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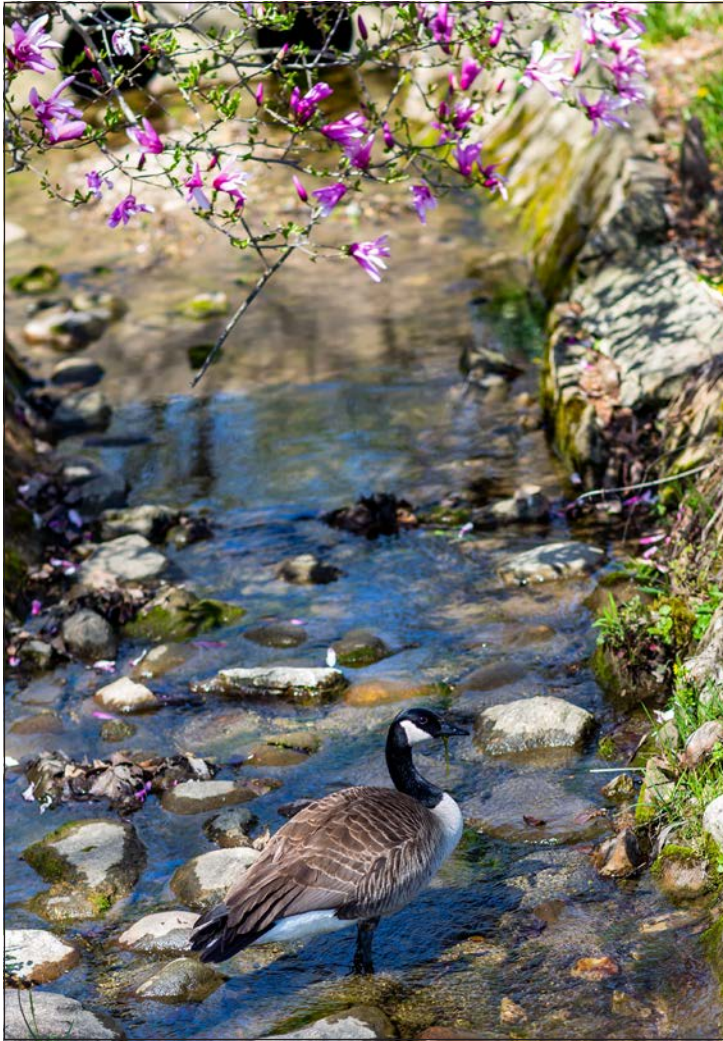


Photo By Traci Little

SIGNS OF SPRING are plentiful at Kingwood Center Gardens in Mansfield. Geese and ducks could be found basking in the sun over the warm weekend. Although snow struck again on Monday, the blooming trees and flowers are signals that warm days should return soon.

Madison recognizes retirees, awards contracts for 2023-'24

Madison Local School District's Board of Education met for a regular meeting April 19, in the Madison Middle School Auditoria.

The board recognized retirees Laurie Dean, Maxine Hall and Randall Kessler. Also recognized were Hunter Hutcherson, 2023 Boys' Wrestling State Placer; Mike Thomas, 2023 Boys' Wrestling State Qualifier; Zach Glasgo, BPA National Qualifier and Haylee Vernon, BPA National Qualifier.

The resignation of Matthew McCorkle, middle school math/algebra, was accepted, effective May 25.

Melinda Williams was hired as the Career Tech Cosmetology Instructor for the 2023-'24 school year.

Kristin Ruby has been awarded the English/Language Arts (sixth grade) position at the middle school, replacing Megan Studer who accepted another position for the 2022-'23 school year.

(Continued on Page 10)

"Prayed Parade" will celebrate National Day of Prayer on May 4

A parade leading to a worship service on the square Mansfield will highlight the National Day of Prayer in Mansfield, Thursday, May 4. The "Prayer Parade" will begin at 6:30 pm from the five-way light at Marion Avenue and Park Avenue West, following a festive hour of music, food and preparation.

The service, which will begin about 7 pm at the gazebo in Central Park will feature music and prayers for local and national leaders, First Responders and schools and families.

The parade is coordinated by Amanda Nichols, director of Project One and the ARC Empowerment Center, 378 Park Ave. West, culmination of a vision she first had nearly 20 years ago.

"The timing is right for this event, to stir the hearts of all ages in our community, to celebrate the victory won for all in Jesus, and to have a festive time leading up to our worship," Nichols said.

Congregations, church groups, Christian schools and local businesses are invited to enter the parade with floats, decorated vehicles, walking groups and musicians, although Nichols has a caution.

"We want people to enter the parade without agenda except lifting up praise to the Lord," she said.

Worship coordinator is Rev. El Akuchie, who with Ben Mutti has led the Richland Community Prayer Network for more than a quarter century. This is the first year the National Day of Prayer event has been in the evening.

"After a lively festival, we expect a time of fervent prayer, inviting all to join in at different times. This is an event for young and old, traditional and contemporary, for all Americans to lift up this time and place to the Lord," Akuchie says, adding. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

The National Day of Prayer has its roots in proclamations by Presidents Washington and Lincoln, and at various times by others presidents, but became an annual observance in 1952 when President Harry Truman responded during the Korean War.

City of Ontario adds new Junior Miss and Little Miss pageants

The City of Ontario's Miss Ontario Pageant is scheduled for Saturday, June 24. New this year is the Little Miss and Junior Miss Ontario pageant on Friday, June 23, at 7 pm. Ontario students or residents are encouraged to apply to compete.

The City of Ontario is looking for community minded, outgoing individuals to represent the city throughout the year at events, ribbon cuttings and other community events. Miss Ontario 2023 is open to any female currently in eighth through eleventh grade that attends Ontario Schools or lives in Ontario.

The top three contestants win cash prizes and contestants will be judged on interviews, stage presence, on-stage questions and talent.

Applications are limited and due by May 5. Download at <https://campscui.active.com/orgs/CityofOntario#/selectSessions/3302239>


Little Miss is for grades one and two and Junior Miss is for grades three through five for the 2023-'24 school year. Applications are open to any female in those categories that attends Ontario Schools or lives in the City of Ontario.

Top contestants for Junior Miss and Little Miss will be required to attend the Miss Ontario pageant on June 24, as well as 4th of July Festival activities on June 30 and July 1.

Contestants will be judged on stage presence/poise, stage questions and outfit of choice/theme wear. Contestants will have two categories of outfits: theme wear (Red, White and Blue) and Beauty Wear (favorite dress, does not have to be a formal pageant dress).

Applications are limited and due by May 12. Download at <https://campscui.active.com/orgs/CityofOntario#/selectSessions/3321444>

The 2023 Theme is "Empowering Young Women."



THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —

The *Evil Dead* horror series began back in 1981 as director Sam Raimi made a creepy horror film on a small budget set in a cabin in the woods where evil spirits inhabited the bodies of those who would dare open the book of the dead. With two solid sequels and a better than average remake, it was only a matter of time before the series came back as it has now with *Evil Dead Rise*.

The location is moved from the woods and medieval times (as in the third film *Army of Darkness*) to a high rise apartment where a mother named Ellie (Alyssa Sutherland) is reconnecting with her estranged sister (Lily Sullivan).

Ellie's son is walking home from getting a pizza with his two sisters when a giant earthquake hits, opening a door to an old bank vault where he finds a mysterious book.

Once opened, the evil encompasses the entire family and everyone, including Ellie and Beth, must find a way to survive this onslaught of terror.

If you are a fan of this series, it should come as no surprise that the movie is rated R and quite gory, though its gore works for the great special effects the movie creates to tell the story. The director, Lee Cronin, gives the film a real sense of dread and darkness as the family is trapped in the apartment.



Sutherland is great as the possessed mother and is all kinds of creepy and scary as the dead encompass her entire world and Beth tries to protect the children.

The movie harkens back to the original film as being pretty much true horror as *Evil Dead 2* and *Army of Darkness* were more horror comedies and they actually worked out great.

Evil Dead 2 is many fans' favorite entry in the series. There was also a show on Starz called *Ash vs Evil Dead* that was also embraced by fans from 2015 to 2018.

The flaws of this movie would be really no coherent connection with the opening sequence and there are a few plot holes here and there. In saying that, any fan of this series should really enjoy this movie as it is very effective in terms of suspense and scares. It also has a sense of fun which is what the later two entries had.

Evil Dead Rise is a spooky, horrific, crazy horror film that, at times, harkens back to the other entries while also becoming its own movie. The gore at times is a bit excessive. Fans of the *Evil Dead* franchise should find a great deal to enjoy about this movie as it certainly works on more levels than it does not.



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Ah, Love In The Springtime

By Bob Carter

Springtime is a time of blossoms, flowers and love interests. Al Moore was a correspondent for the *Mansfield Herald* which paid him by the inches of his news stories. Al had an excellent vocabulary which may have stumped some readers with a limited education. His writings made the most of everything including spring loving couples.

In 1881 he authored this: "A few days ago a young man arrayed in faultless attire and a young lady apparently in the first blush of womanhood, handsome and also attired a la mode, seated in a jaunty little phaeton which was drawn by two netted steeds, put in an appearance in Lexington and lingered briefly on Delaware Street. The young man's arm encircled the graceful form of the young girl, and he sipped the nectar from her rose colored lips, gazing deeply into her love-lit eyes and dallied with her luxuriant tresses, which hung like molten gold over her shoulders of immaculate whiteness and faultless symmetry. "The young girl was not a bit coy, but seemed to be in a happy listless languor. The scene exceeded in interest an act of Sarah Bernhardt, the queen of the histrionic art, and was witnessed by a small but appreciative audience."

And what better to be near a loved one than a dance. In 1883 he penned this;

"Last Thursday evening the spacious platform in the grove (now the front lawn of Lexington Cemetery) was brilliantly illuminated for the entertainment of the Gilt Edge Terpsichorean Club. The courtly grace of the young men, the harmonious blending of the costumes of the young ladies and the radiant beauty and artistic revolutions all to the electrifying music of Kyner Bros. Orchestra and conspired to make a scene one of weird enchantment."

Then here's a love story from the Jugs Corners school house, west of Lexington. where young pretty red haired Carrie Bectal reined supreme over all eighth grades of classes. One day a young man walked in and sat down in the rear of the class room. Carried asked what she could do for him and he answered, "nothing." Asked if he needed anything and the answer was still, "nothing." By the third time he visited the kids knew what he wanted. Their teacher!

There was only one way Carrie could get rid of him. She married him and in 1901 became Mrs. John Shuler, a hard working, church going farm wife and lived many happy years on the farm, with the man who wanted "nothing." He got what he wanted. Her marriage ended her teaching career. In that somewhat backward time, a married woman could not teach school.

MISSED AN ISSUE?

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Tribune-Courier



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News Briefs

State Route 61, between Hummell Rd. and the SR 61/SR 314 intersection, will close Monday, May 1 for a culvert replacement.

