



# TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com

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**A RIBBON CUTTING** was held for Apple of My Eye Imaging Studio on Feb. 16 on Lexington Ave., in Mansfield.

## Apple of My Eye Imaging Studio opens

**Photos and Article**  
By Traci Little

Alisha Miller, mom of three from Bellville, is thrilled to open Apple of My Eye Imaging Studio. It is really exciting because it's the first studio of its kind in the Richland County and North Central Ohio region.

This elective, 3D/4D HD ultrasound studio is located in the Friendly's building on Lexington Avenue in Mansfield. Before opening, those wishing for this type of service had to travel over an hour.

Providing a studio atmosphere for expectant moms to see their baby in the womb is a dream come true for owner Alisha Miller.

"It's an awesome, bonding experience! We have plenty of room for family and friends to join them during the special moment as well! With the scans projected onto a large 70-inch TV screen, everyone in the room can see the images of the baby together!" said Miller.

This light and airy studio atmosphere, provides a warm experience that is different from the traditional hospital and doctor's office setting.

The studio offers a calm and relaxing atmosphere for everyone to enjoy. What a wonderful gift to give that newly expectant

mom in your life! The studio also offers 3D realistic ultrasounds and video packages starting at \$99 as an option as well.

You can't miss the beautifully stocked boutique where you can purchase meaningful gifts. A popular keepsake is having your baby's heartbeat recorded and placed into a cute stuffed animal of choice. Cherish and remember your pregnancy forever with this cozy plush. There are sonogram frames, pregnancy journals, gender reveal party supplies, shower gifts and more. If you book a session in February, it includes a heartbeat animal with your package.

How did Alisha come up with the name?

"After many brainstorming sessions about thoughts of endearment, my husband and I came up with Apple of my Eye, centered around the idea of cherishing your young baby in the womb. Faith is also an important part of who we are," she said.

Apple of My Eye Imaging Studio celebrated its ribbon cutting last Thursday, Feb. 16 at 12:30 pm. Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development helped commemorate this event.

Jennifer Wagner from the Chamber thanked the many supportive community members who joined in the celebration. State Representative, Mari-

lyn John, opened the ceremony, "We thank you for your investment in Richland County! I so wish that I would have had this type of service when I was expecting babies a long, long time ago. It's great to know that when I have grandbabies come along, these are the pictures I'll get to see of them."

Commissioner Tony Vero gave his congratulations on such a nice set up and said he can imagine that the business will do very well.

Juvenile Court Judge, Steve McKinley, Councilman Aurelio-Diaz and Miss Ontario Abigail Kern were also in attendance at the ribbon cutting.

Alisha and her husband, Kyle, welcomed the guests. Alisha introduced her daughter, "This is our oldest, Ellie, she's our janitor, so she had to be here today (insert a crowd full of giggles). Thank you all for being here today and celebrating the opening of our studio. We have three children of our own, and we have personally made the trip to Columbus at least five times ourselves during my pregnancies for uncooperative positioning."

"Over the years, we began talking about how nice it would be to have something like this closer to home. We loved our experiences of seeing our babies

*(Continued on Page 6)*

## MRCPL hosting baby supply drive throughout March

Community Health Access Project (CHAP) in partnership with the Mansfield Richland County Public Library (MRCPL) will be holding a baby supply drive to support new and expecting mothers in the CHAP HUB program.

The drive will be from March 1-31. Donated supplies will be distributed to CHAP participating families, in six counties including Richland, Ashland, Morrow, Crawford, Knox and Huron.

For almost 25 years, Community Health Access Project's mission has been to eliminate health and social disparities in the community by finding those at risk, connecting them to care and measuring the outcomes.

The MRCPL locations accepting donations include Bellville, Lexington, Madison, Main (Mansfield), Ontario, Plymouth and the MRCPL Bookmobile.

Suggested new items being accepted for donation include: diapers/pull-ups, wipes, baby clothes, teething toys, self-care items for moms (lotions, bath soaks, robes, slippers), breast milk bags and nursing pads.

## Bloodmobiles planned locally

The American Red Cross needs more people to make and keep appointments to give blood or platelets in February.

All who give in February will get a \$10 Amazon gift card and will be entered to win a trip for two to Clearwater Beach, FL.

Book a time to give blood or platelets by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, or calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

Wednesday, Feb. 22, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario; and 7 am to 1 pm, K of C Hall, 208 Vernon Rd., Shelby

Thursday, Feb. 23, 1-7 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

Friday, Feb. 24, 8 am to 1 pm, OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital, 335 Glessner Ave., Mansfield

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2-7 pm, Madison Adult Career Center, 600 Esley Ln., Madison area

**THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER**  
— By Ian Stumbo —

The Marvel film series starts its FIFTH phase with *Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania*.

Producer Kevin Feige starts this phase with a familiar character in Ant-Man and the cinematic introduction of a brand-new villain in Jonathan Majors Kang the Conqueror.

Scott Lang (Paul Rudd) is living his life day-to-day writing a book about his adventures as an Avenger while taking care of his daughter Cassie (Kathryn Newton).

Returning favorites include Evangeline Lilly as the Wasp and Michael Douglas and Michelle Pfeiffer (who has a lot to do in this installment).

After Cassie and Hank (Douglas) experiment with a new particle, all of the characters are sent into the quantum realm.

Here, they meet some interesting people and creatures. Janet (Pfeiffer) has been spending years in the quantum realm though has not disclosed a huge secret that could put all of their lives in danger.

This movie seems to be getting a great deal of press due to its low score among critics. That is not fair. Audiences are loving this movie, it made more at the box office than any other *Ant-Man* picture and, flawed as it is, it provides a great deal of fun and entertainment.

The beginning of the movie is

certainly its weakest point as it seems to be in a huge hurry to get going.

Lang tells a little of what he has been up to in a voice over then suddenly everyone is whisked away. Some of the jokes fall flat and a tighter script would have helped the movie find its footing from the start.

When in the quantum realm, there are a great deal of characters and it gets a little muddled and confusing as to where it is all going though when Kang shows up the movie really takes off and becomes consistently good for the remainder of its run time.

Majors is excellent as Kang. His character was introduced a little bit on the Disney+ series *Loki*. He really shines here. Majors is a great actor and is perfectly cast as this foreboding warrior that has quite a bit to do with Pfeiffer's character of Janet.

The action sequences near the end are really engaging and as the movie seems to end a little weak as it began, there is enough in the middle to chew on.

*Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania* is one of the more enjoyable Marvel movies as of late after coming through a very weak and divisive phase four.



# Meeting a busy one for Madison board

The Madison Local School Board met Wednesday, Feb. 15, in the middle school auditoria.

Eric Turlo, Student Services Director, gave a presentation and Brent Besancon was hired as head varsity football coach for the 2023-'24 school year.

A donation of \$36 was accepted from Daniel Ford for the Madison Cares Fund. A donation of a Kranich and Bach upright piano, valued at \$1,400-\$2,000, was accepted from Andi Scheafer.

The board reviewed the agreement between Airport West I, LLC and the Madison Local School District.

Bradd Stevens, treasurer, gave his monthly financial report and a written plan to eliminate forecast deficits.

Approval of appropriation modifications for FY 23 was given as was the approval to transfer \$23,685.17 from fund 010 Classroom Facilities to fund 003 Permanent Improvement as recommended by Julian and Grube GAAP auditors.

Kobi Johnson resigned as Spring Fitness Coordinator, effective Jan. 30.

Supplemental positions awarded or the 2022-'23 school year included Mico Castelveter, 1/2 assistant varsity softball; and Egypt Murphy, 1/2 assistant varsity softball.

Volunteers approved for the 2022-'23 school year are Kyle Galco, baseball; Zac Huff, baseball; Paige Carper, softball; Tim Carper, softball; Andrea Gerich, softball; and Jeff Barrett, softball.

Kelly Clements will teach Clinical Medical Assisting/Med Term/A&P for the Madison Adult Career Center. Whitney Shopbell will teach Administrative Medical Assisting/Med Term/A&P and Ginny Walters will teach Cake Decorating Level 1.

Substitute teachers hired on an "on call" basis, as needed for the current school year are Chad Hicks, John Smith and Tamara Vail.

Resignations were accepted from Jacob Hathy, second shift custodian, high school; Grace Stupka, Madison Early Childhood Learning Center (MECLC); and Jason Anschutz, 2 hour cook, Mifflin.

Christopher Brown was hired as second shift custodian, high school and Melanie Prater was hired for MECLC.

Dave Brown has been awarded the first shift custodian position at Madison South Elementary, replacing Tom Williams who accepted another position.

Mike Cornell has been awarded the second shift custodian position at the high school, replacing Jacob Hathy who resigned.

Doug Keen has been awarded the second shift custodian position at the middle school, replacing Dave Brown who accepted another position.

A sick bank for 22 days was approved for Diane Trackler, bus driver, for medical reasons.

The 2023-'24 school calendar was approved. The overnight BPA State Leadership Conference trip to The Greater Columbus Convention Center March 9-10, 2023, at no cost to the board, was also approved.

The board voted to continue membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association for the 2023-'24 school year.

The board authorized the Ohio Schools Council Cooperative to advertise and receive bids for the purchase of two 84 passenger conventional type school buses on the board's behalf. This resolution does not obligate the district to purchase the buses.

