



# TRIBUNE-COURIER

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



news@tribune-courier.com

07.13.23



**IDA MAE THOMPSON** was celebrated as the oldest African American resident living in Richland County during the Juneteenth parade this year.

## Ida Mae Thompson celebrates 101st birthday with five generations

By Traci Little

Ida Mae Thompson is believed to be the oldest African American resident living in Richland County. Born in New Orleans on a muggy July 3, 1922, she was destined for greatness.

Last week Ms. Thompson celebrated her 101st birthday with family and close friends who all wore t-shirts with her picture and the slogan, "Still having fun at 101."

A gathering of five generations is certainly a cherished treasure. Children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren all in one place, celebrating their sweet Ida Mae. Ida was also honored with the title of grand marshal recently in Mansfield's Juneteenth parade on June 17.

Ida's family moved from New Orleans to Willard, OH, when she was only four years old. Her daddy got a job at the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad as a laborer and worked there for 45 years before passing. Ida was the eldest of eight children (five girls and three boys) and often took on the role of helping to care for her seven younger siblings.

Her daughter Shirley said, "She'd have them all cleaned up, lined up in a neat row on the couch looking nice when their father came home from work. She helped clean and cook and keep house, even as a young girl."

Eventually she got married and had four children of her own. Ida ran a tight ship when they were growing up. She encouraged hard work and saving half of what you make.

"If you make a dollar, you save fifty cents," Mama would say, said her daughter Shirley. She taught the children to have a good work

*(Continued on Page 8)*

## Health clinic planned for July 13

Richland Public Health will host the Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center of Mansfield, and the Pat Kracker Breast Cancer Foundation on July 13. The health event will run from 10 am to 3 pm in the parking lot outside of Richland Public Health, 555 Lexington Ave., Mansfield.

Richland Public Health activities include:

- Free Blood Pressure checks, anemia checks and blood sugar checks done by Public Health Nursing. Cholesterol checks are available for \$12 (cash or check only).
- Free Pediatric Dental Health bags which include a toothbrush, floss, and mouthwash for all children up to age 18.
- Free Detera Drug Destruction packets provided by the Richland County Youth Substance Use Coalition.
- Medical Inflatables- an educational walk through that both children and adults will learn from.

A three-hour fast is preferred for blood sugar checks and cholesterol checks require a 9-12 hour fast.

The Cleveland Clinic will be providing free mammograms. Appointments are preferred but walk-ins are welcome. For questions or to schedule an appointment call 419-631-0502.



**JUNIOR MISS ONTARIO** Rylee Schoonover met with music trio Sorellé of Lexington during the Ontario 4th of July Festival. Sorellé, consisting of sisters Madison (Madi), Bella and Ana Heichel, sang The National Anthem before the fireworks Saturday night.



[See More Ontario 4th of July Festival Photos on Page 9](#)

## How Orchard Park Got its Name

By Bob Carter

Old Times and present day curious folks may wonder how Orchard Park Road got its name.

Well, it started when pool room operator Sid Earhart sold his business in what became "dry" Lexington and went east of town and built a low roof ramshackle building on the present day intersection of East Main Street and U.S. 97.

It was just across the boundary of Washington. Lexington may have went "dry" but Washington Township, with no real town, was wide open. Sid sold groceries, produce, beer and booze. It was just a short trip from old Lex.

Business picked up and Earhart sold to John and Ida Leedy in the 1930s. Business boomed and they hired a man named Schroeder to help. Schroeder was a builder and with his help they added more buildings and then added canned goods, meat, baked goods, beer, liquor, punch boards, candy and slot machines.

Business must have picked up.

During the Great Depression, motorists would stop to buy traveling goods and Leedy would let them park their cars or travel trailers, tents or whatever in the orchard behind the store. Thus came the local name that stuck — Orchard Park.

The late Jim Leedy, John's son, told of the time Ida told her husband that an employee was stealing from them. John couldn't believe her so she told him if she could prove it to him, he'd have to take her to Florida. He consented, so Ida climbed up to a low ceiling rafter and came down with nearly \$1,000. She was the thief. They went to Florida.

Motion pictures were shown in the summer on a screen tied between two trees located behind the store. With good attendance, store sales were good too. But Leedy liked to gamble with more than slot machines and one night in a high dollar card game, Leedy lost Orchard Park to neighbor Jenner McBride. Leedy did the honorable thing and McBride, who was in the dairy business, took over.



Ada Leedy and the Orchard Park Market in the 1930s

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The Leedys moved to Huron. History did not record the conversation when John told Ida he lost the business.

McBride was not interested in running Orchard Park and sold it to Eddis and Dorthy Kinton. They ran the store until 1955 as Kinton's Market when they replaced the old building with a new brick structure. It didn't have the atmosphere as the old place and when they retired, the building housed several tenants until it to was torn down to be replaced by a fast food joint which, miss managed, also failed.

But the name Orchard Park stuck. Read the road sign.



## THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —

Indiana Jones is back for one final adventure in *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*. Harrison Ford returns to this signature role, giving us a weathered Dr. Jones on the verge of retirement. A chance meeting with his goddaughter Helena (Phoebe Waller-Bridge) takes him on a journey as they are both chased by a former foe very well played by Mads Mikkelsen.

They are pursuing the dial of destiny created by Archimedes, which when put back together could potentially change the course of history.

On a personal note, the Indiana Jones series has always been a favorite of mine. Raiders of the Lost Ark is one of my favorite movies and the other two entries in that original trilogy, Temple of Doom and The Last Crusade are great as well. 2008's *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* was looked on very poorly when it was released and may have hurt this one's box office totals as people did not turn out like the studio had hoped. For me, *Crystal Skull* is not horrible though does have both good and bad moments.

The box office news is too bad because *Dial of Destiny* has a great deal going for it. Much will be written about the de-aging of Harrison Ford for the movie's opening sequence and while it is noticeable the scene itself is terrific and involves a riveting train chase across mountains.

As the movie goes to the 1960s in which current day Ford plays the adventurer, director James Mangold really has a feel for this series and so much of this entry feels like an Indiana Jones adventure. Mangold is a great director with such a di-

verse filmography including the comic book movies *The Wolverine* and *Logan* along with *Girl, Interrupted*, *Walk the Line* and *Ford v. Ferrari*. Spielberg is not in the director's chair this time though he and George Lucas are producers.

It's great to see Harrison Ford at 80 years old still own this role like he does. Sure, Indy has aches and pains and been through a lot (as he mentions) though still feels the need to have one last adventure to help an old friend. The movie also features returning cast members John Rhys-Davies as Sallah and Karen Allen as Marion.

The scene in this movie that gets talked about the most involves the dial of destiny and this seems to be polarizing many fans though in my mind these movies have always had supernatural elements (in an interview Mangold mentioned the scene with the Ark of the Covenant and the 700-year-old knight in the third film). This final scene did not hurt the movie and did not seem as polarizing certainly as the aliens in the fourth movie did.

*Indiana Jones and Dial of Destiny* really feels like a classic Indiana Jones adventure and that is a good thing as it is an improvement over the fourth one though still not as good as the original trilogy. The cast are in fine form and Ford gives another great performance. Mangold's direction is top notch and the action scenes and thrills deliver. Get to the theater and enjoy this classic adventurer for one last time.



# News Briefs

State Route 39, between Township Road 1097 and Basore Rd., will close Monday, July 17 for a culvert replacement.

The detour route for eastbound motorists will be SR 39 to SR 603, south on SR 603 to SR 95, east on SR 95 to SR 39, and reverse for westbound motorists. Estimated completion is Friday, July 21.

The Mansfield Men's Garden Club is currently accepting nominations for the annual community beautification awards. To nominate a garden or landscape that enhances the community call Rob Nalley at 419-496-3003 or robertnalley2023@gmail.com or Doug Versaw at 419-565-5073 or dpversaw@gmail.com or visit Mansfieldmensgardenclub.com.

Beautification elements to be considered include lawn care; planting of annuals, perennials and vegetables; appropriate shrubs and trees for lot location and size; front entrance/curb appeal; and containers.

Applicants are eligible to win only once every five years. A separate contest is held for members of the Mansfield Men's Garden Club. Winners in each category will receive an award recognition sign, a beautiful potted mum plant, and an invitation to attend the Club's Annual Corn Roast/Awards Presentation.

Nominations will be accepted for Richland County residential and commercial properties until July 15.

TFC Global Ministry will host a picnic at Shelby Senior Center July 29 from 6-7:30 pm.

TFC Global has been supplying chaplaincy services at the Central Ohio Industrial Park for more than a year. The ministry has met with company contacts to provide chaplaincy services to employees and staff at the COIP complex on a weekly basis.

The ministry also is involved in converting old curbside newspaper boxes into magazine stands that are helping to get the Highway News Magazine into the hands of drivers and others.

The picnic menu is hamburgers, hotdogs, potatoes, coleslaw, chips and drinks. A freewill offering will be accepted to keep the Shelby chaplaincy services open and growing. Ministry highlights will be provided by Stanley Wertz, head chaplain with FC Global Ministry.

All community members are invited. Wertz may be reached at 717-947-8800 or stanleyw@tfcglobal.org.

Donations will help pay for TFC Global's mission to reach professional drivers and the trucking industry for Jesus Christ. Donations may be made to TFC Goobal, Box 293 Mansfield, OH, 44901.

For information visit <https://www.facebook.com/tfcglobalohio>.

First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Ave. West, Mansfield, offers senior boxes on the fourth Tuesday of each month, year 'round. The Greater Cleveland Food Bank has a program called "Senior Boxes" whereby anyone 60+ who falls in the "low income" guidelines can register and then pick up a 30 pound box of non-perishables including 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 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 July 19 will include roast beef. The group will play bingo and those attending are asked to bring a gift marked for a man, woman or either. Cost is \$15 for the meal. Guests are welcome. For information visit [www.lexasc.org](http://www.lexasc.org). Dues are \$10 per year.

North Central Ohio Industrial Museum's Friends of Manufacturing will host its First Annual Manufacturing Retirees Lunch on Friday, Sept. 1, from 11 am to 1 pm.

The lunch is free to the first 200 retirees from the area who are 65 and older and will be held at The Ohio State Reformatory, 100 Refor-

matory Rd., Mansfield, in the main guard room. Tours of the museum will be given from noon to 1 pm. The meal will be provided by Port-A-Cook. Dress is casual.

For information or to learn about sponsorship opportunities, contact Jerry Miller at [contact@ncoim.org](mailto:contact@ncoim.org) or 419-528-8107.

Little Flock Fellowship Church invites all kids ages preschool through sixth grade to attend a Vacation Bible School July 24-28 from 6-8 pm nightly. The church is located at 1149 Co. Rd. 30A, Ashland, just outside of Mifflin. There will be songs, games, snacks, Bible teaching, crafts and prizes with a cookout on Friday evening to wrap up the week. For information call the church at 419-368-7705.

The Bellville Neighborhood Outreach Center will have free produce giveaways on the fourth Monday of the Month, April thru October. Dates will be 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.

A free produce distribution to the community is held the second Tuesday of each month, April through November. The distribution is held in First English Lutheran Church's west parking lot at 53 Park Ave. W., at S. Mulberry St. Hours this year are 10:30 am to 12:30 pm and the food is free to anyone. Bring a valid ID. The fresh produce is provided by the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. For information call the church at 419-522-0662.

