



A 179TH REDESIGNATION CEREMONY was held Saturday, Sept. 9, with the Mansfield Air National Guard Unit Transitioning to the first-ever Cyberspace Wing. Colonel Darren Hamilton spoke to the crowd of dignitaries and special guests.

Mansfield's 179th celebrates 75 years with transition to first-ever Cyberspace Wing

Photos and Article By Traci Little

The 179th Airlift Wing held a historic redesignation ceremony Saturday, Sept. 9, to officially become the 179th Cyberspace Wing.

The event, held at the Mansfield Lahm Air National Guard Base in Mansfield, celebrated the 75-year aviation history of the wing while highlighting the importance of the new cyberspace mission for the nation, Air Force, state and community. The ceremony featured several speakers and included a traditional changing of the unit flag and guidon. The 179th was selected to become the Air National Guard's first-ever cyberspace wing in August 2021.

"The transition of this wing from an airlift wing to a cyberspace wing is great news for the state of Ohio and a model for the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard," said Ohio Governor Mike DeWine. "Ohio speaks with one voice in aerospace and defense matters, and we were successful in winning this new mission because it requires bipartisan support at the local, state, and national levels. The strategic realignment of the 179th Wing to a cyber mission will cement Mansfield's critical cyber warfare role well into the future."

There are nearly 90 flying units in the Air National Guard but there is only one cyber unit, making this unit more relevant for tomorrow's fight than ever before.

"This transition solidifies Mansfield's place at the tip of the spear in cyber operations vital to our national security and defense," said Brig. Gen. David B. Johnson, Ohio assistant adjutant general for Air.

The wing was originally organized in Mansfield in 1948 as the 164th Fighter Squadron and has predecessor units that can be traced back to World War II.

Throughout its 75-year aviation history, the wing has flown more than nine different airframes, deployed in support of

(Continued on Page 6)

Saturday's Walk to End Alzheimer's honors families

The Alzheimer's Association Northwest Ohio, is inviting residents from Ashland, Crawford, Knox and Richland counties to join the fight to end Alzheimer's by participating in the North Central Ohio Walk to End Alzheimer's® at the North Central State Campus/Health Sciences Building in Mansfield on Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023.

On walk day, participants honor those affected by Alzheimer's with the poignant Promise Garden ceremony — a mission-focused experience that signifies solidarity in the fight against the disease.

The colors of the Promise Garden flowers represent people's connection to Alzheimer's — their personal reasons to end the disease.

"We're closer than ever to stopping Alzheimer's," said Amy Crislip, event co-chair.

"We hope that everyone in our community can join us by starting a team to help the Alzheimer's Association raise awareness and funds for families facing the disease today. Together, we can take more steps toward improving treatments and finally ending this disease," added Janny Nauman, Walk Co-Chair

More than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease — a leading cause of death in the United States. Additionally, more than 11 million family members and friends provide care to people living with Alzheimer's and other dementias.

In Ohio alone, there are 220,000 people aged 65 and older living with the disease and 493,000 caregivers.

The number of Ohioans living with Alzheimer's is expected to increase to 250,000 by 2025.

To register and receive the latest updates on this year's Walk to End Alzheimer's, visit alz.org/nwohio/walk or call 800-272-3900.

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Since 1989, the Alzheimer's Association mobilized millions of Americans in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk®; now the Alzheimer's Association is continuing to lead the way with Walk to End Alzheimer's.

Those concerned about themselves or a loved one can contact the Alzheimer's Association Northwest Ohio, 419-537-1999 to schedule a care consultation and be connected to local resources.

The Alzheimer's Association Helpline is available 24/7 at 800-272-3900.

Nominations sought for JoAnn Dutton Volunteerism Award

The Women's Fund of the Richland County Foundation is accepting nominations for the JoAnn Dutton Volunteer Community Service Award. The award celebrates and honors women leaders who devote a significant amount of time and energy in a meaningful way to local charitable organizations.

The award is sponsored by the Women's Fund of the Richland County Foundation and was named in honor of JoAnn Dutton, former executive director of the Mansfield YWCA.

A nomination form is available at richlandcountyfoundation.org. The deadline is Oct. 8.

The winner will be honored during the Women's Fund annual grant awards lunch Nov. 3 at Kingwood Center Gardens.

The Women's Fund was established in 1996 as permanent endowment to support programs that benefit women and girls in our community. The fund has awarded close to \$524,000 in grants impacting hundreds of lives.

In addition to annual grants and the award, the Women's Fund conducts a Mother's Day Fundraiser as a way for people to honor the special women in their lives. The Women's Fund welcomes all donations online at richlandfoundation.org or by check.

History of the Ku Klux Klan in Richland County: Church Invasion

By Bob Carter (Part Two of a Series)

As reported in the *Mansfield News*, May 14 1923: "Rev. Floyd E. Gale, pastor of the Methodist Protestant Church at Butler, was surprised last evening when he was about to begin his service by seventeen stalwart men entering his church, garbed in the costume of the Ku Klux Klan, one of them bearing an American flag, a Bible and an envelope containing a cash donation."

"The presentation speech was very brief, the bearer bowing his head and calling the preacher's attention to the letter which accompanied the donation. After recovering from his astonishment, Rev. Gale spoke a few words conveying thanks to the Klansmen, who withdrew from the building after singing 'America.' The church was packed with Klansmen in plain clothes, and the only ones in full regalia were the 17 who escorted the bearer of the presents."

"After leaving Butler the hooded men visited Bellville and attracted great attention among the citizens as they passed through. It is understood that about 100 of the Mansfield Klan were present at the services at Butler but were not hooded."

This same presentation occurred twice that year at the Taylortown Church of God in Jackson Township, north of Mansfield. The Shelby Klan may have been involved in that. There is no record of surprise visits to congregations within Shelby or Mansfield; perhaps they would have been unwelcome if they had. Not everyone supported the KKK.

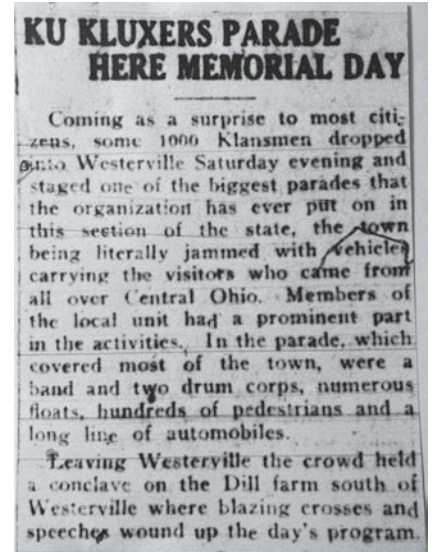
There is no account as to the number of Klan members locally but it may have been considerable. They maintained a meeting room at 87 1/2 N. Main St. The Klan's appeal to keep America pure, support the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and follow the laws seemed to be laudable to many. The Klan also supported the Prohibition laws and encouraged members to turn in violators.

At its peak, it was a political force to deal with and many elected officials were members. On the darker side, a white Mansfield doctor was warned by letter to stop treating black patients. The Klan

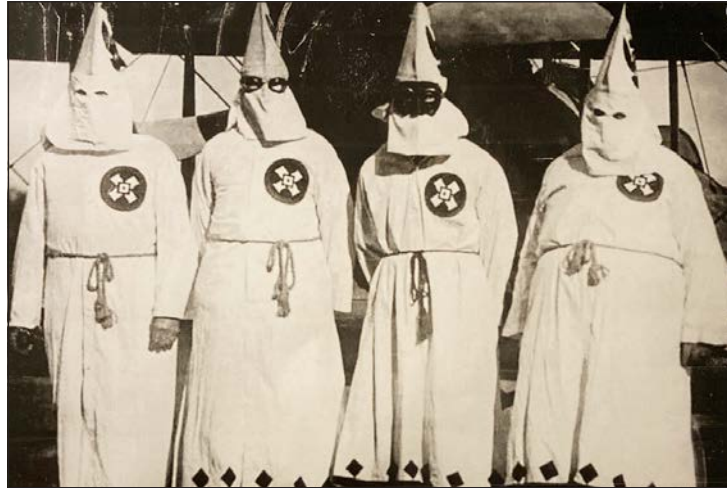
managed to divide communities in labor, housing and economic opportunities. A business could be boycotted for not supporting the Klan or simply because the owner was not white, protestant or native-born. Pro Klan firms sometimes advertised "Kash for Produce" or "Kredit Extended" as a signal of support and improve sales.