The board granted the superintendent of the Madison Local School District the authority to modify, amend or supplement Ohio Schools Council Policy 1.1 Section 10 Agreement, Policy 1.3 Section 11 Bylaws, and any other Agreements requiring Ohio Schools Council Assembly approval. These modifications, amendments, and supplements may occur at any regular or special meeting of the Ohio Schools Council Assembly at which a quorum is present. Approval of a modification, amendment or supplement requires a simple majority vote of the quorum.

The next regular board of education meeting is scheduled for March 15, at 6 pm in the Madison Comprehensive High School Library.

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# News Briefs

Trinity United Methodist Church, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield, will hold an Ash Wednesday service Feb. 22 at 7 pm.

★

The first Hymnsing for 2023 will be held Friday, March 3. The group will meet at New Liberty Baptist Church on Lexington Ave., in Lexington, one half mile south of Hanley Rd. This is a free event.

The congregation chooses the hymns from the hymnal and all join in to sing. The hymnsing starts at 7 pm and goes until 8:30 pm. The church is handicap accessible. Everyone is welcome.

★

The Lexington Area Senior Citizens Inc., invites those 55 and older to attend meetings the third Wednesday of every month at Der Dutchman Restaurant. Lunch begins at 11:30 am, followed by the meeting at 12:30 pm.

The meal on March 15, will include roast beef. The Strutt Your Stuff dancers will perform. Those attending are encouraged to wear green. Cost is \$15 for the meal. Guests are welcome. For information visit [www.lexasc.org](http://www.lexasc.org). Dues are \$10 per year.

On March 1, the group will meet for lunch at Cracker Barrel, 100 Stander Dr., at 11 am.

★

Ohioans who need help with winter heating bills can contact the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). HEAP benefits are applied to an individual's energy bill after Jan. 1. Applications for the HEAP program must be received by May 31, 2023.

HEAP helps Ohioans at or below 175 percent of the federal poverty guidelines pay their heating bills. Anyone age 18 and older may apply for this assistance. Those 60 and over can get assistance with filling out the application. All heating types are eligible, including electric, wood, coal, natural gas, propane and kerosene.

For a list of required documents, contact the Area Agency on Aging at 419-524-4144 or 800-860-5799 Monday-Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. To be connected to a local energy assistance provider, call 800-82-0880 (hearing impaired dial 711) or visit [www.energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://www.energyhelp.ohio.gov).

★

First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Ave. West, Mansfield, will be offering senior boxes on the fourth Tuesday of each month, year 'round. The Greater Cleveland Food Bank has a program called "Senior Boxes" whereby anyone 60+ who falls in the "low income" guidelines can register and then pick up a 30 pound box of non-perishables including 2 pounds of cheese and a 15 pound box of pre-packaged produce. Age is a qualification, so those attending should bring a current identification card complete with date of birth and proof of income. Distribution is on the east side of the building between 11:30 am and 1:30 pm to get registered and pick up your a box. There is no cost. Call 419-522-0662 for more information.

★

Clear Fork Baseball will host a spaghetti dinner Saturday, March 18, from 4-7 pm at

Clear Fork High School.

The dinner includes pasta and meatballs, rolls, salad, dessert and beverage. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$5 for age 6-18 and free for kids five and under. A family maximum charge is \$30.

The dinner will also feature a silent auction and raffle with proceeds going towards a new scoreboard.

★

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, Feb. 25 and 26. Acceptable items include steel and aluminum cans, crushed milk jugs, detergent bottles, plastic bottles with number 1 or 2 on the bottom, broken down cardboard, all papers included with the newspaper but no other magazines or paper. Please remove caps from bottles and rinse all containers well.

★

The annual Road Apple Run 5K race is scheduled for Saturday, March 4 at 10 am. Taking place on a scenic country road in northern Richland County, the course will pass several Amish farms and is mostly flat with wome slight upgrades. The race gets its name from the "exhaust" from frequent travel of horse drawn vehicles.

All proceeds will support the cross country and track teams at Crestview Local Schools. Awards are given to top male and female, along with first and second place male and female of each age group.

Register by Feb. 23 for a guaranteed t-shirt. Race day registration begins at 8:30 am at Crestview High School.

Register for \$25 at <https://registration.midohiorm.com/events/2023-road-apple-run-5k-road-race-01092023313?fbclid=IwAR->

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★

First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Avenue West, Mansfield, will celebrate the beginning of Lent with an Ash Wednesday communion service at 7 pm, Wednesday, Feb. 22.

★

Altrusa International, Inc. of Mansfield will be holding its 12th annual Spring Bash on Saturday, March 4, 2023 at the Mid-Ohio Conference Center. Doors open at 6 pm, with dinner catered by Port-A-Cook from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

Live entertainment by the SWAGG Party Band will fill the night with music from 7:30 pm to 11:30 pm.

Tickets are \$30, and can be purchased from any member of the Altrusa Club of Mansfield or online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/altrusa-spring-bash-2023-registration-511195368107>.

With a St. Patrick's Day theme of 'Lucky Stars and Shamrocks,' wear your greens and yellows! Round out the fun-filled evening with a chance to bid on silent auction baskets, try your luck with a 50/50 raffle, enter purse and/or liquor wagon auctions and purchase a Mystery Bag for \$10 while they last. All money raised supports Altrusa's community service projects.

★

City of Ontario Zoning Inspector Michael Morton has released the January 2023 zoning report.

Permits were issued to Charter Next Gen, W. Fourth St., for a driveway; FIT Chiropractic, August Dr., wall sign; Charter Next Gen, W. Fourth St., ground sign; Spyder Signs, 181 Industrial Pkwy., for concessions; Black Willow, Riggle Rd., concessions; Frenchie Roast, SR 430; and Chik-fil-a, Royalton Rd., concessions.

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*This Week's Pet  
Looking for  
A Forever Home*



*Hondoe*

This young man is 2 years old, has tons of energy, loves to play, gets along with other dogs, did fine with cats and he is hilari-

ous. Hondoe is also incredibly ornery.

He likes to walk himself on a leash (he holds it) and also plays tug of war with the leash. Hondoe loves sprinting after tennis balls. He does jump up on people a fair amount, but it's because he just wants people to pay attention to him.

Hondoe loves human attention and affection. He is looking for someone who will love him unconditionally, and, in return, he promises the same!

Hondoe is available at the Richland County Dog Shelter in Mansfield. Those interested in meeting him or any other dog, can contact or visit the Richland County Dog Warden's Office and Shelter. Hours are 11 am to 4:15 pm Monday-Friday and 10-2 on Saturday.

Adoptions are \$175, which includes spay/neuter, microchip, dog license and some vaccines.

Current needs are volunteers to walk and play with the dogs, bleach, laundry detergent and dog treats.



Photo By Mark Shutt

# Church Directory

**Clear Fork Alliance Church**

1008 State Route 97, Bellville  
419-886-4333 • [www.clearforkalliance.org](http://www.clearforkalliance.org)  
Rev. Matt Merendino  
Rev. Mike Stine, Associate Pastor  
9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship  
Sunday Evening 6 pm Home Groups  
Monday Men's Group 7:30 pm  
Wednesday evenings: 6:45 pm Prayer Meeting  
6:30-8 pm TeamKID and Youth Group  
Wednesday Ladies Bible Study 6:30-8 pm

**Community Bible Church**

1043 Springmill St., Mansfield  
567-560-8011  
[www.DiscoverCommunity.org](http://www.DiscoverCommunity.org)  
Pastor Sam Belsterling  
10:30 am Sunday Worship  
Live stream at <https://www.facebook.com/CommunityBibleChurchMansfield>

**First English Lutheran Church**

53 Park Avenue West, Mansfield  
419-522-0662 • [www.felc-mansfield.org](http://www.felc-mansfield.org)  
Pastor Miguel Acosta  
9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship  
Tuesday Bible Study 1 pm (East entrance)

**Lexington Presbyterian Church**

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

**Mansfield 1st EPC**

399 Trimble Rd., Mansfield  
419-756-7066 • [www.mansfield1st.com](http://www.mansfield1st.com)  
Rev. Joseph Yerger  
9 am Adult & Youth Sunday School  
10 am Sunday Worship

**Oakland Lutheran Church**

2045 Olivesburg Rd.  
419-571-9920  
Pastor Paul Lintern  
9 am Sunday Worship

**Ontario Christian Church**

1029 Lewis Rd., Ontario  
419-529-5684 • [ontariochristian.org](http://ontariochristian.org)  
Minister Steve Broughton  
9 am Sunday School  
10 am Sunday Worship

**Ontario United Methodist Church**

3540 Park Avenue West., Ontario  
419-529-4345 • [ontarioumc.com](http://ontarioumc.com)  
Pastor Christine Bell  
10:15 am Sunday Worship  
10:15 am Kingdom Kids

**Southside Christian Church  
Disciples of Christ**

2055 Middle-Bellville, Mansfield  
Streamed on Paul Lintern Facebook Page  
Sunday 10:45 am  
"A Refuge for Hymn-singers!"

**St. Mary of the Snows Catholic Church**

1630 Ashland Rd., Mansfield (Madison) 419-589-2114 • [www.mansfieldstmarys.org](http://www.mansfieldstmarys.org)  
Father John Miller  
Worship: 4 pm Saturday & 11 am Sunday  
5:30 pm Tuesday Worship  
8 am Friday Worship • Faith Instruction & Bible Study on Sunday Mornings

**St. John's United Church of Christ**

68 Park Avenue East, Mansfield  
419-522-2813 • [www.stjohnsmansfield.org](http://www.stjohnsmansfield.org)  
Pastor Faith Prioretti  
10 am Sunday Worship

To learn how to be added  
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[advertising@tribune-courier.com](mailto:advertising@tribune-courier.com)

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## Madison students will present *Into the Woods Jr.*

The Madison Choral Department will present *Into the Woods Jr.* in the Madison Middle School Auditoria Friday, March 17, at 7 pm, Saturday, March 18, at 7 pm and Sunday, March 19, at 2:30 pm.

