



TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com

11.23.23



Photo By Jeff Hoffer

THE OHIO BIRD SANCTUARY held a "Fall Photo Friday" on Nov. 17. Photographers of all skill registered to take a guided photo tour with keepers as they photographed birds of prey in their natural habitat.

Over 70 businesses will offer prizes on Small Business Saturday

Richland County area businesses will once again be participating in the Small Business Saturday Prize Program organized by the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development and their partners. The event highlights locally-owned small businesses and will feature two simple ways for shoppers to win prizes.

On Nov. 25, shoppers are invited to visit participating local small businesses in the Richland County area and enter their prize drawing. Participating stores are offering prizes that vary from \$25 to \$200. No purchase is required to enter.

While there, shoppers can also enter a county-wide grand prize contest for \$100 worth of prizes. To enter this prize drawing, shoppers complete an online prize form by scanning a QR code with their cell phone. The QR code can be found on the flyer posted in each participating store. Five winners will be selected. One prize entry per store will be permitted, with a maximum of six total entries from the participating store list. Participating stores can be found on the event calendar at www.richlandareachamber.com.

This event is being held in conjunction with the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development, Shelby Area Business Group, Be Focal Buy Local, Downtown Mansfield, and The Clear Fork Valley Chamber of Commerce. For information call 419-522-3211.

4-H recognizes achievement during annual honor program

The Richland County 4-H program held its annual 4-H Honor Program on Sunday, Nov. 12. Recognition was given to 4-H members, adult volunteers and "friends" of the Richland County 4-H program. The top 4-H member honors were given to Member-of-the-Year recipients Kelsey Snyder, Katie Crider and Sofi Johnson (Shelby) and Hayden Kuhn (Mansfield).

The Outstanding Service to 4-H Awards, given to 4-H advisors on the basis of excellence in 4-H volunteer leadership on the club and/or county level, were presented to Jacob Hoffman, Lisa Crain and Marcie Leedy.

Meritorious Service to 4-H awards, given to special friends (non-member and non-advisor) of the 4-H program were presented to Jeremy Wolford (Richland Rural Life Center) and *Tribune-Courier* (Jenna Wolford), both of Mansfield.

Four teenage leaders were recognized with the Outstanding Junior Leader Award for outstanding leadership and service to the county 4-H program. Honorees included Carson Abbott, Sarah Smith, Deborah Crouch, and Katie Crider (of Shelby). Two of these teen leaders were recognized with the Junior Leader Merit Award as the top teen leaders in the county for exceptional leadership and service. The honorees were Carson Abbott and Katie Crider.

The Camp Counselor Recreational Leadership Award is presented to a select group of 4-H camp counselors who have demonstrated outstanding recreational leadership during the county 4-H camping programs. These counselors have motivated campers and gone the extra mile to get campers involved in various forms of recreation and social development. Six honorees were recognized for this achievement in 2023: Liam Kuhn, Abby Snyder, Hayden Kuhn, Kelsey Snyder, Sarah Smith and Jack Stover.

The Character Award was presented to Sean Funk of the Ring Raiders 4-H Club for his passion to help and serve as a role model to others.

4-H members receiving recognition for outstanding officer books/scrapbooks included:

President

Gold: Carson Abbott, Ring Raiders 4-H

Honorable Mention: Finlay Rowlands, Next Generation 4-H

Vice-President

Gold: Kaley Bowman, Wild-n-Free 4-H

Honorable Mention: Cailey Fairchild, Bibs & Boots 4-H

Treasurer:

Gold: Carson Secriskey, Roaming Rovers 4-H

Secretary

Gold: Abigail Secriskey, Roaming Rovers 4-H

Honorable Mention: Cayden Burns, Ring Raiders 4-H

(Continued on Page 11)

SHOP SMALL and WIN



NOV 26



Visit the event calendar at richlandareachamber.com
for 70+ participating local small businesses.