The Richland Country Korean War Veterans, Chapter 51, will be hosting a gathering with dignitaries, veterans and families to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. 300 guests are expected.

Donations are being accepted to help fund the event. Funds collected will help pay for the event space, snacks and drinks, gas money for entertainers and decorations.

The Han Wool Traditional Korean drummers and dancers from Columbus and pianist Miss Lee from Michigan will entertain.

The event will be held July 27, from 2-5 pm at the Mid-Ohio Conference Center, 890 W. 4th St., Mansfield. Veterans and the public are invited to attend but limited seating is available. RSVP to 419-989-0580. To help donate, visit <https://www.gofundme.com/i/70th-anniversary-ohio-korean-war-veterans>

The City of Ontario Concert in the Park's The Return performance has been rescheduled for Tuesday, July 18, from 6-8 pm in Marshall Park.

The Fun Center Chordsmen's 2nd Annual Summer Concert featuring the Chordsmen and Quartets and director Trevor Garrabrant.

The concert will be held at Marshall Park Bandshell, 3375 Milligan Rd., Ontario on Monday, Aug. 28, at 6:30 pm. The event is open to the public.

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, July 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.



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## Area church celebrates name change, new pastor Larry Carnes

The former Trinity United Methodist Church, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield (Madison area), has a new name. The church will now be known as Trinity Grace Fellowship. Trinity has changed its affiliation from United Methodist to Global Methodist.

"Trinity believes that every person is made in the image of God and is welcome," said Cathy Boyer, a member of the administrative board and director of the church's children's ministry. "Trinity wants every person to experience the freedom and joy and all-encompassing love that comes from repenting and confession our sin to God, receiving Christ Jesus as our Savior and Lord and being filled with His Holy Spirit."

"We have much to look forward to," she continued. "Trinity is the same 'Friendly Church in the Woods.' We have the same desire to lead our friends, strangers, family and neighbors to Jesus and to help them grow in their relationship with God through authentic relationships, biblical truths and Christ-like service."

Trinity has the same mission: to be a community of faith that worships passionately, loves extravagantly and witnesses boldly. Trinity has the same vision: to be and to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Trinity will continue to host its rummage sale, Easter egg hunt, Bible school and other activities.

Trinity has a new pastor, Larry Carnes who has served several United Methodist churches for more than 23 years including Brinkhaven, Sparta, Nashville, Sugarcreek, Batemantown and Waterford.

Carnes was born in Akron and is a 1978 graduate of Utica High School. He married in 1980 and he and his wife, Linda, have an adult son, Justin, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Change is not new to Trinity. Trinity began its life in the home of

W.W. Crider in 1906 with 35 members. Several years later, members of the Crider Memorial Church united with Mansfield's First Brethren Church, 79 Park Avenue East. In 1968, as a result of a merger, the name was changed to Trinity United Methodist Church. In 1974, the site of the church was moved to its current location.

John Wesley, the father and co-founder of Methodism, said, "Through we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, not withstanding these smaller differences."

Trinity invites everyone to join on Sunday mornings for worship beginning at 9:30 am.

Trinity's website is <http://www.trinitygracefellowship.org>. For information contact [secretary@trinitygracefellowship.org](mailto:secretary@trinitygracefellowship.org) or call 419-589-5890 Monday through Thursday from 8 am to noon.

Trinity Grace Fellowship will hold Vacation Bible School July 16-20 from 6-8:30 pm.

VBS, coordinated and directed by Laura Stake, is for children in kindergarten through sixth grade. The theme for VBS is "Keepers of the Kingdom" and the setting is a medieval castle.

Children will learn about how to put on the armor of God (from Ephesians chapter 6) through Bible lessons, crafts, snacks and games.

The church is celebrating its new denomination, new name and new pastor with a community block party July 23 from 3-5 pm. Everyone is welcome.

The Sonshine Band (Gary Baumberger, Brian Payne, Wayne Magee and Thom Richards) will perform.

There will be water games to play and hotdogs.

# Church Directory

### Clear Fork Alliance Church

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

### Community Bible Church

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

### First English Lutheran Church

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

### Lexington Presbyterian Church

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

### Mansfield 1st EPC

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

### Oakland Lutheran Church

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

### Ontario Christian Church

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

### Ontario United Methodist Church

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

### Southside Christian Church Disciples of Christ

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

### St. Mary of the Snows Catholic Church

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

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

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

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[advertising@tribune-courier.com](mailto:advertising@tribune-courier.com)

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## Celebration moved to Sept. 7

Richland SWCD and Richland County Farm Bureau are partnering to combine their annual celebrations this year into one joint celebration. The celebration will be held at Kehoe Center, 175 Mansfield Ave in Shelby beginning at 6 pm, doors open at 5:30 pm.

This year's guest speaker is Reverend Paul Lintern. Reverend Lintern will provide a program on the natural history of Richland County and share what makes our county special.

The celebration is open to the public and includes dinner. The cost is \$20 per person and reservations are requested by Aug. 24. Reservations may be made at <https://richlandswcd.net/event/annual-celebration-2/>

Richland SWCD was named the Ohio District of the Year and is celebrating its 75th Anniversary. The past year will be celebrated, and the Cooperator of the Year and Volunteer of the Year will be recognized.

Eligible voters may cast their vote for two open Board Supervisor positions from 5:30-6:30 pm at the celebration. The nominees are Brian Alt, Rick Novak, and Greg Timberlake. Absentee voting will be held during normal business hours starting August 9 and runs through Sept. 7 at noon at the Richland SWCD office. Farm Bureau members will vote on guiding policies, code changes and elect trustees and delegates at the Ohio Farm Bureau Annual Meeting for 2024.



## 4-H News Report

On June 25, 2023 Country Champions had its meeting. Mande Lantz called the meeting to order. The members voted on the theme for their booth for the Richland Fair and we voted on the Olympic theme.

We talked about about when rabbit tattooing was and when livestock judging was. Our advisors talked about how we should present ourselves for our judging. We ended our meeting with a snack.

Annalise Trovato  
News Reporter

## RRLC ice cream social is July 22

The Richland Rural Life Center, 969 E. Crall Rd., Mansfield, will host an ice cream social on Saturday, July 22, from 4-6 pm. The entrance is located between Stewart Rd. and Rt. 545.

On the menu are shredded chicken, sloppy joe, all beef hot dogs, coney, cole slaw, potato salad, baked beans, applesauce and homemade ice cream.

All items are sold A' la Carte. Homemade Ice Cream Quarts available for \$4. For information call 419-544-2418 (leave 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.

### Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

- Kenneth Zeigler, June 23
- Damon Michael Mauk, June 24
- James "Jim" L. Baire, June 25
- Betty Lou Chance, June 26
- David Lee Conant, June 26
- Rose Marie McCabe, June 26
- Cora A. Palmer, June 26
- Tyler James Askey, June 27
- Sandra Lynn Long, June 27
- Betty Jean Ackley, June 28
- Karen Ann Kelley, June 28
- Stanley Ray Horsley, June 29
- Rhonda Jean Knackstedt, June 29
- Laura Jean Meeker, June 29
- Nancy Eileen Croyle, June 30
- Robert Dean Shambre, July 4
- Larry Wayne Carpenter, July 5

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

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## Richland County Fair August 6-12, 2023

### GRANDSTAND EVENTS:

**Sunday:** Harness Racing, 5:30 pm, Free

**Monday:** Harness Racing, 5:30 pm, Free

**Wednesday:** Rodeo, 6 pm,  
Free Grandstand • \$10 Reserved Seats

**Thursday:** OSTPA Tractor Pull, 7 pm  
Free Grandstand • \$10 Pit or Reserved • \$20 Back Gate

**Friday:** Motocross 6 pm • Free Grandstand  
\$10 Pit or Reserved • \$20 Back Gate

**Saturday:** Demolition Derby, 5 pm  
Free Grandstand • \$10 Reserved • \$20 Back Gate

*Monday Senior Citizens \$5*

*Wednesday Kids Day*

*Thursday Free for Military & Veterans with ID*

General Gate Admission \$8 daily  
Admission for Children 48" and under is free!  
Membership Ticket (7 admissions) .....\$40  
Season Ticket (7 admissions) ..... \$40

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[richlandcountyfair.com](http://richlandcountyfair.com)

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

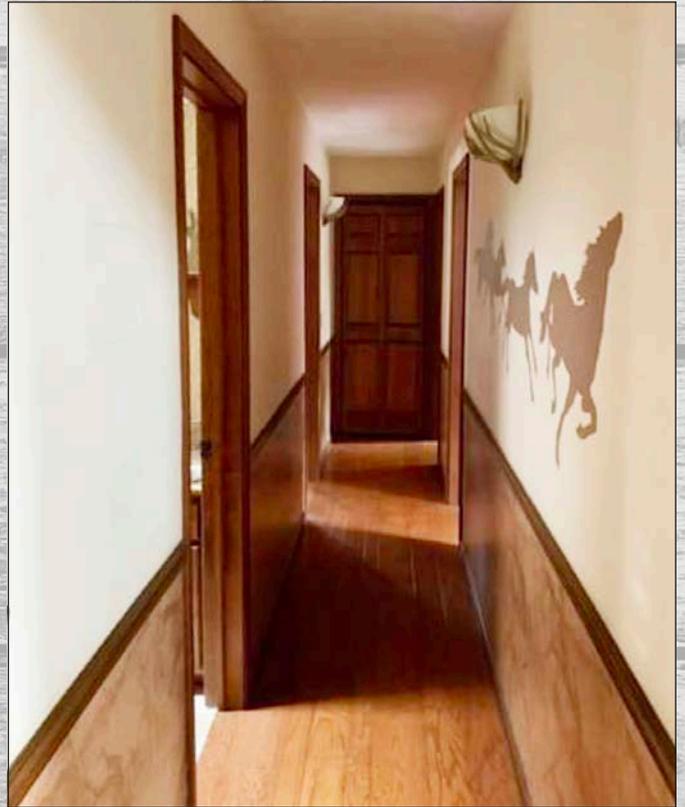
# Lifestyle Inspiration



Photo by Damon Callis

**Day Trippin' With Damon** – South Bass Island is a small island in western Lake Erie, and a part of Ottawa County, Ohio. It is the southernmost of the three Bass Islands and located 3 miles from the south shore of Lake Erie. It is the third largest island in the Lake Erie Islands, and is part of Put-in-Bay Township. For information visit <https://putinbay.com>.