Tickets are \$8 general admission and \$6 for students and seniors (60+). Tickets will be available for sale at the door prior to each performance and in the high school cashier's office during school hours.

With a book by James Lapine and music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, *Into the Woods Jr.* is based on the Broadway production which won several Tony Awards, including Best Score, Best Book, and Best Actress in a Musical.

The musical follows a baker and his wife who learn they've been cursed with childlessness by the witch next door. The couple embarks on a quest — swindling, deceiving and stealing from such already-victimized characters as Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel and Jack (fresh off the beanstalk!) —to get the special objects required to break the spell. However, the story doesn't simply end "happily ever after" as each character must now face the consequences of his/her decision.

A cast of 19 performers from grades 9–12 are currently in daily rehearsals prepping for opening night. Performing in the show are Emalie Green, baker's wife; Liam Paxton, baker; Lillian Christian, Cinderella; Caden Stewart, wolf; Sanaa David, Little Red Riding Hood; Karlie Wilson, Witch; Drake Remy, Rapunzel's prince; John Keogh, Cinderella's prince; Bri Studer, narrator; Piper Donahue, Rapunzel; Gage Workman, Jack; Loren Carmel, stepsister; Emma Finley, stepsister; Audrey Ward, stepmother; Courtney Cyrus, Cinderella's mother; Logan Waxter, Cinderella's father; Ashley Gusta, Granny; Jacob Ford, Steward; and Paityn Hall, Jack's mother.

## Amanda Radke will speak at free Farm Bureau event in Bucyrus

Crawford County Farm Bureau and Crawford County Cattlemen's Association are partnering to bring Amanda Radke, a South Dakota rancher, blogger and children's book author, to speak about agricultural advocacy on March 2, at 6:30 p. at the Bucyrus Nazarene Church, 2165 State Route 4, Bucyrus.

Radke's goal is to help promote agricultural literacy in schools to empower the next generation of consumers and to protect the farmers and ranchers providing the essentials of life for all.

Opening the evening will be Zoe Kent, an eighth-generation grain farmer and social media advocate from Crawford County, OH.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the Farm Bureau at 419-747-7488 or follow us on Facebook for details.

Ohio Farm Bureau's mission is working together for Ohio farmers to advance agriculture and strengthen our communities. Learn more at [crawford.ofbf.org](http://crawford.ofbf.org).



### Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

- Obbie Jarrell, February 4
- Tammy Renee Warner, February 13
- Timothy E. Guenther, February 15
- Jeffrey Lynn Meyers, February 15
- Dixie K. Guegold, February 16
- Loretta Moore, February 17
- Ronald Eugene Stamper, February 17
- Gary L. Guthrie, February 18

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

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

## NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

Wednesday, March 8, 2023,

WILL BE THE LAST DAY FOR PAYMENT OF **First HALF 2022** REAL ESTATE TAX WITHOUT PENALTY AND INTEREST

The County Treasurer is not legally responsible for your failure to receive proper bills — Sec. 323.13 R.C. Failure to receive a tax bill does not void interest and penalty — Sec. 323.08.

The following financial institutions and their branches are authorized agencies for receiving **First HALF 2022** real estate tax payments.

MECHANICS SAVINGS BANK  
CIVISTA BANK, SHELBY, OHIO

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**BART W. HAMILTON**  
**RICHLAND COUNTY TREASURER**

PHONE 419-774-5622

Office Hours: 8 am to 4 pm MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

# •Apple of My Eye officially opens

*(Continued from Front Page)*

in 3D/4D in the womb and the many boding moments that took place.”

“Kyle and I were talking about it again just around Thanksgiving time, and we’re like “let’s just do it, let’s take the leap and make it happen. We thought it would be a

huge blessing to families in our area, as they wouldn’t need to drive as far and could also have this wonderful opportunity. It’s something we are passionate about, and here we are today! Thank you so much for celebrating with us.”

Right now, the studio is by appointment only, and they also provide evening and weekend appointment opportunities.

“Sometimes babies are more active at night, so we like to give the option for evening hours,” said Alisha.

Alisha and Kyle can’t wait for the Mansfield area to come and experience the studio for themselves and share it with others.

“We look forward to meeting more parents and babies very soon.”

While their 4D HD Ultrasound services are a primary reason why clients come in, they also offer DNA gender testing services.

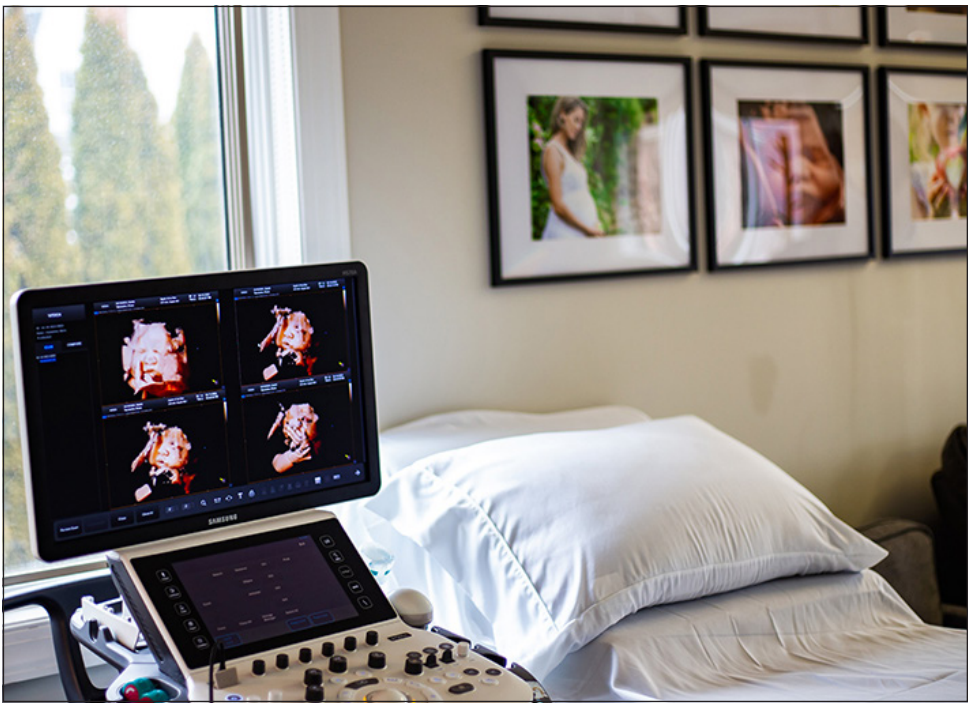
Sometimes finding out the gender of your baby just can’t wait. Many insurances won’t cover this testing until around 12 weeks, and it usually costs hundreds of dollars to pay for it out-of-pocket.

Apple of My Eye Imaging Studio can determine a baby’s gender as early as seven weeks for the affordable cost of \$129.99.

A certified phlebotomist can perform a simple blooddraw with the results back in just a couple of business days. Call and book your appointment as early as this Friday, Feb. 24 starting at 9 am.

Visit the website at [www.appleofmyeyeimaging.com](http://www.appleofmyeyeimaging.com), or on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/appleofmyeyeimaging>, on Instagram at [www.instagram.com/appleofmyeyeimaging](http://www.instagram.com/appleofmyeyeimaging), or give them at call at 419-823-9256.

Email them at [info@appleofmyeyeimaging.com](mailto:info@appleofmyeyeimaging.com) with any questions.



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**APPLE OF MY EYE**

*imaging studio*

**3D/4D HD ultrasound**

experience for expecting mothers



# Richland Academy of the Arts continues to offer wide array of classes and activities

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Richland Academy of the Arts is the area's leading extracurricular arts academy. It provides students of all ages and experience with an opportunity to explore the artist within. Its important mission, to foster, through artistic expression, the creative potential that exists in everyone to enrich the lives of our neighbors, our community and the world at large, changes lives every day.

"We need to continue telling our stories and sharing our dreams. This is important work, and we have inspiring teachers and an amazing space in downtown Mansfield to develop our mission," says Executive Director, Dr. Michael Benson.

RAA was founded in 1991 as a non-profit community multi-arts education center. Over the years it has grown and developed a robust and diverse curriculum. The valued, year-round classes, offer excellent opportunities for all ages! During the 2021-2022 year, 1,396 students registered and attended a total of 8,243 weekly classes. A total of 8,661 people attended performances and events on and off campus.

RAA has served thousands of students and families during the past 31 years through their Tuition Assistance Program and has awarded over \$750,160 to families in need of financial assistance. "We award an average of \$25,000 to qualifying students in Richland County and surrounding communities annually. Scholarships are funded through community donations and the \$250,000 endowed Neil Doerman Scholarship Trust designated to RAA in 2018," said Dr. Benson.

RAA is an intentional community where the power and joy of arts education is accessible to all! The possibilities to try martial arts, music, dance, theatre and visual arts are nearly endless.

The staff believes in their calling to educate the next generation of artists in Richland County. Students also commute from Ashland, Crawford, Knox, Morrow, Erie, and surrounding counties.

Assistant Director and Director of the Community Schools Program, Sheri Hughes, said, "I began as a parent of a student, and then as a volunteer with my husband, back in January of 1992. I started by taking care of the building, and learning how things work, as everything here is important and has a purpose. I became Assistant Director in 2015 and Director of our Community Schools Program in 2018. As a nonprofit, the staff tends to wear multiple hats. Everyone here is wonderful and we work well together and are supportive of

one another. It's a great place to be and work.

