's Landscape Olympics is coming off a second place finish in the OHLO in 2024 after earning back-to-back first place finishes in 2021 and 2022.

OGIA's OHLO tests students' skills through hands-on, com-

petitive events designed by industry professionals. OHLO broadens the high school education experience and introduces students to the many opportunities offered by a career in the green industry.

KCCC's Landscape Design & Management students competed in 19 events against 17 other schools. KCCC had two students who finished as OHLO Top Individuals. Hudson Henry, senior, finished in sixth place overall, and Charley Beheler, senior, finished in seventh place overall.

OHLO is open to all Ohio

high schools and career centers with horticulture programs. Single teams from all participating schools may compete in all events. Competitive events test the student's abilities to interact in a hands-on environment. Events are planned, implemented, and scored by industry sponsors using guidelines generated by OGIA.

"I would like to thank all of the industry professionals for taking the time to judge each event and meet with students. OHLO is judged and put on entirely by businesses in the indus-

try," said John Campbell, KCCC's Landscape Design & Management instructor.

Campbell added, "Our students performed well, and our juniors are already excited about next year. Congratulations to Hudson & Charley on earning top ten finishes."

Chainsaw, 8th, Grady Row  
Compact Excavator, 7th, Charley Beheler

Cost Estimating, 10th, Weston Bostic and Noah Maleszewski

Hardscape Installation, 4th, Kyra Carpenter and Ayden Hinger  
Irrigation, 7th, Hudson Henry and Logan Marsell

Landscape Design, 4th, Sara Wilson

Landscape Maintenance, 2nd, Charley Beheler and Brandon Derflinger

Low Voltage, 4th, Grady Row  
Mini Track, 1st, Hudson Henry  
Sales Presentation, 3rd, Charley Beheler

Skid Steer, 8th, Hudson Henry  
Sod Installation, 3rd, Weston Bostic and Ethan Hurlow

Surveying, 9th, Weston Bostic and Galen Ruphrect

Tree Climbing, 2nd, Logan Marsell and Noah Thoen

Truck & Trailer, 3rd, Charley Beheler and Hudson Henry

Woody Plant Id, 9th, Tycen Proper

Plant Installation, 5th, Weston Bostic, Grady Row and Kyra Carpenter



**ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL'S** Outreach Club brings together students of all abilities for community building activities. The club had a Halloween party to celebrate the season.

## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS MADISON GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER · OCT. 22  
LADY LEX WINS 6-1 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**ONTARIO VS CELINA GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER • OCT. 25**  
**ONTARIO WINS 6-0 • PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER**



## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights



## Lexington outlasts Ashland in Friday night matchup

Photos and Article By Traci Little

The Lexington Minutemen thrilled the home crowd Friday night with a 43-35 victory over the Ashland Arrows in a high-energy rivalry under the lights.

Both teams traded scores early, showcasing two dynamic offenses. Ashland struck first with a 66-yard touchdown pass to open the second half, but Lexington quickly answered with a 40-yard quarterback run to reclaim the lead.

A turning point came when Lexington's defense picked off an Ashland pass and returned it for a touchdown, igniting the stands and shifting momentum firmly in favor of the Minutemen. Moments later, a 96-yard touchdown reception put Lexington up for good despite a late Ashland rally.

With the win, Lexington extended its home winning streak and handed Ashland its first loss of the season.

Lexington High School honored its senior football players (along with cheerleaders and band members) before the game versus Ashland High School.



# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights



Photos By Traci Little

# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

## OHSAA football teams set to enter first round of playoffs

By Kris Leiter

This week we begin OHSAA football playoff games. Wasn't it just a minute ago that the high school football season was getting started?

This has been a challenging season for some of our Richland County schools, but others have flourished.

All first-round games will be played on Friday, Oct. 31, with kick-offs set for 7 pm.

With the reduction of playoff qualifiers per region from 16 to 12, the top four seeds in each region will receive a first-round bye. In the first round, the No. 5 seed will host the No. 12 seed, the No. 6 seed will host the No. 11 seed, the No. 7 seed will host the No. 10 seed, and the No. 8 seed will host the No. 9 seed.