The detour route for southbound motorists will be SR 61 to SR 314, south on SR 314 to Fourth Street, west on Fourth St. to U.S. 30, west on U.S. 30 to SR 61, and reverse for northbound motorists.

Estimated completion is Friday, May 5.

The Mansfield/Richland County Public Library (MRCPL) Evergreen Bookshop will be open for the monthly Friends' Used Book Sale on Friday, May 5, noon to 5 pm; and Saturday, May 6, 10 am to 3 pm. A preview sale will be held for Friends of the Library members only on Thursday, May 4, noon to 5 pm. Memberships may be purchased at the preview sale (\$3 per year for individuals).

This sale is sponsored by the Friends of the Mansfield/Richland County Public Library. Materials (adult, teen and juvenile items) are library discards and public donations offered for sale at discount pricing. The bookshop is stocked with "new to the store" items each month. Proceeds sponsor enrichment activities provided by the Main Library and its branches throughout the year.

Evergreen Bookshop is located in downtown Mansfield at 37 N. Walnut St. (at the corner of W. Third and N. Walnut next to the main library). For more information call 419-526-4652.

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, April 29 and 30. 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 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 May 17, will include chicken and the 48th anniversary will be celebrated.

Sunda Peters of the Ohio Genealogical Society will speak. Cost is \$15 for the meal. Guests are welcome. For information visit www.lexasc.org. Dues are \$10 per year.

On May 3, the group will meet at Buck's Bar and Grill in Lexington for lunch at 11 am.

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 "Se-

nior 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 two 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 a box. There is no cost. Call 419-522-0662 for more information.

The 2nd Annual Senior Citizen Prom "A Night to Remember" is scheduled for Saturday, May 13, from 5:30-8 pm, in the Ontario Middle School Commons, 447 Shelby-Ontario Rd., Ontario.

The free semi-formal dance is for senior citizens of the City of Ontario and surrounding area. There will be a live band, food, photo booth, raffle prizes and lots of dancing.

An RSVP is required By May 1 to the City of Ontario Recreation Director at recreationdept@ontarioohio.org or call 419-529-2588 ext. 3202. In RSVP, leave full name, number of people attending and their names along with a phone number. The event is sponsored by the City of Ontario Recreation Department, Ontario Middle School, Ohio District Area Agency On Aging and VFW #7651.

The Bellville Neighborhood Outreach Center will have free produce giveaways on the fourth Monday of the Month, April thru October. Dates will be May 25, June 26, July 24, Aug. 28, Sept. 25 and Oct. 23. Line-up begins at 8:30 am and the giveaway begins at 10 am at Clear Fork Alliance Church (across from Clear Fork High School). A photo ID is required by Cleveland Food Bank.

To submit a news brief item send an email with information to news@tribune-courier.com. To advertise in the T-C, email Traci at tribune.courier.traci@gmail.com

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Renaissance Theatre celebrating 95th anniversary May 19

The year 2023 marks 95 years of the historic Renaissance Theatre calling Mansfield its home, and there's never been a better time to celebrate.

On May 19 at 7:30 pm, the Renaissance team invites the community to join together for a night of celebration showcasing the theatre and what the Ren does best — putting on a show!

This special night will feature performances showcasing the wide variety of entertainment offered within the Renaissance walls performed by Renaissance Broadway performers, members of the Mansfield Symphony and Artistic Jazz Orchestra, education program participants and guest dancers from the Richland Academy.

Each number will revisit a selection of productions from recent years featuring favorites like *Les Misérables*, *Hairspray*, *Newsies*, and many more. The celebration will also be highlighting sneak peek numbers that will take place in the upcoming season which will be announced in the lead-up to the 95th celebration.

The 95th anniversary will be a time to honor some very special members of the Ren family, thank the community and key players for being a part of our journey, and toast to the next 95 years together. The show is expected to last around 90 minutes and will be followed by a dessert reception. The evening is presented by Kleshinski, Morrison, & Morris and MG Energy, and sponsored by Roby Foster Miller Earick Insurance and Modern Woodmen of America.

Attendees will have the opportunity to visit the new "Ghostlight Lounge," a speakeasy in the theatre's lower lobby making its debut that night thanks to generous funding from the Ann Hartman Schetler and the Brian Arthur Adair Donor-Advised Funds of the Richland County Foundation. The Ghostlight Lounge is just one more

historical treasure within the Renaissance that patrons will be able to enjoy at future shows with its nod to the prohibition era in which the theatre doors first opened.

"The Renaissance has been a jewel in our community for 95 years," said Chelsie Thompson, President and CEO of the Renaissance Performing Arts. "Post-pandemic, the time is ripe to bring everyone together to celebrate the thriving arts and culture environment that we have here in Mansfield, and it feels fitting that we're doing that with a sort of variety show similar to those that took place in our historic 'Ohio Theatre' in its earliest days."

"We're thrilled to welcome a really diverse audience of attendees from across Ohio who have all been part of the Ren family in one way or another."

The evening will feature performances by staples of past Renaissance productions including Condrea Cannada, Leah Gesouras, Dee Jones, Tiara Wightman, Najee Rawls, Joe Trolan, Patrick Clinage, Mindy Tishue, Samantha Woodill, Robert Hardin-Leeth, Lori Turner, Nykera Gardner, Lilly Casey, Maddie and Colton Penwell, Jacques Workman, Tonne Webber, Zakari Ramos, Kathryn Moir, Taylor Beasley, Payne Schwartz, Alyssa Racer, Madison Kearney, Stephanie Hayslip, Cassandra Kurek and the Richland Academy of the Arts Dancers under the musical direction of Kelly Knowlton.

The event will be held on Friday, May 19, at 7:30 pm in the Rand Smith Auditorium of the historic Renaissance Theatre, 138 Park Avenue West, Mansfield.

Tickets can be purchased in person at the Renaissance box office, by phone at 419-522-2726 or by visiting the Ren website at rentickets.org.

Church Directory

Clear Fork Alliance Church

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

Community Bible Church

1043 Springmill St., Mansfield
567-560-8011
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
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
Pastor Denny Nezrick
10:30 am Sunday Worship
<https://www.facebook.com/Lexington-Presbyterian-Church-117768414915815>

Mansfield 1st EPC

399 Trimble Rd., Mansfield
419-756-7066 • www.mansfield1st.com
Rev. Joseph Yerger
9 am Adult & Youth Sunday School
10 am 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
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
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
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
Pastor Faith Prioretti
10 am Sunday Worship

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



Stewart

Here's our boy, Stewart again! Stewart came to the Mancie Cell Dogs program in August of 2022 from the Richland County Dog Warden's Office & Shelter where he had been since April of 2022 as a stray. He's guessed to be around 2 to 3 years old and a terrier mix.

He's been a work in progress since arriving to training. He came in very anxiety ridden, untrusting and had started going "kennel crazy" at the shelter.

It's not been easy and there were set backs but after time spent helping him with his fears and teaching him obedience, trainers also learned that he just didn't know how to be a dog.

Now he runs and plays with the other dogs, interacts with the other handlers and is even socializing more with people in general.

Here is what his handler says about Stewart:

"Stewart is gentle and not toy or food aggressive. He is easy going at times but nervous and uncomfortable about meeting new people and a little protective at times. He is willing and excited to meet new people or other dogs, but his nervousness makes him hang back and he displays nervousness by his hair standing up but his tail wagging."

"He is very curious, he wants to sniff and smell everything. In these moments he's excited and may not respond to the first command spoken, but with a quick verbal correction will get his attention 90 percent of the time."

"Stewart loves treats of all shapes, sizes and flavors. He gets so excited over them that he will happily show you every command or trick he knows before

you have a chance to give a command. Needless to say, Stewart is very treat trainable. He does not receive treats until after he's eaten his food. His food is offered and available for 30 minutes, if he does not eat or finish it all at once, it will be picked up and offered at next feeding. It's very normal of him to pick at the food or eat all of his servings at once."

"He loves playing one sided fetch with his toys. Once you throw it, he will go get it, but then he wants you to chase him for it. His return of the toy to you is still being worked on but he's doing much better. He loves an old fashioned stick from the yard, more than any toy given to him."

"He seems to like baths but doesn't like his nails done, whether manual or grinder, I've been working on getting him more comfortable. Stewart does not like cats. He does like other dogs but does give a warning growl if they are in his face. He did show resource guarding of his crate in the past but has been doing so much better since helping him see that he is free to enter/exit the crate but is used to being in it when handler leaves and at night."

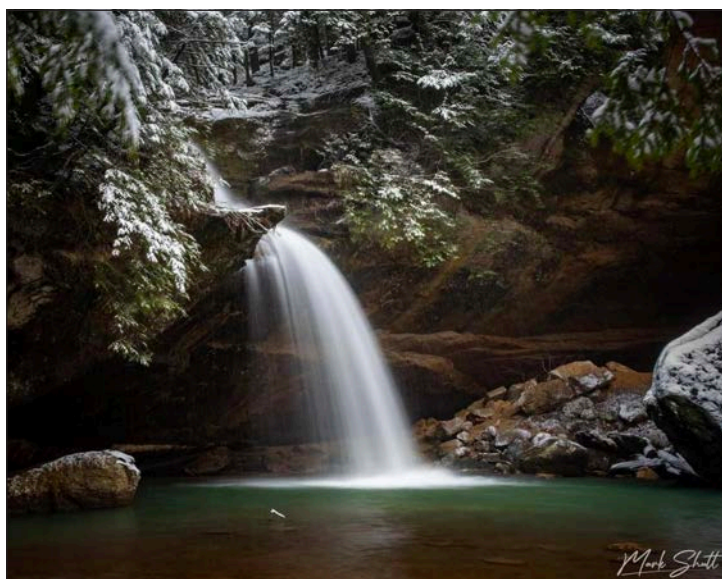
"I do not recommend long periods of time with him in a crate, with long periods of isolation, he shows fear like he won't be let out. Hats seem to confuse him. He may not approach or may even growl at a person he knows if they are wearing a hat or head covering of any kind. He's doing better but still leary. Stewart knows his basic verbal/ hand sign commands and also knows "shake", "roll over" and "go say hi" when someone wants to meet him, that's you letting him know that it is okay and safe."

Those interested in meeting Stewart, can visit the Richland County Dog shelter website and apply or request an application by emailing dogs@richland-countyoh.gov. Meet and greets are scheduled after an application has been approved.

The Richland County Dog Warden's Office and Shelter hours are 11 am to 4:15 pm Monday-Friday and 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday.

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

The shelter's current needs are volunteers to walk and play with the dogs. The shelter uses a lot of bleach, laundry detergent, and dog treats and welcomes donations.