"I love our purpose which is art education and finding and enjoying that inner creativity. Art is very important for personal and community reasons, and I like to think we do a good job at it," said Hughes.

Her daughter teaches the little ones in Theatre and she loves watching the infant to toddler grow within the RAA programming and being able to witness the family unit grow along with their child.

"It's fun to follow the generational journey, and it's neat when they come back as an older adult," Hughes said.

"I especially love that we are a place for all! Once you come in and start learning something and find an interest in it, it usually becomes a lifelong love! It is something you can always come back to and find a joy or pleasure picking back up again later in life. Music together class is really special as the parent is actively involved and learns how to enjoy music with their growing child. I think music and art bond a family. I've watched siblings, many times the brothers, who were once just waiting in the lobby for their sister to get done with a class, decide to try a class. Many of the boys enjoy the option to take the martial arts classes."

"My mother takes classes here and my daughter teaches. She went from dance to theatre and also took private music lessons and became a singer. Now her children (ages 10 and 5) take classes here."

"The ability to watch generations enjoy art together is a true joy! Passing down the gift of art and creativity, is a legacy worth preserving!"

Hughes is a lifelong resident of Richland County. She is a graduate of Lexington and later moved to the Lucas area. "There are certain schools that can't offer everything, so we fill the need when necessary. The districts can only do so much, so students can explore their individual passions here at Richland Academy of the Arts."

Currently RAA sponsors five community schools (also referred to as charter schools outside of Ohio): Case Preparatory School in Akron, Northside Prep Academy in Cincinnati, Lorain Bilingual Prep Academy in Lorain, and Columbus Bilingual Academy North and Cesar Chavez College Preparatory School in Columbus. Next fall, RAA is bringing on three more schools for the 2023-'24 school year. They will be expanding to the Mount Vernon and Tiffin areas. There is a rigorous application process, site visits, oversight, monitoring

(Continued on Page 10)



**THE SENIOR STRETCH CLASS** with Sarah Horrigan-Ramos is held on Thursday mornings from 11-11:45 am. This class uses the concepts of Yoga developed to improve the physical and mental health of the participants. Stretching has been shown to be effective in reducing anxiety, protecting joints, building balance, mood boosting, lowering blood pressure and strengthening bones. Sarah is Dance Department Chair Ballet, Modern (Horton Technique), Jazz & Early Dance.



# Castle Noel, a year ‘round magical experience

Photos and Article By Jenna Wolford

The Christmas season may be over, but Castle Noel in Medina keeps the Christmas spirit alive year ‘round with its unique collection of Christmas movie props, displays and memorabilia.

My family and I took a quick trip northeast this past weekend to visit Castle Noel during the 29th Annual Medina Ice Festival.

Located downtown with plenty of free parking nearby, Castle Noel is located inside a 40,000 square foot building which was formerly a Methodist Church built in the late 1800s. It is the perfect location, allowing for a winding tour that leads visitors to what seems to be endless rooms of iconic memorabilia.

As we began our guided tour, we started with an introduction video in a room covered in posters, records and framed photographs from numerous Christmas movies. I noted a few autographed pictures including one signed by Tim Allen and Martin Short from *The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause*.

We were introduced to our tour guide, Dwight, and then started our walking tour. Our first stop was outside to see the famous motorhome from 1989’s *National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation*.

After some photo opps, we returned inside and were able to view a beautiful, massive cuckoo clock which was originally designed for Lord and Taylor. The clock is fully operational and each tour gets to see it in full grandeur, complete with moving parts and music.

Although Castle Noel’s primary draw is all things Christmas, there is even more to see during a visit to America’s Largest Indoor Year-Round Christmas Entertainment Attraction.

A hallway filled with framed photographs, many of them autographed, led us toward the Blizzard Vortex walkway and onto the “I Had That” Toyland experience.

My senses were on overload as I entered the room covered from floor to ceiling with toys, games and collectables. I could have spent

an hour or more just there.

Officially opened earlier this winter, the collection includes a 9-foot tall Megawheel Hotwheel track which guests walk under as a rotating arch of 1,000 Hotwheel vehicles.

The toy selection spans generations and many of the classics that I remember seeing in commercials in my childhood years — Teddy Ruxpin anyone? There were many toys that I really could say “I Had That” including a vintage Barbie house, Cabbage Patch Dolls, Popples and Lite Brite. You could walk through this section 10 times and still see something you missed.

Our tour guide, Dwight, was very knowledgeable and took us on an over two-hour adventure, stopping at each piece to describe in detail when and where it was used. We kept a nice pace but I never felt like we were being rushed to go to the next item. We truly were able to enjoy the moment.

Castle Noel is the the world’s largest privately owned collection of Hollywood Christmas movie props and costumes. There is something to see absolutely everywhere you look and I wouldn’t do it justice if I tried to list everything — it’s just something you have to see for yourself.

One room has 100,000 ornaments adorning the ceiling and walls. It also includes the Santa’s Chimney Squeeze where guests can experience where Santa trains for his yearly chimney visits.

Along the tour route, hallways are lined with display cases including many unique pieces.

Owner Mark “Klaus” and his crew are dedicated to accuracy and some of the displays had to be recreated by using a coffee table book about the various displays in NYC. One entire hallway is dedicated to the 1997 Nutcracker displays from Saks Fifth Avenue. These are beautifully kept and are animated with their original movements.

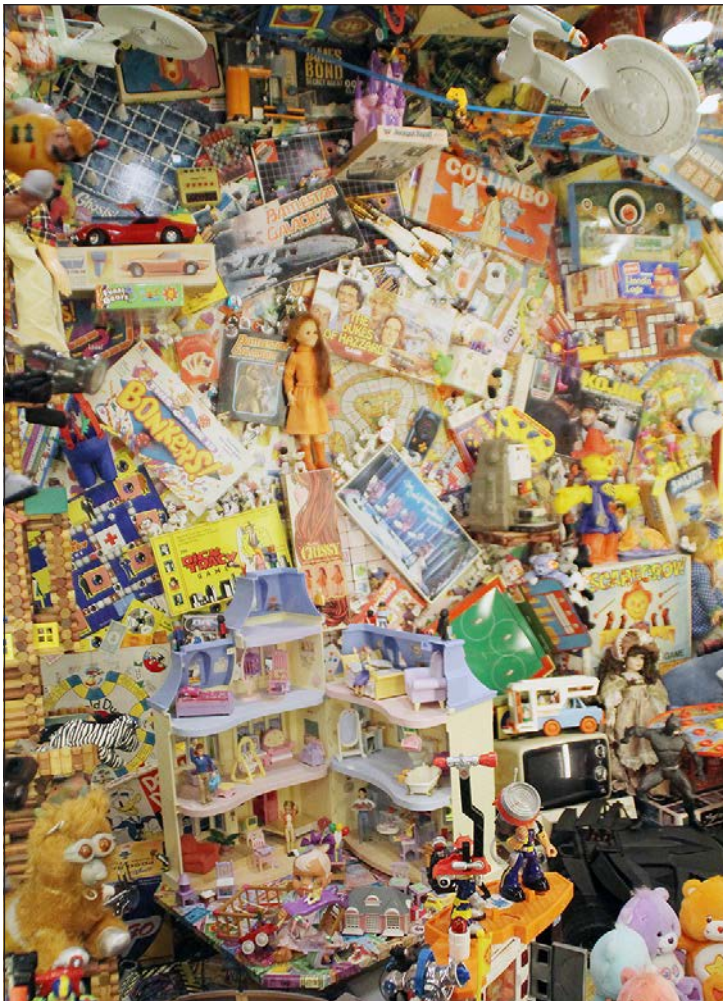
There are over 400 *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* movie props from the 2000 film starring Jim Carrey This includes Cindy-Lou Who’s bedroom, the Grinch costume, the famous sleigh, numerous Who-ville costumes and props and Max’s dog house.

Two Disney window displays have recently been added to the collection. Mark gave up his office space to create a showing area for these unique and rare displays that are over 50 years old. These are two of only 11 window displays to ever leave Walt Disney World Park. These were originally displayed on Main Street USA and designed by the original Disney Imagineers.

One features a forest scene of scary tree creatures and Snow White. Snow was out for restoration during our visit but should be restored to the display shortly. The second window is a kitchen scene from *101 Dalmations* featuring Roger and Anita, Cruella and Nanny along with Perdita and a few of the puppies.

One of my favorite collections was dedicated to *Elf* (Will Ferrell) with costumes, props and other items including Buddy’s gift “for that special someone.” One of the prominent pieces is Ferrell’s iconic green costume which we were told was tailored to make Buddy the Elf seem even taller than he actually was.

(Continued on Page 9)





# •A year ‘round magical experience

(Continued from Page 8)

Another of my favorite sections is the Master Hall. This area includes a 28-foot tall castle which has 120 miles of fiber optics. This room is the grand finale and contains costumes and props from *The Santa Clause* movies (Tim Allen), Turbo Man and Booster costumes from *Jingle All The Way* (Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sinbad) and too many items to count from *How The Grinch Stole Christmas* (Jim Carrey).

At the end of our journey was the iconic red slide from *A Christmas Story*. Guests are invited to climb to the top of Santa Klaus Mountain and take a fun ride down as they pretend to be Ralphie. A professional photo is available as a souvenir.

