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National Mentoring Month shines light on the power of connection at Mid-Ohio Youth Mentoring

By Traci Little

January is National Mentoring Month, a time dedicated to celebrating the impact caring adults can have on the lives of young people. In north-central Ohio, Mid-Ohio Youth Mentoring is using the month to both honor existing mentor relationships and invite new volunteers to step forward — especially men willing to mentor young boys and teens.

Mid-Ohio Youth Mentoring is a nonprofit organization based in Mansfield, Ohio. Formerly known as Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Central Ohio, the organization has served local youth for more than 20 years. Its mission is to connect children with caring adult mentors who encourage, support and help them succeed in life. Its vision is that all children have the help they need to succeed.

The program focuses on outcomes such as increased self-confidence, improved academic success, healthier relationships, and reduced involvement in risky behaviors. These results consistently exceed national averages for mentoring programs.

Serving Youth Across the Region

Mid-Ohio Youth Mentoring serves children ages 5-16 from diverse family backgrounds throughout Richland, Crawford, and Ashland counties. Children are referred by parents or guardians, schools, counselors, and community partners. Each child is matched with a mentor based on shared interests, personality, and availability.

Mentors complete an application, interview, and background check before being matched and are supported by professional staff throughout the relationship. Ongoing guidance, resources, and regular check-ins ensure that both mentors and mentees feel supported and equipped.

The organization offers two primary mentoring models:

- Community-Based Mentoring, where adult mentors and children spend time together in the community a few hours each month doing everyday activities centered on friendship and connection.

- High School Bigs Mentoring, where high school students mentor younger children through structured after-school programs in schools and community centers, including the Friendly House.

A Mentoring Match Built to Last: Adison and Jada

One example of the program's impact can be seen in the mentoring relationship between Adison Turnbaugh and her mentee, Jada.

Adison, a junior at Ashland University and a student-athlete on the women's soccer team, was matched with Jada on Aug. 14, 2025. Jada is an energetic 11-year-old who loves dance, being outdoors, and staying active. Despite busy schedules filled with school, competitive dance, and college athletics, the two make time to connect at least once a month.

Over the past several months, Adison and Jada have shared ice cream dates, slime-making parties, pumpkin carving, movie outings, and trampoline park adventures.

"Jada is so fun to be around and is always excited to try new things," Turnbaugh said. "She's an amazing dancer and loves to make TikToks. I truly see this relationship lasting for years."

Turnbaugh credits Mid-Ohio Youth Mentoring with making the experience accessible and meaningful. The organization provides mentors with activity ideas, gift cards, passes, and monthly communications highlighting upcoming events, making it easier to consistently plan quality time together.

"As a student-athlete, those resources make a big difference," she said. "Mid-Ohio Youth Mentoring does an outstanding job supporting both mentors and mentees, and I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be part of Jada's life."

(Continued on Page 7)



Photo By Jeff Hoffer

RICHLAND COUNTY PARK DISTRICT volunteer Nelson Shogren led a winter hiking program at Gorman Nature Center on Jan. 24. The program covered types of clothing, boots and a few tips on how to keep warm while walking outside when windchills are -10°. The session included a short hike to learn about secure foot placements and safety precautions.

Black History Celebration returns to main library branch February 7

The Mansfield/Richland County Public Library (MRCPL) invites the community to its annual Black History Celebration, a free, family-friendly event honoring Black history, culture, and achievement. The celebration will take place at the Main Library, 43 W. Third St., Mansfield, on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 11 am to 3 pm.

This year's celebration carries special significance as February 2026 marks the 100th anniversary of Black History celebrations in the United States. The observance began in 1926 as Negro History Week, founded by historian Carter G. Woodson, and later expanded into Black History Month in 1976 when it was formally recognized under President Gerald Ford.

The day's festivities will include live entertainment, trivia, face painting, giveaways, interactive activities, and a free meal. Programming begins at 11 am in the second-floor lobby, featuring a performance by the Mansfield Senior Choir students, who will open with "Lift Every Voice and Sing," followed by additional selections.

A free meal prepared by local caterer Glynis Haney will be served from 11:30-12:30 pm, while supplies last. Attendees will also have the opportunity to connect with several local organizations offering activities and resources, including the Alzheimer's Association, NAACP Mansfield, North End Community Improvement Collaborative (NECIC), Richland County Children's Services, First Call 211, Ohio State University-Mansfield Black Student Association, and Third Street Family Health Services.

At 2:30 pm, the library's Sherman Room will host "Roots at 50: Reimagining the Legacies of Lineage." Fifty years after its publication, this engaging program explores how Alex Haley's ground-

(Continued on Page 11)



Photo by Damon Callis

Day Trippin' With Damon – Day's Dam Park in Lorain is a part of Black River Reservation. The reservation is one of the most popular parks in the Lorain County Metro Park system. The most notable feature is the Bridgeway Trail and the Steel Mill Trail. They total 5.5 miles of paved all-purpose trail that follows the Black River. The reservation also features three separate picnic areas: High Meadows, Bur Oak and Day's Dam and a waterfall. Visit www.loraincountymetroparks.com/black-river-reservation for more information.

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THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —

One of the biggest surprises on Oscar nomination morning this past Thursday was the inclusion of Kate Hudson in the lead actress lineup for her performance in *Song Sung Blue*, a movie based on a true story about a couple who started a successful Neil Diamond tribute act in 90s.

Hugh Jackman stars as Mike, a struggling tribute artist who is immediately smitten with Hudson's character Claire who is performing as Patsy Cline.

She soon joins him in his act, they get married and make headlines as one of the best Neil Diamond tribute acts around.

Jackman and Hudson shine in this movie and both show off their natural singing abilities and talents.

Both characters have a lot of struggle throughout the film especially Claire and Hudson gives a terrific performance as she has



to balance the musical aspect as well as several emotional and physical aspects of the character.

Jim Belushi is also well cast as their manager and Michael Imperioli as a Buddy Holly impersonator and later bandmate.

I personally enjoy true stories like this about people

I have never heard of and really came out of the movie invested in these characters and their lives not to mention any Neil Diamond fan should certainly see this movie as his music is featured throughout.

Song Sung Blue is a very well done biography of two people and their ups and downs in life. Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson are terrific together and light up the screen with their story and their music.