Klan meetings were held that would never be tolerated in today's politically correct world. In April of 1925 the *Mansfield News* reported, "About sixty five members of the Ku Klux Klan in regalia held a meeting in the park Saturday evening. Following a lecture, a fiery cross was burned and 'America' and 'The Old Rugged Cross' were sung. The members then paraded on Main Street"


"Later, another meeting (Continued on Page 4)



The KKK promoted American Values and paraded. This was in Westerville.



Klan members in their Klan attire. The chest markers indicate office standing



THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —

The Nun II is the latest in the *Conjuring* universe of horror movies. The first *Nun* film was lackluster at best with a bunch of jump scares and an uninteresting story line. This sequel is slightly better and really picks up near the end, it's too bad the first two-thirds just plod along.

Valek, the demon nun is wreaking havoc from Romania on through Europe. Sister Irene (Taissa Farmiga) returns as the nun who confronted Valek in the first film. Along with Sister Debra (Storm Reid), Irene embarks across Europe, starting at a church in France, to find out what is going on.

The rest of the story takes place at a boarding school where the janitor character of Maurice from the original film is having his own problems as the haunting has spread to their facility. Most of the scares and jumps take place here.

The movie really could have been much better if it had concentrated on the Sister Irene storyline of investigating the nun's whereabouts though the sto-

ry keeps jumping back to the students and teachers at the boarding school to just give random jump scares and spooky moments. It's only when Irene and Debra get to the school does the movie take off and become fast paced and pretty fun in the last half.


Farmiga is great again in her role as Irene. One of the most effective scares in the movie comes when she stumbles among a poorly lit magazine rack that flips all the pages open until the nun appears. Also, there is a sequence involving an older teacher in a chapel where a ghost keeps following her around.

The Nun II is an improvement over the first film as the overall story is better written and once the last half picks up it really takes off. It's a shame though that the first part of the film is so unfocused while providing too much of what made the first installment so uninteresting.



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News Briefs

The Senior Citizen Luncheon at Madison Comprehensive High School is back for another school year. There will be two luncheons on Thursday, Sept. 21, at the high school's Ramble Inn, 600 Esley Ln. The first lunch will be at 11 am and the second will be at 12:30 pm. The cost is \$8 per lunch.

Reservations must be made by noon on Tuesday, Sept. 19. Call the board office at 419-589-2600, ext. 65001, or email rlyons@madisonrams.net to make a reservation.



The Lexington Depot's meal schedule for August 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. Meals include Sept. 14, dijon pork chops & scalloped potatoes; Sept. 19, parmesan beef patty with herbed angel hair pasta; Sept. 21, meatloaf with au gratin potatoes; Sept. 26, marzetti; and Sept. 28, creamed chicken over mashed potatoes/biscuits.



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 419-522-0662.



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.



A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, Sept. 23 and 24. Acceptable items include steel and aluminum cans, crushed milk jugs, detergent bottles, plastic bottles with number 1 or 2 on the bottom, broken down cardboard, all papers included with the newspaper but no other magazines or paper. Please remove caps from bottles and rinse all containers well.



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

The meal on Sept. 20, will include broasted chicken. Matt and Melanie Miller will sing and give a freedom talk. A collection will be taken for the Humane Society of Richland County. Items collected will include paper and cloth towels, cleaning supplies, newspapers, wipes, disposable gloves, canned food, and Purina cat and dog food. Cost is \$15 for the meal. Guests are welcome. For information visit www.lexasc.org. Dues are \$10 per year.



All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Gail Laux, Founder of the Ohio Bird Sanctuary, on Sunday, Sept. 17, at 10:30 am. She will speak on how God has guided and shaped the sanctuary to serve His creation. She will bring one of her feathered friends.

For more information visit www.allsoulsuohio.org.



The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. is hosting a free drive thru Shred-It event for a kick-off to Medicare Open Enrollment in the parking lot of Hawkins Corner, 2131 Park Avenue West, Ontario, on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 9-11 am. This event is free and open to the public.

This event highlights the need to securely shred important documents or mail that may contain personal information to help older adults avoid becoming victims of fraud, scams, and identity theft.

For more information contact the Area Agency on Aging at 419-524-4144.

Election day polling locations will change for Nov. 7 election

Changes will be made to polling locations for the Tuesday, Nov. 7, general election.

Voters in Jackson A & B precincts will switch from Jackson Township Hall to Awake Church, 3616 St. Rt. 39, Shelby. Voters in the Ontario 3A precinct will switch from Ontario City Hall to Ontario Crossroads Church, 636 Lexington Springmill Rd S., Ontario.

Mansfield 1D precinct voters will change from Resurrection Parish in Lexington to Mansfield Alliance Church, 291 W. Cook Rd., Mansfield. Mansfield 1A and Washington C precincts will switch from Resurrection Parish in Lexington to Berean Baptist Church, 2145 Middle Bellville Rd., Mansfield.

Voters in these precincts will be notified by mail of their new polling location name and address. The board does not expect to make any other revisions unless an emergency situation would arise.

Voters are encouraged to take advantage of Ohio's ample early voting opportunities. The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail for the Nov. 7 election is 8:30 pm on Tuesday, Oct. 31.

Absentee ballots must be postmarked by the day before the election to be counted, or can be dropped off at the Richland County Board of Elections, 1495 W. Longview Ave., Suite 101 in Mansfield, or placed it in the locked and secure dropbox located in the rear, lower-level parking area of the Longview Center. Voters who desire to vote by mail should not wait until the last minute.

Early in-person voting starts on Oct. 11 at 1495 W. Longview Ave., lower-level, which is also when the board can start mailing out the absentee/mail ballots. Early in-person voting ends Sunday, Nov. 5, at 5 pm.

As usual, the polls will be open on Election Day, Nov. 7, from

6:30 am until 7:30 pm. For more information on these polling place changes, contact the Richland County Board of Elections at 419-774-5530.

•History: Church Invasion

(Continued from Page 2)

was held in the park on July 1 in which the Klan speaker, a former minister, called the United States 'the wickedest nation on the globe.' Speaking to a crowd estimated to be 1,000, he condemned the irreligious thoughts and laws of our country. He spoke on the principles of the Klan and assailed the press for claiming that they were dependent on tar and feathers and lynchings as a means of clarifying the country. 'Bootleggers are afraid of us because we believe in upholding the eighteenth amendment, said Dr. George... Placing the Bible in the schools is another thing the Klan stands for.'

Three weeks later Mansfield police made plans for a huge Klan Konclave (convention) and parade that would require 25 extra officers, sheriff's deputies and railroad police to direct traffic.

The plan was to start at the old fair grounds on Springmill St. near Longview, then go south on Bowman to Sixth St., east to Mulberry, south to Park Ave. West, east on Main and circle the square. Then it was a march back to the fairgrounds still wearing robes and hoods, a long, long walk. There is no published account of the parade, it must have been canceled or was only for a few of the hairy chest types. On Wednesday before the parade the mercury hit 96 degrees in Mansfield, but had moderated some by the weekend.