**Lower Falls, Hocking Hills State Park
Photo By Mark Shutt**

**Obituary Listings for
Wappner Funeral Directors**

- Syd Lewis Gwin April 8
- William Lawrence Riehl Jr., April 14
- John L. Smith, April 15
- Kohen Ashton Saint Sperzel, April 15
- James "Jimmy" Busler, April 17
- Bryan "BJ" Jay Anable, April 19
- Carrie Ann Lardinais, April 19
- Alexis Michelle Petroff, April 19
- Margaret Joann Rust, April 19
- Jerry Gordon Martin Jr., April 20
- Catherine Nadine Sasser, April 20
- Ralph E. Minich, April 21

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www.wappner.com

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at <https://www.facebook.com/R.C.D.W.OfficeandShelter>**



Lifestyle Inspiration

Before & After



**Kayley and Thomas Boettner
Roanoke, VA**



kimmy's cucina

By Kim Sterry

QUINOA BOWL

Ingredients

4 cups prepared quinoa
1 cup grape tomatoes, halved
2 chicken breasts, cooked and seasoned with greek seasoning, cut in pieces
1 red pepper, sliced
1 cup kalamata olives
1 cucumber cubed
1 cup feta cheese
1 can garbanzo beans drained
1 lemon (to be juiced over top if you would like)

For the Dressing

1 1/2 Tbsp. red wine vinegar
1/3 cup greek yogurt
2 Tbsp. sour cream
1/3 tsp. greek seasoning
Salt & pepper

Instructions

Mix all ingredients for dressing and let sit for at least 30 minutes so flavors can incorporate. Pretty simple, divide quinoa in bowls (if you like a lot, make extra). Top with toppings and drizzle dressing and lemon juice on top All quantities can be changed, if you like a lot of cheese, add more, love tomatoes? use more (you get it... get creative)!

LIKE Kimmy's Cucina on Facebook & Instagram



Photo by Damon Callis

Day Trippin' With Damon – The Historic Coast Guard Station on Whiskey Island is located in Cleveland and is on the National Register of Historic Places. After many years of disrepair, a \$1 million renovation was officially unveiled in 2018.



*Blushing with your delicate, rosy hue,
 a gentle breeze blows through fresh, new blooms.
 Your time is fleeting, yet faithful,
 a promise of beauty each spring.
 Gifting petals that fall to the earth,
 You are waiting for me to visit you.
 Basking beneath warm shadows,
 Deeply breathing in nature's favorite perfume.
 A legacy of faithful promise,
 Graceful, elegant, familiar and kind.
 As the sun streams through branches,
 Your reflection twinkles and twirls,
 Leaving your dance card upon my heart.
 You whisper, come linger a little longer,
 No need to be in such a rush.
 Through storm clouds, torrential rain,
 and those picture perfect days,
 You continue your steady climb toward the heavens.
 Your limbs grow stronger, your roots deeper still.
 Your humble beauty speaks for itself.
 No need to shout, nor beg for attention.
 You hold the secrets of many who return year after year,
 Who sit beneath your branches,
 and find healing to bloom as well.*

-Traci Little



Photos by Traci Little



Spring at Kingwood • Photo By Traci Little

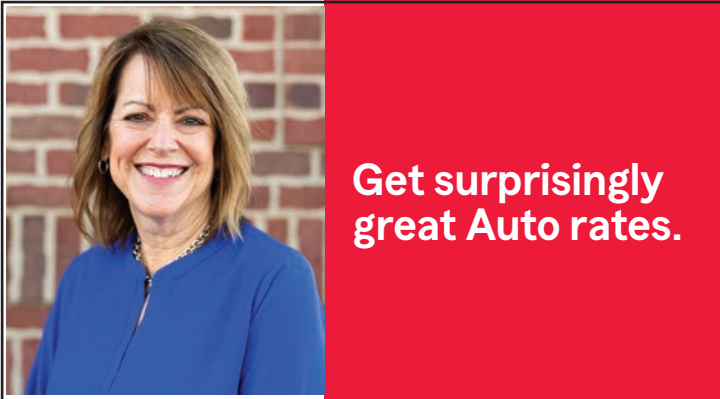
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BRIAN AND MICHELLE GATES of State Farm Insurance Agency in Ontario were presented a Certificate of Appreciation for the agency's support of the local police from Chief Hill and Captain Griefenstine of the Ontario Police Department.

RRLC country rib BBQ is May 6

The Richland Rural Life Center, 969 E. Crall Rd., Mansfield, will host its annual country rib BBQ on Saturday, May 6, from 4–6 pm. The menu will include ribs slow cooked over an open pit, potato or macaroni salad, baked beans, roll, beverage and homemade vanilla ice cream. Meals are \$12 for adults and \$7 for children age 10 and under. Homemade ice cream quarts will also be available for \$4. Tickets are sold at the door and carry-out is available.

The entrance to the center is located between Stewart Rd. and Rt. 545 in the Madison area.

For more information Call 419-544-2418 and leave a message. The Richland Rural Life Center is a non-profit organization that supports 4-H and Boy/Cub Scout troops. Proceeds from dinners and events help maintain the RRLC land and facilities.

YES NOT A NEW TAX

YOUR

Mansfield/Richland County Public Library

Paid for by the Citizens for the Library Committee

A Letter To The Editor

Presentation will help explain Medicare

Support Madison Schools

On Tuesday, May 2, Madison Local Schools will have a levy for additional operating funds on the ballot. Our schools are the heart of our community, connecting Madison families and neighborhoods throughout the district.

The district has continued to be prudent with its spending over the years, having not been on the ballot to request additional operating funds since 1997. The district has operated on the same local tax dollars for the last 26 years, and in order to do so many cost-cutting measures have been implemented. Since the 2000-'01 school year the district has reduced its staff by 20 percent. One in five positions that were in place in 2000 no longer exist today, however schools are continually asked to do more and more each year with less personnel to do so.

The Madison Local School District is now at the point financially where being prudent with our current funding no longer allows the district to maintain our current school programming and level of operations. Without the additional operating funds generated by the passage of the levy, the district will have to make plans to cut between \$2.5-3 million from its general operating budget by next year at this time. These cuts will hurt our children, deny our students opportunities to which all students should have access, and cost some of our employees their jobs.

As a Madison resident, I understand and appreciate the sacrifice of a tax increase. Additionally, as a Madison graduate, the spouse and parent of Madison graduates, a former Madison teacher, coach, and high school principal, I have seen first-hand the value of a Madison education and what the district does to support our students and their families. I have also seen first-hand many great accomplishments of our students, teachers, coaches, and administrators. I have also seen how the Madison community rallies around its own in times of celebration and in times of difficulty.

Thank you to each of you that has been a part of and supported Madison Schools over the years. Madison community, now is a time of need. Our schools need you. Our students need you. Our staff needs you. Our community and our property values are only as strong as our schools. Help us continue the proud tradition of Ram Pride and a well-rounded quality education for all Madison students. Show up and vote FOR the Madison School Levy on May 2. OUR KIDS ARE WORTH IT!

Respectfully Submitted,
Rob Peterson, Superintendent
Madison Levy Committee

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc., in partnership with the Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program, will host a "Welcome to Medicare" event for Ohioans new to Medicare on Thursday, May 4, from 2-4 pm at Hawkins Corner, 2131 Park Avenue West, Ontario.

This is a free informative event. Area Agency on Aging staff will be available to assist with additional outreach resources.

For information about this or other events contact the Benefits Enrollment Center (BEC) at the Area Agency on Aging at 419-525-6749 and your call will be returned. No registration is required to attend the event.

To access the free in-person and virtual Welcome to Medicare events schedules, visit insurance.ohio.gov. OSHIIP representatives are also available at 800-686-1578 and oshiipmail@insurance.ohio.gov to answer Medicare questions.



Dear Madison Residents,

The heart of our community is our school system. The district has been prudent with its funds and has not asked for additional operating funds in 26 years (1997). Help us continue the proud tradition of Ram Pride and a well-rounded quality education for our students.

On May 2nd, please vote Yes
for our school levy.



For more information go to
www.MadisonLevy.com

Paid for by the Madison Levy Committee, Matt Blankenship/Brian Nikolaus, Treasurers

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•Madison recognizes retirees, awards contracts for 2023-'24

(Continued from Front Page)

Supplemental positions for the 2023-'24 school year were granted to Shelbi Ohl, sophomore class advisor; Jessica Kunz, sophomore class advisor; Tricia Bernhard, head varsity volleyball coach; Carrie Uhler, assistant varsity volleyball coach; Brynn Holt, head ninth grade volleyball coach; Michelle Byus, head varsity cheer coach; Cheyenne Hunt, assistant varsity cheer coach; Justin Hunt, head ninth grade football coach; Brian Lowe, assistant ninth grade football coach; Zac Huff, head varsity girls' soccer coach; Kobi Johnson, 1/2 assistant varsity football coach; Tim Niswander, assistant varsity football coach; Terry Stuart, assistant varsity football coach; Calvin Gordon, 1/2 assistant varsity football coach; Preston See, 1/2 assistant varsity football coach; Kim Boehm, assistant cross country coach; Jaicie Krumlaw, head eighth grade volleyball coach; Sarah Wiggins, head seventh grade volleyball coach; John Foust, head eighth grade girls' basketball coach; and Tim Deel, head seventh grade football coach.

Tyler Amos was approved as a cross country volunteer for next school year.

Lisa Restelli, Kevin Andress, Vicki Rowe, Pat McLaughlin, Kristen Agee, John Foust, Derek Fisher, Traci Luckie, Mary Frey, Abby Radabaugh, Gretchen Cooper and Zinda Thomas were hired as summer school substitutes on an as-needed basis.

Continuing contracts were approved for Dane Henry, Jason Ebersole, Jamie Brightbill, Melissa Stoffer and Jim Thompson.

Aime Reber resigned as special education aide at Madison South. Presentations were given to Melissa Wigton, Eastview Elementary Principal; and Chad Metzger, College Credit Plus Remote Instruction. The March, 2023 financial report was accepted.

Resignations were accepted from Derek Fisher, 1/2 assistant varsity football coach, effective March 10; James Dillon, band director assistant high school, fall, effective March 16; and John Foust, assistant varsity (JV) girls' basketball coach, Match 27.

Substitute teachers hired on an on-call basis, as needed for the 2022-'23 school year were Shelly Adams, James Adams, Kylee Mays and Susan Deel.

The board approved continuing contracts, effective with the 2023-'24 school year, for Jamie Brightbill, JoAnna Burk, Jason Ebersole, Krista Ferini, Lisa Hall, Dane Henry, Melissa Hunter, Katrina Jordan-Donley, Jennifer Phillips, Kristin Ruby, Troy Schulz, Melissa Stoffer, David Stupka, Janice Stupka, Brittany Tharp, James Thompson, Eddie Walker and Michelle Whitfield.

Michelle Keen was hired as a custodian and Maxine Hall was hired as a secretary.

Shaun Henry was hired as second shift custodian at the high school; Mike Christy and James Adams were hired as summer mowers; and James Miller was hired as temporary general summer help.

The use of a sick bank for 15 days was granted to Catherine Schick, special education 1-1 aide at the high school, for medical reasons.