20th Annual Road Apple Run is March 7

The 20th Annual Road Apple Run 5K Road Race will be held Saturday, March 7, at Crestview Schools.

The Road Apple Run will be an out and back 5K race on a scenic country road in northern Richland County. Bordered by several 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 pre-registration by Feb. 20 will guarantee an event t-shirt. Race day registration begins at 8:30 am in the commons area of Crestview High School. The race begins at 10 am.

Online and printed registration forms can be found at <https://sites.google.com/site/roadapple5k/>

First and second place will be awarded in each male and female age class. Classe are 10 and under, 11-12, 13-15, 16-18, 19-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69 and 70 and older.

Crestview High School is located at 1575 St. Rt. 96, Ashland.

All proceeds will support the school's cross country and track teams. For information contact Amy McFarland at 419-895-1700 ext. 18105 or roadapplerun@gmail.com.

Savannah Lions Club will be offering a breakfast, payable as a donation.



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News Briefs

The Lexington Area Senior Citizens Inc., invites those 55 and older to attend meetings the third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 am at Der Dutchman, Rt. 96, Bellville. Cost is \$17 for the meal, with an additional \$2 for pie.

The next meal will be Feb. 18, and will include chicken. The Strut Your Stuff dancers will perform and those attending are encouraged to wear red.

The group will also meet for lunch at 11 am on Feb. 4 at Red Lobster in Ontario.

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

★

Trinity Grace Fellowship, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield, is looking to hire an experienced choir director to fill the position with an adult volunteer choir. The choir meets each Wednesday from 5-7 pm to prepare for 9:30 am Sunday services.

The choir/congregation look forward each year to either an Easter or Christmas cantata. The choir consists of approximately 18 singers, an experienced pianist/organist and five potential instrument soloists to complement the choir.

Trinity supports a mixed contemporary/traditional theme during our service and Christmas songs, classics and hymns make up our typical musical selections.

If interested, to receive a job description, application and interview times contact Trinity at 1592 Grace St., Mansfield, e-mail secretary@trinitygacefellowship.org or call secretary Mary Stake at 419-589-5890.

★

Richland County Mobility Management hosts Mobility Steps at the Ontario Center (previously Richland Mall) between 10 am and noon on the first and third Wednesday of every month (excluding holidays).

Anyone that submits their steps at the walks is entered into a drawing for a \$10 gift card.

A special walking event will be held April 29, from 10 am to noon on the OSU-M campus, 1760 University Dr., Mansfield.

The walk starts at the campus recreation center and will be an easy walk through the campus while learning about local programs and services from the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging and Richland Mobility Management. No registration is required.

In the event of inclement weather, the walk will be held inside the recreation center. For information call Randy at 567-247-6483.

★

The Taylortown Community Church Blessing Closet & Food Pantry recently opened and is offering free clothing and food for those in need. Open Mondays, 9 am to 2 pm, as well as every third Saturday from 9 am to 3 pm, the closet is located at the church, 2656 Taylortown Rd., Shelby. Church volunteers also serve a free hot meal every third Thursday from 5:30-6:30 pm with the next being Jan. 15.

There are no income or residency requirements. All are welcome.

Those wishing to donate can drop-off items during open hours or call or text Lyndi Oakley 419-814-0372 or Tonja Barnett 419-571-3846 to set up a time outside of normal hours.

The biggest needs are non perishable food, coats, hats, gloves and

kids clothing. Food is distributed quickly and will probably always be the greatest need. 100% of all donations go to filling the closet and pantry. Follow on Facebook at Taylortown Community Church Blessing Closet.

★

All Souls Unitarian Universalist of Bellville, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Christopher Reynolds on Sunday, Feb. 1, at 10:30 am. The subject will be "St. Brigid, Sacred Bear: Seven Ways to Unbind the Biblical Curses of Genesis 3 and Re-enchant Life." For information visit www.allsoulssuohio.org.

★

The City of Ontario meeting schedule includes caucus at 6:15 pm on Feb. 4, followed by council at 7 pm; the civil service commission on Feb. 11 at 1 pm, followed by the planning commission at 4 pm; and the parks and finance committee on Feb. 18, at 5:30 pm; followed by caucus at 6:15 pm and council at 7 pm.

The Clerk of Council's office supports the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Those who need special accommodations can call 48 hours prior to meeting time at 419-529-6714.

★

First Congregational Church, 640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield, will host its annual pancake day on Tuesday, Feb. 17, from 4:30-7 pm. The Church Life Committee hosts the event in Blymyer Hall by donation only. All proceeds from the event will benefit Richard and Susan Schuller's 37-year-old daughter seeking medical treatment in Houston. He is fighting for her life and insurance will not cover any of the expense of treatment. Gluten free pancakes will be available upon request.

★

Flying Horse Farms, the premier camp for children with serious illnesses, is looking for seasonal staff this summer. This is a great opportunity for anyone passionate about youth development, camp experiences or making a meaningful impact.

Details and applications can be found at <https://recruiting.paylocity.com/Recruiting/Jobs/Details/3692834?source=Careers%20Page>

★

The American Red Cross is hosting bloodmobiles at Richland County locations. All who come to give Jan. 26-Feb. 28, will receive a \$20 e-gift card to a merchant of choice.

Book an appointment to give blood or platelets now by using the Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Thursday, Jan. 29, 1-6 pm, Madison Adult Career Center, 600 Eley Ln., Mansfield

Friday, Jan. 30, 12-5 pm, The Ontario Center; and 12-5 pm, Resurrection Parish, 2600 Lexington Ave., Lexington

Monday, Feb. 2, noon to 5 pm, The Ontario Center

Tuesday, Feb. 3, noon to 5 pm, Berean Baptist Church, 2145 Middle Bellville Rd., Mansfield

★

The Ontario Board of Education 2026 meeting dates will be held Feb. 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8. All meetings will be held in the Ontario High School Library, 467 Shelby-Ontario Rd., Ontario at 7 pm.

★

To submit a news brief item send an email with information to news@tribune-courier.com.

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Pioneer Board hosts first meeting of new year

The Pioneer Board of Education held its organizational and regular meetings on Wednesday, Jan. 21.

During the organizational meeting, the Oath of Office was administered to re-appointed board members: Ben Blubaugh, Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center; and Mike Grady, Shelby City Schools.