The 1805 Treaty with the Ohio Indians

By Bob Carter

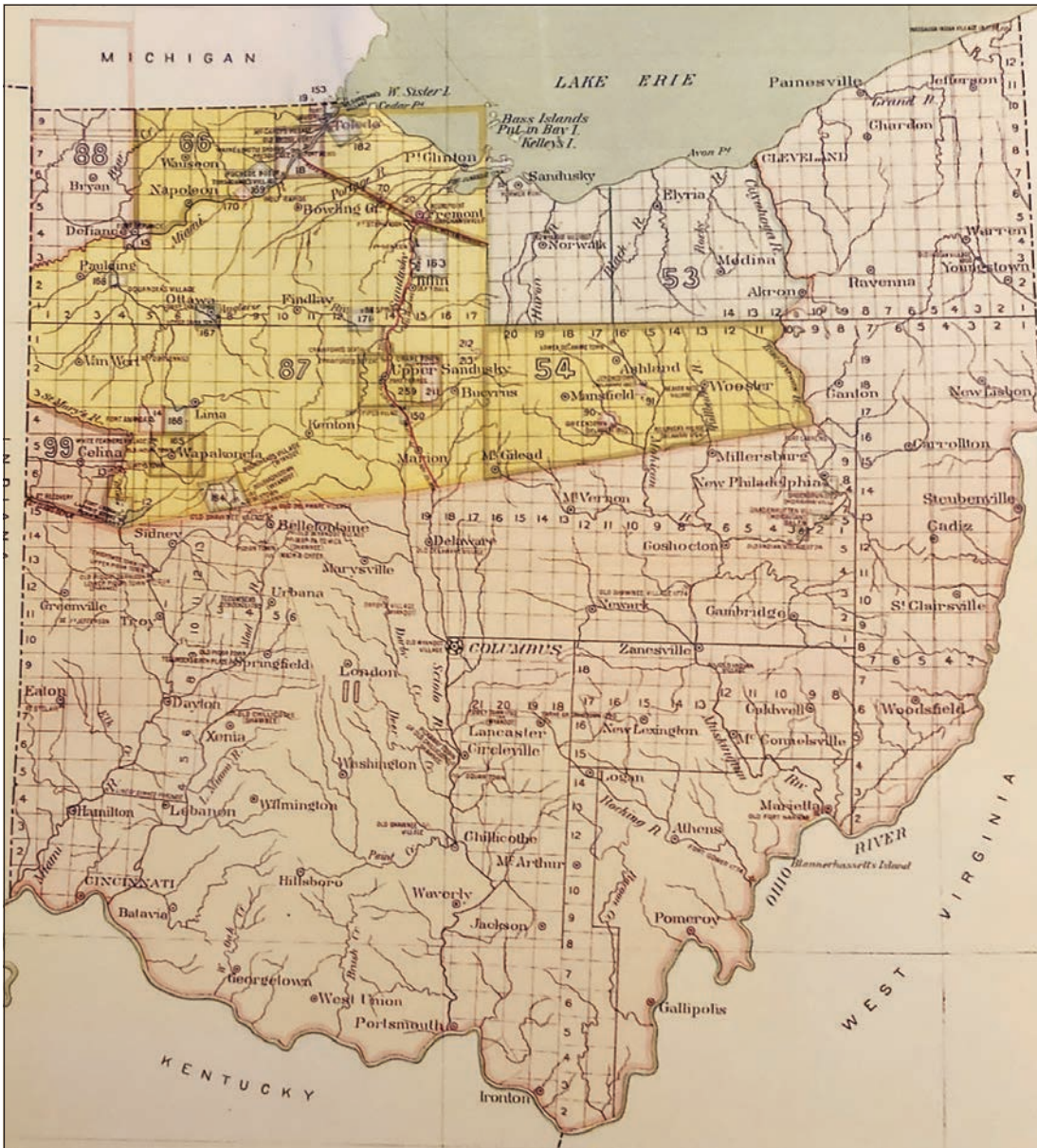
At Fort Industry in 1805, the U.S. Government conducted a treaty with the Indian tribes living in the bounds of Ohio. It covered a huge lot of lands in northern Ohio, including what is now Richland County.

The treaty reads as follows: "The Treaty of Fort Industry was a successor treaty to the Greenville Treaty, which moved the eastern boundary of Indian Lands in northern Ohio from the Tusssscarawas River and Cuyahoga River westward to a line 120 miles west of the Pennsylvania border, which coincided with the western boundary of the Firelands of the Connecticut Western Reserve.