Those 80 and older get their photo and autograph placed on a special celebration wall. In our tour group, a few had reached this age milestone and gladly acted like a kid again and slid down.

The castle collection is always growing and Mark “Klaus” is always looking for a new item to display. During our visit, he stepped out of his workshop to greet our tour. He is always working on the next project and he keeps the collection alive by evolving it constantly. We had someone in our tour group who had visited in October and he said that things had been added and improved just since then.

With something new to see so often, we will surely be back for another visit soon!

Coming this November is the authenticated original Santa Claus suit from the 1934 *Miracle of 34th Street* film. Also planned for 2023 is Mark Klaus’ Tiki Bar with an outside patio, firepit and props from around the world. Restoration is also underway on Christmas window displays from Toronto, Canada.

Castle Noel has special events planned throughout the year and is located at 260 S. Court St., Medina. Reservations are required for tours and can be made at [castlenoel.com](http://castlenoel.com) or by calling 1-330-721-NOEL. More information, updates and videos can also be found at <https://www.facebook.com/CastleNoel>.





# •Richland Academy of the Arts continues to offer wide array of classes and activities

(Continued from Page 7)

and technical assistance needed with this process. There are numerous laws that need to be followed along with a contract with the Ohio Department of Education. The educational standards are very high in order to keep the sponsorship spot. RAA is one of five non-profit sponsors in the state of Ohio.

Enrollment has been fantastic, but RAA always welcomes more students ready to express themselves through the arts! Coming soon, they will be offering an African Drumming and Dance class. Instructor Sogbety Diomande, a master level teacher, will be teaching this class for all ages and skill levels. He states, "this is a great way for students to be immersed in the culture of West Africa. They will learn about rhythms, songs, and languages found in the villages of the Ivory Coast. Residents will be custom tailored to fit students' needs. Performance may be included with students participating."

A wide range of Senior 60+ Classes are available: Technology and Computers, Chair Ballet, Stretch, Strut Your Stuff, Keyboarding, Drumming, Guitar and Ukulele, Ceramics, Studio Art and Alternate Mediums using pastels, drawing and painting.

Stay tuned for upcoming shows throughout the year. There will be a Richland Academy Dance Ensemble Concert on March 18 at 7 pm. This will be at the new Robert Whitney Performing Arts Facility at Lexington High School and feature performances by rade, rade jr., radKidz and radKidz2.

Sarah Horrigan-Ramos is the Dance Department Chair for Ballet, Modern (Horton Technique), Jazz and Early Dance at Richland Academy of The Arts. She moved to Mansfield in 2008 to teach at the Academy. Here's what she had to say about her RAA family,

"RAA is an amazing organization. We have so many arts enrichment programs available to the community. We teach a variety of age groups in all of our art forms. From the earliest Mommy & Me

music classes all the way up to the 60+ age group classes. We have opportunities for dancers at every level. A student can even just take one dance class a week if they want. If dance becomes a passion and student become dedicated to the hours it takes to become an advanced dancer, we have the teachers who can guide them to become the best dancer they can be."

RAA has dance classes for all age groups and levels; ballet, tap, jazz, and modern. The extensive background of their instructors, Marden Ramos, Erin Wolford and Sarah Horrigan-Ramos, enables them to teach advanced levels of each of these dance techniques, which is very unique.

"We produce three major dance performances, the annual Nutcracker Ballet, RADE (Richland Academy Dance Ensemble) show and two recitals at the end of the year. One recital is for the mini dancers (ages 3-5) and the other is for our older group, (ages 6-18 years)," said Horrigan.

RAA also hosts the All-Ohio Dance Festival which brings over 400 dancers to the studio and offers master classes to dancers around Ohio. The dancers are encouraged to participate in other master classes in the area, there are organized trips to dance performances, and opportunities for them to expand their training are looked for.

Sarah went onto say, "our dancers also train during the summer months, as we participate in many community festivals. The students not only learn a lot of dance technique, but they also learn life lessons and skills such as leadership, cooperation, time management, work ethic, among others."

"The staff at RAA is all wonderful. We have a small team, but everyone is willing to spend the extra hours needed to make all of our performances and classes the best they can be for our students and families! Many of the Academy's dance company alumni have gone on to study dance in college, perform in various dance companies, and pursue a career in teaching dance! We believe our dance programs prepare our students with the mental and physical discipline, time management, problem solving, and performance skills needed for life. Our students become lifelong patrons of the arts, whether they are on or off the stage," said Sarah.

To become a student find the academy online at richlandacademy.com or call at 419-522-8224. Tuition Assistance and Merit Scholarships are available, and applications are accepted year-round! Find RAA on facebook - @richlandacademy, and on Instagram - @richlandacademyofthearts.

Richland Academy of The Arts believes that every member of our community is able to explore, discover, unlock and refine their inner artist under professional guidance across a wide range of artistic disciplines. Regardless of age, experience level or background, transformation is at your fingertips through dance, music, visual arts, theatre and martial arts. Unlock your creativity and try a class at Richland Academy of The Arts today! Or perhaps you would be interested in donating to this great cause? Give the gift of the arts and donate during Richland Gives at <https://richlandgives.mightycause.com/organization/Richland-Academy-Of-The-Arts>.



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SARAH HERRIGAN-RAMOS leads the senior stretch class at Richland Academy of the Arts.



## Richland Academy plans spring dance concert for March 18

Richland Academy of the Arts dance department will be presenting their 2023 spring dance performance on Saturday March 18 at 7 pm at Lexington High School in the new Robert Whitney Performing Arts Facility. RADE (Richland Academy Dance Ensemble) is one of the Academy's pre-professional dance groups, where members undergo hours of weekly training to enhance their skills, improve technique and pursue their passion for dance.

In this program, attendees will enjoy a variety of dance styles; ballet, jazz, tap & contemporary, including Broadway's "Step in Time" from Mary Poppins and "Come on Everybody" from All Shook Up. It will also feature classical ballet excerpts from La Bayadere, Esmeralda & The Dying Swan variation accompanied by violinist, Joseph Litao. Original choreography by Marden Ramos, Erin Wolford and Sarah Horrigan-Ramos showcases Academy dancers' full range of ability and talent.

This year the Academy is celebrating four high school seniors: Carmella Desterhaft, Lucas; Kaylyn Kent, Lucas; Justice Gardner, Madison; Delaney O'Brien, Ashland. Each of our seniors has dance at the Richland Academy for over 10 years; their final RADE show performance is the culmination of their dedication, hard work and training. They are excited to dance their senior solo's and look forward to performing for their friends, family & community!

Many of the Academy's dance company alumni have gone on to study dance in college, perform in various dance companies, and pursue a career in teaching dance. The Academy believes that their dance programs not only teach students proper technique but also mental and physical discipline, time management, problem solving, and performance skills.

Tickets for this in-person performance will be available Friday, Feb. 24 at noon. Tickets run \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors, students and veterans. The program will run for approximately 2 hours.

For more information call 419-522-8224 or visit [www.richlandacademy.com](http://www.richlandacademy.com). Richland Academy is located at the corner of 4th and Walnut St. It was founded in 1991 and is supported by the Ohio Arts Council.

## Richland County Regional Planning receives \$65,662 for Mobility Management Grant

Richland County Regional Planning Commission (RCRPC) Executive Director Jotika Shetty announced the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) awarded \$65,662 in federal transportation funding for Ohio's Specialized Transportation (5310) Program to Regional Planning for program year 2023.

These grant funds will be used to continue to assist in financing coordination projects of the Richland County Mobility Management program, and enhance mobility efforts in our community.

"These funds allow our Mobility Manager, Lyndsie Martin, to continue to coordinate county-wide transportation services between local human service agencies and transportation providers, work to help bridge the gaps in transportation barriers, and act as a resource for transportation needs in the community," said Shetty.

RCRPC serves as the broker between these human service agencies and transportation providers scheduling trips, determining transportation options that meet emotional and financial needs of themselves and their clients, and handling all invoicing and billing between the two.

RCRPC is responsible for completing the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Service Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan) as part of the 5310 grant requirements. The purpose of this plan is to identify community resources for transportation and mobility, to understand the gaps and unmet needs within those resources, and to determine the approach to addressing those gaps and needs. ODOT uses this Coordinated Plan to ensure that requested projects address identified unmet needs and are in compliance with Federal Transit law and guidance.

For information about ODOT/Mobility Management visit <https://www.transportation.ohio.gov/programs/transit/transit-funding-resources/mobility-management>

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## Richland Academy Dance Ensemble

### Spring Dance Concert 2023

**March 18, 7:00 pm**  
**Lexington High School**

Featuring performances by  
rade, rade jr., radKidz, and radKidz2

Tickets on sale starting February 24!  
\$15 - adults  
\$10 - students, veterans, & seniors

scan the QR code to buy tickets now!



# Foundation funds community center and sports complex

The Richland County Foundation Board of Trustees approved grants totaling \$3,468,689 during its February meeting.

The North End Community Improvement Collaborative Community Impact Center received a grant for its new multi-purpose facility to serve youth, adults, and seniors. The Impact Center will host NECIC's housing and community development program, minority business assistance, supportive social services, youth and adult employment and workforce development, and a commercial kitchen. Space will be leased to provide direct services such as healthcare, legal and financial services.

YMCA of North Central Ohio received a grant for its indoor/outdoor sports complex in Bellville. The complex will feature soccer and an all-purpose area for other sports such as basketball, volleyball, and pickleball. The building will feature a fitness area, sports medicine, coffee shop, food service, and a sports gear retail shop.