# Before & After



**David & Alicia Dechert of Lexington**



**By Mátiece Thomas**

Can you guess what a very important element for a successful weight-loss journey is? It is one simple word that can infiltrate so many areas of your life. A very powerful action to add to your life is being POSITIVE and surrounding yours with other positive humans. A positive mindset is so very important for you, whether it is on your weight loss journey, spiritual journey, at your job, or in your home. Having the ability to find something positive, no matter what is going on around you is so important. A strong, positive mindset is the key to being successful. If your mind is finding the negative and it is concentrating on everything that is or can go wrong it will be hard for you to move forward and easier to sit

and wallow in negativity. Every morning take a moment and find five things that you are thankful for, five things that are good in your life. Then throughout your day when your day starts to be pulled to the negative side and things are going wrong, STOP and review what your five things are. That will be a reset for your mind and will flip your mind's switch to what is positive in your situation. It is also important to surround yourself with people that lift you up and support you. The five people closest to you should have the same beliefs as you do and also have the same core values. Together, it will be easier to do this thing called life! When life gets you down, you can turn to your core group to lift you up and you can do the same for them. So, the Trainer Girl's tip of the day is to find the positive in your day, DON'T let anything or anyone stand in your way! Follow me at Instagram-5pts-fitness\_trainergirl for nutrition and workout tips.




  
*outdoor*
  
 SPACES
   
 THE HOME OF
   
*Bryan & Laura Takos, Lexington*





**By Kim Sterry**

**ORANGE HONEY CHICKEN**

**Ingredients**

- 8-10 Chicken Thighs
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1-2 tablespoons sesame oil we want to get a decent coating on bottom of skillet
- 1 bunch Scallions or green onions diced about 1/8" thick
- 2 oranges we will use the juice and the zest from the oranges
- 3/4 cup honey (I like raw, but any honey will do)

**Instructions**

Pat your chicken thighs dry on paper towels and season with salt and pepper. Over medium heat, add your oils and toss in the chopped scallions. Sauté the scallions for a minute or so and remove from skillet. We want a decent amount of oil on pan, so before we add the thighs, if you think the pan might be a little dry or lacking in oil, go ahead and put some more in. Turn heat up on skillet, almost high but more than medium. We are going to cook the thighs on both sides until they are golden brown, 3 minutes per side. Turn heat to low after browning the thighs. Once the thighs are golden brown and you've turned your heat down, take honey and coat the tops of all the thighs. (I said 3/4 of a cup, but make sure they are all covered, so use a little more if needed.) Cut oranges in half (make sure you have already zested them) and squeeze the juice from the oranges over all of the chicken. Take the scallions that you set aside and toss them over the chicken. Use cover (or tin foil) and cover the skillet, place in your preheated for 25 minutes. Remove from oven and add the orange zest.

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# •Ida Mae Thompson celebrates 101st birthday

(Continued from Front Page)

ethic and always encouraged keeping a tidy and clean house and appearance. She taught her kids how to iron, cook and wash clothes. She didn't believe in being lazy and always encouraged her kids to be busy doing something. Hard work and tough love is something she passed down to them. Not everyone has a lot of money, but you can do your very best with what you're given and make it look nice. She remembers Mama canning all sorts of food including corn and butter beans.

Ida is a lover of beauty in any and all forms. Whether it's through growing flower gardens, observing nature, her stylish wardrobe, decorating her home, cooking southern comfort food, or admiring beautiful shiny things like sparkly chandeliers and cut glass and diamonds that shimmer and shine in the light. She adores things like her prized silver tea pot and china sets. She has always had impeccable style and always found a way to find a good bargain or deal!

Ida's full of sass and so much class. She loves her Lord, Jesus, but you could also find her making friends at Andrea's bar, The Barber-shop Lounge or at the casino.

What does Ida do when she gets to a casino? Laying in her bed in her Mansfield home she said with eyes closed and a smile across her face, "I'd pray, dear Lord, I know I'm not supposed to be here, but please allow me to win some money anyways!" Ida giggled. She enjoyed gambling on occasion and loved scratch-offs. She once won \$1,200 at a casino in Indiana, and in the 1990's she even won \$32,000 on *Cash Explosion*, a game show sponsored by the Ohio Lottery.

Everyone looks up to Ida Mae and they listen to her advice. She's kept folk respectable over the years. No getting away with sagging pants or backwards hats — she'll call them out on that in a hurry. Ida has an undeniable magnetic force that makes everyone want to be around her. I felt it in the room sitting on her bed and holding her beautiful, soft hand. She complimented my curls, and my eyes and my dimples I didn't know I had. She also thought I was in my twenties, so I told her that she's my new best friend. I felt her love as she squeezed my hand tight as we locked eyes.

Over the years you could always find her proudly wearing her Sunday best, also keeping up with her hair and manicured nails. She's the definition of style and class.

She seems to attract the younger generation, which has certainly helped to retain her youthful spirit. She's outlived all her siblings. Her family attributes her longevity to her strong faith in the Lord! She's passed down a lot of wisdom over the years, like making your way, even though life isn't always fair and never quitting a job until you have another one. The main piece of advice she's passed down is to always put God first.

Her main jobs over the years were cleaning the homes for many of the doctors and lawyers in Willard. They seemed to love Ida Mae, and eventually asked her to begin watching their children. She did a

little bit of everything, always trying to make a decent living!

She was faithful to her local church, Willard First Baptist church where she was treasurer for 22 years and she also sang in the choir and taught Sunday school. While in Mansfield, she's attended Shiloh Missionary or Full Gospel Church where she's loved hearing Bishop Morris preach and sing.

According to her family, Thompson and her husband were the first black residents of Willard to build their own house. Their hard work and ability to save created the building blocks for family members to follow. No banks in Willard would give them a loan at the time because they were African American said Shirley.

The Thompsons had a connection with one of Ida's doctor or lawyer friends in town and was able to obtain a house loan from a bank in Pennsylvania. Being the first African American family in Willard to build a brand-new house from the ground up is something she's still proud of. The house was a three-bedroom ranch on the corner of Keefer and Washington Street. Ida Mae's eyes lit up as she smiled reflecting on those times long ago.

Thompson's granddaughter Andrea was the first in the family to go to college, earning a communications degree from Mount Vernon Nazarene University and a teaching certificate from Ashland University. Andrea loves to lay in bed for hours with Ida and make videos on Facebook. They love to laugh and have a good time. Andrea knows her Grandma won't live forever, but she can't imagine her life without her. She's survived three cases of Covid, which left her with pneumonia on two occasions, but she always manages to bounce back from it.

Ida Mae was diagnosed with dementia around 1997-1998 by Cleveland Clinic when she first began showing signs and symptoms. Over the years it has progressively gotten worse. She is pretty much bed ridden now and her family takes really great care of her in her daughter's home in Mansfield. Ida Mae's daughter Shirley moved to Mansfield after getting married in 1977. Her mom moved there in 1983, which is what brought her to Mansfield.

Her daughter Shirley adores her mom, even when she's become increasingly confused and less like herself over the years. "That doesn't stop me from kissing the top of Mama's sweet head and hugging on her. Oh, stop it," Ida will say, but I just keep loving on her just the same." Shirley is her only child still living and has cared for her for many years.

Besides loving Jesus, having an occasional drink, and laughing a lot, Ida Mae is known for making her famous Gumbo. I can almost smell the Cajun aroma rising from the dark roux mixture of shrimp and vegetables, served over rice. Ida promised she would make me some Gumbo one day. I can picture us dancing, and laughing, as we cook up some delicious Gumbo in her kitchen, even if it means it's in another lifetime amongst a beautiful, cloudy landscape!



# ONTARIO 4TH OF JULY FESTIVAL 2023



# Ripley's has numerous attractions to fill visitors' day while visiting Gatlinburg, Tennessee

Photos and Article By Jenna Wolford

If you have been a reader of the *Tribune-Courier* for any amount of time, you have probably seen a few of my traveling articles describing family-fun destinations. I've taken readers with me to Michigan, Pennsylvania, Florida and all around Ohio.

This summer, we will have a series of articles highlighting activities in the Great Smoky Mountains.

As a child, The Smokies were my family's yearly vacation destination. Over the many years, we stayed in cabins, hotels and campgrounds, visiting every summer and sometimes again in the fall.

The Smokies have been on my return destination list for a long time. I have always wanted to show my kids all the fun things I was able to experience growing up.

Before this summer, the last time I visited this special "home-away-from-home" of my childhood was on my honeymoon exactly 20 years ago. In that time, so many new things have been added to the Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge, Tennessee areas, but many places from my childhood memories remain.

For this series of articles, I will focus on some of my "classic favorites" and their upgrades and on some of the new attractions drawing visitors in. There is simply not enough time in one vacation to cover everything, but I will do my best to give readers a highlight of some of the best of the Smokies.

Our series starts with a day in Gatlinburg, TN. A name you see all over town is Ripley's. From the aquarium to a mirror maze to the famed "Odditorium," Ripley's offers so much for visitors to see and experience.

During our trip, we were able to visit many of the Ripley's attractions and our first stop of the day was Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies. Located right behind the iconic Mountain Mall, the aquarium was voted the Best U.S. Aquarium by USA Today, 10Best.com and TripAdvisor.

I remember when the aquarium opened in 2000. My family made it a point to go its grand opening season and I recall being amazed by the walk-through tunnel — and honestly, I still am. Deemed as North America's longest underwater viewing tunnel, it stretches a football field in length. Here, we were transported beneath the ocean to be just inches away from Whitetip Reef Sharks, Sand Tiger Sharks, Green Sea Turtles, Great Barracuda, Saw Fish and Nurse Sharks.

The tunnel offers a slow-moving conveyor belt and also a stationary walkway to allow visitors to either ride along or take some time to step off to study a specific animal. Every time through the tunnel is a new experience, so we made a couple trips during our recent visit.

During a visit, guests journey through the Rainforest to see Red Bellied Piranha, Electric Eels, Green Iguanas and Poison Dart Frogs. The Axo Lotl is a unique species only found in two lakes in the world, both in Mexico.

The Ocean Realm contains Moray Eels in a rounded tank, allowing for unique viewing perspectives. Scorpionfish, Jellyfish and Japanese Sea Nettles can also be seen in the realm.

The aquarium offers daily shows to visitors including a Ray Bay Show, Penguin Show and Coral Reef Show. These special showings are spaced throughout the day so visitors have multiple chances to see them. The Ray Bay Dive is a show in which scuba divers feed the rays out of their hands as they interact with the majestic creatures. A Coral Reef Dive highlights the ocean life contained in a coral reef.

A sight to see is the Penguin Parade. African Penguins make their way around the aquarium to the delight of guests. The Penguin Playhouse allows guests to get up-close with the birds and we were fortunate enough to visit during feeding time.

The aquarium holds 1 million gallons of water, the majority of which is salt water and is divided into upper and lower levels. The sharks viewable from the tunnel can also be seen from above.

Open 365 days a year, the aquarium also features a fun "touch a ray" tank with options for feeding on the upper level. This Stingray Bay exhibit features a shallow tank to allow for easy access to the rays.

The aquarium's newest exhibit is located in the Discovery Center. Guests are invited to interact with moon jellyfish and learn from Ripley educators in the "Touch Jellies" exhibit. In this area is also a fun three-story tree house climbing tower for kids to play and special "peek-a-boo" tanks that allow them to see from the perspective of the fish inside.

For a limited time, guests can enter the "Ring of Fire" and discover the islands of Polynesia to uncover the myths and legends of the

*(Continued on Page 11)*



# •Ripley's attractions will fill visitors' day

(Continued from Page 10)

tropical oasis while also viewing turquoise rainbow fish, blood shrimp and an albino Burmese Python. This area included Madagascar Giant Day Geckos, Surgeon Fish, Moorish Idol and Racoon Butterfly Fish. This section also offered games and an interactive sand play area.