The board approved an overnight trip April 26-30, for the advisor and two students to attend the BPA National Leadership Conference

in Anaheim, CA.

The overnight eighth grade student trip to Washington, D.C. May 8-10, 2024 was approved at no cost to the board.

A one-year extension of an agreement with eSchoolView was approved for website set-up and maintenance beginning July 1, 2023. The charge stays the same.

The high school cafeteria window project in the amount of \$98,160 will be paid out of ESSER III funds. The project, which was awarded to All Glass Systems, was bid through The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS), and therefore is not subject to conventional bidding.

A project was approved for the installation of "NightLock" security devices for all district classrooms in the amount of \$74,725.39 to be paid for out of Safety Grant funds. All labor and materials will be provided by Taylor Brothers Door Lock LLC d.b.a. NightLock. As these devices are only available through a single source, this project is not subject to conventional bidding.

An agreement between Madison Local Schools and River Education Services, Inc. for the Leap Program for 2023-'24 was approved.

The next regular Board of Education meeting is set for May 17, in the Madison Middle School Auditoria.

Richland Pregnancy Services plans annual Walk for Life

Richland Pregnancy Services will host the annual Walk for Life on Saturday, June 3, at Mansfield's historic North Lake Park, and the start of the Richland B&O Bike Trail, at 268 Hope Rd., in Mansfield.

The walk is two miles long and the path is stroller friendly. Registration opens at 9 am and the walk begins at 10 am.

The Walk for Life is a community focused, family-friendly event to show support for life. All proceeds from the event will support Richland Pregnancy Services in providing free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, STD testing, parenting classes, mentoring, material support and more.

Upon registration, each participant will receive access to their very own fundraising page that they can use to raise funds for Richland Pregnancy Services by asking family and friends to sponsor them as they walk. Walkers will be eligible to win prizes from local businesses and attractions from across the state! Some of these prizes include Cedar Point tickets, a YMCA membership, skiing passes for Snow Trails and more.

Walkers who register by May 10 and raise funds for RPS will receive a free Walk for Life t-Shirt. The first 200 walkers who register will also receive a free goody bag.

Richland Pregnancy Services aims to raise \$50,000 to continue to meet the needs of women facing an unplanned pregnancy.

Corporate sponsorship opportunities are available and sponsors are eligible for various levels of promotion leading up to and during the walk. Reach out to Raelene at raelene@richlandpregnancy.com if interested in partnering with Richland Pregnancy Services.

Richland Pregnancy Services is a faith based 501(c)3 non-profit organization. For more information call 419-522-8863, ext. 203 or email raelene@richlandpregnancy.com.



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Lexington Village Council has busy April meeting

The Lexington Village Council meeting was called to order April 3, by Mayor Brian White, presiding. Members present at the meeting were Bob Jarvis, Zack Alleshouse, Adam Gongwer, Kim Little, Jeff O'Brien and Todd Wise.

Other officials present included Attorney John Studenmund and Chief Brett Pauley.

The March 20, 2023, regular council meeting minutes were approved and no comments came from citizens.

Bills for February were checked and approved.

Councilman O'Brien expressed his concerns regarding school children's safety. Chief Pauley assured council that the new school was built with children's safety in mind. Mayor White commented not all information was released regarding safety procedures that was put in place for the school children.

As reported by Administrator Andrew Smallstey, spring cleanup is Monday, April 17 through April 28. No grass, large limbs or leaves will be collected.

Water meters were delivered for the water meter replacement project. Appropriations are moving funds to pay Software Solutions in advance of the project.

The annual CRA has been completed and submitted to Ohio Department of Development. Charter Next Gen has more than fulfilled their agreement for the CRA in jobs retained and created. The Tax Incentive Review Committee voted unanimously to continue the CRA since they are compliant.

The street resurfacing bids were opened April 13 village hall.

The fencing surrounding the pickleball/tennis courts was damaged by a fallen tree. The village will not submit an insurance claim; as this was already on a capital list for replacement in 2023.

The decorative fencing is complete at 35 W. Main St. A few caps are loose and the contractor is repairing them.

Councilman Little noted that many ash trees on the west side of Castor Rd. are dead. Councilman Wise asked if other pine trees in Bicentennial Park exists, and if they are at risk of falling also. Mr. Smallstey will check.

Councilman Wise noted the sidewalk just east of Nickel & Bean is not paved. Mr. Smallstey is aware and noted that this is an existing job with ODOT.

Mayor Brian White reported, "I attended the Richland County Health Advisory Board meeting and I received their report if anyone is wanting to review it."

"Thank you to all attended Planning Commission meeting last week regarding Richland County housing assessment," he continued. "It was a good session."

He also brought some library levy handouts to review and share.

As reported by Chief Brett Pauley, the distracted driving law is in effect starting April 4. A warning will be handed out during the first six months.

An ordinance was read accepting the petition for annexation from the board of education of the Lexington Local School District as was a resolution authorizing the execution of an agreement with the Lexington Baseball/Softball Association, Inc. for use of the ballfields at the Lexington Community Park.

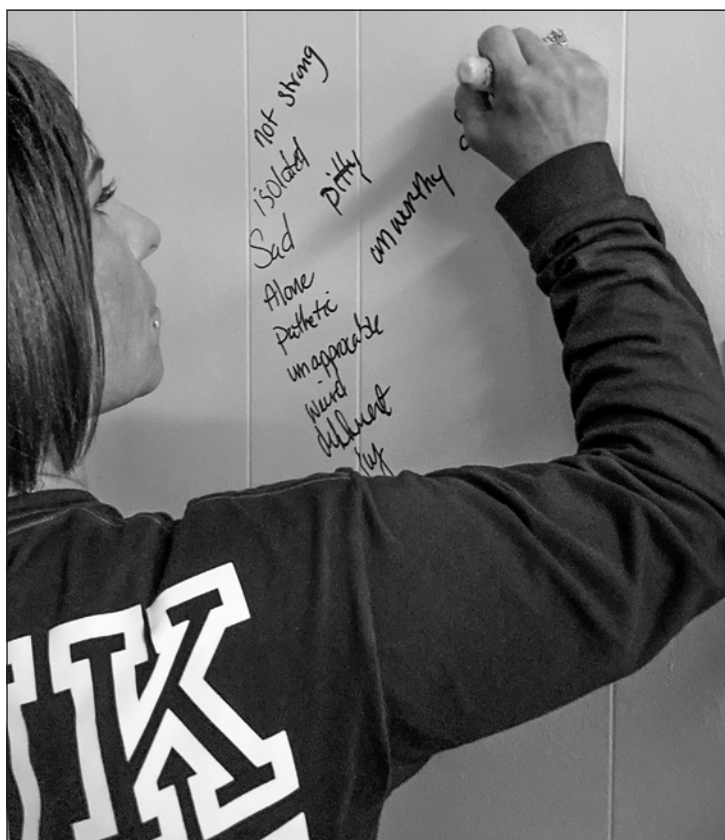
An ordinance was read providing for permanent budget amendments and appropriations for april for parks, administration, general fund, streets C, M, & R, assistance to the needy, sewer, and water funds.

Funds were moved to Software Solutions for a water meter replacement project. Funds that were marked for a roof at the Depot will be replaced by a grant from NOPEC.

Also noted, all ARPA funds are now allocated and assigned. Mayor White requested a list for ARPA funds used and how and where they were dispersed.

The board went into executive session to discuss the purchase or sale of property.

Mayor White requested Attorney Studenmund, Administrator Smallstey and Finance Assistant Peter Them attend the Executive Session.



Rubies and Gems has new home in Mansfield

Photos and Article By Traci Little

A few years ago on a cold, wintery night, Candace Watson-Cole drove by a random house in Mansfield. She had never noticed the house before, but on this particular night, it was all lit up. She looked over at it, and the Lord spoke to her that this would one day be the home for Rubies and Gems.

Rubies is a 12-18-month discipleship program centered around Christ our Lord and Savior for women struggling with addiction and/or coming out of human sex-trafficking.

Candace told me that she began praying over the property and anointing it for God's use. Every few months, she would go through this same process as she walked the property. She surrendered it to the Lord's will and His timing to become Rubies and Gems.

About two years ago, she knew it was time to tell the board members of the Rubies ministry about the building and have them begin praying and fasting about the property.

"The Lord gave me the Prayer of Jabez, and I just put in it "Rubies" and that we would extend our tent pegs. I asked the board members to pray and fast about this property for a whole week. I then wrote up a proposal of ways that we could either purchase the house or that it could even be gifted to us," Candace said.

The Lord led her to start attending Fusion Church Madison, although she didn't know why. After her time in worship one morning, she was led to go up to Pastor Aaron and his wife Tara. Candace showed Tara the proposal and had her look over it. Come to find out, Pastor Aaron's cousin owned this very property.

A meeting was set up between Candace and Larry Merwine, owner of Synergy Properties Inc, in January of last year. Candace told him about her vision for this house. Candace gave him the proposal and knew that it was still in the Lord's hands. Not long after that, Larry's wife reached out to Candace. She said, "I've had this proposal in front of me for months, and it just keeps screaming at me, and I know that we are supposed to help you guys somehow. Can I meet with you today?" Candace changed her whole schedule and met

(Continued on Page 23)



Class of 2023



Class of 2024



Class of 2025



Class of 2026

THE ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL Academic Banquet is sponsored by the Academic Boosters, a parent-run organization to promote academic excellence at Ontario. Students with a 3.67 cumulative or above grade point average were honored for each grade level.



DURING THE ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC BANQUET, The National Honor Society chose the Staff Member of the Year, Guidance Counselor Kelly Conn (top photo). (Bottom photo) Five \$500 scholarships were awarded to seniors Joseph Litao, Natalia Ried, Miles Meisse, Alexandria Switaj and Lauren Sexton.

Richland Academy of the Arts hosts high school student art exhibition

The Richland Academy of the Arts is currently presenting the 2023 Spring High School Student Exhibition, an exhibition of works by local high school students.

The art works on display showcase the multitude of talent from the local high school community. Each piece demonstrates the student's creativity and skillful knowledge of their medium.

The intriguing assortment of mediums include, painting with coffee, mask making, and jewelry techniques such as metalsmithing. The subject matter of the exhibit ranges from abstracted recognizable forms to the completely abstracted forms of neurographic art. The many textures and forms of this exhibit are sure to grab the viewers' attention. This exhibition will be on display in the Snyder Art Gallery until May 6.

Richland Academy is located at the corner of 4th and Walnut St., Mansfield and was founded in 1991. It is supported by the Ohio Arts Council and 60+ programming supported by the Area Agency on Aging. There are classes for all ages from birth to 60+. Richland Academy of the Arts offers a tuition assistance program and is an approved Ohio Department of Education Service Provider with the Afterschool Child Enrichment (ACE) Program.