Douglas Theaker was elected as board president for 2026 and Den-

nis Long was named board vice president.

The board established the date and time of the regular board of education meetings as the third Monday of the month at 6 pm in the Pioneer Board of Education Conference Room.

Mike Grady was appointed Legislative Liaison and Robyn Almanson was appointed Student Achievement Liaison.

Bill Hope and Douglas Theaker were appointed to the Finance Audit Committee.

The treasurer was authorized to pay outstanding bills, invest interim monies, request advance payment on current collection of taxes, prepare blanket certificates and waive the notice period for tax abatement proposals.

Board of Education Expenses were approved and the board appointed the director of business affairs as the purchasing agent.

The superintendent was authorized to employ personnel as needed, accept resignations and apply for federal and state grants.

Board member training reimbursement was approved.

The regular meeting was held immediately following the organizational meeting.

The board approved an affiliation agreement with Avita Health System, a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ohio Department of Higher Education and revisions to the Student Services Plan.

Donations were accepted from Kimberly and David Chapman, Columbus, \$100; and Carl and Rhonda Ridenour, Shelby, \$100, both to be deposited in the Rene' Burtscher Memorial Scholarship fund.

Jennifer Verspoor resigned as an intervention specialist.

An unpaid leave was granted to Susan Cooper, math instructor, for nineteen days of unpaid leave, Jan. 5–Feb. 1, 2026.

Daniel Slaughter was hired for facilitation and instruction of the CTE Alternative Licensure Pathway Program, July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, at a rate of \$850 per enrolled CTE Teacher.

The board approved stipend contracts for certificated personnel. A chaperone stipend was granted for the Blue Jackets FCCLA Day on Dec. 11, in Columbus, to Maleesa Warner, \$50. Chaperone stipends for the HOSA Regional Leadership Conference on Jan. 9, at Toledo University went to Terri Crain, \$50; Meghan Haney, \$50; and Melissa Myers, \$50.

A stipend also went to Charlie Curren, \$110 for Google Level 1 Certification.

Katelynn Ramsey was employed as a substitute instructor.

A resignation was accepted from Bethany Parsons, ECE Lead teacher, effective Dec. 18.

Ellie Beach, Educational Aide, received 18 hours dock time for Jan. 21–23.

Megan Herrnstein was hired as the ECE Lead Teacher on a one-year contract. She was also hired as Early Childhood Education extra help, effective Jan. 5–May 30, 2026, up to one hour per day/five hours per week, as needed, only on the days school is in session.

Tamara Beer was hired as a part-time cafeteria worker, Katelynn Ramsey was hired as a substitute ECE Lead Teacher/Aide and Dawn Thornsberry was hired as a substitute cafeteria worker.

Lisa Kilgore was approved as a van driver for 2025–'26 school year.

Part-time adult education employment was granted to David Foley, Adult Education LPN Coordinator; and Angela Young, Adult Education LPN Instructor.

Employment of student workers was granted to Skyler Timbs, ECE student worker; and Madelyn Hedrick, ECE student worker.

The board also approved an agreement with Akron Children's Hospital.

Madison will go to voters for levy

Madison Local School District Board of Education held a special meeting on Jan. 15, to approve a Resolution proposing the levy of an additional annual tax for school district purposes on the earned income of individuals residing in the school district. The board will proceed with the levy which will raise an additional \$6,597,188 per year. The income tax would be for 1.50% on the earned income of individuals residing in the school district for five years, beginning Jan. 1, 2027.

Church Directory

All Souls Unitarian Universalist

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

First Congregational Church

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

Lexington Church of the Cross

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

Ontario United Methodist Church

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

St. John's United Church of Christ

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

Trinity Grace Fellowship

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

G & M Body & Paint Shop

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

Wappner Funeral Home

Mansfield • Ontario • Ashland • 419-522-5211

Memorial Arrangements

Rodger W. Craig

LEXINGTON: No one ever accused Rodger W. Craig of being a boring teacher. A class with "Mr. Craig" was less of a required course and more of an experience in learning. Rodger included all five senses to communicate with his students in an energetic and animated way that helped them retain the information — and more than that — helped them critically think and learn.

William Arthur Ward said, "The mediocre teacher tells, the good teacher explains, the superior teacher demonstrates, and the great teacher inspires." Given that maxim, Rodger Craig was a great teacher.

All of the lessons Rodger needed to teach have passed as he entered into the Lord's care Sunday evening Jan. 18, 2026 from OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital. He was 89.

Born June 1, 1936 in Mansfield to parents Robert Willard and Bessie Florence (Kempton) Craig, Rodger was raised in Chesterville and graduated from Chester Franklin High School in 1955. He earned his Bachelor's degree in physics & mathematics with a minor in chemistry in 1960 from Otterbein University. He began his teaching career at Lexington High School teaching chemistry, physics & mathematics. He also served as Science Coordinator for Mansfield City Schools from 1966 to 1967.

Earning his Master's degree in Chemistry in just one year from the University of Northern Iowa in 1970, Rodger switched to a focus on teaching chemistry, including AP chemistry classes. In all, he taught with passion, mostly in "his" Chemistry Lab, for 42 years with Lexington Local Schools and retired in 1993...the first time.

Following his first retirement, he and another teacher friend started building houses. But after four years, Rodger's love for teaching called him back to the classroom - the same classroom in the "Old Red Brick Building" where his career began with the Lexington District. He retired again in 2002. He was a member of the Ohio Education Association and National Education Association.

As animated and busy out of the classroom as in, Rodger had served as a volunteer Boy Scout leader, manager of the Clear Fork Hills Swim Club, and was active in the Lexington school community and Lakewood Tennis Club. He led the Lexington High School Chess Club, coached JV Basketball and both LHS boys and girls tennis teams. "Coach Craig" led the boys tennis team to multiple district and state tournaments. He was also a member of the Lexington Lions Club.

Rodger was active in his everyday life, enjoying tennis, ping-pong, biking, the pool and virtually every sport. His mind was just as active through playing chess, research at the library and listening to classic country music. In recent years he might best be known around town and OSU as "Mr Buckeye."