In return the United States Government agreed 'every year forever hereafter, at Detroit, or at some other convenient place' to pay \$825 for the ceded lands south of the 41st degree of south latitude, and an additional \$175 for the Firelands, which lie north, which the president would secure from the Connecticut Land Company, for a total annuity of \$1,000, to be divided between said nations, from time to time as such nations should agree."

The treaty was signed July 4, 1805, by Charles Jouett, a Federal Indian agent, for the United States and representatives of the Ottawa, Pottawatomie, Chippewa, Wyandot, Munsee, Delaware and Shawnee tribes.

It opened a vast area of Ohio area for settlement. What would those lands be worth today?



AN 1805 MAP OF OHIO shows the Indian Reservation area in yellow. Richland County was in the Indians' hands.

RRLC adds cookie decorating to Third Annual Breakfast with Santa

The Richland Rural Life Center, 969 Crall Rd. East, Mansfield, will host its Third Annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 2.

The menu includes all you can eat pancakes, scrambled eggs, sau-


sage and fruit, orange juice, milk, water and coffee. Santa will meet with children by a wood-burning fireplace and 12 foot Christmas tree. Children are invited to bring a letter for Santa.

Three time slots are available at 9 am, 10 am and 11 am. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for ages 3 to 10 and free for children under 2. Advanced reservations are required but payments will be accepted at the door with cash, check or with the Venmo App. Everyone attending must have a reservation. Space is limited. All children must be accompanied by an adult, no high chairs are provided. Following breakfast, guests can decorate cookies next door in Santa's workshop.

Reservations can be made by visiting <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844AEAB22A0F9C61-45986789-breakfast> or sending an email to richlandrurallife@gmail.com.

Vol. 63
No. 8

Tribune-Courier



Serving Ontario, Lexington, Madison, Bellville and Butler Communities in
Madison, Mifflin, Springfield, Troy, Washington and Jefferson Townships

PO Box 127, Ontario, OH 44862 • 347 Allen Dr. • 419-529-2847
news@tribune-courier.com • www.tribune-courier.com
© All Rights Reserved

The Tribune-Courier is published by Stumbo Publishing Co., Inc. Advertisers should check their ad immediately. The Tribune-Courier is not liable for failure to publish an ad or for a typographical error or errors in publication, except that adjustment for Tribune-Courier errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. Marc A. Stumbo, publisher; Frank A. Stumbo, president/CEO (1961-2018); Betty E. Stumbo, co-publisher (1961-2017); Jenna M. Wolford, managing editor, general manager and feature/travel writer; Teresa Vore, office manager; Traci Little, photojournalist/advertising representative; Bud Motter, photo journalist; Jim Warne, sports editor; John J. Kirschenheiter, editor (1961-2008); Linda Fulmer, columnist (2005-2014). By-lined stories are opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the position of this newspaper.

Subscribe for FREE and receive the weekly issue delivered to your email.
Send us an email with your name to -
news@tribune-courier.com

News Briefs

First Congregation Church Choir will present The Dawn from on High by Dan Forrest on Sunday, Dec. 10, at 10:30 am in the sanctuary.

This is a five-movement work for chorus and orchestra encompassing ancient chant, shimmering light, unconditional love, heavenly joy and deep peace.

The church is located at 640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield.

★

The Lexington Area Senior Citizens Inc., invites those 55 and older to attend meetings the third Wednesday of every month.

The December meal will be held Wednesday, Dec. 20, at the Ontario Event Center at 11 am. Reservations are \$20 for members and \$25 for non members. Call Anita for availability at 419-565-3461.

Jane Horton, country/gospel singer, will perform.

The group will also meet Dec. 6, at the Reindeer Grill, 10 S. Park St., Mansfield, at 11 am.

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

★

The Richland County Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings are scheduled for Jan. 24, April 24 and July 24 at 3:15 pm at Richland Public Health, 555 Lexington Ave, Mansfield, in the Corley Room. For information contact Richland County EMA 419-774-5686.

★

The Ohio District 5 Corporate Board of Trustees meeting will be held Dec. 12, in the boardroom at 2 pm. For additional information, contact Susie Danuloff at sdanuloff@aaa5ohio.org.

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. is located at 2131 Park Avenue West in Ontario.