Ronald McDonald House of Central Ohio received a grant for its Helping Hands Program. Families with a seriously ill child hospitalized at National Children's Hospital can stay at the Ronald McDonald House while their child receives treatment. This grant will help cover costs for Richland County families.

Four career technical education scholarships were approved for students to earn a certification at a technical institution. The Scholarship Committee implemented a rolling deadline for CTE scholarships to meet various enrollment opportunities. In aligning with Ohio's Attainment Goal, the Foundation wants to help fill the gap between job openings and certified employees as well as lead the way to support workforce development through CTE scholarships.

Graduating high school seniors and current college students from Richland County are eligible to apply for college and career technical education scholarships.

New applicants including high school seniors must have at least a 2.5 grade point average (GPA), and returning applicants must have at least a 2.0 GPA, attend an accredited school and be a resident or high school graduate of Richland County. The deadline for college scholarship applications is April 1.

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

The following organizations received grants from donor-advised funds: Alzheimer's Association, NW Ohio Chapter, American Red Cross, American Red Cross East Central Ohio, Area Agency on Aging, Buckeye Imagination Museum, Community Foundation of Otsego County, Inc., Crawford County United Way, Domestic Violence Shelter, Family Planning of South-Central New York, Family Service Association, Fenimore Art Museum, Friends of the Richland County Park District, Galion Community Center - YMCA, Glimmerglass Festival, Habitat for Humanity - Richland County, Heartwood, Helios Care, Highlands Nature Center, Killbuck Water Shed Land Trust, Lucas Local Schools, Mansfield City Schools, Mansfield-Richland County Spelling Bee, Mid-Ohio Youth Mentoring, Nature Conservancy, North Central Ohio Land Conservancy, North Central State College and Foundation, North End Community Improvement Collaborative, Nuhop Center for Experiential Learning, Ohio Bird Sanctuary, Ohio Environmental Council, OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital,

Ohio Heartland Community Action Center, Pathfinder Village Foundation, Inc., Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio, Raemelon Therapeutic Equestrian Center, Rails to Trails of Wayne County, Renaissance Theatre, Richland County Agricultural Society, Richland Pregnancy Services, Ronald McDonald House of Central Ohio, Rubies Women's Group, Shelby Helpline Ministries, Sierra Club Foundation, Sierra Club Ohio, Soundwaters, Inc., Springbrook Foundation, St. Peter's Parish, The Ocean Conservancy, United Way of Ashland County, United Way of North Central Ohio, United Way of Richland County, Wayne Center for the Arts, Wooster Community Hospital Foundation and YMCA of North Central Ohio.

The board allocated grants from donor-designated and agency funds. Agency funds are established by charitable organizations and can be endowed or non-endowed. The agency benefits from the Foundation's professional asset management, which allows the agency's staff and board to focus on providing services to their constituents.

Designated funds provide annual support to the charities selected by the donor. They offer the added benefit that if the organization ceases to exist the Foundation has the responsibility to ensure that the donor's original intent is met in seeking a new suitable organization.

The board approved grants from donor designated and agency funds to the following organizations: AA/Mansfield Intergroup, American Guernsey Foundation, American Red Cross, Ashland University, Buckeye Council Boy Scouts of America, Catholic Charities, Catalyst Life Services, Center for Individual and Family Services, Children's Dyslexia Center, Children's Theatre Foundation, Clear Fork Valley Foundation, Community Action for Capable Youth, Discovery School, Domestic Violence Shelter, Downtown Mansfield Inc., First Christian Church, Mansfield, First Congregational Church, Friendly House Association, Friends of Richland County Park District, Habitat for Humanity Richland County, Hospice of North Central Ohio, Kingwood Center Gardens, Lucas Local Schools, Malabar Farm Foundation, Mansfield Richland Public Library, Mansfield 1st Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Mansfield Area Y, Mansfield Art Center, Mansfield Aviation Club, Mansfield Cancer Foundation, Mansfield Cancer Foundation - Pat Kracker, Mansfield Christian School, Mansfield City Schools, Mansfield Memorial Homes, Mansfield Playhouse, Mansfield Police Department, Mansfield Rotary Club Foundation, Inc., Mansfield/Richland Public Library, Methodist Theological Seminary, North Central Ohio Alzheimer's Association, North Central Ohio Land Conservancy, North Central State College, North Central State College Foundation, North End Community Improvement Collaborative, Ohio Bird Sanctuary, Ohio Genealogical Society, OhioHealth Foundation, OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital, Ohio State College of Medicine, Ohio State University - Mansfield, Ontario Local Schools, Ontario Police Department, OSU/NCSC Photo Arts Programs, Pioneer Career and Technology Center, Plymouth Area Historical Museum, Renaissance Performing Arts Association, Renaissance Theatre, Richard David Gardner Fund, Richland Academy of the Arts, Richland Carousel Park, Richland Community Development Group, Richland County Children Services, Richland County Historical Society, Richland County Museum, Richland County Sheriff's Office, Richland Newhope Center, Richland Newhope Industries, Richland Pregnancy Services, Salvation Army, Shelby Helpline Ministries, St. John's Church, The New Store, Third Street Family Health Services, Trapshooting Hall of Fame Inc., United Way of Richland County, University Club and Volunteers of America.

The Richland County Foundation, a not-for-profit 501c3, was established in 1945 as a way for individuals to pool and invest their gifts for the long-term good of Richland County and its residents.

The Foundation helps people in Richland County give back to their community by investing their gifts for charity wisely so that grants can be made to improve the quality of life for all the county's citizens.



COMPUTER RENDERING of the NECIC Impact Center as viewed from Bowman St.

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# Alien Vacation Mini Golf offers out-of-this-world fun

Photos and Article By Jenna Wolford

If you and your family are looking for a unique mini golf course, look no further than Alien Vacation Mini Golf in Medina.

Co-located with Castle Noel, the indoor mini golf's entrance is just around the corner from the castle.

My family and I have been known to seek out fun and unusual mini golf courses, but I must say Alien Vacation Mini Golf was my first 3-D experience.

Donning 3-D glasses, golfers putt for 19 holes illuminated in blacklight. These glasses make the unique rooms come to life and sometimes even make your golf ball look like its floating off the floor. This 3D effect gives an all-new challenge when trying to putt correctly, especially when stationary items seem to be moving.

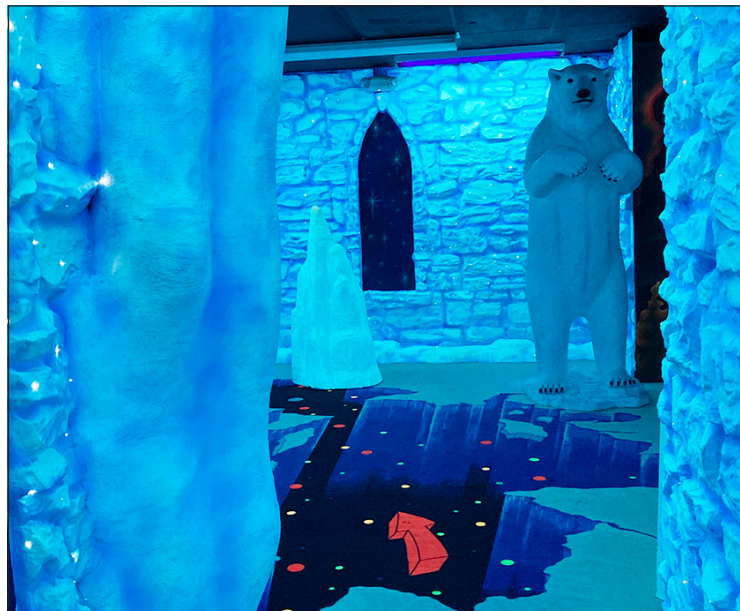
The course features special ramps, glowing carpet designs and interactive decor including an alien spaceship. Throughout the course, guests will experience lasers, sci-fi movie props and fiber optics. Its definitely a place to visit for all ages and a great winter blues buster.

The course is evolving into Alien Vacation Mini Golf & Sci-Fi Movie Museum with the addition of props and costumes from *Men in Black 1, 2 and 3*, *Land of the Lost 6*, *StarTrek*, *Alien Hunter*, *Cone Heads*, *Space Balls*, *Galaxy Quest* and more. Watch <http://www.alienvacationminigolf.com> for details.

alienvacationminigolf.com for details.

Also be on the lookout for special events including one for "May the 4th Be With You."

Visit the website or call 330-721-1224 for more information on mini golf hours, party rentals and more. Alien Vacation Mini Golf is located at 260 S. Court St., Medina.



THE 29TH ANNUAL MEDINA ICE FESTIVAL opened on Friday, Feb. 17, with over 120 sculptures around town. This sculpture could be found in front of Alien Vacation Mini Golf.







**PIONEER PRESCHOOL** partnered with the Pioneer Culinary Lab to make Valentine Pancakes.

## Pioneer students recognized

Pioneer Career and Technology Center announced Isabel Alt and Elisha Burson as the January 2023 Students of the Month.

Isabel is enrolled in the Meat & Animal Science program at Pioneer. She was nominated by Phil Johnson, Meat & Animal Science instructor. Isabel is a senior from Lucas High School and is the daughter of Mark Alt and Tina Wells.

At Lucas, Isabel plays softball for the Cubs and is a member of Lucas National Honor Society. She is involved in the Pioneer FFA Meat Judging Team.

Isabel states, "Pioneer has provided experiences that I otherwise would not have had the opportunity to be a part of. Pioneer has given me the chance to develop skills that I will need to run a small business." She is thankful for the opportunity to meet and work with students from different backgrounds.