Gabriel Melvin, Devon Fallen and Brice Browning

Pioneer students qualify for BPA national competition

Students recently participated in the Business Professionals of America (BPA) Regional & State Conferences competing for an opportunity at National Leadership Conference. Three Pioneer students are advancing to the National level: Gabriel Melvin of Mansfield; Brice Browning of Celeryville Christian High School; Devon Fallen of Galion High School. They will be attending the conference in Anaheim, California April 26-30.

Business Professionals of America is a premier CTSO (Career Technical Student Organization) for high school students preparing for careers in business, finance, management information systems, and other related fields. It provides students and members with invaluable skill development and the opportunity to make personal connections. Advisors Dan Foss and Fritz Fagan have been instrumental with this opportunity.

Melvin placed first in Linux Operation System Fundamentals. Browning placing first along with Devon Fallen placing second in Computer Security. Pioneer was represented well with the top two places, in addition Browning also finished Top 20 National level for Virtual Cybersecurity/Digital Forensics.

Honorable mention to seven additional BPA competitors who placed in Top 10 of the state. Each received an award and medallion to celebrate their success. Austin Bechtler (6th), Julian Diaz (10th), Collin Dingus (7th & 8th), Matthew Kaylor (10th), Jason Lambert (10th), Michael Paavo-Taylor (10th), and Ezekiel Sexton (10th).

Visit www.go2pioneer.com or call Pioneer at 419-347-7744 for more information.

Safety and training center receives funding

The Ohio Controlling Board released funds for the First Responders Safety and Training Center located in Shelby, announced State Rep. Marilyn John. The board approved the release of \$60,880 in funding to be used by North Central State College for the First Responders Safety and Training project. The project fund is for basic renovations to the Kehoe Center in Shelby, Ohio, which houses the criminal justice and police academy programs offered by the college.

Separately, the controlling board approved \$650,000 from the Regional 166 Direct Loan Program for the construction of a 10,000-square-foot manufacturing building on a 10.24-acre site in Mansfield; and \$20,280 for lawn care services at the 179th Airlift Wing.



The Mansfield Christian School Prom King and Queen for 2023 are Seniors Robbie Vogel and Erin Them

News Briefs in Education

Alessandro Brunetti of Mansfield was among the 141 Northeast Ohio Medical University College of Medicine students to learn their medical residency match during a celebration for National Residency Match Day, held March 17 in the new Center Ballroom.

Brunetti learned they will be serving a Pathology-AP/CP residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

Brunetti is currently a fourth-year medicine student at NEOMED, and will move on to their residency following graduation this spring. A commencement celebration will be held Saturday, May 6.



The annual Voice of Democracy banquet was held Sunday, March 26, at the Mansfield Post of the VFW 9943.

Three Pioneer students were honored: Mia Fidler from Northmor High School, Alexis Parr from Lexington High School and Abigail Williams from Willard High School.

Overall, Alexis Parr placed second and received a silver medal for her essay this year. Greg Nickoli, superintendent of Pioneer Career & Technology Center, and English instructor, Charmae Cottom, were also honored for their support and dedication to this program.

Mrs. Cottom's English classes had 19 students participate in the essay writing contest this year which was the most of the surrounding schools for the Mansfield VFW post 9943.



Ashley Krumlaw of Mansfield presented original academic work April 20 at Ohio Wesleyan University's 2023 Spring Student Symposium.

Krumlaw presented as part of a group "Molecular Characterization of Parasites from Sunfish in the Olenangy River, Delaware," mentored by Ramon Carreno, Ph.D.

The annual symposium is designed to highlight the breadth, depth, and quality of work produced by Ohio Wesleyan students in their classes and through mentored research, artistic performances, and other projects.

Learn more about Ohio Wesleyan's Spring Student Symposium at www.owu.edu/studentsymposium.

Ontario Middle School's March Students of the Month



Sixth Grade: Alex Morabito and Haley Breiteringer



Seventh Grade: Elise LeHew and Conner Perry



Eighth Grade: Bryant Born and Kaitlin Seymour



THE ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL 2023 PROM COURT consists of seniors chosen by the student body for their kindness, friendliness, outgoing personality, leadership skills, school spirit, school and community involvement. Pictured are Hunter Petit, Adrienne Kearns, Braxton Hall, Angelica Viacava, Drew Yetter, Taylor Mullins, Gage Weaver, Aryn Williams, Justin Douglas, Laprina Young, Duncan McLean, Elanor Wilging, Colten Ramion, Jillian Ambrose, Hugo Estrada Gomez, Adison Turnbaugh, Joseph Litao, Marisa Horton and Jordan Reed. Not pictured is Chandler Spognardi.

Pioneer CTC Board agenda full of hirings

The Pioneer Career and Technology Center Board of Education met April 17.

The board approved the appointment of superintendent Greg Nickoli to the Crawford County Tax Incentive Review Council and an agreement was reached with Richland Public Health for a school nurse for the 2023-'24 school year.

The board adopted resolutions for Staff Appreciation Week and recognition of the Byron Carmean Award winner.

Donations were accepted from Angie Bowling, Lexington, clothing items for Pioneer's Sharing Closet used for students in need; and Officer Brian D. Evans Memorial Scholarship, \$2,000 for the Officer Brian D. Evans Memorial Scholarship awarded annually to a Pioneer senior.

Sam's Club, Ontario, donated two pallets of water with a value of \$918, used for the Community Service Day project for student and staff workers.

The Dawn Wright-Smith, Blackbaud Giving Fund gave \$30 to be deposited into the Alumni Endowment fund and used for annual student scholarships.

The board approved student participation at the FCCLA State Leadership Conference at the Ohio Expo Center & Fairgrounds, April 26-28. Attending are Crestline students Alyssa Cottrell, Kylie Kelly, Addi Hill, Nevaeh Hill, Jocelyn Noblit and Jaelyn Tesso with chaperone Kris Bruce, FCS Instructor/FCCLA Advisor and parent.

Shelby students attending are Sarah Hubbard, Timbrie Justice, Justice Clever, Haylie Gustard, Ava Hoskins, Brissani Stidam, Emma Erwin and Ava Myer with chaperone Kelly Jung, FCS Instructor/FCCLA advisor. Wynford students attending are Linnea Gerlach, Cassandra Kurek and Marlie Hosey with chaperone Crystal Jennings, FCS Instructor/FCCLA Advisor.

The board also approved the FFA State Convention at the Ohio Expo Center & Fairgrounds, Columbus, May 2-5. Lucas students attending are Leah Burley, Alaina Stone, Hadley Williams, Teagan Stevens, Jordan Tedrow, Zac Janeczek, Allison Arnold and Katie Griffey

with chaperones Brandie Strine, parent/volunteer, and Matt Dotson, Ag Instructor/FFA Advisor.

The board accepted the retirement resignation of Kalyn Stichler, integrated math instructor, effective June 1, 2023.

Employment of certificated and classified personnel was approved for the 2023-'24 school year. Employment includes Morgan Schumacher, school counselor, effective for the 2023-'24 school year; and Krista Snider, cosmetology instructor, effective 2023-'24 school year.

Supplemental contracts for certificated personnel include Caleb Alt, maintenance of buses, 2023-'24 school year; David Such, maintenance of Pioneer vehicles, 2023-'24 school year; Dan Burtscher, EMIS and Master Schedule, 2023-'24 school year; Kevin Burke, banquet prep, 2023-'24 school year; Seth Weibel, banquet prep, 2023-'24 school year; and John Yohe, summer school coordinator, 2023.

The board approved stipend contracts for certificated personnel including BPA State Leadership Conference Chaperone Daniel Foss and HOSA State Leadership Conference Chaperone Melissa Myers.

Summer school 2023 stipends were approved for Robin Hager, social studies instructor; Aaryn Evans, language arts instructor; Joe Yohe, science instructor; and Emma Jenkins, math instructor.

Google trainings were approved for Lynette Moritz, Meghan Townley, Amanda Glessner and Jeni Stewart and a Google Level 1 Certification stipend was approved for Meghan Townley.

The board approved the employment of Jeff Shook as a substitute instructor and leave without pay for Juanita Walsh.

The board accepted the resignation of Lori Love, high school education aide.

Employment was granted to Timothy Boyer for lawn mowing.

The board approved the non-renewal of part-time substitute classified personnel and employment of Jeff Shook, substitute bus driver.

The board approved the employment of adult education personnel and support of seeking funding for building and renovation projects.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights



1st Singles, Junior Karl Etzel



1st Doubles, brothers Junior Ethan Remy & Freshman Cooper Remy



2nd Singles, Sophomore Dylan Catanese



3rd Singles, Sophomore Owan Gongwer

THE ASHLAND VS. LEXINGTON Boys Tennis Match was held April 18 at Brookside Park in Ashland. Lexington won 5-0 and the team is coached by Ron Schaub. Results were 1st Singles, Karl Etzel def. Cooper Glazier 6-1, 7-5; 2nd Singles, Dylan Catanese def. Ben Sinchok, 6-0, 6-0; 3rd Singles, Owan Gongwer def. Grant White 6-1, 6-0; 1st Doubles, Ethan Remy/Cooper Remy def. Landon Davis/Drew Frieser 6-0, 6-0; 2nd Doubles, Jake Chilcote/Jacob Halfhill def. Reid Wash/Grant Koleno 6-0, 6-0

Registration open for golf outing

The Lexington Kiwanis will host its 3rd annual golf outing at Twin Lakes Friday, May 12.

Registration is at 12:30 pm and a shotgun start is at 1:15 pm. This is a 4-person scramble format.

Dinner will be served at 5 pm. Those unable to golf are invited to come out at 5 pm to hear more about the Lexington Kiwanis. Twin Lakes Golf Course is located at 2220 Marion Ave., Mansfield.

Cost is \$275 per team of four and includes green fees, cart rental, soft drink, chips & hot dog at the turn, dinner and prizes. Alcoholic beverages are not included in the cost of the outing but will be available at discounted prices. All teams must register and pay by May 1.

Money raised at the outing will go to help support youth services.

For more information email lexkiwanispresident@gmail.com.



2nd Doubles, Junior Jacob Halfhill & Senior Jake Chilcote

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights



Ontario Middle School track teams place second and third

The Ontario Middle School Track teams competed in the Clear Fork Middle School Invitational. The boys team placed second out of five teams and brought home a trophy. The girls team placed third, only 1.5 points away from second.

Top performances were given by the following male athletes: Liam Hershberger, Tanner Winningham, Demetri Parsons & Caden Meyers finishing second in the 4x800 meter relay; Trindon Flenoury and Jermel Powell finishing second and third in the 100 meter dash; Garrett Hagerman, Izayah Hatcher, Gavin Wagner and Dillon Schunatz finishing third in the 4x200 meter relay; Elton Toska, Max Grfer, Jermel Powell and Zane Curry finishing second in the 4x100 meter relay; Jermel Powell and Dillon Schunatz finishing third and fourth in the 200 meter hurdles; Demetri Parsons finishing fourth in the 800 meter run; Connor Dawson, Elton Toska, Henry Yugovich and Max Grfer finishing fourth in the 4x400 meter relay; Zane Curry and Trindon Flenoury finishing second and fourth in high jump; Trindon

Flenoury and Zane Curry finishing second and third in long jump; Lincoln Ginn and Dillon Schunatz finishing first and fourth in discus; and Lincoln Ginn finishing first in shot put.