The aquarium hosts special events throughout the year. This summer guests can enjoy Breakfast with a Mermaid on select dates. This event includes access to the aquarium before it opens to the public, a hot breakfast and the chance to meet a real-life mermaid. Special experiences include a glass bottom boat viewing, a sleep with the sharks event and a penguin experience.

The gift shop also holds many unique items for purchase and the Feeding Frenzy restaurant is available for anyone in need of a snack, meal or refreshments.

Ripley's has an amazing list of attractions in Gatlinburg and the neighboring town of Pigeon Forge, many new since my last visit.

After leaving the aquarium, we made a quick stop at the Mountain Mall for a few treasures and headed to the nearby Ripley's Mountain Coaster, a thrilling ride on a gravity-propelled cart. The coaster takes guests on a scenic, twisting ride where they control their own speed. For those wanting a thrill ride, carts can reach speeds of 30 miles per hour on the winding ride down the mountainside.

I was surprised at the smoothness of the ride and the ease of use. Riders can take a ride by themselves or two people can ride together. These mountain coasters are new to the Smokies since I last visited and I was glad to be able to try one out.

Also at this location is Ripley's Mountain Glider which combines free falling and hang gliding into one ride above the treetops.

Next up was Ripley's Super Fun Zone which has an indoor mini-golf and laser tag.

We opted to start with mini-golf. The all-indoor course featured 80's music and movie posters and each hole included a trivia question with the question at the start of the green and the answer at the hole.

A fun element is a few spin boards which golfers spin to find out the special challenge they have to use for a hole. These included putting left-handed, on your knees, with eyes closed or with your foot. This 18-hole course was a nice break from the hot sun.

We then grabbed our laser guns and competed against each other in a fast-paced game of laser tag. The room was lit by blacklight and had fun 80's props like a classic "Zack Morris" cellular phone. The course also included special bonus targets for extra points.

We next crossed the street to Ripley's Marvelous Mirror Maze. This was my first-ever mirror maze experience (unless you count those county fair trailer fun houses) so I wasn't really sure what to expect.

A blacklight illuminates the neon carpet and the lights flash periodically to help make the maze even more confusing. The maze features LED lights and a floor-to-ceiling endless mirror room which is great for photos. I am proud to say we did not need a search party rescue.

The winding hallways and mirrored rooms make this a fun stop and guests can visit again later the same day with their ticket and a hand stamp. And at the end of the maze, guests can stop in the Candy Factory featuring many kinds of candy available for purchase.

We next found ourselves at Ripley's Believe It or Not!, a "Museum of Oddities."

Although I had once visited the "Odditorium" many years ago, I knew many of the items contained inside had probably changed. I did remember stopping at the large marble boulder every single visit to Gatlinburg and was happy to see it still there after all this time.

The Odditorium's exterior lives up to its name. Before you even enter the building you can tell its going to be a bit of an odd adventure.

Ripley's Believe It or Not! opened its doors in Downtown Gatlinburg on May 30, 1970.

After an extensive remodel in 2018, the museum reopened with new exhibits and popular classics. The new exterior definitely fits in with Smoky Mountain theming. It includes trees with bears, deer and other wildlife mixed into the facade.

The three floors contain hundreds of unusual artifacts, pop culture memorabilia and hands-on exhibits.

My kids have been a fan of looking through the *Believe it or Not!* books and had fun seeing some of the things they read about.

The collection was begun by world-famous traveler Robert Ripley who traveled to 201 countries in 35 years seeking the odd, the unusual and the unexplained. During our visit, a special exhibit was dedicated to the thousands of letters he received each day for more than 20 years.

To begin the self-guided tour, an elevator takes visitors to the top floor and they wind their way down through galleries and exhibits.

Among the "weird" in the collection is a genuine shrunken head, acquired by Ripley from a trader in Panama City in the 1920s. Now the world-wide collection includes more than 100. This is amongst the many things I never would have thought I would see in my lifetime.

Galleries include themes like art, travel, history and pop culture. Optical illusion rooms add fun to the mix and unique artwork includes a Clint Eastwood portrait made of 6,615

12-gauge shotgun shells, a telephone book carved to make a 3-D portrait of Jimi Hendrix, a portrait of Oprah Winfrey using bar codes and 980 mini Rubix cubes completing a portrait of Jeopardy host Alex Trebek.

An interesting display is the Matchstick Model of Hogwarts School from the Harry Potter series. It took Patrick Acton of

(Continued on Page 12)



Ripley's Super Fun Zone



# •Ripley’s fills visitors’ day

(Continued from Page 11)

Gladbrook, Iowa, three years to complete and is made of over 500,000 matchsticks.

If you are looking for something “different” to see, this place is for you.

One of my favorite stops growing up was Ripley’s Moving Theater. Every visit to Gatlinburg, we would look forward to seeing what new film was being offered — from mine carts to log runs and roller coasters, I have so many good memories of coming to the theater. This immersive experience allows visitors to feel like they are really in the movie. This theater was upgraded to 5D, so this was my first ride since it was 3D.

The films showing this trip were Glacier Race and Dino Safari 2. Glacier Race was a ride in a futuristic flying fighter through a land of ice and snow. As we raced through the scenery, we were sprinkled with real snow falling from the ceiling and gusts of air. Our theater chairs bumped and tipped putting us into the live action.

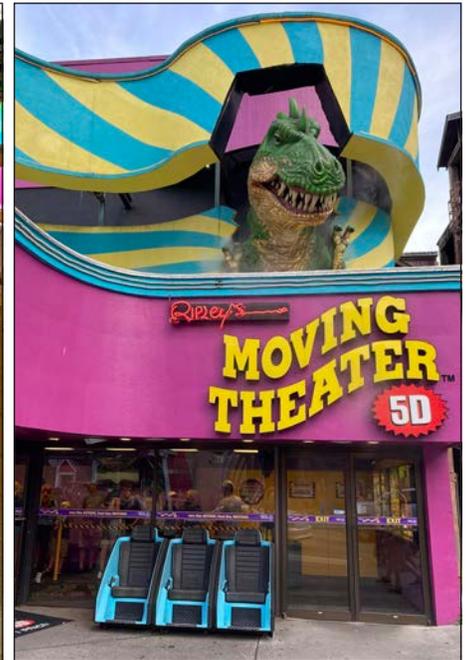
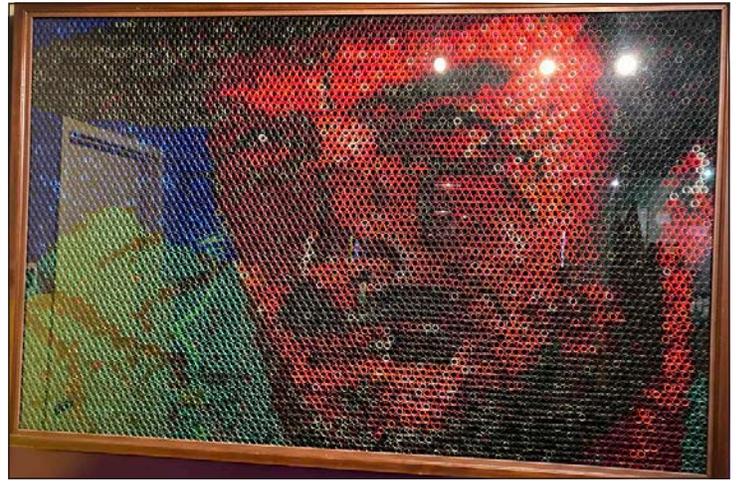
As the Dino Safari 2 movie began, we were transported to a dinosaur park and led on a high speed chase with a poacher who has stolen a baby dinosaur. Dinosaurs came from every angle as our seats turned into the chase vehicle and the motion simulator took us over each bump and turn, moving in eight directions. The 3D glasses made the story really come to life.

The aquarium is located at 88 River Rd., Gatlinburg, TN, at traffic light #5. For information visit [www.ripleysaquariumofthesmokies.com](http://www.ripleysaquariumofthesmokies.com) or call 1-800-240-1358. Ripley’s Mountain Coaster can be found across the street and Ripley’s Super Fun Zone is nearby at 542 Parkway. Ripley’s Marvelous Mirror Maze is located at 623 Parkway with Ripley’s Believe It or Not! Odditorium at 800 Parkway and Ripley’s 5D Moving Theater at 904 Parkway.

One of the best things about Gatlinburg is that most attractions are within walking distance of each other. The distance from the aquarium to the other Ripley’s Gatlinburg attractions is only a little over half a mile. It was so handy having most of the Ripley’s attractions right on the main strip of Gatlinburg. We were able to fill our day hopping from one attraction to the next. I highly suggest checking out Ripley’s website and buying a combo pass. There are many possibilities to choose from and make sure to reserve a whole day for Ripley’s many adventures.

In addition to the attractions we visited, Ripley’s also has Ripley’s Haunted Adventure in Gatlinburg, Ripley’s Super Fun Park in Pigeon Forge. Ripley’s Old MacDonald’s Farm Mini-Golf in Sevierville and Ripley’s Davy Crockett Mini-Golf in Gatlinburg.

To find out more about each attraction and to purchase tickets or combo tickets visit <https://ripleys.com/gatlinburg>.



# State Senator Romanchuk praises historic tax cuts

State Senator Mark Romanchuk (R-Ontario) praised the \$88.86 billion budget passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by the governor, especially the historic \$3 billion in tax relief that returns this hard-earned money to Ohio taxpayers. The senator also strongly approved of the inclusion of universal school vouchers, while providing record funding for K-12 public schools.

“We have delivered a remarkable budget that will benefit all Ohioans, especially families, by cutting income and business taxes, and expanding school choice to make vouchers available for every child in the state,” said Romanchuk. “We have cut income taxes in each budget I have been a part of, and I am pleased we were able to add significant tax relief for businesses this time. This is a great recipe for expanding opportunity and prosperity.”

The senator praised the move toward a fair and simplified flat tax approach, as the budget reduces the number of tax brackets to only two over the biennium. The marginal rates will be 2.75% over \$26,050 and 3.5% over \$100,000. Ohioans making \$26,051 or less pay no income taxes. The budget also adds an extended sales tax holiday in August.

The budget’s historic changes to the Commercial Activity Tax will provide significant tax relief to businesses. Almost 90% of Ohio’s businesses will no longer have to pay any Commercial Activity Tax. This reform exempts businesses from paying taxes on the first \$3 million of gross receipts in the first year of the budget. Businesses will not have to pay taxes on the first \$6 million of gross receipts in the following year.

The budget makes Ed Choice Scholarships funded by the state universally available to every Ohio student based on a sliding scale of income eligibility.

Families earning 450% of the federal poverty level (\$135,000 for a family of four) will qualify for a full scholarship funded by the state. That is \$6,165 for K-8 students and \$8,407 for high school students. Scholarships for students in families within incomes above 450% will be means-tested with scholarship amounts adjusted based on their income. Every student in Ohio will be eligible for a scholarship worth at least 10% of the maximum scholarship regardless of income.