Church Directory

Clear Fork Alliance Church

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

Community Bible Church

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

First English Lutheran Church

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

Lexington Presbyterian Church

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

Mansfield 1st EPC

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

Oakland Lutheran Church

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

Ontario Christian Church

1029 Lewis Rd., Ontario
419-529-5684 • ontariochristian.org
Minister Steve Broughton
9 am Sunday School
10 am Sunday Worship

Ontario United Methodist Church

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

Southside Christian Church Disciples of Christ

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

St. Mary of the Snows Catholic Church

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

St. John's United Church of Christ

68 Park Avenue East, Mansfield
419-522-2813 • www.stjohnsmansfield.org
Pastor Faith Prioretti
10 am Sunday Worship

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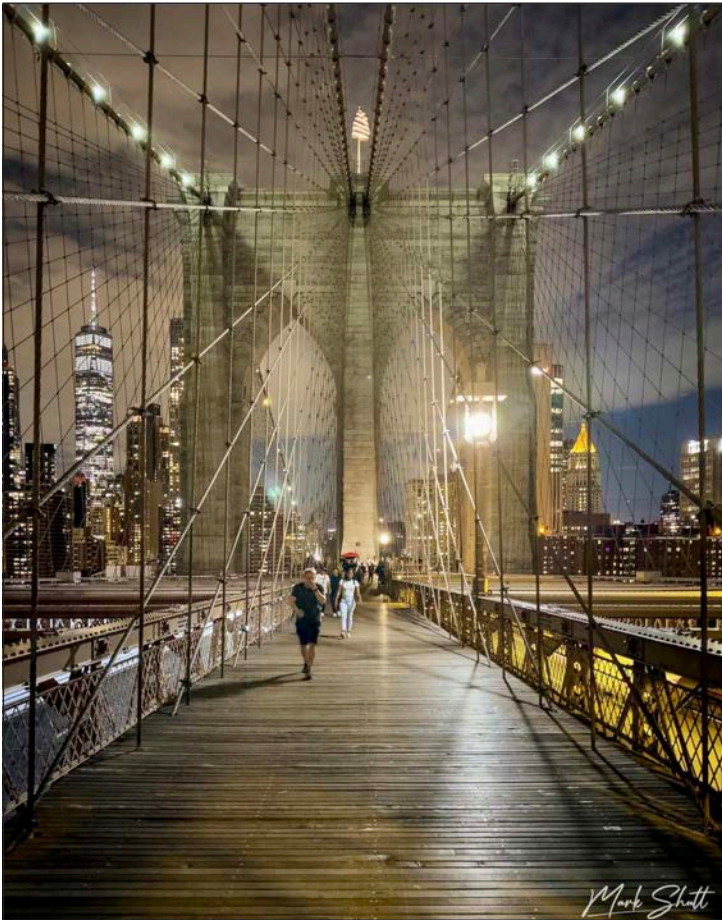


Photo By Mark Shutt

Agency to host National Preparedness Panel Discussion

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. will host a National Preparedness Panel Discussion at 2131 Park Avenue West in Ontario, on Sept. 28, at 1 pm.

Guests are asked to enter at the west side of the building at the Hawkins Conference Center entrance.

September is National Preparedness Month. Ready, a national public service campaign, has set the 2023 theme for National Preparedness Month as “Taking Control in 1, 2, 3,” which will be a campaign focused on preparing older adults for disaster.

When it comes to extreme weather or other emergencies, older adults tend to be more at risk than others, especially when living alone, if they are low-income, have a disability, or live in rural areas.

The Area Agency on Aging will host the panel discussion with local experts on how to prepare for disasters. Chelley Kemper, WMFD morning radio and television show host, will facilitate the discussion panel including, Terry Carter, coordinator with First Call 211, Rebecca Owens, Richland County EMA Director, Erin Schaefer, Executive Vice President/Executive Director at Catalyst Life Services, and Chief Adam Spellman from the Springfield Township Fire Department. Resource tables will be available.

Assistance will be provided to those who want to sign up for Richland County Notification System Alerts.

This is a free event for Richland County residents who are 60 and older. One free weather radio will be provided per household, while supplies last.

RSVP is required to attend this event due to limited capacity.

For additional information and to RSVP, contact Karen at 567-247-6487.

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

- Linda Joanne Brawner, August 26
- Jeffrey Dale Fliger Sr., September 2
- Gary William Monroe, September 2
- Reatha Jean Clifton, September 3
- Terry Lee Strohminger, September 4
- Larry Gene Race, September 8

View Full Obituaries at www.dignitymemorial.com

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- Ontario • 100 S. Lexington-Springmill Rd. • 419-529-2323
- Ashland • 308 Claremont Avenue • 419-289-1552

www.wappner.com

•179th celebrates with transition to Cyberspace Wing

(Continued from Front Page)

every major contingency operation, participated in multiple humanitarian airlift efforts, responded to countless natural disaster relief taskings, and answered the call when the COVID-19 pandemic struck Ohio in 2020.

Brigadier General David Johnson said, “Part of why this location was chosen here in Mansfield, Ohio was because of the interconnectedness within the state of Ohio from a STEM background (Science, Technology, Education and Math) – which funnels into the cyber mission aspect. “It’s such an exquisite capability, cutting edge and the future of warfare. Using a football analogy, these cyber warriors are enabling their team to get to the endzone undetected, get to the sidelines safely, and reengage in the fight. It’s the cutting edge of warfare.”

“The reason Mansfield was chosen goes back to the resiliency of the program. This community is pivotal in why this base is still here. That community relations perspective is absolutely vital as we go out and do our missions. Whether it’s flying airplanes or handling the cyber end, that community and base connection is very important and hasn’t changed. That’s really one of our greatest strengths.”

“From a national lens, the 179th in Mansfield Ohio has the highest visibility, eyes on, at the national level. Government efforts are being put towards the long term future of this cyber mission which is solidified here in Mansfield. This is just the beginning and the start of what will surely be repeated over and over again.”

Colonel Darren Hamilton said, “We decided to be the first cyber air wing, but we will still train and equip our air men and women, so they are ready. This might involve retraining and recruiting those with cyber abilities.”

“This is almost like going through a grieving cycle. If you’ve ever seen the video with the giraffe that demonstrates the stages of grief and response to change, it’s kind of like that for a lot of people. First, you’re angry, then you give in, you kind of accept, and then move out. Today this ceremony was a picture of us looking forward and not looking back.”

“We’re excited because we are still here in Mansfield, we’re still open, and we are a wing that’s going to produce leading edge cyber effects in the next high end conflict. We will help dominate the skies by having air superiority. The way we fight wars is changing.”

“How can the community continue to support the efforts? “With some of the infrastructure, it goes through city property, and we need to work with the city, and they’ve been wonderful. They want to see us succeed and hopefully will continue to work with us on future projects and having that community involvement and support is critical to our success here.”

“The community around us in Mansfield is a tight knit family. I always wanted to fly airplanes ever since I was a little kid. I came out here as an 18 year old, started as a crew chief, became a flight engineer and became a pilot. I have got to live out my dreams. I’ve flown as an airline pilot and a corporate pilot and came back to this base.

I’m no longer flying but I want these doors to stay open and hoping that some kid from my hometown or Mansfield, Ohio can follow in my footsteps and live out their own dream.”

“Our base is getting \$150 million just for the infrastructure. This infrastructure piece will take time. We will need to work with civil engineers to build these things for the cyber effects. There’s training involved, and our initial operating capability date is 2025, and in 2027 we hope to be fully operational.”

Senator Sherrod Brown said “179th is staying here and has been given new life! At one time there was real potential that the Air Force was going to move on from here and it took everyone here pitching in and making sure they got this new mission that’s unique in the Air Force. This proves that Ohio’s really an aerospace state.”

“It was the Wright Brothers, John Glenn and Neil Armstrong, and now it’s Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, here in Mansfield, Springfield, Toledo and Youngstown. It’s all these companies like GE and Aviation and Battelle in Columbus that really puts us on the map nationally. Growing up across the street as a kid, this place has always been important to me. The Air Force is changing, the world is changing, cyber security is changing, but it’s front and center in the Air Force plans going forward. My job as a Senator is to make sure Mansfield continues to play a significant role in the Air Force, and today proves that it is!”