For the girls, top performances were given by Eliana Fittante, Kamryn Pelfrey, Ella Them and Tatum Mottayaw finishing second in the 4x800 meter relay; Anna Saltzgive and Ieyanna David finishing second and third in the 100 meter dash; Anna Saltzgive, Reagan Boughton, Grace Click and Grace North finishing second in the 4x200 meter relay; Ava Zehe and Ella Them finishing third and fourth in the 1600 meter run; Anna Saltzgive, Ryleigh Ames, Ieyanna David and Kaylei Chandler finishing second in the 4x100 meter relay; Jordyn Yeager finishing fourth in the 400 meter dash; Reagan Boughton finishing fourth in the 200 meter dash; Grace North, Ryleigh Ames, Jordyn Yeager, and Kaylei Chandler finishing third in the 4x400 meter relay; Jordyn Yeager finishing third in long jump; Isabella Sorrenti finishing fourth in discus; and Isabella Sorrenti finishing second in shot put.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS MANSFIELD SR. BASEBALL · APRIL 19 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS MANSFIELD SR. SOFTBALL · APRIL 19 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO TRACK MEET AT TRIWAY · APRIL 21



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL RELAYS · APRIL 14



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS COL. CRAWFORD SOFTBALL · APRIL 15 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



•Rubies and Gems has new home in Mansfield

(Continued from Page 11)

with her, sharing the vision with her and the vision behind Rubies and Gems.

She went onto tell Candace about the numerous charities and nonprofits that had reached out to them wanting to buy the property, but how she felt in her heart that it was supposed to be for Rubies. In December, they were gifted the deed to the house free and clear.

“I feel like it’s a beautiful picture of the way Jesus died for us and gave His life for us free and clear,” said Candace.

She went on to say, “the women and children that come through here, nothing is just good enough. Even if we have to tear the house down to the studs, we have to want more for them and for this house. This house is a representation of the women who are getting custody of their kids back, and the pregnant women on our waiting list that we currently don’t have room for. It’s a restoration process from the inside out.”

When do they expect the renovations to be completed? Well, it will depend on donors. It needs to be up to code and ready to be opened for these precious women and children. The cost for renovations is about 150,000 to 200,000.

“If it needs to be done in stages, then so be it. But I also know that where God leads, he provides and that he owns the cattle on a thousand hills. He will place it on donors, contractors and renovators’ hearts to come and help us with the work,” Candice confidently said.

This is all about the women and children coming through Rubies. It doesn’t just help them, but it helps the community because they can return and be productive members of society.

Candace said that Rubies and Gems has been a vision for about five years now. “I pictured pregnant women on a porch with their

children, and this was a picture of Rubies being the women and Gems, the children.”

Candace said they already have a contractor who is starting to work on the roof and donating his time. Any materials and supplies needed will be taken off of what is owed to him. William Keim, of First Class Roofing, had been praying for a way to get more involved with the human sex trafficking cause locally. Usually, involvement with these types of ministries are overseas but God placed it on their heart about it being a local issue as well. It’s a worldwide issue.

When William first met with Candace to go over the bid for the roofing, he didn’t know anything about the ministry. After hearing the vision behind the ministry, he just couldn’t believe how God led them to one another.

“We told God that we would even sell our company and open up a house for this, and here you are in front of us. I just can’t believe this is happening,” said Keim.

God has been so fervent and faithful to Rubies, and Candace confidently knows that he will continue to provide.

April 24 at 11 am, began the process of renovating the home that will be Rubies and Gems. I watched as women wrote on the wall all the negative ways the world sees them. They then watched a ten-minute video by the Skit Guys, called God’s Chisel Remastered (watch at <https://youtu.be/3QckBL2DfVg>) about how God chips away at us and brings us down to our studs to be able to use us. They spoke out loud that they were God’s masterpiece, ready to be used by him.

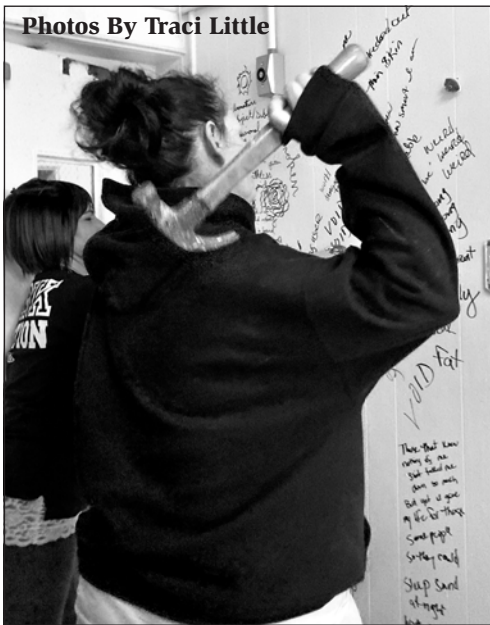
The women then took hammers and started tearing down the wall that held these written lies. It was refreshing, inspirational and truly powerful.

The Lord spoke to Candace that this home would be for Rubies and Gems one day and a direct representation of the women and children that will walk through these doors. He will work in them from the inside out and many times down to the studs, if need be, to restore all that the enemy has tried to take from them. God makes all things new.

To be involved, donate monetarily, use your time and skills, or donate materials, contact Candace Watson-Cole (419-612-6399) or email her at rubiesoutreach31@gmail.com. They have material lists for projects and can begin scheduling dates for volunteering! Perhaps you have skills in plumbing, electrical work, general contracting, drywalling, painting or laying flooring?

A couple of other local businesses have donated their time and efforts to the vision of Rubies including Property Commanders llc, and Thompson Marble and Granite.

Consider using your gifts that the Lord has given you by helping this ministry. Read more about the founder’s testimony here - <https://www.rubiesoutreach31.com/our-founder>, or by finding Rubies on facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/rubiesoutreach31>.



Photos By Traci Little

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Area Agency on Aging awards Social Isolation Grants

It's been over three years since the U.S. went into lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The complexity of its impact on our society was exacerbated by the isolation felt amongst communities and individuals. Among those most impacted are the at-risk individuals, such as older adults.

"Social isolation is a public health concern because it has been shown to increase health problems. Isolation can affect you both emotionally and physically. Social isolation can increase the risk of dementia, heart disease, and stroke. For older adults, social isolation has similar health impacts as smoking 15 cigarettes per day."

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. addressed the critical need to support socialization amongst older adults by partnering

with local businesses and organizations.

A grant opportunity was made available for Richland County organizations and businesses who could demonstrate a way to support Richland County seniors (age 60 and older) with effective methods for combatting social isolation post-pandemic. Applicants were required to exhibit a clear and innovative plan to interact and engage with at-risk seniors in a group setting.

Willa, Social Isolation program participant, said "You get to meet new friends and people that you talk with, and it just brightens your day, gives you something to look forward to. The best part of it is coming together as a community and meeting new people, and learning what services are available in our community, and to find out what all is funded by the Richland County Senior Services Levy."

Excited by the success and outcomes of these programs in 2022, the Area Agency on Aging allocated \$129,000 in Richland County Senior Services Levy funds to be granted in 2023. The 2023 submitted grant applications were evaluated by the number of people served, innovation, sustainability, and the ability to be compliant with funding and program expectations. Not only did the social isolation grant awards support the local economy by awarding funds in Richland County, but it also created a local, meaningful, and sustainable connection amongst seniors. The Area Agency on Aging anticipates that over 1,600 older adults in Richland County will benefit from these programs.

"We were fortunate enough to acquire grant funds through the Richland County Senior Services Levy, and we're super happy to be able to work with the seniors in our community. What we've been able to do is work with their wellness and teach them about how balance and coordination is important as we age. Here at Black Belt Pro Fitness, we do more than just Martial Arts, so we were happy to flex that and get out with the community and work with seniors, and we hope to continue with that relationship with the Area Agency on Aging and with our seniors in the community.", Chris Herberger, President/CEO of Black Belt Pro Fitness.

2023 Grant recipients include Richland Academy of the Arts, Shelby Community and Senior Center, Ginger's Signs & Designs/Rustik Market, Renaissance Performing Arts Association, Michael Daniels dba MD Creative Blends, North End Community Improvement Collaborative, Dove Candle Bar Company LLC, ProjectONE, Mansfield Fine Arts Guild, Inc. DBA Mansfield Art Center, YMCA of North Central Ohio, Black Belt Pro Fitness, LLC, Choice Personal Lifestyle Management, Inc., IdeaWorks, Inc, 419 Golf, OSU - Student Life at Ohio State Mansfield, Lincoln Highway and Nickel and Bean.

The Area Agency on Aging looks forward to celebrating older American's Month in May with the national theme "Aging Unbound". It aligns with the goal of socialization and explores diverse aging experiences, and when older adults are engaged and independent, the entire community benefits and prospers.

Collaborating with local businesses and organizations is a critical piece in accomplishing the goal of reducing the negative impacts of social isolation. The innovative programs from local organizations fulfill the diverse interests of older adults. They can leverage their creativity by participating in unique and fulfilling activities with other older adults, thus enhancing their health and well-being.

For more information on the social isolation programs visit <https://www.aaa5ohio.org/events/social-isolation-grant-awardees/>.





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Phone: 419-529-4687
Fax: 419-529-4154
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LEGAL NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Separate sealed bids for the RIC-CR144-6.50: Ontario Sidewalks in Ontario, Ohio will be received by Kris Knapp, Service-Safety Director, at 555 Stumbo Road, Ontario, Ohio 44906 until 10:00 am, local time, on May 4, 2023, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

Contractors will be required to purchase and download an electronic set of plans and bid documents via the KEM Web Site by visiting <https://kemccartney.com/project-bids/>. If you would prefer a hard copy be mailed, we will do so upon receipt of payment in the amount of \$50.00 per set, along with your UPS or FedEx account number so that shipping charges can be applied to your account. Checks shall be made payable to K.E. McCartney & Associates and all documents become the property of the prospective bidder, with no portion of the payment being refunded. Should you have any questions during the bidding process please contact jburgholder@kemccartney.com.

The project description is as follows:- Construct 450 feet of new sidewalk along the west side of Shelby Ontario Road (C.R. 144) starting at the intersection of Pearl St. and extending north to the existing walk at the school. The project includes new curb and gutter, curb ramps, sidewalks, traffic control, and drainage improvements.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities. Contract will be awarded based on the lowest and best bid. The City of Ontario may reject any or all bids on any basis and without disclosure of reason. The failure to make such disclosure shall not result in accrual of any right, claim or cause of action by any unsuccessful bidder against the City of Ontario. Bidders must be ODOT prequalified. This project does not include a DBE Goal.