★

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Rev. Will Humphrey at 10:30 am on Nov. 26. He will speak on "Generosity Thanksgiving and Spiritual practice."

For more information visit www.allsoulsuohio.org.

★

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, Nov. 22 through 26. Acceptable items include steel and aluminum cans, crushed milk jugs, detergent bottles, plastic bottles with number 1 or 2 on the bottom, broken down cardboard, all papers included with the newspaper but no other magazines or paper. Please remove caps from bottles and rinse all containers well.

★

The board of trustees at The Russell & Mary Gimbel Foundation, Mansfield, has approved a grant in the amount of \$3,000 to support end-of-life patient care at Hospice of North Central Ohio.

Ralph Tomassi, HNCO Chief Development Officer/Senior Development Officer stated, "We are indeed grateful for the continued support provided through the generosity of the Gimbel Foundation. Funding compassionate, comfort care through an array of home health care, hospice, palliative care, and community outreach/bereavement programs and services continues to be an on-going mission of our non-profit hospice organization."

★

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-pack aged 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 next date for distribution is Tuesday, Nov. 28.

★

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

This Week's Pet Looking for A Forever Home



Tom Jones

Tom Jones came into the shelter on April 9 of this year, he was wearing a heavy harness. Volunteers assumed his owner would surely come get him.

And yet, Tom Jones is still at the shelter. Tom Jones is around two years old and is super friendly. He also doesn't jump up and already knows how to sit.

He likes to grab treats, so anyone giving treats should be careful.

It's hard to see in the pictures (and because of his coloring), but Tom Jones is very thin. He has gained some weight since

he's been at the shelter, but he is still thin. The shelter is trying to put more weight on him.

Tom Jones is absolutely terrible in his kennel; he jumps and barks. Once you get him on a leash, he is basically perfection. He barely pulls and is sweet to everyone.

Tom Jones 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.

Home projects deserve Home Equity Loans with heart.

Mechanics
BANK Member FDIC

That's my bank!

Loans subject to approval.



CLOVER HILL EARLY LEARNING CENTER is a new preschool and childcare program in Ontario located at 2986 Park Avenue West. The center provides services for children age 18 months through five years old. Their mission is to create a community of learners by providing a high-quality preschool and childcare program that promotes continuous growth through best practice. Clover Hill ELC is currently enrolling. Call 419-723-0001 for more information and to schedule a tour. (Right photo) Clover Hill staff members include Mekayla Vassel; Heather Addington, assistant director; Natasha Repp, owner and director; Hailey Caram; and Nicole Burkhart.



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
 Interim Pastor Lisa Peterson
 9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship
 Call about Prayer Groups, Small Groups, Bible Studies, Book Clubs, Pub Theology, Community Meals, Free Produce distribution and Senior Boxes.

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

To learn how to be added to this listing send an email to advertising@tribune-courier.com

Wappner Funeral Home

Mansfield • Ontario • Ashland • 419-522-5211

First Federal Bank of Ohio
 THE RIGHT LOAN. THE RIGHT BANK.

G & M Body & Paint Shop

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



Photo By Jeff Hoffer

ODOT prepares for winter weather

Across the state, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is conducting safety checks on snowplows and equipment, hiring seasonal drivers and mechanics, and topping off salt supplies to ensure it is ready to go when winter arrives.

“Maintaining Ohio’s highways is a year-round job for ODOT, and it’s never too early for crews to start thinking about winter travel,” said Governor DeWine. “It takes a great deal of planning and coordination before the snow falls to help ensure that roads stay clear during and after each storm.”

The agency utilizes nearly 3,000 drivers who often work 12-hour shifts during snow and ice events. While most are full-time drivers, about 500 drivers are hired seasonally. This team maintains more than 43,000 lane miles of state and U.S. routes outside municipalities and all interstates in Ohio, except the Ohio Turnpike.

In addition to full-time and seasonal drivers, ODOT also uses auxiliary drivers. These auxiliary drivers are full-time ODOT employees who normally do other tasks and only plow snow when needed.

ODOT’s goal is to have primary routes back up to speed within two hours and secondary routes within four hours of the end of a snow event. Last winter, crews hit that goal 98 percent of the time.