The budget includes major policy improvements and record funding for K-12 public schools by adding an additional \$1.97 billion. That’s a 12.9% increase over the biennium. Total funding for students in public schools is a record \$9.6 billion in fiscal year 2024 and \$9.9 billion in fiscal year 2025, totaling nearly \$2 billion more for public schools.



VILLAGE OF LEXINGTON Mayor White swears in Lexington Chief of Police Troy Weaver during a meeting in village chambers on July 6.



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# Madison completes hirings for new school year

Madison Local School District held its regular meeting June 28 in the Madison Middle School Auditoria.

Board president Tim Wigton called the meeting to order and presentations were given from Curt McVicker, technology; and Kim Pfeleiderer, food services. The board of education approved the donation of plexiglass sheeting valued at \$1,000 from All Glass Systems to be used for senior murals.

The monthly financial report for May was approved as submitted. The board approved the temporary appropriations for FY 2024 not to exceed 50% of the FY 2023 appropriations at fund level. The use of blanket and super blanket purchase orders for amounts not to exceed \$500,000 per order for FY 2024 was also approved.

The treasurer was authorized to make the necessary appropriation modifications, transfers and advances, and to request from the County Auditor an amended certificate for the purpose of closing out FY 2023.

The board approved the revised permanent appropriations for FY 2023 and the request to accept the electricity quotes from META and to authorize the execution and delivery of a master electric energy sales agreement between the district and META endorsed electric supplier, Direct Energy.

The insurance quote from Rinehart, Walters and Danner for fleet and liability insurance was accepted and the board authorized the execution of accepting coverage from the Ohio School Plan for 2023-'24.

The amended School Compensation Agreement between Airport West LLC and the Madison Local School District was approved.

Resignations were accepted from Owen Zeiter, head 7th grade boys' basketball coach; Chloe McKee, middle school 8th grade intervention specialist; Tieler Crouse, middle school English/language arts; Tieler Crouse, 7th grade cheerleading advisor; Mollie Hulit, Mifflin 3rd grade (ELA and social studies); Courtney Miller, South 2nd grade teacher; Carrie Jeffries, middle school 7th grade intervention specialist; Jared Phillips, Career Tech (CT) cybersecurity teacher; Jamie Halye, high school intervention specialist; Josh Davis, high school art teacher; and Eddie Walker, high school science teacher.

The board hired 2023-'24 staff including Neely Burkholder, intervention specialist - high school; Casey Perry, CT carpentry instructor - high school; Autumn Moore, 5th grade teacher (English/language arts) - middle school; Gwendalyn Boyer, intervention specialist - South; Reba Rice, intervention specialist - high school; Nicole Hamper, intervention specialist (content areas: math and science) - middle school; Ariel Gough, 3rd grade teacher (ELA and social studies) - Mifflin; Katy Lang, Intervention Specialist (Content Area: English/Language Arts) - middle school; Krystal Wynn, fourth grade teacher (science, social studies, ELA support) - Mifflin; and Ryan MacCredie, art teacher - high school.

Matt Wade has been awarded the social studies position at the high school, replacing Margaret Washington who retired. Jeff Burkholder has been awarded the physical science position at the high school, replacing Eddie Walker who resigned.

Kevin Andress has been awarded the English/Language Arts (7th grade/7th grade advanced) position at the middle school, replacing Tieler Crouse who resigned. Amy Gay (Weaver) has been awarded the 2nd grade position at Madison South, replacing Courtney Miller who resigned.

Volunteers approved are Ryan Hosler, boys' soccer; Christopher Reynolds, girls' tennis; and Matthew Stancombe, eighth grade football.

Bill Roth, Tim Niswander, Troy Schulz, Julie Kirkpatrick and Katie Wade were hired for summer school (on an as-needed basis).

Positions awarded for the 2023-'24 school year include Dustin Moysi, assistant varsity boys' soccer coach; Kelly O' Brien, ½ assistant varsity girls' soccer coach; Jordan Monica, ½ assistant varsity girls' soccer coach; Michelle Dillon, Academic Booster coordinator; Mico Castelvetere, head varsity girls' golf coach; Owen Zeiter, head 8th grade boys' basketball coach; Dominic Castelvetere, assistant (JV) boys' golf coach; Preston See, head 7th grade boys' basketball coach; Kristin Ruby, 7th grade cheerleading advisor; and Jeffrey Burkholder, assistant varsity football coach.

The superintendent recommends the non-renewal of spring 2023 supplemental contracts currently held by non-MLEA members

Wayne Camp, assistant 7/8 track coach; Tyler Amos, assistant 7/8 track coach; Morris Hill, assistant varsity track coach; Egypt Griffith-Murphy, ½ Assistant varsity softball coach; Mico Castelvetere, ½ assistant varsity softball coach; Tommy Hill, boys' tennis coach; and T. Justin Hunt, spring fitness coordinator.

An extra 1/8 day was approved for employees for the 2023-'24 school year including Tom Brandt, Melinda Williams, David Hipp, Jim Thompson, Stacey Wampler, Casey Perry, Melissa Brandt, Don Maxey and Nikki Mosiychuk.

Extended time for the 2023-'24 school year was approved for Tom Brandt, 8 days, CT Automotive Technology; Laura Coey, 1 day, CT Family & Consumer Science; Jenifer Culle, 8 days, Speech & Hearing; Melinda Williams, 10 days, CT Cosmetology - Year 1; Monique Eberst, 12 days, middle school counselor; Alexis Carlson, 20 days, high school band; Katherine Darnell, 16 days, HS/MS media center; Adolph Hathaway, 7 days, high school C.B.I.; Victoria Kasberg, 8 days, high school Work & Family; Mike Leeper, 16 days, high school C.B.I. 12; Kelly Carpenter, 12 days, high school counselor; Timothy Ritchey, 12 days, high school counselor; Jim Thompson, 4 days, CT Precision Machining; Stacey Wampler, 16 days, CT Health Occupation; Casey Perry, 10 days, CT Carpentry - Year 1; Kyna Wright, 4 days, middle school Healthy Lifestyles; Jessica Rush, 12 days, middle school counselor; and David Hipp, 10 days, CT Electrical Maintenance - Year 2.

Mike Wagner was hired as the Madison Adult Career Center Customized Welding Training instructor.

A public meeting was held on the issue of the re-employment of Matt Godsil during his STRS service retirement.

Resignations were accepted from Derek Dawson, 2nd shift custodian - middle school; Steve McGlone, 2nd shift custodian - high school, retirement; Lessie Sloan, Special Education Aide (p/t) - high school; and Heather Addington, MECLC.

Michelle Keen was hired as 2nd shift custodian for the high school and Richele Garand has been awarded the full-time 2nd shift custodian position at Mifflin, replacing Kenneth Mounts.

A one-year contract was awarded to Michelle Keen for the 2023-'24 school year. Shelly Pogue, custodian, was hired as a substitute employee on an "on call" basis.

An unpaid leave of absence was approved for David Adams, Middle School custodian, effective April 12, 2023 through April 12, 2024.

The board voted to eliminate administrative positions for Technology Coordinator and Director of Federal Programs, Gifted and Assessment (contracted through Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center) and create an administrative position for Director of School Improvement, Assessment and Federal Programs.

The board voted to provide an annual stipend of \$7,500 to Nathan Stump to take on the duties of District Gifted Coordinator and hire Curt McVicker as the Director of School Improvement, Assessment and Federal Programs.

Natasha Repp, MECLC Principal, resigned effective Sept. 1.

The board approved the student fee structure for the 2023-'24 school year and the termination of the employment contract of Kenneth Mounts as the result of violations of the written rules and regulations as set forth by the board and other acts of misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance, including good and just cause for discipline/termination.

The Service Agreement between Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center and Madison Local Schools was approved for the 2023-'24 school year.

The replacement of both heating system boilers at Eastview Elementary in the amount of \$127,480 to be completed by Standard Plumbing and Heating in the fall of 2023 was approved. This project is being priced and certified by T.I.P.S. purchasing cooperative, and therefore is not subject to conventional bidding.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Richland County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, Family Life Counseling and Psychiatric Services, and Madison Local School District for the implementation of A Wellness Team in the school district for the next school year was also approved.

(Continued on Page 15)

## •Madison completes hirings

(Continued from Page 14)

The board approved an advance of funds from General Fund 001 to Adult Ed 012 in the amount of \$21,000. This advance will be paid back in FY2024.

Janice Stupka has been awarded the 2nd grade position at Eastview, replacing Amy Gay (Weaver) who accepted another position.

David Gilbert was hired as the head 7/8 grade wrestling coach. Resignations were accepted from Nicky Cole, two-hour cook at Eastview; and Marsha Hopton, secretary for MACC. Larry Boggs was hired as a substitute custodian on an on-call basis.

The board will provide an annual stipend of \$7,500 to Luke Strohm to take on additional duties as a result of the elimination of the Technology Coordinator position.

An overnight trip June 29–July 2, 2023 was approved for the high school girls' basketball team to attend a team camp at the University of South Carolina.

The 2023–'24 K-5 student handbook and the 6–12 student handbook were both approved.

The board voted to eliminate classified positions due to reduction in force. Positions included special education aides at South-preschool, the high school and Madison South; special education 1-1 aide part-time at the high school; special education 1-1 aide at Mifflin; and bus driver (route 23); and custodian part-time board office).

The suspension of Susan Jolley's contract was approved due to reduction in force. Substitute cooks will earn \$10.10 per hour, effective Jan. 1, 2023.

The board approved access by the Richland County Sheriff's Office to the District video monitoring system on a limited basis per Board of Education policy and by General Order 20.9 of the Richland County Sheriff's Office (CJIS, Public Safety Systems & Video Monitoring Systems).

A weekly tuition rate increase for the Madison Early Childhood Learning Center was approved, effective July 3, 2023. The increases are: infant tuition from \$175/week to \$200/week; toddler tuition from \$155/week to \$180/week; preschool tuition (part-time) from \$80/week to \$95/week; preschool tuition (full-time) from \$125/week to \$150/week; school age summer tuition from \$125/week to \$140/week; school age latchkey tuition (AM or PM) from \$50/week to \$65/week; and school age latchkey tuition (AM & PM) from \$70/week to \$85/week.

The 2nd reading of new/revised board policies was approved.

The board will hold a work session July 12 at 4 pm at the Madison Board of Education, 1379 Grace St., Mansfield. No action will be taken but the meeting will be held to consider the necessity for placing a school levy for current expenses on the Nov. 7, 2023 ballot.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 19, in the Madison Middle School Auditoria at 6 pm.

A special meeting will be held July 27 at the Board of Education Office at 4 pm.

## Firelands People Fund awards Hospice of North Central Ohio grant

The Firelands Electric Cooperative People's Fund, New London, OH, has approved a grant in the amount of \$1,319.76 to Hospice of North Central Ohio to fund the purchase of Personal Emergency Response System.

This alert system, which is recommended by Womens Health and Wearsafe is nationally recognized for the protection of people with their safety devices. HNCO will issue these devices to front-line caregivers and other personnel who make in home visits to hospice and palliative care patients.

Ralph Tomassi, HNCO Chief Development Officer stated, "Gifts and grants to HNCO have and continue to enhance patient care."