Elisha is enrolled in the Health Assistant program at Pioneer. She was nominated by Terri Crain, Health Assistant instructor. Elisha is a senior from Ontario High School, and is the daughter of Troy & Amanda Burson.

At Ontario, Elisha plays varsity tennis for the Warriors. She is also a member of the National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society at Pioneer.

In her spare time, Elisha works as an office aide at Richland Pregnancy Services and a salesperson at HobbyTown.

Elisha shares, "My experience at Pioneer has provided me with the skills I need to succeed in the workforce. All my teachers have provided me with ample support and have helped me feel like I can really succeed."

In the future, Elisha plans to attend Cedarville University for Secondary Social Studies Education and become a history teacher.



**Isabel Alt**



**Elisha Burson**



Ontario Middle School Leadership Council hosted a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast in the library on Feb. 15. Students arrived early to decorate, set tables and provide casseroles, fruits, breads, cheeses, yogurts and beverages. There was even enough for student helpers to enjoy.



## Ontario School Board continues preparing for this year and next

Mr. Tod Petit, Stingel Guidance Counselor, and Leadership Students presented their recent activities during the Ontario Local Schools Board of Education meeting on Feb. 14.

The board voted to employ certificated staff personnel on one-year contracts as returning retire/rehire teachers for the 2023-'24 school year. These included Jim Buker, high school Industrial Technology; and Linda Cooper, Stingel Intervention Specialist.

Substitute classified staff personnel approved for the 2022-'23 school year included Jennifer Hummel, secretary, secretary aide and cafeteria.

The board voted to approve employment of temporary substitute teachers for the current school year. These are Lori Porter, Ontario Middle School/Ontario High School; and Wes Remy, Ontario Middle School/Ontario High School.

The New Board Policy 5330.03 was approved concerning procurement and use of asthma inhalers in emergency situations.

Maggie Voytko and Tara Puckett were approved as third grade tutors. Extracurricular/supplemental staff for the current school year include Mike Ellis, varsity baseball head coach, \$5,210; Pete Brophy, volunteer baseball assistant coach, \$0; Sean Snow, varsity softball head coach, \$4,358 Meredith Remy, JV varsity softball coach, \$3,512; Mike Mullins, volunteer softball coach, \$0; Scott Kreger, volunteer softball coach, \$0; Cary Carcione, head boys tennis coach, \$4,196; Ty Carcione, volunteer boys tennis coach, \$0; Luke Webster, assistant boys tennis coach, \$2,202; Evan Booker, volunteer boys tennis assistant coach, \$0; Mike Lyons, OHS head track coach, \$6,770; and Annalee Stover, OMS head track coach, \$4,328.

Three coaches sharing two positions will be Doug Basham, varsity baseball assistant coach, \$2,797; Dan Hall, varsity baseball assistant coach, \$2,797; and Vinny Sansalone, JV baseball coach, \$2,797.

The board approved the new Middle School PBIS Fund. Donations were accepted from Ontario Warrior Wear, \$2,000 to the Ontario Schools Safety and Security Fund; Ontario Boosters Club, \$3,383 for the Rolling American Flag Reimbursement; and American Online Giving Foundation, \$500 to Stingel.

The board approved the high school Course Offering Guide for the 2023-'24 school year and the 2022-'23 school year calendar that reflects an added early release date and a change in the last day of school for students in kindergarten through third grade due to state mandated Dyslexia training.

The board approved the 2023-'24 and 2024-'25 school year calendars. Facility requests were also approved.

The next meeting will be held on March 14.

## News Briefs in Education

Maelene Haynie of Mansfield was named to Montclair State University's Fall 2022 Dean's List. Haynie is a Fashion Studies major.

She was among more than 6,000 students named to the list. To qualify, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Montclair State University is 12 miles from New York City.



MS. HAVER'S CHEMISTRY LAB students at Ontario High School calculate the concentration of acetic acid in vinegar using a technique called titration. They were wrapping up a chapter on acids and bases.

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ONTARIO MIDDLE SCHOOL Warrior Leadership Council students showered counselor Mr. Boyd with gifts and kindness hearts to show appreciation for all he does for the students at OMS.

## Richland SWCD Pond clinic set for March 7

Ponds can create a sense of serenity, a focal point and a source of recreation on a property. They can also be used as a source of drinking water, fire suppression and watering source for crops and livestock.

Many people think creating and owning a pond is as simple as digging a hole and letting it fill up with water. There are a lot of factors you must consider which include how to stock and manage a pond.

Those with questions about a new or existing pond can attend the free pond clinic on March 7 from 5-7 pm at the Cooke Family Wildlife Conservation Park, 4774 Rt. 13, Shiloh.

The Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD) is hosting the Pond Clinic in partnership with Morrow, Knox and Ashland Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Steve Fender of Fenders Fish Hatchery is the guest speaker and will be available to answer pond questions.

Register for the Clinic at <https://richlandswcd.net/event/pond-clinic-3/>.

For more information call 419-747-8697 or visit <https://richlandswcd.net>.

## Ohio House Republicans reveal 'Ohio is Our Home' priority bills

The Ohio House Republican Caucus has announced the upcoming House priority bills for the 135th General Assembly. Speaker Jason Stephens (R-Kitts Hill) was joined by several members of the House Republican Caucus to outline details on the bills during a press conference.

"I am proud to be here today as we layout our plan of action to deliver for the people of Ohio," said Stephens. "The House Republicans are putting forth an agenda all about growing the economy, protecting Ohio families, and educating our communities."

Details on the twelve priority bills includes the following:

### Growing our Economy

House Bill 1 - Lower and flatten our taxes to ensure all Ohioans can keep more of their hard-earned dollars.

House Bill 2 - Invest in projects across the state to foster

economic growth and community development.

House Bill 3 - Support affordable housing development to draw additional economic opportunity.

House Bill 4 - Ensure an open market with diversified investment portfolios.

### Protecting our Families

House Bill 5 - Make adoption more accessible and affordable for loving Ohio families.

House Bill 6 - Protect the integrity of girls' sports and make certain that biological males cannot compete in female-only athletics.

House Bill 7 - Provide a strong foundation for both mothers and babies in their first 1,000 days to address maternal and infant mortality.

House Bill 8 - Preserve the fundamental role that parents play in the education of their children.

### Educating our Communities

House Bill 9 - Address the teacher retention crisis.

House Bill 10 - Secure commitment for the 'Fair School Funding Plan' that is based on the cost of providing a quality education.

House Bill 11 - Create a child-first model for education, allowing students to have their educational funding follow them to the school that best suits their needs.

House Bill 12 - Recalibrate the State's approach to education to serve Ohio's students better for career readiness.

"Ohioans reserve to live prosperous lives without the weight of overbearing taxes," said State Rep. Adam Mathews (R-Lebanon) said of House Bill 1. "I made this a priority as vice mayor, and I am looking forward to continuing to making strides for all of Ohio."

"I'm proud to introduce this bipartisan bill providing a tax

credit for certain affordable housing in our communities, which will help attract a more prosperous workforce to fulfill the business-needs, and ultimately boost our economy here in Ohio," said State Rep. Gail Pavliga (R-Portage County), regarding House Bill 3.

"The Save Women's Sports Act is a fairness issue for women. Across our country, female athletes are currently losing championships, scholarship opportunities, medals, education and training opportunities, and more to discriminatory policies that allow biological males to compete in girls' sports," said State Rep. Jena Powell (R-Arcanum).

"Now is the time to really put Ohio's students first," State Rep. Dave Dobos (R-Columbus) added about House Bill 12. "We will define precisely the roles of all the key players."



# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights



**SEVENTEEN ONTARIO WARRIOR SWIMMERS** participated in 54 swims in the District meet last Saturday. They came away with four District champions. Senior Brie Trumpower won the 100 and 200 free with school records in both. The boy's 200 and 400 free relays took first with a new school record in the 400. Grantham Trumpower, Hunter Petit, Alex Rose and Colin Cordrey were on those relays. The girls 400 Free relay of Grace Them, Joie Simmering, Tessa Crum and Trumpower were runners up as was senior Colin Cordrey in the 100 free. All qualified on to the State meet along with Logan Bernat, Duncan McLean and Evan Ruhe. Ontario is sending 11 swimmers to State for 29 swims.

## Voting schedule announced for May 2 Primary Election

The Richland County Board of Elections has announced the voting schedule for the May 2 Primary Election.

Military and overseas absentee voting begins March 17 and the deadline to register to vote is April 3.

Early in-person voting begins April 4 and includes the Saturday and Sunday before Election Day. Absentee voting by mail begins April 4. Election day is Tuesday, May 2, with polls open from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm. Tuesday, April 25 is the final day for absentee ballot applications to be received by the board of elections. They must be received by 8:30 pm.

Early in-person voting hours are: April 4-7, 8 am to 5 pm; April 10-14, 8 am to 5 pm; April 17-21, 8 am to 5 pm; April 24, 7:30 am to 7:30 pm; April 25, 7:30 am to 8:30 pm; April 26-28, 7:30 am to 7:30 pm; April 29, 8 am to 4 pm; April 30, 1-5 pm

Mailed absentee ballots must be postmarked by May 1. Absentee ballots may be returned by mail or personally delivered to the board of elections. If not returned by mail, absentee ballots must be re-

ceived by the board of elections by 7:30 pm.

The last day for boards to receive mail-in ballots that have been postmarked on or before May 1 is May 6.