Each bidder is required to furnish with its bid, a Bid Guaranty and Contract bond in accordance with Section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. Bid security furnished in Bond Form shall be issued by a Surety company or corporation licensed in the State of Ohio to provide said surety.

Each bid must contain the full name of the party or parties submitting the proposal and all persons interested therein. All contractors and subcontractors involved with the project will, to the extent practicable use Ohio Products, materials, services, and labor in the implementation of their project. Additionally, contractor compliance with the equal employment opportunity requirements of the Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 123, the Governor's Executive Order of 1972, and the Governor's Executive Order 84-9 shall be required.

Bidders must comply with the Davis Bacon prevailing wage rates on Public Improvements in Richland County

and Ontario, Ohio as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor.

The Owner intends and requires that this project be completed by October 27, 2023.

Kris Knapp
Service Safety Director
City of Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 4-13, 20, 27 '23) 83L

CITY OF ONTARIO GENERAL LABOR POSITION CIVIL SERVICE EXAM

The City of Ontario, an Equal Opportunity Employer, currently has an opening for a General Laborer in the Service Department. Duties may require operation of hand and power tools, heavy equipment, capable of lifting 50 pounds or more, working in inclement weather or other unpleasant conditions and call-in on short notice. Overtime is likely. A valid driver's license is required. We offer an excellent benefit package.

Applications may be picked up at the Ontario Municipal Building, 555 Stumbo Road, Ontario, Ohio, beginning April 17, 2023, and must be returned by May 10, 2023 at 3:00 p.m., in a sealed envelope addressed to the Civil Service Commission-General Labor Position. Applications are available online at ontarioohio.org. The Civil Service examination for General Laborer will be held Sunday, May 21, 2023, 9:00 a.m., in the Ontario Service Building, 3375 Milligan Road, Ontario, Ohio 44906.

Cathy VanAuker, MMC
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 4-20, 27 '23) 32L

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Separate sealed bids for the 2023 Resurfacing Program, Village of Lexington, Ohio will be received by the Village of Lexington, Ohio at the office of the Administrative Director at 44 West Main Street, Lexington, Ohio 44904 until 10:00am, local time Thursday May 11, 2023, and then, at said office, publicly opened and read aloud.

Contractors will be required to purchase and download an electronic set of plans and bid documents via the KEM Web Site by visiting <https://kemccartney.com/project-bids/>. If you would prefer a hard copy be mailed, we will do so upon receipt of payment in the amount of \$50.00 per set, along with your UPS or FedEx account number so that shipping charges can be applied to your account. Checks shall be made payable to K.E. McCartney & Associates and all documents become the property of the prospective bidder, with no portion of the payment being refunded. Should you have any questions during the bidding process please contact jburgholder@kemccartney.com.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities. Contract will be awarded based on the lowest and best bid. The Village of Lexington may

reject any or all bids on any basis and without disclosure of reason. The failure to make such disclosure shall not result in accrual of any right, claim or cause of action by any unsuccessful bidder against the Village of Lexington.

Each bid must be accompanied by either an Ohio Revised Code Section 153.571 Bid and Performance Payment Bond in an amount equal to 100% of the bid; or, a cashier's check, bid bond, letter of credit to be duly executed by the bidder as principal and having as surety thereon, a surety company approved by the Owner in the amount of 10% of the bid.

Each bid must contain the full name of the party or parties submitting the proposal and all persons interested therein. The Owner intends and requires that this project be completed by August 31, 2023.

Bidders must comply with the prevailing wage rates on Public Improvements in Richland County and Village of Lexington, Ohio as determined by the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, Wage and Hour Division, 614-644-2239.

Brenda Wilson
Clerk of Council
Village of Lexington, Ohio
(T-C 4-20, 27 '23) 66L

PUBLIC AUCTION CITY OF ONTARIO

The following items have been approved for auction from the City of Ontario. The auction will take place at the City's Service Building, 3575 Milligan Road, on May 4, 2023, at 2:30 p.m.

Auction items include, but more to follow:

Mobile Speed Radar Sign (not working) and trailer, 2007 Pontiac Grand Prix, Bus Stop, Steel Wood Chip bed, Firewood, Pictures, Steel 3 drawer cabinet, Printer Table, In Car Computer Mounting System, Various Computers, Various Printers, Holsters (HK USP 40), Shot Gun Pistol Grips, Telephone System, HP Graph Printer, Various Envelopes, Hard Cover Binders, Colored File Folders, LED Direction lights, Craftsman 17 gal Air Compressor, Various Fluorescent and Regular Light Bulbs, 8 long tables and chair sets, many other miscellaneous items. For questions, please contact Service-Safety Director Kris Knapp at 419-529-2495.

Cathy VanAuker, MMC
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 4-27, 5-4 '23) 31L

ONTARIO POLICE DISPATCHER LATERAL ENTRY EXAMINATION

The City of Ontario will conduct a Lateral Entry Examination for the position Police Dispatcher. The examination will begin with an Oral Board Interview which will be scheduled once all the applications are received by Civil Service.

Candidates must be U.S. citizens and present a valid driver's license at the time of the interview. Candidates will be subject to psychological, poly-

graph, drug and alcohol screening along with a comprehensive background check. Must be at least 18 years of age, must be currently employed as a Police Dispatcher with a minimum of 1 year of service and possess a high school diploma or GED equivalence. Pay ranges for 2023 are between \$24.18-\$27.50 dependent on exact prior years of service.

The City of Ontario is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on any basis prohibited by law including military status. However, if you are applying for a civil service examination and elect to claim military service credit either as an honorably discharged veteran or as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component as provided in R.C. 124.23, then please attach a copy of your honorable discharge from active duty, DD 214 or other proof of eligibility for this credit.

Applications will be available at the Ontario Municipal Building, 555 Stumbo Road, beginning April 13, 2023, at the Police Department window or online at www.ontpd.com. All applications must be received no later than May 10, 2023 at 3:00 PM. Those with questions may call the Division of Police at 419-529-2115.

Cathy VanAuker, MMC
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 4-27, 5-4 '23) 49L

Senior Spring Extravaganza to be held May 11

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. will hold a Senior Spring Extravaganza on May 11 at 10 am at the Richland County Fairgrounds in Mansfield.

This free event, hosted by the Area Agency on Aging, is held in recognition of Older Americans Month, and offers guests entertainment, refreshments, resources, information regarding aging issues, and a chance to win door prizes. There will be an on-site classic car show and entertainer Randy Velez will sing the oldies. There will be a free lunch and BINGO.

Sponsorships, Vendor Booths, and Car Show slots are available but must register. To become a sponsor visit www.aaa5ohio.org/events/senior-spring-extravaganza/. The event will be held in two buildings and the parking lot. For information call 567-247-6487.

The agency provides leadership, collaboration, coordination, and services to older adults, people with disabilities, their caregivers & resource networks that support individual choice, independence and dignity.

Adoption mural series unveiled in Imagination District

Richland County Children Services (RCCS), Mankind Murals Inc, and the RCDG: Mansfield Arts & Culture Sector celebrated the unveiling of a new mural, ‘Through the Eyes of a Child – Painting for Prevention and Adoption,’ on Wednesday, April 26, at the Buckeye Imagination Museum and The Renaissance & Theatre 166.

The mural unveiling ceremony debuts a series of exterior artwork panels, created by local artists with imaginative original works in the theme of “Through the Eyes of a Child.”

These artworks are a series of 4-foot by 8-foot Exterior Artwork Panels installed at two nearby locations in the Imagination District, on The Renaissance Theatre thoroughway between the theatre and the hotel, and at the Buckeye Imagination Museum by their parking lot.

RCCS collaborated with Mankind Murals Inc and the RCDG: Mansfield Arts and Culture Sector, to create ‘Through the Eyes of a Child – Painting for Prevention and Adoption,’ to raise awareness about child abuse, foster care, and kinship. The murals celebrate Richland County’s children and diverse families and symbolize hope for a brighter future for our children.

“I love the idea of the mobile child abuse prevention mural! This is a great way to encourage everyone in our community to see and think about how vulnerable and innocent children truly are and how they desperately need to be seen, heard, loved, and nurtured,” said Nikki Harless, Executive Director of Richland County Children Services.

The Mansfield Arts and Culture Sector was able to apply for matching funding for the public art project through the Richland County Foundation as part of the Mansfield Rising Plan.

The RCDG: Mansfield Art Sector invited artists in Richland County and students from the Mansfield City Schools - Mansfield Mural Club, to design and paint the 10 panels. The project spanned from the end of March to the end of April.

Artists include Evelia Sowash, Arlillian Nixon, Brandon Doup, Margaret Freed, Demetrius Howell, Jac Googins, Mansfield Mural Club, Drew Anderson, Kristine Gukich and Susan Gentile.

Luke Beekman of Mankind Murals Inc, and chair of the Art Sector, helped to organize the project with Richland County Children Services. Beekman is also working with students of the Mansfield Mural Club to complete their art panel as well.

“I think everyone is really excited to see more public art in the Imagination District, and this series of artworks is going to be a big step in that direction,” said Beekman.

“We’re so glad to have the full participation of artists, including students, and there will be a lot of creativity to celebrate in this project. The community is lucky to have the kind of talent and collaboration between organizations as we do in Mansfield. While the intention of the artwork is to uplift and inspire, it also underlines how the arts can help to elevate the humanities. The art-

work, while temporary, gives the community an important reflection... of the importance of our youth who are in need of care. As a project, we designed ‘Through the Eyes of a Child - Painting for Prevention and Adoption’ to be a chance for us to be fascinated by the perspective of a child through imagination, and with the motivation to paint a brighter future for our youth,” said Beekman.

Artists were selected based on their submissions and interest in the project, in response to a Call to Artists through the Art Sector. The following artists were selected:

Artist Evelia Sowash, created images of “hope, wonder, joy, strength, and freedom. “I want the viewer to feel joyful and compassion toward others.”

Artist Demetrius Howell, “Imagine a child being able to hold the world in their hands for only 10 seconds.”

Artist Jac Googins, “There’s nothing more prominent in children than their unique imaginations and abstract ways of viewing the world. I want to highlight how children might view the challenges they face, especially with abuse and family problems, but also highlight how adults can help protect them and can make a difference in helping the hurt kids see and feel love.”

Artist Brandon Doup, “My current work is focused on childhood memories, and how they are abstracted over time due to perspective and life experience. For this project I focus on the childhood perspective with colorful, bold, organic, and geometric shapes depicting houses and neighborhoods. Having local artists represent their city, and promoting these causes is important.”

“Richland County Children’s Services is grateful for the support of the Buckeye Imagination Museum and The Ren for helping us share our mission to lead our community in assuring the safety, well-being, and permanency of children at risk of abuse and neglect,” said Brigitte Coles, Community Engagement Specialist for Richland County Children Services.