The mission of Firelands Electric Cooperative People's Fund is the accumulation of funds for charitable purposes in the Firelands Rural Electric service area. The program receives its funding from members who allow their bills to be rounded up each month to the next dollar amount. These funds are placed in a charitable trust and then distributed quarterly to qualified charitable organizations.

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



Damien

This handsome boy is a handful. His favorite thing to do is be outside playing with a toy. He absolutely loves sprinting around the play yard of the shelter, throwing a toy in the air as he goes.

Damien does need some leash training. He is absolutely terrified of new people, and Damien hides in the back of his kennel when visitors walk by him, especially men.

After Damien is comfortable with someone, he tries to be as close as possible. Damien is also incredibly smart and tries to

outsmart humans and keep toys in his kennel with him (no shelter dog can keep toys, since they unfortunately clog the drains). Damien is incredibly sweet and is around a year and a half old. He came into the shelter in January of 2023, and Damien has no idea why he has been passed over for adoption! Come meet Damien!

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

Currently, adoptions are on a schedule, based on the time the dog has been at the shelter. Dogs that have been at the shelter for more than a year are \$50, dogs there more than six months are \$100, dogs at the shelter longer than three months are \$125, and dogs there less than three months are \$150. This fee includes spay/neuter, microchip, dog license, and some vaccines.

The shelter's current needs are volunteers to walk and play with the dogs as well as fill kongs for the dogs to play with when they are in their kennel, help with laundry or dishes, or clean the yard. The shelter uses a lot of bleach, laundry detergent, and dog treats and welcomes donations.

## St. Peter's announces concert

St. Peter's Music Series has announced that it will host the National French Boys Choir, Maitrise des Hauts de France, under the direction of widely known and respected Mr. Jerome Cupelli, in a performance of sacred and classical music at 7 pm on July 22 at St. Peter's Catholic Church, 60 S. Mulberry St.

The concert is a return performance. The choir was last here in 2015 when they delighted the audience with a diverse and inspiring program of choral music.

Mr. Cupelli has been the Director of Maitrise des Hauts de France since 2010. Born in 1980, Jérôme Cupelli, a professional journalist, and a regional delegate of the Fédération Française des Petits Chanteurs (Pueri Cantores) for the region of Upper France, is an experienced musician of great sensitive nature and musical standards.

In 2002, he became the founding director of the Maitrise des Petits Chanteurs de Lambres-lez-Douai. In 2007, he was chosen as a juror for choir competitions with the Confédération Musicale de France; he also runs choir training sessions all across Northern France. Thanks to his technical skills, sense of personal contact, charisma, and his passion for choral singing, which he passes on to every one of his choristers, Jérôme is a true director, eager to listen to others and entirely dedicated to his mission.

Through the many concerts performed the world over, the Maitrise des Hauts de France strives to convey its continuous search for quality in the performance of the polyphonic repertoire devoted to children's voices. The vocal quality of the choir allows it to perform an extensive repertoire of mainly sacred music and harmonized popular songs.

Admission to the concert is free and open to the public. A free will offering will be taken up to support the choir on their tour. For information call 419-524-2572, ext. 2113.



Ann Akers



Amanda Boyce

## Mechanics Bank announces promotions of Akers and Boyce

Mechanics Bank has announced promotions  
Amanda Boyce has been promoted to Assistant Vice President. Amanda joined Mechanics in 2019 with over nineteen years of experience in banking. Amanda served as a Private Banker and Human Resources Specialist prior to her current role of Assistant Human Resources Manager.

Ann Akers has been promoted to Assistant Vice President. Ann joined Mechanics in 2023 with over 20 years of experience in banking. She is currently serving as the Risk Quality Assurance Manager. Ann has a Master's degree in Business Administration from Ashland University; a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Ashland University; and an Associate of Arts degree from The Ohio State University.

Mechanics Bank is Richland County's only independent, community bank with nine locations in Richland County.

## Poison Hemlock spreading in Ohio

The area is seeing a lot of poison hemlock growing throughout the countryside. One of the best ways to identify this species is by looking for multiple large white flowerheads, with a purple - white - green fuzzy looking stalk, and leaves that resemble the leaves of a carrot. It is best to not let these plants get to the point that they are flowering and to remove them from the landscape as soon as you have identified them.

Plants can cause an allergic reaction ranging from mild to extremely severe. Proper precautions such as clothing, gloves, and eye protection are recommended if you are going to handle the plants. Mechanical (mowing) or using herbicides can be effective, but it can take several years to completely remove these harmful plants from the landscape due to the seeds in the soil also known as a seed bank.

Residents can save the date for an invasive species workshop on Thursday Jan. 25, with the Richland Soil & Water Conservation District.

## Senior center to serve meals in July

The Lexington Depot's meal schedule for July has been released. Meals are served at the Lexington Senior Civic Center, 67 E. Main St., Lexington, from 11 am to 2 pm. For information call 419-884-1676.

- July 13 — pot roast
- July 18 — meatballs with gravy
- July 20 — Marzetti
- July 25 — ham
- July 27 — sandwich & salad

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## Buckeye Imagination Museum hosts summer art program for local girls

Buckeye Imagination Museum hosted its first summer program for Richland County girls interested in art from Monday, June 26 to Friday, June 30.

Planning began in September 2022 for this program, headed by the museum's Exhibit Coordinator, Ellen Boll. Boll explained that she wanted to create an art program for girls to participate in that was completely free so that they would have an opportunity to build self-worth and confidence through their expression of various art mediums, despite possible economic and social barriers.

"Art is emotion, it's creativity" Boll explained. "We wanted to teach the girls about various female artists to show them that they could become successful through their emotions and their personal experiences."

Throughout the five-day camp, named "Girls Create Camp", the 11 young artists learned about Alma Thomas, Mary Blair, Frida Kahlo, Yayoi Kusama, and local muralist, Allison Pence, focusing each day towards one specific artist. After each artist lesson, the girls would create their own work in the artist's preferred art style. Once each project was completed, the young artists were given free-style time, where they could work in any art medium they desired.

On Friday, the girls were taken on a field trip through downtown Mansfield to see the various murals and art on the buildings, finishing the trip at Element of Art, where they were able to contribute to the gallery's Art Wall, a monthly collage-style mural. Upon return, the young artists finalized their work, and began preparing for the art show the museum was holding for them that evening.

From 5:30-7:30 pm on Friday, Buckeye Imagination Museum held an art show and silent auction for the girls, hosting family members and representatives from Richland County Foundation and the Women's Fund, a fund of the Foundation. The young artists presented a large piece of art to these representatives to show their appreciation for the funding provided for the program.

After visitors viewed each artist's work, they were able to participate in a silent auction for pieces each young artist picked out to sell. Once the auction was over, the girls were ecstatic to see their art purchased, each one selling for at least forty dollars. Each girl received the money their art sold for, so both they and Museum staff were very excited to see the event go so successfully.

Buckeye Imagination Museum was very grateful to see the program go so well in its first year and are happy to announce that they plan to continue to provide this program every year! The organization would like to thank the Women's Fund for providing a portion of the funding needed to make this program possible. The museum also thanks all the parents who allowed their girls to come and participate in Girls Create Camp.

## Summer Courtyard Series continues

This summer, the downtown courtyard at Mechanics Bank will be a lunchtime destination for live music, food trucks and more.

All performances will be held 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.

The schedule includes music and food from Emily Raff and Truckin' Trav on July 14; EKG and Cell Block Café on July 28; Taylor Schlupp and Grunt Grub on Aug. 11; Milo's Music and Mr. Bill's Wood Fired Pizza on Aug. 25; Josh Vanderzyden and Eshelman's Table on Sept. 8; and Tom's Kitchen Table and Pasta by Grunt Grub on Sept. 22.

Guests can come early or stay later and enjoy the courtyard. The courtyard is open every Friday over lunch.

In the event of inclement weather, visit [MyMechanics.com/Live-atLunch](http://MyMechanics.com/Live-atLunch) for updates. Mechanics Bank is located at 2 S. Main St., Mansfield.

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Colorado • Photo By Mark Shutt

## Third Annual Kay Day Peace March is Saturday in Mansfield

The community is invited to the Third Annual Kay Day Peace March on Saturday, July 15, in downtown Mansfield.

The Kay Day Committee, North End Community Improvement Collaborative (NECIC), City of Mansfield Police Department, Mansfield Community Against Violence (M-CAV), Mansfield Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (MIMA), Restored Visions, Richland County Children Services (RCCS) and We ACT are sending a message to the community: 'We Are Here For Each Other' by organizing the Peace March honoring NECIC community organizer Geneva 'Kay' Smith. Smith, a former community organizer and anti-violence advocate, died in December 2019.

The Peace March line-up will be 11:30 am at the five-way light at Park Avenue and Bowman Street. All participants are asked to bring their peace signs and signs remembering victims of violence. The Peace March will kick-off at 12 pm down Park Avenue West to the Central Park Gazebo in downtown Mansfield.

With the help of Kay's sister, Aretha Grier, and members of the community; 'Kay Day' celebrates all of Kay's accomplishments and her love for the city of Mansfield.

"This event honors my sister's legacy for her service in our community and the lives she touched. She was the founder of Mother's United to S.A.V.E. (Standing Against Violence Everywhere) that meant so much to her, "said her sister Kay Day Committee member, Aretha Grier.

Some of the initiatives and programs Kay led were: The North End Elder program, Neighbor Up Night, M-CAV, Open Table, My Brother's Keeper, and so much more. She was the Youth Advisor 3rd Vice President of the Mansfield Ohio NAACP Branch. She also was an active partner with the Mansfield Police Department, Richland County Children Services, Restored Visions and We ACT. the youth advisor 3rd VP of NAACP

The celebration also serves as a day to uplift mothers who have lost a child recently and kids in the community that need school supplies — both are groups that Smith was passionate about.

The celebration consists of a free cookout, free backpacks and school supplies provided by (MIMA, NAACP Education Committee, Crossroads Church, and other community members) and live entertainment.

This year we'll be honoring families in our community whose loved ones were the victims of gun violence. Each family will be presented with a beautiful Compassion Blanket.

For more information contact Kay Day Committee member Aretha Grier 419-565-2793. Donations can also be sent to Aretha Grier, 139 Boughton Ave. Mansfield, Ohio 44903.

## Series of clinics will focus on promoting vaccinations and wellness

To prioritize the health and wellness of our community, the Area Agency on Aging is happy to announce the launch of "Wellness Wednesdays," an initiative that combines the power of wellness with a particular focus on promoting vaccinations. The series will create awareness, encourage discussion, and provide access to resources, contributing to the overall health and safety of our older adults and individuals with disabilities.

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, inc., in collaboration with Third Street Family Health Services, realizes the importance of vaccinations in protecting our communities. With "Wellness Wednesdays," the Agency hopes to amplify this message and encourage individuals, focusing on older adults and persons with disabilities, to take charge of their health by getting vaccinated. By partnering with Third Street Family Health Services and community organizations, the Agency is creating a platform to educate and address any vaccine-related concerns and empowering people to make informed decisions for their well-being.

Each second Wednesday of each month, starting July 12, Wellness Wednesdays will feature various activities and resources promoting wellness. The events will include informative workshops, classes, and vaccine clinics. These initiatives will provide valuable insights into the benefits of vaccination, addressing common misconceptions and offering an opportunity for individuals to have their questions answered directly by Third Street Family Health Services staff.