The better seeded team will serve as the host through the first three rounds of the playoffs. The regional playoffs will follow bracket format. Rebracketing will occur for the state semifinals.

### Division III – Region 10

Lexington – first round bye. As you can imagine, it's no surprise that Big Lex gets a bye the first-round. They finished with their season with only one loss in the regular season.

If you notice, Ontario goes toe-to-toe with perennial powerhouse Toledo Central Catholic — a must-see game! The Warriors have their hands full with this one.

No. 1 Medina Buckeye (10-0), first-round bye, hosts winner of No. 8 vs. No. 9

No. 2 Wapakoneta (10-0), first-round bye, hosts winner of No. 10 vs. No. 7

No. 3 Lexington (9-1), first-round bye, hosts winner of No. 11 vs. No. 6

No. 4 Richfield Revere (8-2), first-round bye, hosts winner of No. 12 vs. No. 5

No. 12 Grafton Midview (5-5) at No. 5 Rocky River (8-2)

No. 11 Ontario (6-4) at No. 6 Toledo Central Catholic (6-4)

No. 10 Parma Heights Holy Name (6-4) at No. 7 Lima Shawnee (7-3)

No. 9 Copley (7-3) at No. 8 St. Marys Memorial (7-3)

### Division IV – Region 14

Shelby – first round bye

Shelby is another given with a bye! Continuing from last year, the Whippets haven't stopped yet! Clear Fork will host Orville on Friday night and this should be a fun battle to witness.

No. 1 Shelby (10-0), first-round bye, hosts winner of No. 8 vs. No. 9

No. 2 Galion (9-1), first-round bye, hosts winner of No. 7 vs. No. 10  
No. 3 Napoleon (8-2), first-round bye, hosts winner of No. 6 vs. No. 11

No. 4 Lima Bath (8-2), first-round bye, hosts winner of No. 5 vs. No. 12

No. 12 Clyde (4-6) at No. 5 Bellevue (7-3)

No. 11 Lorain Clearview (5-5) at No. 6 Sandusky Perkins (7-3)

No. 10 Lodi Cloverleaf (6-4) at No. 7 Bay Village Bay (6-4)

No. 9 Orrville (6-4) at No. 8 Bellville Clear Fork (6-4)

### Division IV – Region 27

Lucas will play at Strasburg-Franklin. The Cubs were on the bubble last week at the 13-spot, and moved up three spots after last week's victory over Crestline. This region looks challenging, Hillsdale and Danville have all played the Cubs over the years.

No. 1 Jeromesville Hillsdale (9-1), first-round bye, hosts winner of No. 8 vs. No. 9

No. 2 Waterford (8-2), first-round bye, hosts winner of No. 7 vs. No. 10

No. 3 Lancaster Fisher Catholic (8-2), first-round bye, hosts winner of No. 6 vs. No. 11

No. 4 Willow Wood Symmes Valley (8-2), first-round bye, hosts winner of No. 5 vs. No. 12

No. 12 Glouster Trimble (6-4) at No. 5 Crown City South Gallia (7-3)

No. 11 Danville (5-5) at No. 6 Steubenville Catholic Central (6-4)

No. 10 Lucas (5-5) at No. 7 Strasburg-Franklin (7-3)

No. 9 Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans (6-4) at No. 8 Bowerston Conotton Valley (7-3)



LUCAS HIGH SCHOOL won 37-0 over Crestline on Oct. 24.



Photos By Tami Griffey

# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS RIVER VALLEY FOOTBALL · OCT. 24 · ONTARIO WINS 44-14



## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS MANSFIELD CITY · OCT. 24 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**MADISON VS LEXINGTON VARSITY FOOTBALL · OCT. 17 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN**



## Students earn scholarships at BW

Local students were among 733 students who earned scholarships at Baldwin Wallace University this fall.

Wyatt Estep, a graduate of Galion High School, majoring in music education, earned the E.S. & M.R. Griffiths Scholarship. Jack Hiebel, a graduate of Lexington High School, majoring in finance, earned the Boesel School of Business - Undergrad Scholarship. Ellie Snyder, a graduate of Mansfield Senior High School, majoring in communication sciences and disorders, earned the Earl S. Buck Scholarship.



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