## Senior citizen luncheon is next week

There will be two sessions of the senior citizen luncheon at Madison Comprehensive High School's Ramble Inn, 600 Esley Ln., on Thursday, March 2.

The sessions will be at 11 am and 12:30 pm. The 12:30 session is full but limited seating is still available for the 11 am session. The cost is \$4.25 per lunch. Call the board office at 419-589-2600, ext. 65001 or email rlyons@madisonrams.net to make a reservation.

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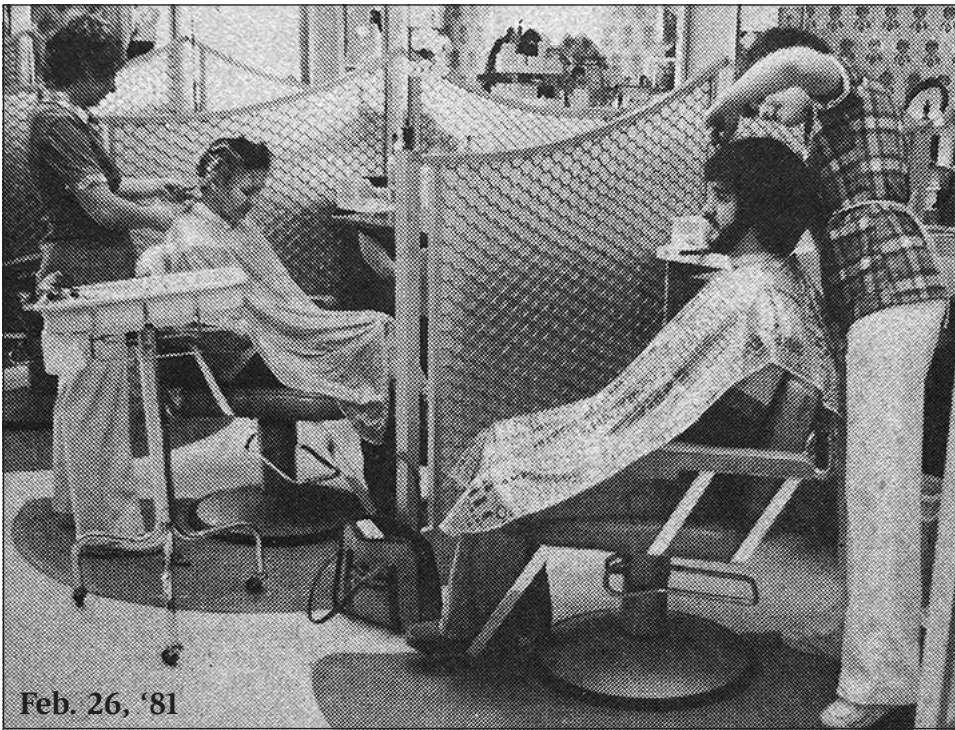
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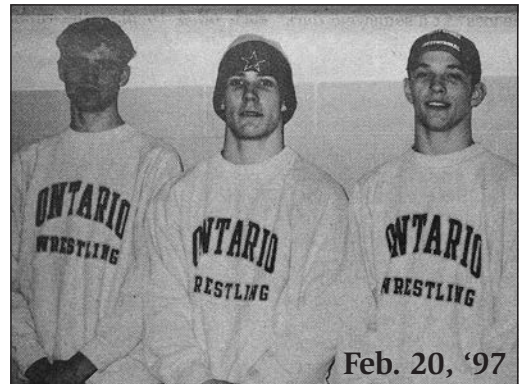
LOOKING BACK • THIS WEEK IN TRIBUNE-COURIER HISTORY



Feb. 26, '81

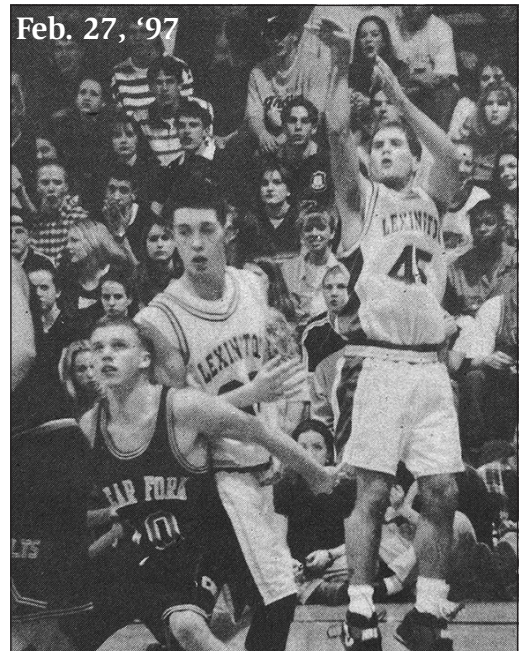
CHARLOTTE KLEIN, top of photo, is styling Peggy Jo Carpenter's hair while Amy George is giving Steve Allen the tonsorial once-over. Not in the picture are Karen Bush, Cathy Setser and Virginia Ruhl. Mrs. Ruhl, Charlotte's mother, handles the business end of the shop.

Photo By Marc Stumbo



Feb. 20, '97

THESE THREE WARRIOR MATMEN won championships at the Ontario Wrestling Invitational this past Saturday. From the left are Brad Baugh (130 pounds), Tony Cooke (152 pounds) and Wes Turnbaugh (125 pounds).



Feb. 27, '97

ANDY MEDWID OF LEXINGTON fires up two of his dozen points in Lexington's 51-47 victory over Clear Fork Friday night at Lexington. Running "interference" for Medwid is Lexington's Adam Howell (35). The game was the last in a long series between the two schools.

George Billman

Feb. 28, '64



AT THE TOP OF THE CLASS — Ontario Junior High School Honor Roll for the third six-weeks includes two students who have made all A's, Jane Loesch and Vicki Schoenman. Students on the honor roll for the seventh grade are, front row, left to right, Don Heston, Kim Kline, Allenna Fox, Ann Corliss, Jim Farlow, Roger Au, Connie Smith and Richard Nichols. In the back row are Bonnie Main, Jane Loesch, Jennifer Lay, Linda Holden, Glenna Haun, Pamela Carpenter, Gayle Holmes, Patty Schaffer, Gloria Eyerly and Theresa Gunderman. Donna Long was absent when the picture was taken.

Photo by Gary Kunkin

This Day in History — On Feb. 23, 1861, President-elect Abraham Lincoln arrives in Washington, D.C., amid secrecy and tight security. With seven states having already seceded from the Union since Lincoln's election, the threat of civil war hung in the air. Allen Pinkerton, head of a private detective agency, had uncovered a plot to assassinate Lincoln when he passed through Baltimore. Lincoln and his advisors disagreed about how to respond. Some wanted Lincoln to slip secretly into Washington, skipping an address to the Pennsylvania legislature in Harrisburg. Lincoln did not want to appear cowardly, but felt the threats were serious. He agreed to the covert arrival. Lincoln slipped out of the hotel in Harrisburg on the evening of Feb. 22. He wore a soft felt hat instead of his customary stovepipe hat, and draped an overcoat over his shoulders and hunched slightly to disguise his height. The group boarded a sleeper car and arrived in Baltimore in the middle of the night. They slipped from the Calvert Street station to Camden station. There, they boarded another train and arrived without incident in Washington at 6 am.



# CLASSIFIEDS

## LEGAL NOTICE

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held before the Council of the City of Ontario during a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at the Ontario Municipal Building, 555 Stumbo Road, Ontario, Ohio, upon a proposal to amend City Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 1146 Signs.

The City of Ontario Planning Commission has recommended in favor of these changes.

All persons interested in these issues are invited to attend and express their views.

Cathy VanAuker  
Clerk of Council  
City of Ontario, Ohio  
(T-C 2-16, 23 '23) 19L

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# Scholarship deadline approaching

The Area Agency on Aging Board of Trustees elected to provide three scholarship awards to individuals for higher education or certification programs benefiting the field of aging network.

Scholarship award amounts for the academic year 2023-24 are one \$2,000 for a student attending a 4-year university; one \$1,000 for a student attending a 2-year college or technical school, center of education, or is pursuing a certification; and one \$1,000 for a student attending any type of higher institute of learning or certification and 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.

Applicants must be a high school graduate (graduated in 2022 or earlier or hold a GED) and reside in Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Richland, Seneca or Wyandot County. Details about eligibility can be found at <https://www.aaa5ohio.org/education/scholarship-program/>.

The deadline is March 17, 2023. For information contact Susie Danuloff at 567-247-7105 or [sdanuloff@aaa5ohio.org](mailto:sdanuloff@aaa5ohio.org).



**MODERN WOODMEN CHAPTER 373** members read to a group of homeschool students at Mansfield Classical Academy, 2010 Park Avenue West, Mansfield, on Feb. 20. Each student received a book donated by Modern Woodmen Chapter 373.

# Modern Woodmen members promote literacy in community

Modern Woodmen's Raising Readers campaign is a nationwide initiative focusing on different ways to promote children's literacy in the community each quarter.

The first quarter focuses on members reading to or with children; the second quarter brings members together to gather children's books and place them in the community; the third quarter encourages members to adopt a classroom, library or children's organization to donate supplies to; and the fourth quarter has members cre-

ating homemade children's books.

Modern Woodmen was founded in 1883 as a fraternal benefit society. The organization supports members, families and communities with financial services, fraternal benefits and local-impact opportunities.

Each year, Modern Woodmen and its members provide millions of dollars and thousands of volunteer hours to support fraternal activities and programs. Learn more at [www.modernwoodmen.org](http://www.modernwoodmen.org).

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