"We are excited to launch Wellness Wednesdays to foster wellness within our community," said Duana Patton, Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging CEO. "By dedicating a specific day to focus on vaccinations and overall well-being, we hope to inspire and empower older adults to make informed choices about their health."

Wellness Wednesdays will share the importance of vaccines and provide interactive classes emphasizing physical and mental wellness, such as exercise, nutrition, and self-care. By offering comprehensive resources and activities, we hope to inspire positive lifestyle changes and encourage individuals to prioritize their overall health and happiness.

Residents can join the agency the second Wednesday of each month, starting July 12, from 10 am to noon at the Area Agency on Aging, 2131 Park Avenue West, door 300, in Ontario, as they embark on a transformative journey towards a healthier community. Black Belt Pro Fitness will provide a class at the first Wellness Wednesday. Future dates for Wellness Wednesdays include Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, and Dec. 13. (Dates and times are subject to change). These events and vaccinations are free and RSVPs are not required. For more information and to stay updated on the upcoming Wellness Wednesdays events, visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/aaa5ohio/>, or contact Taylor Smith at 567-247-6477 or [tfmsmith@aaa5ohio.org](mailto:tfmsmith@aaa5ohio.org).

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc., located at 2131 Park Avenue West in Ontario, provides leadership, collaboration, coordination and services to older adults, people with disabilities, their caregivers & resource networks that support individual choice, independence, and dignity.

## Civil War Reenactment is July 21, 22

The Lorena Sternwheeler Civil War Reenactment & Encampment on the Mighty Muskingum River will be held July 21-22, at Zane's Landing Park & Riverside Park, Zanesville, Ohio.

Guests will witness a Civil War battle while cruising along the Muskingum River. They will be accompanied by uniformed troops and their cannon.

Civil War Historian Steve Ball will speak Saturday, July 22.

Visitors can see the Civil War Encampment and on Saturday can meet Abe and Mary Lincoln during the 10 am and noon rides.

Rides are available to the public Friday, July 21, for the Night Fight Cruise, from 7:30-9 pm; Saturday, July 22, from 10-11:30 am; noon to 1:30 pm, 2-3:30 pm; and 4-5:30 pm.

Reservations are required. Tickets are available online at <https://www.visitzanesville.com/Lorena/> or by calling (740) 455-8282 ext 108. Cost is \$20 for adults/seniors and \$18 for children (2-12).

Guests will board the Lorena at Zane's Landing Park.



**GREYSON MANN AND SERENA FERGUSON** pose with Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) President General Pamela Wright for the dedication of a plaque in the memorial garden at its National Headquarters in Washington, D.C., honoring the life and legacy of DAR member Lena Santos Ferguson (1928-2004). Ferguson was instrumental in creating changes within DAR to help the organization become more diverse, inclusive and supportive of its members of color. Mann and Ferguson are the grandson and daughter of Lena Santos Ferguson. The dedication of the memorial plaque took place during the DAR annual convention, DAR Continental Congress, when more than 4,000 members from around the world attend week-long events at the organization's headquarters.

## Red Cross donors needed in July to prevent blood shortage

The American Red Cross continues to see a concerning trend – blood donations are being sent to hospitals faster than they are coming in. The Red Cross has collected about 50,000 fewer blood donations than needed over the last two months. Donors are asked to make an appointment to give blood or platelets now to avoid a looming blood shortage.

To help head off a more serious situation, the Red Cross is teaming up with Warner Bros. Discovery for the 35th anniversary of Shark Week and the theatrical release of Meg 2: The Trench. The public is encouraged to celebrate a summer of sharks and help shore up the national blood supply by giving in July.

In thanks for helping, the Red Cross is offering several incentives to donors who come out to give blood or platelets in the coming weeks. Additionally, in response to the great need for blood, those who hurry in to help by coming to give July 1-16 will receive a limited-time bonus \$15 gift card by email to a merchant of their choice.

Those donating July 12 to Aug 12 will be automatically entered for a chance to win a three-night New York getaway for two with a private shark dive adventure at Long Island Aquarium. Details are available at [RedCrossBlood.org/Shark](http://RedCrossBlood.org/Shark).

Donors coming to give July 17-31, will receive an officially licensed Shark Week t-shirt, while supplies last. Donors will also be automatically entered for a chance to win a three-night New York getaway for two with a private shark dive adventure at Long Island Aquarium.

By scheduling and keeping appointments in July, donors can help provide for those in immediate need of lifesaving care. To schedule an appointment to donate, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Wednesday, July 12, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario  
 Friday, July 14, 11 am to 5 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario  
 Wednesday, July 19, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario  
 Tuesday, July 25, noon to 5 pm, Berean Baptist, 2145 Middle Bellville Rd., Mansfield; and noon to 6 pm, Crossroads Church, 1188 Park Ave West, Mansfield

Wednesday, July 26, 9 am to 7 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario  
 Thursday, July 27, 10 am to 4 pm, Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center Mansfield, 1125 Aspira Ct., Mansfield; and 2-7:30 pm, Community Building, 21555 Pealer Mill Rd., Butler

## DAR dedicate memorial plaque to recognize Lena Ferguson

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) recently unveiled and dedicated a memorial plaque in the memorial garden at its National Headquarters honoring the life and legacy of DAR member Lena Santos Ferguson (1928-2004). Mrs. Ferguson was instrumental in creating changes within DAR to help the organization become more diverse, inclusive and supportive of its members of color.

“Lena Santos Ferguson was a pioneer, a change maker, and a woman who opened doors of opportunity for others,” said DAR President General Pamela Wright at the memorial dedication.

“Her courage and grace brought attention to the need to overcome prejudice and intolerance. She was an inspiration to so many and her advocacy and efforts for change led to DAR becoming a more inclusive and better organization, and for that we are so very grateful,” said Mrs. Wright.

The dedication of the memorial plaque followed the annual Daughters Tribute Wreath Laying Ceremony. The events took place during the DAR annual convention, DAR Continental Congress, when more than 4,000 members from around the world attend week-long events at the organization's headquarters.

Mrs. Ferguson's struggle to become a member of DAR lasted from 1980 to 1983 after her initial application was not advanced by a DAR chapter. After she became a DAR member-at-large, an agreement was reached in 1984 that resulted in DAR revising its National Bylaws to bar discrimination by any of its chapters on the basis of race or creed.

Another major goal of the agreement was to reconnect Black families to lost Revolutionary War heritage, and as a result of Mrs. Ferguson's advocacy, DAR started a project to focus more research on Revolutionary War Patriots of color. The research that began in the 1980s expanded into the long-term Forgotten Patriots project to identify African Americans, Native Americans and individuals of mixed heritage who supported the struggle for independence. This effort led to a series of different publications on the topic including the 874-page resource book, *Forgotten Patriots: African American and American Indian Patriots in the Revolutionary War*.

Additionally, at Mrs. Ferguson's proposal, DAR began scholarships supporting students of color in the Washington, D.C., community studying nursing or physical therapy. For more than two decades, Mrs. Ferguson served as the National Vice Chair overseeing these DAR scholarships, taking great pride in awarding them annually.

In Mrs. Ferguson's honor, DAR renamed the scholarship in 2023 as the DAR-Lena Ferguson Scholarship. The scholarship award was increased to \$5,000 and it is given to two nursing students attending the University of the District of Columbia. Details regarding this scholarship can be found on the DAR Scholarships public webpage at [dar.org/DARLenaFergusonScholarship](http://dar.org/DARLenaFergusonScholarship).

One of the largest patriotic women's service organizations in the world, DAR has 190,000 members in approximately 3,000 chapters across the country and several foreign countries. DAR members promote historic preservation, education and patriotism via commemorative events, scholarships and educational initiatives, citizenship programs, service to veterans, meaningful community service and more. For information visit [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org).

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# News Briefs in Education

The dean's list for the spring 2023 semester at the University of Findlay has been announced. To earn this achievement, a student must attain a grade point average of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.

Local students include Rachell Clark of Ontario, Robin Eyerly of Ontario, Alexandra Jacobs of Ontario, Keandre Marlow of Mansfield, Aidan McGunigal of Lexington and Aurel Toska of Mansfield.

The university is located in Findlay, OH.



Brooke Ann Taylor of Mansfield graduated from Campbellsville University in Campbellsville, KY.



Melina Shultz of Lexington has been named to the dean's list at John Carroll University for the Spring 2023 semester.

Students eligible for the list must have completed a minimum of 12 semester hours within one semester and have a quality grade point average of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. John Carroll University is located in Cleveland, OH.



More than 1,500 students were awarded undergraduate and advanced degrees and certificates at Youngstown State University's Spring Commencement. Wilson Cannon of Mansfield received a Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering and Carey Ransom of Mansfield received a Post Masters Certificate in Principal.



Paige Mack of Mansfield was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Mack was initiated at Arkansas State University.

Mack is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.



Area students have been named to Ohio University's Spring 2023 President's List. The list distinction is presented to undergraduate students who exhibit an exceptional commitment to academic excellence each semester. Criteria for the president's list include a 4.0 GPA for the given semester with a minimum of 12 credit hours attempted for letter grades that are used to calculate GPA.

On the list are College of Health Sciences and Professions student Paige Danuloff of Ontario, College of Arts and Sciences student David Koehler of Ontario, College of Health Sciences and Professions student Hope Montanez of Mansfield and College of Arts and Sciences student Sam Prinz of Mansfield.



Local students have been named to Ohio University's 2023 Spring Provost's List. The list recognition is shared with high-achieving, part-time undergraduate students who exemplify academic success. Qualifying students must possess a 3.5 or greater GPA and between 6 and 11.99 credit hours attempted for letter grades that are used to calculate GPA.

On the list are College of Health Sciences and Professions student Jenna Caton of Mansfield, College of Health Sciences and Professions student Rachel Kennish of Ontario, University College student Grace Knell of Ontario, College of Health Sciences and Professions student Grace Miller of Lexington, College of Health Sciences and Professions student Jennie Ransom of Mansfield and University College student Milan Rodriguez of Mansfield.



Area students have been named to Ohio University's 2023 Spring Dean's List. The list recognizes undergraduate students who complete a particular semester with a GPA between 3.5 and 3.999 with a minimum of 12 credit hours attempted for letter grades that are used to calculate GPA.

Students named to the list are Patton College of Education student Meredith Bise of Ontario, College of Arts and Sciences student Olivia Bise of Ontario, College of Fine Arts student Samuel Brandes of Ontario, College of Fine Arts student Haley Carpenter of Ontario, College of Business student Tyler Jackson of Mansfield, College of Health Sciences and Professions student Anna Murray of Mansfield, College of Health Sciences and Professions student Isabella Rose of Mansfield, College of Fine Arts student Paige Thomas of Mansfield and Russ College of Engineering and Technology student Isaac Weber of Lexington.