A former member and elder of the Linden Road United Presbyterian Church, he was currently a member of Lexington Presbyterian Church. He was very active in the church, having taught adult & youth Sunday school classes, led youth groups and summer camps, and actively participated in the administration of the church. He most recently served as head of Session for Lexington Presbyterian, and was dedicated to the care of the church and property. Most days, his travels around town would include a trip to the church to "check on things."

Rodger will be remembered for his faith - he was so devoted to the Lord, as well as his church family. His favorite scripture was John 3:16. He will also be remembered as a mentor to generations of students, teams, and his family. He loved with a heart of service and his sense of humor kept him quick with a joke to make you laugh.

He is survived by his wife, lovingly referred to as "His #1 Girl", Geraldine "Jerry" (Kulpa) Craig, whom he married Aug. 22, 1964; their sons Anthony (Tamara) Craig in Erie, PA, and Michael (Frank Gotoc) Craig of Belmar, NJ; Grandchildren Dustin (Jennifer Sabour) Craig of Ronkonkoma, NY and Briana (Shane) Edwards of Erie, PA; great grandchildren Taylynn Edwards and Kellen Edwards; sister Saundra Sue (Charles) Kunze of Lincolnton, NC; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brothers Williard Craig and Frederick Craig, and sisters Dorothy Salter, Kathryn Young and Marlyn Hunt.

The Craig family will receive friends and past students Saturday, Jan. 31, from 2-4 pm in the Lexington Avenue Snyder Funeral Home, where a celebration of his life will follow at 4 pm. Pastor Denny Nezrick will



officiate, with Pastor Jack Sharp assisting. Private interment will be in Oak Grove Memorial Park in Lexington at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Rodger's memory may be made to Lexington Presbyterian Church, Compassus Hospice, or OhioHealth Foundation may be made at the funeral home.

Share a message of support with them online and watch Rodger's tribute video at SnyderFuneralHomes.com

Area Agency on Aging scholarship applications now being accepted

The Area Agency on Aging has announced the start of its 2026 Scholarship Program, aimed at supporting individuals pursuing higher education or certification in the field of aging or disability services.

The board will award 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. Scholarship award amounts are determined by the Area Agency on Aging Corporate Board of Trustees for Academic Year 2026-'27:

Two \$1,000 scholarships will be provided for any student attending a 4-year university. One \$500 scholarship is available for any student attending a 2-year college, technical school, center of education or is pursuing a certification.

One \$500 scholarship is available for any 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, grandchild or stepchild of an actively employed (full time or part time) Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. staff member.

The deadline for application is March 15, 2026. Applicants are encouraged to visit aaa5ohio.org for detailed eligibility criteria and application instructions.

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Rex Conner, January 10

Omega Cole, January 17

Carol Ann Fritz, January 18

Billy Jackson Stamper, January 19

Susan Kaye Davidson, January 20

Carole Ann Rieck, January 21

Donald Gene Miller, January 22

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Canada • Photo By Mark Shutt

Pat Kracker Breast Cancer Fund to honor Steve Cobb and Garbage Guys Who Care this October

Steve Cobb, Garbage Guys Who Care founder, recently passed away. In October of this year, during National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Pat Kracker Breast Cancer Fund will honor Steve and the new ownership of Garbage Guys Who Care for their ongoing commitment to fighting breast cancer in Richland County.

"Garbage Guys Who Care has donated over \$150,000 since 2012 to fight breast cancer here locally," says Dave Kracker, Founder of the Pat Kracker Breast Cancer Fund. "Steve Cobb's ingenuity and leadership prompted him to provide a portion of his company's profits to our cause. His business is the only business that has dedicated a portion of their monthly profits to our Fund. He then looked for ways to help and make his new garbage company stand out. His pink trucks and trash cans began what is now local history."

2026 will be the 30th year in which the Pat Kracker Breast Cancer Fund has provided financial and emotional support before, when, and after breast cancer strikes Richland County women.

"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," says Rhonda Breit, Pat Kracker Breast Cancer Fund Chairperson.

Garbage Guys Who Care has committed to continuing the financial support Steve Cobb started. Steve founded Garbage Guys Who Care and its refuse operations in 2012 serving customers in Ontario, Lexington, Lucas, and Mansfield. Residents who live in these communities who would like to sign up for trash service, support a great cause, and get a pink trash can should call GGWC at 419-522-9018.

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

Galentine's evening planned for Feb. 13

Galentine's Day will be celebrated with a fun night making a beautiful woodland-themed resin pendant under the instruction of Abigail Kent of Emerald Bee Creations and Kingwood Center Gardens on Friday, Feb. 13.

This special Conservation Creation event begins at 5:30 pm at Kingwood Center Gardens. The evening includes learning about woodland stewardship with Katie Gerber, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and North Central Ohio Women Owning Woodlands, while sipping a beverage and enjoying a snack. The cost is \$40 per person, and all supplies are provided to create the pendant. Advance registration is required at <https://richlandsbcd.net/event/galentines-day-conservation-creation-workshop/>. This event is presented by Richland Soil and Water Conservation District, Kingwood Center Gardens and North Central Ohio Women Owning Woodlands.



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•National Mentoring Month shines light on the power of connection at Mid-Ohio Youth Mentoring

(Continued from Front Page)

As a youth participant with Mid-Ohio Youth Mentoring, Jada shared how much her mentoring relationship means to her.

"I like BIGS," she said, using the term many youth still use for their mentor. "I'm not bored anymore. "I like my Big because she's nice and she has good taste in music — it's like my music — and she has a good personality. Everybody should have a Big because you get to get out of the house and do fun stuff. Everything we do is cool."

A Growing Need for Male Mentors

While stories like Adison and Jada's highlight the positive impact of mentoring, many children in the community are still waiting to be matched. Mid-Ohio Youth Mentoring currently has a significant need for male mentors, particularly for young boys and teenage males who are seeking a positive, consistent male role model.

Program staff emphasize that mentoring is not about having all the answers.

"These kids are looking for someone who will show up, listen, and care," staff shared. "A dependable male presence can be life-changing."

As National Mentoring Month continues, Mid-Ohio Youth Mentoring encourages men across the region to consider stepping into this role. Even a small monthly time commitment can make a lasting difference in a child's confidence, choices, and future.

How to Get Involved

Community members interested in becoming a mentor, enrolling a child, or supporting the program can contact Mid-Ohio Youth Mentoring, 380 N. Mulberry St., Mansfield, at 419-525-4618.