While the department continues efforts to recruit plow drivers and mechanics, around 250 mechanics are busy doing 150-point checks from the plow blade to the salt spinner of each of the more than 1,600 trucks in the fleet statewide.

In addition to trucks and personnel, ODOT is ready for this winter with more than 776,000 tons of salt on hand. Last winter, crews drove 4.9 million miles using nearly 414,000 tons of salt and more than 11 million gallons of liquid deicers.

A total of 26 plow trucks were struck last winter, down from 61 the previous winter. When these crashes occur, it takes important snow-fighting equipment off the road, forcing other plows in the area to extend their routes.

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

- Dianne Elizabeth Zacharias, November 11
- Minnie L. Carper, November 14
- Jordan L. Case, November 14
- Carol Jean Howe, November 14
- Opal Irene Sturgill, November 14
- Nancy Louise Huck, November 15
- David Allen Shoup, November 15

View Full Obituaries at www.dignitymemorial.com

Our Family Serving Your Family for Five Generations Since 1872



WAPPNER
Funeral Directors & Crematory

Three Locations to Serve You

- Mansfield • 98 South Diamond St. • 419-522-5211
- Ontario • 100 S. Lexington-Springmill Rd. • 419-529-2323
- Ashland • 308 Claremont Avenue • 419-289-1552

www.wappner.com



ONTARIO COMMUNITY EVENTS Craft Show

Saturday, December 2 (8:30 am - 3:00 pm) Richland County Fairgrounds
Admission is \$2 per person or a new toy (no stuffed animals please)
*all proceeds will benefit the Ontario Lions Club community projects and Ontario community events. All toys will go to the Springfield TWP. Fire Dept. and Ontario Police Toy Drive.

119

WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**ONE GREAT
EVENT,
ENDLESS
POSSIBILITIES.**

**SUPPORT LOCAL CHARITIES WITH
THE ULTIMATE GIVING EXPERIENCE!**



Is there a cause near and dear to your heart? This is your chance to show your support. Join Richland Gives, a special online event that gives you the opportunity to contribute to 119 nonprofit causes in our county. From animals to education, health services to historical societies, you're sure to find a cause that connects to you.



**Donate Now Through November 28
at RichlandGives.org.**

Ontario School Board approves employments and volunteers

The Ontario Local Schools Board of Education met Nov. 14. Todd Friend requested a moment of silence for the students and chaperones that were involved in the fatal bus crash on their way to the Ohio School Boards Association conference.

Ontario Middle School Principal Chris Miller and OMS Dean of Students Jordyn Eckert presented on the Multi Tiered System of Supports that are being enacted in the middle school.

The board approved the five-year forecast, the 2023-'24 Spending Plan (monthly budget), appropriation adjustments and an amendment to the CRA agreement that was approved in September 2019 for a Holiday Inn Express and Suites Hotel.

The board accepted the resignation of Tonya Winningham, mentor, year 1, for Logan Leitzky, for the 2023-'24 school year. Joni Stierhoff will replace Winningham for \$750.

Riley Kleshinski and Jeremy Peoples were approved as the high school and middle school volunteer wrestling assistant coaches. Keith Wright, Chad Wright and Kenton Cordrey were approved as high school volunteer swim assistant coaches.

Riley Them was approved as the middle school volunteer swim assistant coach.

The board approved employment for the 2023-'24 school year for Jena Balok, middle school 2 1/2 hour cook, \$5,630; Tracy Byrd, middle school, every day substitute; and substitute teachers Brynn Hall, Melissa Scott and Joshua Hurrell. Substitute classified staff personnel approved for the 2023-'24 school year are Nicole Mills, cook, custodian, latchkey, playground; Ashley Pauley, cook, custodian, secretary; and Philip Mata, custodian.

The board approved an overnight spring baseball team trip to the Cal Ripken Jr. Baseball Complex in Myrtle Beach, SC, April 3-7, 2024. The board also approved a Resolution with META Solutions to purchase natural gas beginning July 2025 through June 2030.

The HB33 Remote Day Learning Plan was approved as were homebound instructors Krista Carver, \$22.50 hourly (not to exceed five hours per week); and Mindy Leach, \$22.50 hourly (not to exceed five hours per month).