“We are honored to be able to participate in this project and believe that bringing awareness to child abuse prevention through these murals is a great way to foster hope and growth in the community,” said Fred Boll, Executive Director of Buckeye Imagination Museum.

“We’re so excited to have played a small role in the addition of this new public art piece in downtown Mansfield. The collaboration between our local arts community and the public services sector on the project was innovative and it draws attention to an important subject. We are always encouraged when organizations work together to better our community!” said Jodie Perry, Chief Operating Officer, of Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development.

The goal is to share the murals’ messages of hope and imagination throughout Richland County. Those who would like to host murals at a business, church, school, organization, or event contact Luke Beekman at director@MankindMurals.org.

For more information about child abuse prevention, foster care and kinship visit richlandcountychildreasureservices.org. Call the Richland County Children Services 24-hour child abuse hotline at 419- 774-4100 to report child abuse and neglect.



By Evelia Sowash



By Arlillian Nixon



THE RICHLAND COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY hosted its annual Joseph H. Mudra Legacy Dinner on April 15 at the Life Celebration Center in Mansfield. Guest speaker was Kenneth W. Cooper, president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) (top photo). Two hundred heard Cooper speak about the importance of organized labor when it comes to protecting middle-class families who have been under attack for decades. Cooper is a graduate of Mansfield Senior High School. Through his hard work and determination, he rose from childhood home on Belmont Ave. to International President of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Awards were presented to Brandon Polak for the Emily Campbell Brown 2022 Young Democrat of the Year, John Makley 2022 Democrat of the Year (bottom photo), Venita Shoulders 2022 John J. Rinehart Lifetime Achievement. A special 50 year award was presented to Garland John Gates for his decades of dedication to public service in Shelby Government and the Richland County Democratic Party in many capacities. The dinner is named in honor of the democrats' longest serving chair Joseph H. Mudra, who passed March 2021.



ONTARIO MIDDLE SCHOOL oboist Eliana Fittante won first place in the Junior Woodwind Division of the Ohio Music Teachers Association Buckeye Auditions held at Graves Recital Hall in Columbus Saturday, April 15. She will advance to the State Buckeye Auditions in June. Eliana is a member of the Mansfield Symphony Youth Orchestra and the Ashland Community Band. She studies oboe with Carol Bernhardt and is the daughter of Melissa Fittante. Pictured are Carol Bernhardt and Eliana Fittante.

Hospice of NCO celebrates contributions of volunteers

National Volunteer Week is April 16–22 and Hospice of North Central Ohio (HNCO) is honoring its volunteers who provide support in all areas of its mission with dignity, kindness and respect.

“Hospice volunteers play an indispensable role in enabling Hospice of North Central Ohio to offer the best care possible for our patients and those grieving in our community. By sharing their time, energy and expertise, our volunteers bring compassion and caring to the lives of those in need,” said Danielle England, HNCO Volunteer Coordinator.

In 2022, Hospice of North Central Ohio saw 179 volunteers provide 11,475 hours to support the mission and purpose in the community. HNCO recognizes the spirit of volunteerism in its organization which shines forth through every volunteer.

Hospice volunteers often serve patients and families at the bedside, but they also assist in the office, help raise awareness, contribute to educational programs, support bereavement programming and provide fundraising through the What Goes ‘Round Thrift Shoppe.

Most hospice volunteers choose to give their time helping others because of their own experience with the compassionate care hospice provided to a dying loved one. One of our volunteers, Melody Barnes, shared these words about her own volunteer experience, “I am passionate about caring for others. I was born to serve, and hospice gives me another opportunity to serve with love and compassion.

For those interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities, contact volunteer coordinator Danielle England, at 419-685-4232 or daniele.english@mnhco.org.

More information can also be found at www.mnhco.org.

Registration open for Wreaths Across America Stem to Stone Races

Wreaths Across America (WAA) announced that registration is open for its annual Stem to Stone Races. Both in-person and virtual options are available to participants. For each race registration a veteran's wreath is sponsored and will honor a hero on National Wreaths Across America Day on Saturday, Dec. 16.

Registrations are open for both the virtual race as well as the annual live Stem to Stone Races scheduled on Saturday, July 29. The virtual and in-person options allow participants to join in from anywhere while helping sponsor veterans' wreaths for the participating location of their choosing. The live, in-person event will take place in Columbia Falls, Maine, on the tip lands where balsam is grown and harvested each year to make the veterans' wreaths that are then placed on the headstones of our nation's heroes.

Race options for early registration (prices will increase July 1) 1 Mile Kids Fun Run (In-person only), \$17; 5K in-person, \$45; 5K Virtual, \$45; 10K in-person, \$50; and 10K virtual, \$50. Register at <https://www.facebook.com/events/563857188924219/>.

"This our fifth year holding these races, and to date we've been really happy with the turnout, not only in Maine but across the country," said Karen Worcester, executive director, WAA.

"The Stem to Stone Race is a great way to stay active, be healthy, get involved in the community and do something meaningful for people who have done so much for us. We encourage everyone to get involved either virtually or in-person, and help share the mission to Remember, Honor, Teach."

Every race registration sponsors a fresh balsam veteran's wreath for placement on National Wreaths Across America Day – Saturday, Dec. 16.. You can personalize your efforts by designating a local Sponsorship Group or Participating Location you would like your sponsored wreath allocated to during the registration process. Just have the location or group ID available during checkout.

These races serve to help further community awareness and understanding of WAA's yearlong mission to Remember the fallen, Honor those that served, and Teach the next generation about the value of freedom.

To learn more go to <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/19520/News/944/?relatedId=0>

To register visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/ME/ColumbiaFalls/StemtoStoneRace>.

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun in 1992. The organization's mission – Remember, Honor, Teach – is carried out in part each year by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in December at Arlington, as well as at thousands of veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond.

To learn more about the mission visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org.

RPH annual report available

Richland Public Health has made its 2022 Annual Report available online.

The 12-page report provides a snapshot of local public health statistics and services provided by Richland Public Health in 2022. This report also highlights unique initiatives provided by Richland Public Health, including community health screenings, free pad and tampon dispensers in public restrooms, mosquito surveillance and spraying, Naloxone kits and training, free pediatric dental health supplies/programming, and WIC programming.

The 2022 Richland Public Health Annual Report is available to view or download at www.richlandhealth.org. The best way to find the report is by clicking on "Annual Report" on the homepage. It is also listed on the main menu under the "About Us" tab, or use this link: <https://richlandhealth.org/about-us/annual-reports/>

Those who would prefer a paper copy of the annual report, a printed version can be mailed or picked up at the Richland Public Health main entrance.

To request a free printed copy, call 419-774-4726 or e-mail chps@richlandhealth.org.

Mansfield Symphony Youth Orchestra to present spring concert on May 7

The area youth who make up the Mansfield Symphony Youth Orchestra will perform a spring concert at the Renaissance Theatre under the direction of Stephen Domka on Sunday, May 7, at 3:30 pm.

The MSYO will be performing Declaration Overture by Claude T. Smith, Dvorak's New World Symphony (Mvt. I and IV), Millennium by Richard Meyer, James Bond Medley Arr. by Victor Lopez, and Bacchanale by Saint-Saens.

Two MSYO Seniors will be featured as soloists with the orchestra. Elizabeth Corn (Senior at Ontario High School) will perform Clarinet Concerto No. 1 by Carl Maria von Weber and Joseph Litao (Senior at Ontario High School) will be performing Zigeunerweisen by Pablo de Sarasate.

According to director and conductor Stephen Domka, "The Mansfield Symphony Youth Orchestra Spring Concert is full of trumpet fanfares and rhythmic idioms that mirror the color and texture of John Williams. I felt inspired as a teacher/conductor to pick a theme that represents this MSYO season as a new beginning after the pandemic. Our MSYO students had the opportunity to perform two concerts this year which doubled the amount of repertoire they worked on from September until May. Dvorak's New World Symphony was composed when the composer visited the United States to tour the 'New World' and hear the influence of many cultures coming together. The symbolism of a 'New World' reminded me of how all of us have tried our best to adapt to the changes the pandemic brought. Our students also have had the opportunity to rehearse weekly in the "new" Lexington Local Schools JH/HS facility on a weekly basis. The acoustics and the layout of the music wing is state of the art and represents the support we have not only from our Lexington community, but also our board and administration at Lex."

The MSYO is made up of some of North Central Ohio's finest musicians, primarily in high school, from a 12-county region. It is the only youth orchestra within a 65 mile radius of Mansfield and represents approximately 90 members each season who perform concerts both onstage at the Renaissance and in the community.

A vital part of the Mansfield Symphony's Education initiative, the MYSO gives high school students an additional opportunity for musical growth by rehearsing and performing with other student musicians from the area, particularly if their high school is unable to offer a full orchestra experience. By participating in the MSYO program, students get the chance to perform a wide variety of fine orchestral music within a full symphony orchestra.

Tickets are available at the Renaissance Box Office, by calling 419-522-2726, and online at rentickets.org. Adult tickets are \$10 while student tickets are \$5. Mansfield Symphony Youth Orchestra performances are presented as part of the Mechanics Bank Education Series with additional support from the Russell and Mary Gimbel Foundation.

This season's youth orchestra is primarily made of students from a 12-county region representing the following schools: Ashland, Clearfork, Colonel Crawford, Galion, Home School, Lexington, Mansfield St. Peter's, Mapleton, Mt. Vernon, Ontario, River Valley, Wilford Intermediate, Wooster, and Wynford.

The Mansfield Symphony Youth Orchestra includes flute, Emma Fowler and Mason Diaz; oboe, Caitlyn Cutlp and Eliana Fittante; clarinet, Elizabeth Corn, Jennifer Covell and Matthew Ward; bass clarinet, Abby Hostettler; bassoon, Lilly Heydinger; horn, Maja Seibel; trumpet, Maria Welch, John Tackett, Caroline Smith and Jacob Moore; trombone, Clarissa Cousart, Logan Bartlett and Parker Brown; percussion, Ava Ghazarian, Scarlett Pryor, McCray Martin, Aydan Wade, Randy Domka and Emily Montgomery; Violin I, Joseph Litao, Naomi Schag, Ava Newdome, Sydney Sullivan, Wyatt Miller, Jesse Domka, Callie Kaschube and Grace Yeichner; violin II, Iris Prifti, Emma Tingley, Amelia Hughes, Drew Hooper, Adam Kern, Landon Nicholson, Owen Garver, Willow Roberts, Olivia Hubert, Gage Devaney and Lilian Fox; viola, Scott Bartlett, Elisa McFadden, Sylvia Secrist, Ben Wiltanger, Avery Miley and Alexis Foster; cello, Gabe Hill, Seth Dahlhausen, James Prinz, Brayden Vance, Sonja Gottschling, Elyssa Van Langevelde, Adrik Dudgeon, Finn Devaney, Natalie Holmes and Tyler Jones; bass, David Newdome, Lydia Schroeder, Wesley Holtz and Kolton Clever.