KNOX COUNTY CAREER CENTER graduating seniors Logan O'Brien and Nicholas Murphy earned Cisco Certified Support Technician Networking, Cisco Certified Support Technician Cybersecurity, along with CompTIA Network+, Security+ and Server+ certifications. Both are from the Computer Network Technology (CNT) program. Cisco Certified Technicians have the skills to diagnose, restore, repair and replace critical Cisco networking and system devices at customer sites. The CompTIA Network+ helps develop a career in IT infrastructure covering troubleshooting, configuring and managing networks. Each student has to pass a proctored exam with no access to learning materials or the internet. This certification is recognized by the Ohio Department of Education and the Information Technology industry as a recognized credential.



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CASTLE WALL INDUCTEES are Amanda Chapman, Jason Chapman, Linda Golden and Rondrea McCruiter.

## Castle Wall Honorees recognized at benefit dinner

The Doug Castle Legacy Fund Benefit dinner was held recently at Kingwood Center in Mansfield.

During the program Amanda and Jason Chapman, Linda Golden and Rondrea McCruiter, were named Castle Wall Honorees. They were recognized for their service and dedication to the athletic programs at Mansfield City Schools and their names will be added to the Castle Wall located at Arlin Field.

Former Ohio State Football players running back Antonio Pittman, defensive tackle Doug Worthington and offensive guard Ben Person were at the benefit dinner to meet and greet guests. Ohio State University Football Coach Jim Tressel hired Castle to work as an Academic Encourager for the young men on the football team.

Since its inception in 2018, the Doug Castle Legacy Fund has awarded three college scholarships to Mansfield Senior High School graduates. This year the Doug Castle Legacy Fund awarded grants to the North End Community Improvement Collaborative for its new community center and to the Blessed to Run Track organization for scholarships for student athletes.

Doug Castle was a local educator whose 50-year career spanned all aspects of education in Richland County. When he died of brain cancer his family established the Doug Castle Legacy Fund at the Richland County Foundation to continue his work and honor his life. His wife, Liz; son, Michael, and daughter, Beth, want to support education programs, racial equity and inclusion, mentorship, and community building.

Doug began his teaching career in 1965 at John Simpson Junior High School and took an active role in coaching football, basketball, and track. Castle retired from Mansfield City Schools in 2000 after years of leadership including as principal of Simpson, and then worked as the Galion Middle School principal for the next five years. For years he was the director of the Mansfield Mehock Relays and then the Gorman Wrestling Tournament.

Castle developed an administrative philosophy based on being fair and keeping a sense of humor. He was a staunch believer in disciplining children in a way that would not destroy their dignity or self-respect. He valued every student.

Anyone can donate to the Doug Castle Legacy Fund online at richlandcountyfoundation.org, click the donate button and select the Doug Castle Fund. Or you can write a check to the Richland County Foundation and note the fund on the memo line.

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

The Foundation helps people in Richland County give back to their community by investing their gifts in charity wisely so that grants can be made to improve the quality of life for all the county's citizens. Collaborating with donors, the Foundation meets important needs today and plans for a strong future.

## Stewardship celebration continues

The Earth Stewardship Steering Committee will host the 27th Annual Earth Stewardship Celebration through Aug. 1. This celebration is an opportunity for community residents, churches, businesses and organizations to conduct litter clean-up, beautification, recycling and other events to promote a sustainable community.

The 12th Annual Earth Stewardship Take Pride Contest allows participants to take before and after photos of a project and submit the photos by Aug. 4.

A project may include but is not limited to: litter clean up, tree plantings, beautification projects, butterfly gardens, rain gardens, energy efficiency project, recycling project, native plant/pollinator gardens, removal of graffiti, paintings, park projects and more.

Projects are "judged" by a panel of judges who include leaders in our community, businesses and residents.

Awards are given to the top three places in each category. (Businesses, Government Neighborhood, School, Church/Non-profit organizations). Voters get to choose the People's Choice Award by casting their "vote" via the Facebook page.

Groups can register their project until Aug. 1 and submit photos until Aug. 4. All participants will be entered into a drawing to win prizes. For information call Kim Hildreth at 419-755-9702 or email khildreth@ci.mansfield.oh.us.

Visit the Earth Stewardship Celebration Facebook page to see some past projects and participants. Register projects at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1pTyCUzZX14Etl3oY69PykIfGA-cTxB-2m0W7G5aFvRU/viewform?pli=1&pli=1&edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1pTyCUzZX14Etl3oY69PykIfGA-cTxB-2m0W7G5aFvRU/viewform?pli=1&pli=1&edit_requested=true)

All volunteers will be entered into a drawing for prizes at the Earth Stewardship Celebration Awards Ceremony on Sept. 7.

## Ontario Lions collect eyeglasses for Lions Recycle for Sight Program

The Ontario Lions Club collects eye glasses for its recycling program. Refractive errors can be easily corrected with eyeglasses, yet millions living in low and middle income countries lack access to basic eye care services.

Lions have recognized the urgent need for corrective lenses and collect usable glasses for the Lions Recycle For Sight Program.

Local eye glass box locations include, Dr. Harold Ballitch, MD, 1991 Park Avenue West, Ontario; Dr. Kevin Brown, OD, 1260 Lexington Ave. Suite 2, Mansfield; Park Avenue Vision Clinic, 484 Park Avenue West, Mansfield; Shawnee Optical, 803 N. Lexington-Springmill Road, Ontario; First Federal Bank of Ohio, 1728 W. 4th Street, Ontario; Sutton Bank, 863 N. Lexington-Springmill Road, Ontario; Wappner Funeral Directors, 98 S. Diamond St., Mansfield; Wappner Funeral Directors, 100 S. Lexington-Springmill Rd., Ontario; VA Outpatient Clinic, 1025 S. Trimble Rd., Mansfield; G & M Body & Paint Shop, 1689 W. 4th St., Ontario; Ohio Health Fitness Center, 1750 W. 4th St., Ontario; Stingel Elementary, 426 Shelby-Ontario Rd., Ontario; Ontario Middle School, 447 Shelby-Ontario Rd., Ontario; Ontario High School, 467 Shelby-Ontario Rd., Ontario; Ontario Senior Civic Center, 3777 Park Avenue West, Ontario.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## LEGAL NOTICE

### LEGAL NOTICE

The Springfield Township Trustees, Richland County, Ohio invite asphalt contractors to bid the Township's road work for 2023. Sealed bids will be accepted until 6:30 p.m. on July 24, 2023 at the Trustee's Office, 3700 Park Avenue West Ontario, Ohio 44903 at which time they will be publicly opened and read by the Fiscal Officer.

Improvements with "Chip & Seal" will be according to specifications available at the Trustees Office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday Beginning July 10, 2023.

The Road Foreman will be available to answer questions at (419-529-2565).

All bids must be accompanied by a personal tax statement in accordance with state law and Ohio Workers Compensation and prevailing wage rate. Each bid will include a 10% bid bond as required by R.C. 153.54. Bids shall be clearly marked "2023 Road Improvement".

The Springfield Township Trustees reserve the right to reject any and all bids. All materials and equipment must meet state standards. The Trustees reserve the right to add or delete roads to stay within budget. The completion date is September 29, 2023.

Anita Kochheiser  
Fiscal Officer  
Springfield Township  
Ontario, Ohio  
(T-C 7-6, '13 '23) 38L

### LEGAL NOTICE

THE SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS will be holding a Public Meeting at 7:00 PM Wednesday July 26, 2023 at the Springfield Township Hall, 3700 Park Avenue West, Ontario Ohio 44862.

The Board will be reviewing a side yard set back variance for 4336 Flowers Road. The public is invited to attend.

Steve Arnett, Chair  
Springfield Township Zoning  
Ontario, Ohio  
(T-C 7-13 '23) 14L

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held before Council of the City of Ontario, during the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at the Ontario Municipal Building, upon a proposal to rezone 12 parcels, located at 1943 - 2103 Park Avenue West, from Office Service to Business.

Parcel Numbers: 386016007001,  
0386022908001, 0386022908000,  
0386022909000, 0386021112001,  
0386090007001, 0386021518012,  
0386022114000, 0386021911000,  
0386021411000, 0386021412000,  
0386021413000.

Planning Commission has recommended in favor of this rezone. All persons interested in this issue are invited to attend and express their views.

Cathy VanAuker, MMC  
Clerk of Council  
City of Ontario, Ohio  
(T-C 7-13, 20 '23) 24L

## Buckeye Imagination Museum introducing sensory hours

After long discussions among senior staff members at Buckeye Imagination Museum, a Sensory Hours program was devised and executed. Fred Boll, the Executive Director of the museum, stated "We have a mission to provide opportunities to children and families to learn and discover through the power of play, and now, by offering this program to the public, we've really emphasized our mission in terms of inclusivity and diversity."

Sensory hours at Buckeye Imagination Museum are available from 8-10 am on the second Saturday of the month. Boll explained that this program took a lot of tentative thought and strategy, to promote the best experience for all sensory-sensitive children that visit. To prevent overstimulation, the museum reduces lighting and volume, and has made Sensory Hours by reservation only, to reduce overpopulation during these times. The reservation price is \$14 per person, which is regular admission pricing, and can be found on Buckeye Imagination Museum's website. The purchase of reservation for Sensory Hours also allows visitors to play during regular hours - so, if families are enjoying themselves during the Sensory Hours, they may stay the rest of the day too!

"This program is a big step in the right direction," Brenna Koch, the Public Relations Coordinator at the museum stated, following with "promoting inclusivity and diversity through Sensory Hours in children's museums is really important when hosting children in this age range - we want to provide families a safe space where their kids can be themselves and make friends without the noise and overstimulation that can happen during regular hours."

Buckeye Imagination Museum will continue to host sensory hours from 8-10 am on the second Saturday of each month. Additionally, the museum always offers sensory bags at the front desk and have a comfort room available. For further inquiries, contact an associate from Buckeye Imagination Museum at 419-522-2332.

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

## MWCD hikers can win prizes

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) invites hikers to hit the trails this summer for a chance to win prizes while enjoying time outdoors with family and friends.

The MWCD has partnered with five local schools in a promotion that encourages residents to get outdoors and explore the trails at MWCD parks. With materials given by MWCD, students painted canvases that will be on display on MWCD trails throughout the district. Participating schools and the locations of their artwork are: Conotton Valley Highschool: Atwood Lake Park, Lucas High School: Charles Mill Lake Park, New Philadelphia Highschool: Pleasant Hill Lake Park, Caldwell Highschool: Seneca Lake Park and Starlight School: Tappan Lake Park.

Guests are encouraged to try and find all five canvases at each of the MWCD parks and can have a maximum of three entries. First prize is \$1,000 cash sponsored by Encino Energy, second prize is a weekend stay at the deluxe log cabin at Pleasant Hill Lake Park and third prize is a one-day boat rental from a MWCD-operated marina.

"These students are so talented, so to have an opportunity to display their artwork in such a unique way is an honor," said Ryan McCleaster, MWCD Chief of Recreation.

The artwork will be on display, and the contest will run until Labor Day. To enter, visit one of the MWCD park locations and search for the canvas on the trail. Once found, take a "selfie", or have someone take your photograph. The photo must include yourself, along with the canvas in the background to prove you found the canvas.

Visit [www.mwcd.org/capturethecanvas](http://www.mwcd.org/capturethecanvas) to enter your information, upload your photo, for contest rules and trail maps. Must be 18 years of age to participate.

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Branch Manager - Loan Officer