Photos By Traci Little



Photos By Traci Little

Kiwanis Club displays Field of Honor in Ontario

Photos and Article By Traci Little

The Kiwanis Club of Mansfield hosted the Kiwanis Flag Project — Field of Honor ceremony in tribute to those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001, as well as a way to honor active and retired military members and first responders.

A magnificent display of over 200 flags brought the community together in a patriotic tribute and 9/11 memorial to honor our heroes. Each U.S. flag represents an individual and tells a story. The ceremony took place at the Area Agency on Aging District #5 on Monday, September 11th beginning at 10:10 am at 2131 Park Avenue West, Ontario.

Chelley Kemper of WMFD, gave some opening remarks and introduced the Honor Guards and Miss Ontario, Jaslyn Lopez who sang the National Anthem. Ontario Mayor, Randy Hutchinson, said a few words of thanks and Rev. El Akuchie gave the invocation, praying,

“Father, you are so awesome, so magnificent, so glorious, so wonderful. Thank you, Lord, for this nation that you raised up to touch the rest of the world with your gospel, truth. Thank you, Lord, that even in all that we see happening with the country, we know that America is not lost. It’s powerful, growing and stronger than ever because God Almighty established it. We thank you for the men and women that fight to keep us safe, the veterans, all those who are working for the law enforcement. We thank you for the Kiwanis who said, we don’t want to forget what happened. We pray that we will be able to pass on the memory of what happened to the next generation so that they will not forget and fight the good fight of faith.”

Chelley went on to say, “twenty-two years ago our country came under attack that would forever change life as we know it today. With a new generation coming of age that were not even born at the time of the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2021, it is paramount that we never forget. It is important that we honor all of those who serve our community and our country, and that we model the respect due to those

willing to lay down their lives for us.”

“A special thanks for the sponsors – Schmidt Security Pro and Ritter’s Office Outfitters. We would also like to thank the community outreach coordinator for the Area Agency on Agency, Sue Montgomery, and the board of directors for their hospitality in providing such a beautiful and strategic location for the field of love and gratitude.”

Kemper recognized the honored guests in attendance – those in the military, first responders, state, county, and local elected officials, and ROTC cadets. She also introduced Jai Merina and Dr. Rich Rader. Jai Merina sang a beautiful acapella patriotic medley and Dr. Rader gave the keynote address and benediction.

Dr. Rader spoke to the crowd and said, “you see the reason I love this kind of event is because this is not about how we are different from one another, the differences of opinions we have, nor is it a political or religious statement, it’s an American statement. It’s an opportunity to come together! My concern is that 22 years later, we have new Americans that were not even alive to understand the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.”

“Young adults are entering our world who have never experienced this. We must realize it’s impossible to not forget something that you never knew. It’s our responsibility to continue to tell the story of our heroes and to give the due honor and respect to our military and first responders who give of themselves every single day to keep our life safe and our freedoms intact. As a result of 9/11 and my desire to serve grew, I had the privilege and honor to serve as a Police and Fire Chaplain for the next fourteen years.”

Rader went on to inspire the crowd with an acronym, USA (Unity, Solidarity, and Appreciation). Unity — He spoke about the unity we can experience even among our differences. He said that it’s possible to be unified and not be uniform and that many of us are much more similar than we’re willing to admit. Solidarity – taking our unity and moving it beyond and seeing how we can serve in common ways. He spoke about asking ourselves how we can make life a greater achievement because we’re willing to work together. It’s not enough to have unity and solidarity, but we need appreciation. Appreciation – there’s a term in the financial world called depreciation, but he said that when we appreciate an asset, it becomes more valuable.

“So my challenge to us is that we give honor and respect to these flags and the ones they are dedicated to, to the stories we tell, we ask ourselves, how can we appreciate and add value and make the American people and the American experience more valuable. Let’s find a way to make someone’s life better and when we do that, there is no doubt in my mind that the reason we’re here today is that we can accomplish the American dream in unity, in solidarity and with appreciation by increasing value with every single American we come in contact with.”

A ribbon cutting commemorated this first annual event with Mayor Hutchinson and all military and first responders present. The Field of Honor will be open from Sept. 11–15. Please consider donating to the Kiwanis Club of Mansfield who have a mission to serve the children in our community.





Caden Brubaker and Benjamin Crouch of The Ohio State University NROTC



Photos By Traci Little



CHILDREN OF STAFF SGT. MATTHEW BROWN of the 179th Airlift Wing Color Guard, who participated in the Field of Honor dedication, were proud to stand by the flag and say the Pledge of Allegiance and attend the event to support their dad.

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



Sullivan

Meet Sullivan! Sullivan came into the shelter after being dumped in a field with his brother and sister in September of last year. Sullivan was extremely scared of new people and did not like approaching them.

He was constantly worried about if he was doing the right thing. As he has gotten more comfortable with shelter vol-

unteers and employees, he has transformed. Sullivan loves playing, but he especially loves snuggling. He can't get enough pets and affection.

On walks, Sullivan will stop to jump up and get scratches, and he loves giving hugs. Sullivan is still incredibly wary of new people. He does his best to hide behind his friends (or in their laps) when introduced to visitors. Sullivan does warm up, but it takes him a while. He is a people pleaser and looks to his human friends to make sure he's being a good boy.

Since Sullivan was struggling at the shelter, the MANCI program decided to help socialize him and make him more comfortable. He is also being trained. Sullivan is about a year old.

Sullivan 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.

10 Million Steps to Prevent Falls Walk scheduled for Sept. 20

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. invites the public to participate in a prevention walk on Wednesday, Sept. 20, to help bring awareness to the prevention of falls.

Everyone is welcome to join this walk at one or both locations: YMCA of North Central Ohio-Mansfield, 750 Scholl Rd., in Mansfield, from 9-11 am and Marion Technical College, 1467 Mt. Vernon Ave., in Marion, from 10 am to noon. Participants will meet and walk with Area Agency on Aging team members. The walk is a collaboration between the Area Agency on Aging, the YMCA of North Central Ohio-Mansfield, and Marion Technical College.

The walk is to celebrate Na-

tional Falls Prevention Awareness Day and to raise awareness of the many ways older Ohioans can minimize their risks. The initiative asks all Ohioans to help take "10 Million Steps to Prevent Falls" throughout the month of September.

One in three Ohioans over age 60 will fall this year, and for many of them, that fall could lead to a life-changing injury or even death. However, falls are not a normal part of aging, and most falls can be prevented. Regular physical activity is one of the most basic things older adults can do to prevent falls, which is why walking is the focus of this annual event.

For more information call 419-524-4144.



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Lexington construction projects wrapping-up

Lexington Village Council met Aug. 7 with members Zack Alleshouse, Adam Gongwer, Bob Jarvis, Wynn Kearns, Kim Little, Jeff O'Brien and Todd Wise in attendance.

Also attending were Attorney John Studenmund, Chief Troy Weaver, Village Administrator Andrew Smallstey and Finance Director James Banks.

Keith Bacin of Cedarwood asked about the feasibility of moving the digital speed signs. He believes drivers know where the speed signs are and believes a pattern change will help where the traffic is disregarding the speed limit. Bacin noted that since the schools have built out farther on Frederick Street, it may behoove the village to have the digital sign posted in that area for the sake of the children.

Bacin also suggested posting the digital signs at Main and Castor Roads since that is a high crash zone and Maple Street while school is in session. Chief Weaver will review all potential locations for the digital speed sign.

Administrator Andrew Smallstey reported that the 2023 Street Resurfacing has been completed. The asphalt inspectors caught the improper asphalt mix being used through 538 tons that was applied to the streets. The village will be receiving a payment reduction for the error. Councilman Kearns asked if the refund will apply to this year's budget. Smallstey replied negatively, adding that putting it toward 2024 budget was the street supervisor's request.