Mentoring is about building relationships — and sometimes, simply showing up is enough to change a life.



MID-OHIO YOUTH MENTORING held its MYM Museum Mash-Up night on Jan. 17 at the Buckeye Imagination Museum in Mansfield. This night gave mentors and mentees a chance to get together for a fun event. Those attending were treated to pizza and dessert, balloon animals and crafts. The cost of the party was partially offset by a grant from the United Way of Richland County and their Student Allocation Group. The Engage Richland group of young professionals have also been supporting recruitment efforts over the past few months. At the event, community members who are curious about mentoring, but not quite ready to commit to a full year, were paired with a child on the waiting list just for the day.



Jada and her mentor Adison



Volunteer Today!!
Help the kids of Mid-Ohio Youth Mentoring



Scan here to visit our website and learn more about how you can get involved!



Culver's breaks ground on new Ashland location

Photos and Article By Traci Little

ASHLAND — Despite frigid temperatures, a large crowd of community leaders, business representatives and excited residents gathered last Thursday morning to celebrate the official groundbreaking of Culver's of Ashland, marking a major step forward for one of the city's most anticipated new restaurants.

The ceremony took place at the future site of the restaurant at the corner of U.S. Route 250 and County Road 1575 (Montgomery Road), where construction is now underway. Hosted in partnership with the Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce, the event included remarks from local officials and Culver's representatives, followed by a ceremonial shovel-turning to kick off the project.

Ashland's Mayor, Matt Miller, welcomed attendees by acknowledging both the cold weather and the broader significance of the moment.

"We appreciate you being here on one of the coldest days of the year," Miller said with a smile. "But the good news is, every day is wonderful in Ashland. Some days are more wonderful than others — and here we are again as our city continues to be on the rise."

He thanked the crowd for showing support not only for Culver's, but for the momentum happening across the community.

"We get to be a part of the transformation," he said. "That is what is happening in the Ashland community. We've been to a number of groundbreakings and ribbon cuttings recently, and it's wonderful to see all the progress happening in our lifetime."

Miller also expressed gratitude to the Lehar family and the Culver's organization for investing in a long-dormant corner of the city.

"Not only do I want to thank you for crispy ButterBurgers, creamy cheese curds and delightful custard," he said, drawing laughs from the crowd. "Most importantly, I want to thank you for investing in this corner. We who live here have seen this corner be dormant for more than a decade."

He noted that the project opens the door for additional development along the corridor.

"They are responsible for pushing over the first domino that's going to start the chain that introduces a number of significant retailers and commercial establishments," he said.

Before introducing the next speaker, Miller also took a moment to recognize Ashland City Council members in attendance for their role in helping make the project possible.

"We've got Angela Woodward, Dennis Miller, Steve Workman, and Dan Lawson here. They were part of helping us put together the incentive package to bring the Culver's here, so thank you very much for that."

State Rep. Melanie Miller then welcomed Culver's to Ashland, praising the company's values and legacy.

"When we heard that this would be possible, we were very excited," Miller said. "We want to welcome you to the great city of Ashland. Hearing your history and your legacy, you really are a perfect

fit. The values that we share here in the city of Ashland — and quite honestly, the great state of Ohio — are the same values you represent."

Miller said the state remains committed to supporting entrepreneurs and business growth.

"We want to continue to make our state even more business friendly, so people can become entrepreneurs, grow their businesses, and live here, work here, raise a family, and thrive," she said.

On behalf of the state of Ohio, Miller presented Culver's with an official proclamation signed by herself and the Speaker of the House.

"It's my honor to present this proclamation to Culver's, to Scoopie, and the team on this very special occasion," she said. "We look forward to having many, many ButterBurgers in the days to come."

Franchise owner Ryan Lehar then took the microphone, thanking the crowd for braving the cold and calling it the largest turnout he had ever seen for a groundbreaking.

"It's pretty incredible, especially with this temperature, so thank you for that," Lehar said.

He gave a few local shoutouts, including the Sweetest Bug for custom cookies and Goldberry Roasting Company for providing hot cocoa, before sharing his personal journey with Culver's.

"I graduated from Woodridge High School in Akron and originally went to school for chemical engineering," Lehar said. "I decided burgers were more my forte than chemical engineering, so I switched over to that."

Lehar said he spent eight years working his way up within Culver's before becoming an owner.

"I started off as a team member, just working on the grill while I was going to college for business management," he said. "What I appreciated most about this company was the culture."

He introduced several team members who will help launch the Ashland location, emphasizing Culver's family-oriented values.

"This is truly a family business for us — I do this with my mom, my dad and my brother," he said. "It's incredible to be a part of all this."

Lehar also shared a personal connection to Ashland, noting he had once been recruited to play football there in 2012 before choosing a different career path.

"I love the city of Ashland," he said.

He spoke about Culver's commitment to community involvement, including supporting youth sports, volunteering, and honoring local residents.

"We're super involved with a ton of different things in the community," Lehar said.

Known for its ButterBurgers, fresh frozen custard and Wisconsin cheese curds, Culver's has developed a strong following across Ohio, and anticipation for the Ashland location has been building for months.

(Continued on Page 9)



•Culver's breaks ground on Ashland location

(Continued from Page 8)

Chamber leaders praised the investment as a positive sign of continued economic growth in the area.

"This is a wonderful addition to our community," said a representative of the Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce. "Projects like this show that Ashland continues to be a great place to do business and invest in the future."

The new restaurant is expected to employ approximately 60-65 team members once open, creating new job opportunities for the area. The building will be a 4,300-plus-square-foot facility, designed to include a drive-thru and modern dining area to accommodate both dine-in and carry-out customers.

Construction is expected to continue through the spring, with Culver's projected to open in summer 2026. Once completed, the restaurant will add another dining option to Ashland's growing commercial landscape and serve as a gathering place for families, students and travelers alike.

For more information about Culver's and future job opportunities at the Ashland location, visit culvers.com or follow Culver's of Ashland on social media.

News Briefs in Education

Capital University has announced that Rowan McManes, of Mansfield, was named to the president's list for the fall 2025 semester.

Capital has three lists denoting academic distinction among full-time, degree-seeking students: the President's List, Provost's List, and Dean's List. The President's List indicates the highest level of academic distinction. To be named to the President's List, students must have achieved a grade point average of at least 3.85.