The pickleball/basketball Court construction project bid was opened on July 20. The bid was roughly \$6,000 higher than the original quote but \$4,500 under the engineer's estimate. The difference between the quote and the bid was a six-month time frame and change in material prices. The difference will be adjusted in the ARPA funds being used and will not affect the General Fund. Completion day is expected for Oct. 31.

As part of the resurfacing project, D. L. Smith was pouring curb ramps and curbing at Mayfair and Otterbein, and also replaced curbing at Pembroke and Holiday Hill. Curbing was also done on Plymouth Street just north of the square and a new section of sidewalk between Nickel & Bean and East Main Chiropractic. This leaves no open sidewalk gaps in the immediate downtown area. The curb lawn section in front of the former Key Bank is on 'to do' list for extra concrete to complete the full no gaps.

There are some minor issues with water meter replacements. USG provides all support for any complaints.

The council approved the renewal with Hummel Group Insurance for 2024 village property and liability.

Two recent water breaks were located next door to the 7/11 Convenience Store and the corner of Maple and Delaware Streets.

Councilman Little asked if the village has amended their small "house" ordinances and Smallstey replied that he is currently working with Richland County and attempting to create legislation that is similar with other cities/villages of Richland County.

Mayor Brian White reported, "We held a Steering Committee meeting on July 27. The next meeting will be held in late September. We will look to Shelby for work done by the Edge group."

"On Aug. 5, I worked with United Way and Day of Caring. We did a lot of yard work at the Catalyst Life Services in Mansfield."

Chief Weaver reported that two interviews were scheduled for the police officer position.

As reported by Parliamentarian Councilman Gongwer, in September council will return to business attire and meet twice a month. All petitions out for Mayor and Council positions are due this Wednesday.

An ordinance was approved authorizing the administrative director or mayor to execute the contract with Sportscape Builders, LLC., Marysville, OH, for the project known as Bicentennial Park courts, Village of Lexington and declaring an emergency.

Councilman Gongwer asked for an update on striping the lot across the street for parking. Smallstey said there were no updates.

Councilman Kearns updated Members regarding the cemetery. He reported that new rates were approved, effective Aug. 1. The website is being updated and notices sent.

A Rules and Regulations draft is complete and to be reviewed and a lot transfer form draft is complete and will be reviewed.

Councilman Gongwer received a complaint and the board reviewed it July 31. Now that the cemetery has been properly named, the board is investigating a sign-post style sign. A sign will be made, and the Streets Department will help with placement.

Councilman Kearns noted the earliest grave in the yard is dated 1816; thus, establishment of the cemetery will be 1816.

Mayor White requested Attorney Studenmund and Administrator Smallstey to also attend the executive session. Mayor White stated that no further action will be taken.

Infrastructure loan to improve service for central Ohioans

U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is providing a \$24,988,000 loan to Consolidated Electric Cooperative, Inc. headquartered in Mt. Gilead to build and improve 73 miles of electric line, connecting consumers in rural areas across eight counties. Roughly a quarter of the loan will be used to implement smart grid technology, an electricity network that can monitor and control power flows in real time to match consumption. Consolidated Electric serves an average of 18,400 members across 1,926 miles of electric lines in Union, Richland, Delaware, Marion, Franklin, Knox, Morrow, and Licking Counties.

"Rural Ohioans face unique challenges in getting the power they need to keep the lights on," said Brown. "This investment will help Consolidated Electric Cooperative improve service and ensure their customers have access to the power needed to attract and create jobs."

Brown has been a leader for Ohio's rural communities, fighting to secure crucial funding for Department of Agriculture grant and loan programs. He is the first Ohioan to serve on the Senate Agriculture Committee in more than 50 years.

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aaa5ohio.org/covid19/



LifeWise Academy experiences rapid growth

Photos and Article By Traci Little

LifeWise Academy was founded in 2018 as a division of Stand for Truth, an event-based nonprofit ministry with a mission to reach public school students. The creation of LifeWise was inspired by a program in Van Wert, OH, which boasts a 95 percent participation rate among public elementary school students. Stand For Truth and the Van Wert released time program teamed up to create LifeWise Academy, launching the first two LifeWise programs in the fall of 2019. In September 2022, Stand for Truth was renamed as LifeWise, Inc. LifeWise Academy now serves more than five dozen school districts.

I sat down with Advancement Rep for LifeWise, Buddy Workman, last week and we discussed what's been going on within the LifeWise organization. He's in charge of all of Northeast Ohio including Huron County, Ashland County, Richland County, Crawford County, Morrow County, all the way over to Youngstown from Knox County all the way up to the lake.

"I'm also in charge of the Northwest United States from Montana all the way over." Being in charge of 327 schools has kept Workman extremely busy to say the least! "We're hiring all the time and growing so fast that we can hardly keep up!"

Workman said, "We started a pilot program last year in Ontario schools where we only did two grades, but this year it's fully open, grades K-6. We currently have over 100 students signed up beginning Oct. 3. Lexington schools starts mid-October and they also have over 100 kids signed up. Shelby schools has really taken off with enrollment at 270 students, K-5."

LifeWise is in every school in Ashland County and Richland County, except for Mansfield City Schools.

"We'd love to be able to get in there. We have the community interest lists, we've had a kickoff call in Mansfield City, and we've laid out our plan. We have locations really close to each school."

"There is a huge need for these programs in our public schools! There is an all-time high of depression, anxiety and children suicide

and Jesus is the only answer. We can do any kind of program we want, but if it isn't Jesus focused, it just isn't going to go far. There's no reason in this world that a fourteen year old should take his life," said Workman.

They've seen an abundance of positive feedback from parents and the community. There's a parent survey that goes out and it comes back all positive! Sometimes they get kick back from teachers, but there is also a school administrator survey which came back all positive as well. You can't deny the positive changes seen in the lives of these students.

"I get the question all the time, 'Why can't you do this before school or after school.' Well, there's so many variables. You've got sports, transportation issues, scheduling conflicts with working parents; this is just ideal being right in the middle of the school day," said Workman.

LifeWise believes parents should have a choice when it comes to their kids. With the threat of taking away parental rights, it's important to guard and protect this role.

"In 2018 we started working on the concept of LifeWise. In 2019 we opened two pilot programs. Our main headquarters are in Hilliard, Ohio. As of last week, we're in 13 different states. Our goal in 2021 was to open 25 schools by 2025, and we're at 370 something. We already know of about 300 more schools opening next year. We want to be in every state and every school from coast to coast! Parents in the community spark the interest after they've heard about our program."

"I got started with LifeWise after I was contacted by my Superintendent. I run a nonprofit called Simon Acts and we help people who are less fortunate." In 2020 I went to a meeting with him and Joel Penton and became the advocate for LifeWise in New London followed by the program director there. I was the program director for about 6 months and from there opened every school in Huron County and now it's just blowing me away."

Joel Penton is the Founder and CEO of LifeWise Academy. His 15-year career as a nonprofit entrepreneur has been marked by the desire to impact the lives of students. As a former Buckeye and 2002 National Champion, he received the Danny Wuerffel trophy during his senior year at OSU. This award is known as the "Humanitarian Heisman", which is awarded to one college football player each year for outstanding community service.

Joel was also the founder of Stand for Truth Ministry. His heart and vision for LifeWise is to see communities across the nation reach their local students during the school day. Penton's influence in Northwest Ohio has sparked interest all over the Buckeye State. He would go into schools and essentially be a motivational speaker. He would invite kids back to the school that same evening for a gospel message and they would have a time for worship and eat some pizza.

(Continued on Page 24)

LAST BLAST

of Fall - Open House

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LIFEWISE ACADEMY has participated in area parades to help spread the word for enrollment.

American Red Cross facing a national blood shortage

The American Red Cross is experiencing a national blood shortage. Fewer donors than needed gave this summer, drawing down the national blood supply and reducing distributions of some of the most needed blood types to hospitals. Hurricane Idalia further strained the blood supply with blood drive cancellations and reduced blood and platelet donations in affected areas.