★
Area students have been named to the dean's list for the fall 2025 semester at the University of Mount Union. On the list are Alex Deperschmidt, Jacob Hathaway, Joe Hathaway, Trey Nickoli, Anna Perkins, Willow Roberts and Lucas Starling, all of Lexington.

To be eligible for the list, students must have completed at least 12 credit hours of traditionally graded coursework while achieving a grade point average of 3.550 or better with no letter grade below a B.

★
Timo Dials Jimenez of Mansfield was named to the dean's list for the fall 2025 term at University of Maryland Global Campus. To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earned a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC.

Chamber's Lisa Duckworth graduates from Institute for Organization Management

Institute for Organization Management, the professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, is pleased to announce that Lisa Duckworth, IOM, Program & Events Director of the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development, has graduated from the program and has received the recognition of IOM. Awarded to all graduates of the Institute program, the IOM Graduate Recognition signifies the individual's completion of 96 credit hours of course instruction in non-profit management.

In addition, participants can earn credit hours towards the Certified Chamber Executive (CCE) or Certified Association Executive (CAE), certifications. Nearly 1,000 individuals attend Institute annually.

"Institute graduates are recognized across the country as leaders in their industries and organizations," said Raymond P. Towle, IOM, CAE, the U.S. Chamber's vice president of Institute for Organization Management.

"These individuals have the knowledge, skills, and dedication necessary to achieve professional and organizational success in the dynamic association and chamber industries."

Since its commencement in 1921, the Institute program has been educating tens of thousands of association, chamber, and other non-profit leaders on how to build stronger organizations, better serve their members and become strong business advocates. Institute's curriculum consists of four weeklong sessions at four different university locations throughout the country.

Through a combination of required courses and electives in areas such as leadership, advocacy, marketing, finance, and membership, Institute participants are able to enhance their own organizational management skills and add new fuel to their organizations, making them run more efficiently and effectively.

Institute for Organization Management is the professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. It is the premier nonprofit professional development program for association and chamber professionals, fostering individual growth through interactive learning and networking opportunities.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business organization representing companies of all sizes across every sector of the economy. Our members range from the small businesses and local chambers of commerce that line the Main Streets of America to leading industry associations and large corporations.

BLOOM Nutrition & Drink Bar brings fresh energy to Ashland

Photos and Article By Traci Little

ASHLAND — A fresh splash of color, creativity, and clean energy has arrived in downtown Ashland with the opening of BLOOM Nutrition & Drink Bar, a vibrant new concept created by longtime local business owner Megan Steffen.

Located inside Whoopsie Daisy Bowtique at 126 E. Main St. — with entrances from both Main Street and Second Street — BLOOM officially celebrated its grand opening and ribbon cutting on Dec. 13 of last year. Since then, the response from the community has been overwhelmingly positive, as curious customers stop in to explore everything from protein-packed teas to kid-friendly boba drinks.

Steffen, who has owned Whoopsie Daisy Bowtique for 15 years, said the idea for BLOOM grew out of both personal need and a changing downtown landscape.

"I noticed there was a shift happening on Main Street," Steffen said. "There were more restaurants, bars, and things to do, and I felt like there was a niche open for something new and different."

As a wife to Matthew and mom to five busy kids — Hayden, Blake, Maddie, Isabelle, and Gwen — Steffen said she often found herself forgetting to eat or reaching for unhealthy caffeine options just to keep up with daily life.

"I wanted something better for myself," she said. "Busy moms and athletes can really benefit from clean protein drinks and energy drinks to keep up with their busy lives."

The name BLOOM also carries a personal meaning. Steffen's favorite flowers are daisies, and the brand plays off that cheerful, uplifting theme — encouraging people to "bloom" into their best selves with nourishing and healthier beverage options.

BLOOM's menu features a wide variety of caffeinated and non-caffeinated options, including loaded teas, protein shakes, hydration drinks, lemonades, coffees, and its newest fan favorite — Dirty Sodas.

"Dirty sodas are here!" Steffen said with a laugh. "You can mix and match any soda with any of our yummy flavors or pick from one of our delicious pre-made ones. Pop it, mix it, dirty it up."

Just in time for Valentine's Day, BLOOM has also rolled out a playful themed drink menu that adds a little romance — and a lot of flavor — to the experience. The limited-time lineup includes Love Spell

(strawberry, kiwi, coconut), Wild Heart (watermelon, passionfruit), Juliet (blackberry, raspberry, mango), Romeo (pineapple, peach, blue blast), Sour Pucker (lime, green apple, blue blast), Cupid's Kiss (strawberry, fruit punch, cherry), Flirtini (lime, strawberry, cranberry), and Candy Hearts (orange, rainbow candy).

"These are just meant to be fun," Steffen said. "It's a cute way for couples, friends, and families to celebrate Valentine's Day together while still enjoying our clean, sugar-free drinks."

The shop also offers kid-friendly options like boba teas and colorful lemonades, making it a family-friendly stop in the heart of downtown. But BLOOM doesn't stop at drinks.

Inside Whoopsie Daisy Bowtique, children can host birthday parties where they build their own stuffed animals, browse clothing, or enjoy creative spa stations where they make shower gels, lip gloss, and other goodies. There's even a playful "creepy crawly" version of shower gel that lets kids add toy insects — a hit with many young boys.

"Not everyone is familiar with a nutrition shop, so people are really intrigued," Steffen said. "The response from the community has been so great and so supportive."

Downtown Ashland itself has played a major role in BLOOM's story.

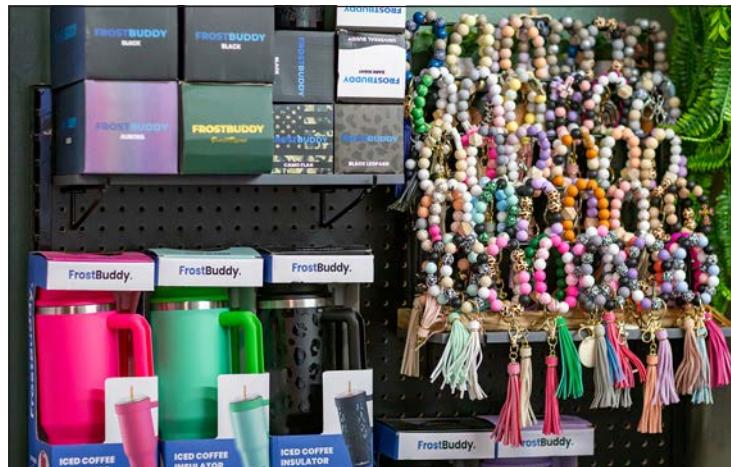
"Being downtown has just become part of my identity," Steffen said. "Adding BLOOM to my already established store just seemed to fit. One by one, different businesses have come down to support me like they always have. Our little town is for sure someplace special."

Opening a second business wasn't easy, Steffen admitted, but she credits friends, family, and her team for helping bring the vision to life.

"People told me I was taking on a huge project," she said. "And I'd say, 'What, like it's hard!?' But honestly — opening a new business, especially a food service business, is not easy. I'm so thankful to everyone who painted, cleaned, researched, tasted, and helped me just do the dang thing."

BLOOM also keeps things fresh with special events and new drink drops. Along with the Valentine's Menu, on Thursday, Jan. 29 at

(Continued on Page 11)



Downtown Ashland – 126 E Main Street

BLOOM
nutrition & drink bar

- Protein Shakes
- Energy Drinks
- Wellness Boosters
- ImmunityTea

Inside Whoopsie Daisy Bowtique
Monday – Wednesday (6:30 am – 2 pm)
Thursday – Friday (6:30 am – 5 pm) | Saturday (8 am – 3 pm)



•BLOOM Nutrition & Drink Bar brings fresh energy to Ashland

(Continued from Page 10)

6 pm, BLOOM will host a Cookie Decorating Class featuring buttercream tips, light snacks, and nine cookies to take home. Tickets are available through Square, and BLOOM will be open for drinks during the event.

New drinks continue to roll out as well, including a Blueberry Mega Tea packed with antioxidants and vitamins. "It's never too cold for a 32-ounce cup of clean energy," Steffen joked.

BLOOM Nutrition & Drink Bar is open Monday through Wednesday from 6:30 am to 2 pm, Thursday and Friday from 6:30 am to 5 pm, and Saturday from 8 am to 3 pm.

For Steffen, BLOOM is more than just a drink bar — it's a reflection of her family, her faith in her community, and her passion for helping others feel their best.

"This is my 'why,'" she said. "My family keeps me pretty busy, and I wanted something more — not just for me, but for Ashland. I look forward to serving fun, sugar-free beverages and being part of what makes downtown so special."



Beauty Hydrate, Electrolyte Boost + Collagen, Strawberry Kiwi, Pink Lemonade, BlueBlast, Hint of Citrus



BELLVILLE LIONS CLUB members created 170 Valentine Day cards for Richland County kids in foster care. The annual collection is hosted by Richland County Children Services and the Mansfield United Lions Club.

•Black History Celebration returns to main library branch February 7

(Continued from Front Page)

breaking semi-autobiographical novel reshaped genealogy, history, and literature. A panel of experts from Ohio State University will lead a thought-provoking discussion on Haley's lasting impact.

Guests of all ages are encouraged to participate in curated activities throughout the library. Upon arrival, attendees will receive an Activity Pass; completed passes can be entered for a chance to win one of two \$50 Walmart gift cards.

In addition to the Feb. 1 celebration, MRCPL will continue honoring Black History Month with special programming.

On Feb. 14, at 1:30 pm in the Main Library Community Room, the Children's Theatre of Cincinnati will present "Harriet Tubman: Straight Up Outta' the Underground." This live, one-woman, interactive storytelling performance brings history to life as audiences follow Harriet Tubman on her courageous journey to freedom and her repeated missions to guide others along the Underground Railroad. This 45-minute, family-friendly performance is ideal for students in grades 3-8.

For more information and a complete list of Black History Celebration activities and programs, visit mrcpl.org.



KINGWOOD CENTER GARDENS horticulture staff are working on kokedama — the Japanese art of growing plants in a moss-covered ball of soil wrapped in string. Kingwood reopens this Saturday, January 31 and will kick-off the season with Winter's Interlude: An Orchid Experience.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Hillsdale honors seniors, cruises past Rittman on senior night

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Hillsdale celebrated Senior Night last Thursday evening, honoring five seniors before the opening tip and cruising to a 51-14 victory over Rittman in varsity girls basketball action.

Prior to the game, the Falcons recognized seniors Kennedy Fickes, Myah Houser, Emma Linder, Macy Mager and Ally Morgan for their dedication, leadership, and contributions to the program. The ceremony set the tone for an emotional and energetic night inside the gym.

Once play began, Hillsdale took control early with aggressive defense and an up-tempo offense, building a decisive lead and maintaining it throughout the contest. The Falcons forced turnovers, controlled the pace, and shared the ball well en route to the win.

Senior Kennedy Fickes led the way with 10 points, knocking down multiple three-pointers while providing steady leadership throughout the night. Fellow senior Myah Houser added 8 points.

Rittman faced challenges finding an offensive rhythm against Hillsdale's defensive pressure but continued to compete throughout the game.

The Falcons continue to build momentum heading into the final stretch of their season.



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

•Hillsdale honors seniors



Photos By Traci Little



Photo By Jeff Hoffer

THE LEXINGTON BOYS RELAY TRACK TEAM of Chance Basilone, Will Perkins, Latrell Hughes and Nate Reed were inducted into the Wall of Fame Inductees. These four young men were not only 1st Team All Ohio in Track & Field, they were state champions in the 4x800 Meter Relay at the State Track and Field Meet in 2025. Chance Basilone was also recognized for earning All-Ohio in Cross Country in 2023 as he finished in 27th place at the state cross country meet. He then was All-Ohio in cross country in 2024 as he finished in 10th place at the state cross country meet. In addition, Chance was 1st Team All-Ohio in Track & Field as he finished in 4th Place in the 3200 Meter Run at the State Track and Field Meet in 2025.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS ASHLAND GIRLS BASKETBALL · JAN. 21
ARROWS WIN 49-22 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS WOOSTER VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL · JAN. 9 RAMS WIN 44-42 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



Chamber announces Economic Impact Award winners

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

The Economic Impact Awards highlight a business, individual or organization that positively impacted the local economy through significant investment in the area. The 2026 awardees are CNG (Charter Next Generation), Hanline Group, Michael Byrne Manufacturing and Weiss Industries.