Donors of all blood types are urgently needed, and there is an emergency need for platelet donors and type O blood donors to make an appointment to give now to ensure patients across the country continue to receive critical medical care.

When Idalia slammed into the Southeast the storm also forced the cancellation of over a dozen blood drives and caused hundreds of blood and platelet donations to go uncollected. This compounded a shortfall of about 30,000 donations in August.

The Red Cross needs blood and platelet donors now. Schedule an appointment to give by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

In thanks for helping rebuild the blood supply, all who come to give Sept. 1-18 will receive a limited-edition Red Cross t-shirt, while supplies last. Those who come to give throughout September will also receive a coupon for a free haircut by email, thanks to Sport Clips Haircuts. Plus, they'll be automatically entered for a chance to win a VIP NASCAR racing experience.

- Richland County bloodmobiles are scheduled for:
- Wednesday, Sept. 13, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario
- Thursday, Sept. 14, 8 am to 2 pm Clear Fork High School, 987 State Route 97, Bellville
- Monday, Sept. 18, 9 am to 3 pm, Mansfield Engineered Components, 1776 Harrington Memorial, Mansfield
- Tuesday, Sept. 19, noon to 5 pm, Berean Baptist, 2145 Middle Bellville Rd., Mansfield; and noon to 6 pm, Crossroads Church, 1188 Park Ave West, Mansfield
- Wednesday, Sept. 20, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario
- Thursday, Sept. 21, 10 am to 4 pm, Mansfield Association of Realtors, 1101 Lexington Ave., Mansfield; and 2-7:30 pm, Community Building, 21555 Pealer Mill Rd., Butler
- Friday, Sept. 22, 11 am to 5 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario
- Monday, Sept. 25, 8 am to 1 pm, Shelby YMCA, 111 W. Smiley Rd., Shelby
- Tuesday, Sept. 26, 8:30 am to 2:30 pm, St. Peter's High School, 111 W. First St., Mansfield
- Wednesday, Sept. 27, 8 am to 1 pm, OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital, 335 Glessner Ave., Mansfield; and noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario
- Thursday, Sept. 28, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

Donuts with Dudes at Madison Middle School



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL Mathematical Model Reasoning students were posed with the task of finding out how tall a tree was without directly measuring. Students used proportionality and reasoning to "guesstimate" what the height of the tree would be. This is just another example of the hands-on type of projects that students are experiencing in the new math class.

ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2024 SENIOR SUNRISE



Local adult education student went the extra mile, and then some

"Your education is not this clear-cut path or timeline that looks the same for everyone," said Veronica Moore, a graduate of Madison Adult Career Center's Customer Service and Office Technology (C.O.S.T) program. "It's never too late," Moore exclaimed. Explaining that as an adult she was actually able to manage her time better and put in the work required to complete the Adult Diploma Program – resulting in her Ohio Adult High School Diploma, training in an in-demand career field, and industry recognized credentials.

Moore added that it wasn't always easy for her to prioritize herself and her education. Stating that she has attempted to earn her GED multiple times, beginning in 2015, but each proving difficult due to personal circumstances outside of the classroom. "I was young and had two young children who needed me more. But this time around, I was able to put it first because now I realize the importance of prioritizing school and work before other personal obligations. When you are happy with those and successful in those, the others fall in line and the rest gets better," she added.

Most recently, she found support in her instructor at Mansfield Adult Education, Lou Tommelleo, who believed she was ready to take the required WorkKeys test to enroll at Madison Adult Career Center (MACC), and she was. "I was surprised to pass the first time and be ready for a program at Madison. Lou believed in me and that was the push I needed," Moore said.

Then, as a student of MACC, Veronica juggled a second shift job, came to class before heading straight to work, and had other outside obligations and obstacles to tend to. She juggled it all, and juggled it well, finishing with an impressive 3.5 GPA and saying, "If I can do it, anyone can do it."

She explained that the two-month duration of the course and the classroom environment are what kept her coming back. "It was an easy way to get what I needed and it worked with my class schedule. It made for long days but I knew that it was only temporary and at the end I would have my diploma," she added.

Anyone looking for the same opportunities can visit Madison Adult Career Center's website and read about the programs offered or call 419-589-6363. The next C.O.S.T program begins at Madison Adult Career Center on Sept. 25 and runs until Dec. 20, with classes being held every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 4:30–8:30 pm. Two other C.O.S.T cohorts are also available — a January course located at Mansfield Adult Education — 150 W. Fifth Street in Mansfield, and an April course located at Job & Family Services in Bucyrus.

Mansfield Adult Education is federally-funded through the Ohio Aspire grant and is fiscally managed by Mansfield City Schools, serving students in Richland, Ashland and Crawford counties.

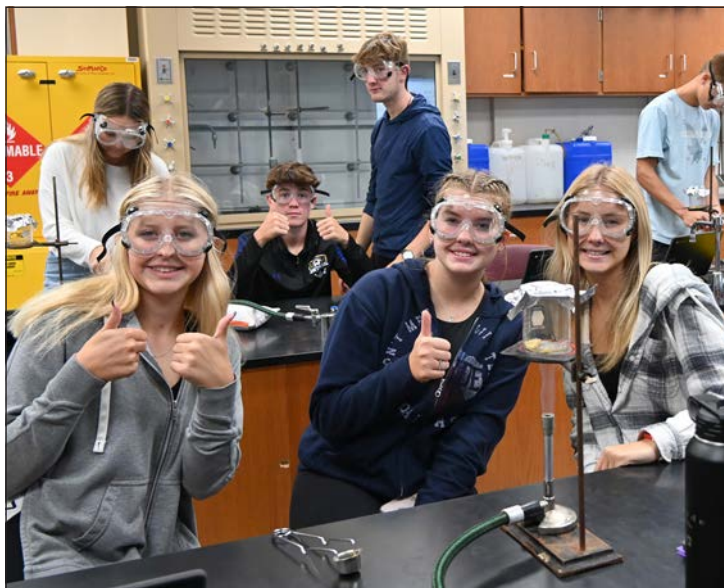
Local students named to lists

Southern New Hampshire University released the names of students on the Summer 2023 Dean's List. The summer terms run from May to August. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the dean's list. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Local students on the list are Cecelia Brady and Kyle Fisher.

Students named to the Summer 2023 President's List must be full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term.

Local students on the list are James Pertee and Hannah Campbell.



MS. HAVER'S Chem Lab at Ontario High School learned lab techniques to pop white, yellow and purple kernels of popcorn, and then calculated the percent of water in each type.

Area Agency on Aging, Third Street Family Health Services to host Wellness Wednesday

To prioritize the health and wellness of the community, the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc., in collaboration with Third Street Family Health Services, will host its third "Wellness Wednesday." The event will be at 2131 Park Avenue West, door 300, in Ontario, on Wednesday, Sept. 13, from 10 am to noon.

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

This event will address common misconceptions about vaccinations and allow individuals to have their questions answered directly by Third Street Family Health Services staff. Black Belt Pro Fitness will host a martial arts mini-lesson along with a guided self-care activity led by Taylor Smith, Community Health Worker & Outreach Coordinator with Area Agency on Aging.

Future dates for Wellness Wednesdays include Oct. 11, Nov. 8, and Dec. 13. (Dates and times are subject to change). These events and vaccinations are free. Gift card incentives in the amount of \$50 will be given to those who get vaccinated and fill out a survey. RSVPs are not required.

For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/aaa5ohio/> or contact Taylor Smith at 567-247-6477 or tfsmith@aaa5ohio.org.