The Chairman's Award will also be announced during the event. Recipients of this award demonstrated a long-standing commitment to community service in the Richland County region. The winner is revealed through a popular video highlight reel presented at the event.

One outstanding woman in the community will also be honored with the ATHENA award, sponsored by Park National Bank. This national award program recognizes a woman for exceptional professional achievements, community service, and dedicated support in empowering women to excel in their careers and leadership roles. The winner was selected by a panel of past ATHENA Award recipients. A video highlight reel will reveal this year's winner.

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

The event will be held on Feb. 11, 2026, at the Mid-Ohio Conference Center. Cocktail hour starts at 5 pm, and dinner will be served at 6 pm. Tickets and sponsorship packages are also available for the themed event. Call the Chamber office at 419-522-3211 or visit <https://portal.richlandareachamber.com/events/details/annual-meeting-and-economic-excellence-awards-dinner-2026-6322> for information.

View & Print Past Issues at www.tribune-courier.com



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL students prepared for Winter Storm Fern during their last day of school Friday, Jan. 23. They were hoping for a few snow days and their wishes definitely came true.

RYOT will present 2026 workshop showcase

Under the direction of Lori Turner, the Renaissance Performing Arts Association will present the Renaissance Youth Opera Theatre (RYOT) Workshop Showcase on Friday, Feb. 6, and Saturday, Feb. 7, at 7 pm in Theatre 166, as part of the Mechanics Bank Education Series.

Tickets for the RYOT Workshop Showcase are pay-what-you-can and are available at the Renaissance Box Office, by phone, or online at rentickets.org.

The showcase celebrates months of hard work and creativity from students in grades 2-12 who have participated in the winter workshop series. Throughout January, students met in small groups with professional artists and mentors to refine their acting and vocal performance skills. The final performances highlight a selection of scenes and songs from beloved musicals and plays, showcasing the talent, teamwork, and growth of each young performer — including scenes from HMS Pinafore, The Mystery Of Edwin Drood, 1776, The Court Jester, Peter Pan, Babes In Toyland, and Treasure Island.

"This program allows each student to shine while learning the importance of collaboration and expression," said Lori Turner, RYOT Director. "The showcase is a joyful culmination of their dedication and love for the

performing arts."

This year's participating students include Breah Boyd, Estel Bramlage, Olive Evans, Sophia Gallatin, Eliana King, Kennadi Knipp, Toby Lux, Logan Maynor, Saige Painley, Jace Painley, Autumn Rivers, Joel Rivers, Logan Rush-Kirsop, Jackson Horn, Marilena Kruer, Briner McCready, Olivia Brumagin, Lillian Brumagin, Piper Donahue, Maddie Rice, Caroline Secret, Graycen Stevens, Alex Trolian, Halle Williams, and Audrey King.

Offered in two age groups — 2nd-6th grade and 7th-12th

grade — the RYOT Workshop encourages personal growth, confidence, and artistic exploration in a fun, supportive environment.

For more information about the RYOT Workshop or upcoming educational programming at the Renaissance Theatre, contact Lori Turner at lori@mansfield-tickets.com.

The Renaissance Youth Opera Theatre Program is part of the Mechanics Bank Education Series. Additional support comes from the Ohio Arts Council and Buckeye Express Car Wash.

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Valentine's Day Sale

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Whether for your significant other or your sister, aunt, or grandmother, this delightful floral gift is a sweet way to say "I love you." Sweet price, too.

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CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE

The Lexington-Troy Twp. Union Cemetery Annual Financial Report for 2025 is complete and available for public viewing at the Treasurer's office in Troy Township, Richland County's meeting hall located at 247 S. Mill Street, Lexington, Ohio. Please call to schedule an appointment between 9:30am – 4:30 pm Monday to Friday.

Elizabeth A Michalski
Clerk-Treasurer
Lexington-Troy Twp. Union Cemetery
Lexington, OH
(T-C 1-29, 2026) 14L

LEGAL NOTICE

The following is a succinct summary of the legislation adopted by the Council of the City of Ontario, at their regular meeting held on January 21, 2026.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 26-05 – AN ORDINANCE AWARDING A CONTRACT TO HENDERSON FOR THE PURCHASE OF A SNOW AND ICE PACKAGE FOR NEW TRUCK THROUGH NATIONAL PURCHASING PARTNERS GOVERNMENT, REPEALING ORDINANCE 26-04, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Abbey Beaver
Asst. Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 1-29, 2-5, 2026) 23L

PUBLIC NOTICE

The annual Financial Report for Springfield Township, Richland County, Ohio, for The Year 2025 is available for inspection upon request at the office of the fiscal officer. Springfield Township Hall, 3700 Park Avenue West, Ontario, Ohio.

Amanda Hike
Fiscal Officer
Springfield Township
City of Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 1-29, 2-5, 2026) 12L

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DURING SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH in January Ontario Schools celebrated the dedicated members of the Ontario Local Schools Board of Education. Members are Todd Friend, president; Heidi Zimmerman, vice president; Cathy Sapp (new member); Brett Baxter and Amy Hiner.

Student exchange program looking for host families

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs (ASSE), a non-profit, public benefit organization, is inviting local families to discover the many rewards of hosting a foreign exchange student.

ASSE students come from more than 50 countries worldwide: France, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Ukraine, Japan, Australia, to name a few. They are between the ages of 15 and 18 years, and they are enthusiastic and excited to experience American culture, family life, school, sports, etc. They also love to share their own culture and language with their host families, who welcome the students into their home, not as a guest, but as a family member, giving everyone involved a rich cultural experience. Host families may be single parents, couples and single persons.

The exchange students have pocket money for personal expenses and full health, accident and liability insurance. ASSE students are carefully selected based upon academics and personality, and host families choose their student from a wide variety of backgrounds, countries and personal interests.

Those interested in hosting an exchange student or becoming an exchange student abroad, should call Saphia at 1-800-736-1760, visit www.asse.com or send an email to asseusamidwest@asse.com to request more information or start the application process.



MR. COLEY'S Current Events class at Ontario High School re-created a presidential press conference.



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