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL HOME-COMING festivities and spirit week kicks-off the week of Sept. 18. A high school tailgate is planned for Sept. 20. The homecoming game is Sept. 22, and the dance is Sept. 23. (Photo Above) Pictured are Dean Morrison, Victoria Shepherd, Grayson Ginn, Sarah Strickler, Canaan Wentz, Ella Shaffer, Carter Weaver, Jastyn Allen, Monroe Bolen, Ka'Mashya Shaw, Jonah So, Davanna Parks, Landon Foltz, Madeline Mullins, Ashton Pfeifer and Maia Fox. (Left Photo) Grayson Ginn, Sarah Strickler, Canaan Wentz, Ella Shaffer, Carter Weaver, Jastyn Allen, Monroe Bolen, Ka'Mashya Shaw, Jonah So and Davanna Parks.



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL KEY CLUB members helped the Mansfield Kiwanis set up the "Field of Love and Gratitude" display at the Hawkins Center in Ontario on Sunday, Sept. 10. The display consists of 250 flags purchased by family members to honor the lives lost in the 9/11 attacks, first responders and our brave military service men and women. The display's opening ceremony was held on Monday, Sept. 11. The display will last until Saturday, Sept. 16.



THE MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PIG ROAST was held Friday, Sept. 1. The school roasted three pigs and served approximately 650 people. It was also Meet the Teams Night so all high school teams and Flames soccer teams were announced.

Area Agency on Aging awarded prestigious accreditation from NCQA

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging announced it was awarded Case management Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) accreditation by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) for the following programs: PASSPORT and Assisted Living, Ohio Home Care Waiver, and Specialized Recovery Services.

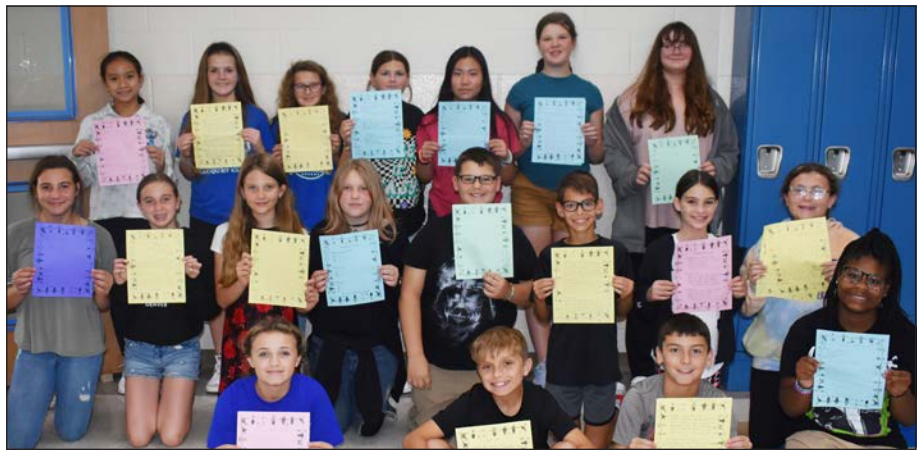
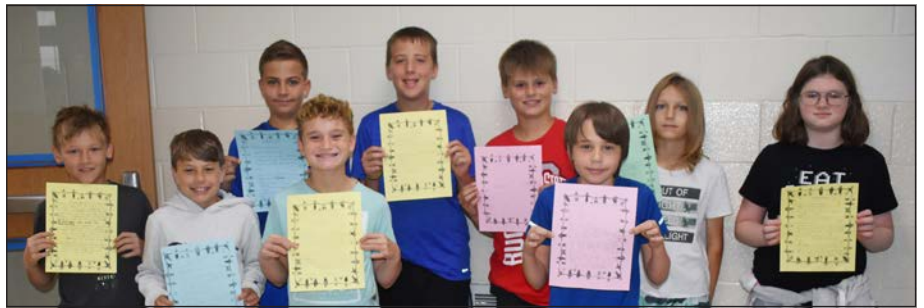
“The Area Agency on Aging’s mission is to support individual choice, independence, and dignity and the NCQA accreditation allows us to demonstrate how we deliver on our mission by being efficient, being effective with person-centered care that meets people’s needs,” Diane Ramey, Area Agency on Aging Chief Clinical Officer.

NCQA is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving health care quality. Earning NCQA’s Accreditation of Case Management for LTSS demonstrates that an organization is dedicated to coordinating the delivery of care in a person-centered and integrated manner to help individuals function optimally in their preferred setting.

NCQA Accreditation standards are developed with input from researchers in the field, the LTSS Advisory Committee and standing committees, both purchasers and operators of LTSS programs, state and federal regulators and other experts. The standards are set high to encourage organizations coordinating LTSS to continuously enhance the quality of services they deliver and are intended to help organizations achieve the highest level of performance possible, increase adherence to care guidelines and create an environment of continuous improvement. The accreditation of Case Management for LTSS Program is organized into eight standards: Program Description, Patient Identification and Assessment, Person-Centered Care Planning and Monitoring, Care Transitions, Measurement and Quality Improvement, Staffing, Training and Verification, Rights and Responsibilities and Delegation.

“We have a long history of providing quality care and to receive our NCQA accreditation for case management long term services and support, further validates this. We value a culture of efficiency and providing integrated care and person-centered care is a cornerstone of who we are.” Duana Patton, Chief Executive Officer of the Area Agency on Aging.

NCQA is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving health care quality. NCQA accredits and certifies a wide range of health care organizations. It also recognizes clinicians and practices in key areas of performance. NCQA’s Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) is the most widely used performance measurement tool in health care. NCQA’s website (ncqa.org) contains information to help consumers, employers and others make more informed health care choices. NCQA can be found at ncqa.org, on Twitter @ncqa, on Facebook at facebook.com/NCQA.org/ and on LinkedIn at linkedin.com/company/ncqa.



ONTARIO MIDDLE SCHOOL sixth grade language arts students composed poems inspired by Kate Murdock’s *Grandma’s Gift*. Many plan to give their original poem as a gift to a loved one on Grandparents’ Day.

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Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS. GALION JV FOOTBALL · SEPT. 9 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS ONTARIO BOYS VARIETY SOCCER · SEPTEMBER 6
1-1 TIE · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS CENTERBURG FOOTBALL • AUGUST 25 • ONTARIO WINS 35-0



LOOKING BACK • THIS WEEK IN TRIBUNE-COURIER HISTORY



Sept. 11, '97

MADISON RAM KICKER Matt Tobias (3) connected on seven extra point kicks in Friday's victory over the Fostoria Redmen. Andy Henson (15), Justin McGregor (32) and Andy Applegate (64) block up front. Madison won the independent football game, 55-14. The Rams travel to Mt. Vernon Friday.



Sept. 11, '97

TIFFANY CROOKS had 12 saves for the Lex High soccer Minutemaids when they stopped Worthington Kilbourne 1-0. Kristy Ritchie scored her sixth goal of the season. Trisha Hertzler, Danielle Frost and Rachel Huvler played good defense in the win.



Sept. 13, '73

"SQUARES" OFFICERS — The Johnny Appleseed Squares square dance club has chosen its officers for the coming season. From the left are John and Ruth Sipes, vice presidents; Dick and Betty Graham, secretaries; John and Bernice Pifher, presidents; and Raleigh and Judy Dickerson, treasurers.



Sept. 13, '73 — **TERRI SENSMEIER**, 17, poses with her sisters, Tina, 11 (l) and Kim, 9, (r) who is holding a Hakata doll from Japan. Terri is wearing a summer Yukata of kimono made for her by her host mother during her recent trip to Japan as a member of the Youth Exchange Program of the Lions Club International.

This Day in History — On Sept. 14, 1814, Francis Scott Key pens a poem which is later set to music and in 1931 becomes America's national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner." The poem, originally titled "The Defence of Fort M'Henry," was written after Key witnessed the Maryland fort being bombarded by the British during the War of 1812. Key was inspired by the sight of a lone U.S. flag still flying over Fort McHenry at daybreak, as reflected in the now-famous words of the "Star-Spangled Banner": "And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air, Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there." The poem was printed in newspapers and eventually set to the music of a popular English drinking tune, "To Anacreon in Heaven," by composer John Stafford Smith. People began referring to the song as "The Star-Spangled Banner" and in 1916 President Woodrow Wilson announced that it should be played at all official events. It was adopted as the national anthem on March 3, 1931. *History.com*

CLASSIFIEDS

ONLINE AUCTION

ONLINE COURT ORDERED SALE
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LEXINGTON, OH 44904
Occupied – Do Not Trespass
Richland County 2022 CV 0547 N
Parcel 048-27-130-17-000
Opening Bid: \$70,000
2/3 Appraised Value
(Property Appraised for \$105,000)
Village of Lexington, County of Richland
Final Bidding & Closing:
October 4, 2023, 4 PM EST

TERMS: ONLINE ONLY; 10% Buyer's Fee Added (Minimum \$1,000); \$5,000 Deposit plus 10% of Buyer's Fee; Purchaser shall be responsible for those costs, allowances, and taxes that the proceeds of the sale are insufficient to cover. A complete copy of the legal descriptions can be reviewed at www.bycenline.com

Bidding Opens: September 6, 2023
(Second Sale Ending, 10/18/2023, 4 PM EST)

Jeff Byce, Byce, REALTY, PSO
330-747-7000
bycenline.com
(T-C 8-31, 9-7, 14 '23) 25L

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

The following is a succinct summary of the legislation adopted by the Council of the City of Ontario, at their regular meeting held on September 6, 2023.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 23-11 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1145-GENERAL PROVISIONS, SECTION 18- OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS, SUBPARAGRAPH (G), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-14 – AN ORDINANCE REZONING TWELVE (12) PARCELS, LOCATED AT 1943-2103 PARK AVENUE WEST FROM OS-OFFICE SERVICE DISTRICT TO B- BUSINESS DISTRICT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-11 – A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-15 – AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITION AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF ONTARIO, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Cathy VanAuker, MMC
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 9-14, 21 '23) 44L

Special health care enrollment offered for veterans

Until 11:59 pm local time on Sept. 30, Veterans who deployed to a combat zone, never enrolled in VA health care, and left active duty between Sept. 11, 2001 and Oct. 1, 2013 are eligible to enroll directly in VA health care. This special enrollment period gives Veterans who served in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other combat zones an opportunity to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits.

VA encourages all eligible Ohio Veterans to visit VA.gov/PACT or call 1-800-MYVA411 to learn more and sign up for VA health care before the deadline. Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care are proven to have better health outcomes than non-enrolled Veterans, and VA hospitals have dramatically outperformed non-VA hospitals in overall quality ratings and patient satisfaction ratings. Additionally, VA health care is often more affordable than non-VA health care for Veterans.

This special enrollment period is a part of the PACT Act, the largest expansion of VA health care and benefits in generations. Since President Biden signed the PACT Act into law on Aug. 10, 2022, more than 344,000 Veterans have enrolled in VA health care and more than 4.2 million enrolled Veterans have been screened for toxic exposures. In Ohio alone, more than 12,600 Veterans have received PACT Act benefits and more than 10,650 Veterans have enrolled in VA care since the PACT Act became law in August 2022.

“Are you a veteran who deployed to a combat zone but never enrolled in VA health care? If you left active duty between Sept. 11, 2001, and Oct. 1, 2013, you should sign up now,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “Even if you don’t need this care now, you may need it in the future – and once you’re in, you have access for life.”

Although this deadline is written into law for this specific group of veterans, many other groups of Veterans are able to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits – including many Vietnam Veterans, Gulf War Veterans, Veterans who deployed to a combat zone and transitioned out of the service less than 10 years ago, and more.

Veterans who do not meet any of the above criteria can often still access VA health care by filing for VA benefits or based on income. If a Veteran is granted service connection for any health condition, they become eligible for VA care.

The PACT Act also expanded VA benefits for millions of veterans, making more than 300 health conditions “presumptive” for service connection. This means that if an eligible Veteran has one of these health conditions, VA automatically assumes that the condition was caused by the Veteran’s service and provides compensation and care accordingly. Since the PACT Act was signed into law, VA has delivered more than \$1.85 billion in PACT Act benefits to Veterans

and their survivors. VA encourages Veterans and their survivors to apply for these benefits now at VA.gov/PACT.

VA is currently in a full-court press to ensure that as many veterans as possible enroll before Sept. 30.

To date, VA’s PACT Act outreach campaign has included more than 2,000 events nationwide, \$13 million in paid media, 60,000 earned media clips, more than 400 million emails and letters to Veterans, the creation of a one-stop-shop PACT Act website, and more. This is the largest outreach campaign in VA history.

More information on eligibility for the special enrollment period can be found at VA.gov/PACT. The period applies to veterans who deployed to a combat zone, never enrolled in VA health care, and left active duty between Sept. 11, 2001 and Oct. 1, 2013 – specifically those who served in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after Nov. 11, 1998.

Veterans seeking to enroll during this special period should contact the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System Eligibility and Enrollment line 216-791-3800 extension 63910, have their DD214 available for reference, and one of our enrollment specialists will assist.

To apply for care or benefits visit VA.gov/PACT or call 1-800-MYVA411.

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LifeWise Academy experiences rapid growth

(Continued from Page 12)

A group in Van Wert got a hold of him at the county fair and a guy named Tim Stoller told him about “this thing we do at Van Wert.”

Almost 900 kids go to LifeWise in Van Wert every day, Defiance has 1,200 kids every week that go to LifeWise. Why weren’t more schools doing this?

Well, there’s insurance, and background checks, payroll, curriculum, etc., and it’s hard to start one of these types of things on your own. “So that’s how LifeWise was formed. We figured out how to put everything in one box and we can go to any community, and everything is right there in the box,” said Buddy.

“After the fifty signatures needed to start a LifeWise location, there’s a community kickoff meeting, followed by a steering committee, the plan is assembled, and then begin interviewing for directors. After all this is done, we then we approach the schools.”

“Just some personal testimonies about the positive impact of LifeWise, we had a little girl in Shelby that started coming to LifeWise, her parents began volunteering, the next thing we know they ended up at Storyside church and the whole family was baptized.

We had a little girl in New London that was coming. She came from an unchurched family. She got baptized and forty of her family members came to church to watch. What’s amazing is that twenty family members have come back to church weekly after that. We feel this is a way to rebuild the church. We have many churches that have told us they haven’t had children’s ministry in over 25 years. This is quite possibly the biggest missed opportunity of the American Church. We should have been doing this in 1960.

We had a grandmother stand up during a question and answer time in Ontario who said that her grandson goes to LifeWise in New London. “My grandson gets his lesson from LifeWise each week, he

goes home and teaches it to my 33 year old daughter. So not only is my grandson learning about the gospel but so is my daughter. Jesus is using this to rebuild his church.”

“It has been the Lord and his grace that has accomplished this. And it is people in communities that are stepping up,” Penton said.

“We had no idea this concept would be so intriguing or powerful.” - LifeWise Academy founder and CEO Joel Penton

LifeWise Bible programs has exceeded 35,000 students in the 2023-’24 school year, the group says. LifeWise estimates these programs can cost between \$100 and \$300 per student, with funding supported exclusively through private donations. There is no cost to public schools to facilitate the program nor for families to enroll their children.

Unchurched parents who have kids in the program, are hearing the stories from the Bible from their children, which is leading their family to visit churches, become members of the church, receiving Christ, and they’re getting baptized there.

Looking to the next generation, we’ve seen that it has not been a healthy choice to remove moral and a biblical worldview foundation from the lives of our students. This provides an opportunity for parents to reinstall that foundation, religious instruction, and Bible education into the lives of their students.

Find out more about LifeWise Academy by visiting their website at <https://lifewise.org/>. Perhaps you’d like to start one at your children or grandchildren’s public school, or even work or volunteer?

“Our message to the American people is that if you had lost hope in the ability to pass the word of God, the Bible, on to the next generation,” Penton said. “If you thought that everything was just going in the direction of the Bible being out of the public school day, you don’t need to lose hope.”



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