Donations were accepted from the Ontario Lions Club, Stingel School Supplies, \$400; Scott and Kelly Purvis, girls basketball, \$1,000; First Federal Community Bank, baseball, \$500; Gorman Rupp Company, high school principal account, \$350; Mark and Zoitsa Romanchuk, baseball, \$500; Mark and Donna Baki, boys soccer, \$20; Richland County Foundation, Academic Challenge, \$680.95; Dan and Brenda Niss, girls basketball, \$1,000; Kathleen Friend, Camstrong, \$50; and SSM, Inc. DBA McDonald's, girls basketball, \$250.

The board approved facility requests. Keith Strickler gave an update on facility upgrades and strategic planning.

The board entered into executive session for the purpose of considering matters required to be kept confidential by federal law, or regulations or state statutes. No action followed.

The next board of education meeting will be held on Dec. 12, at 7 pm in the Ontario High School Library.

Donors will receive *Elf* socks

To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the film *Elf*, all who come to give blood or platelets with the American Red Cross will receive an exclusive pair of *Elf* Red Cross socks, while supplies last, through Nov. 30. Donation appointments can be made by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Bloodmobiles are scheduled for:
 Wednesday, Nov. 22, 9 am to 3 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario; and 8 am to 1 pm, Shelby YMCA, 111 W. Smiley Rd. Shelby
 Friday, Nov. 24, noon to 5 pm, Community Building, 21555 Pealer Mill Rd., Butler
 Monday, Nov. 27, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario
 Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2-7 pm, Lucas Community Center, 252 W. Main St., Lucas; and noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario
 Thursday, Nov. 30, 8:30 am to 2:30 pm, St. Peter's High School, 111 W. First St., Mansfield; and 10 am to 4 pm, OSU Mansfield/NC State, Eisenhower Center, 1760 University Dr., Mansfield

Modern Woodmen honors Mayor Theaker with Hometown Hero Award

Modern Woodmen of America's Mansfield Office presented Mansfield Mayor Tim Theaker with the Hometown Hero Award.

Modern Woodmen's celebration of Hometown Heroes is an effort to recognize those who have made an extraordinary ef-

fort to have a positive impact on the communities where its members live, work, and play, according to Brian Souder, Modern Woodmen Managing Partner.

The award also affords recipients the opportunity to invest hero-directed funds into the or-

ganization of their choice.

"I'm very proud to get this (award) and very pleased that they thought of me," Theaker said during a Nov. 2 presentation.

"Modern Woodmen's core values are financial security, quality family life, and community

impact. We believe that Mayor Theaker's 12 years in office have been marked by an effort to exercise fiscal excellence and make our community a place where families can thrive," said Jonathan Dech, Modern Woodmen Financial Representative.

Theaker is nearing the end of his third and final term as mayor. Among the projects he's proud to have been part of include upgrading downtown's main arteries via two-way traffic, as well as welcoming Niss Aviation as Mansfield Lahm Regional Airport's fixed-base operator.

"There's an awful lot of things that we've worked on and were able to achieve, and it's very, I think, helpful for the city," the mayor said. "I'm very appreciative that everybody helped me get to that point. I wish I could take claim for all of that, but it's the individuals that work for me that have done so much."

While reflecting upon his career, the mayor said it's the people he's worked and interacted with who stand out.

"There are many great people in this city, and it's nice to be able to meet some of those people and to be able to work with those individuals," he said.



MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA presents Mansfield Mayor Tim Theaker with the Hometown Hero Award. Pictured are Brian Souder, Modern Woodmen Managing Partner; Mayor Tim Theaker; and Jonathan Dech, Modern Woodmen Financial Representative.

Residents asked to complete City of Ontario survey

Ontario officials, together with the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, have started the process of developing a comprehensive community plan. It was deemed necessary by community officials to develop a plan to lay the foundation and timing for future initiatives.

The purpose of the comprehensive plan is to create a shared vision for the community while providing direction for desirable growth, revitalization, and the implementation of important priorities. The plan will include recommendations for the community in many areas to include community services and facilities, housing and neighborhoods, economic development, future land use/zoning, infrastructure, parks, recreation and open space, transportation and connectivity (streets, parking, bicycle and pedestrian mobility).

According to Mayor Randy Hutchinson, the planning process will culminate into a plan of action that orchestrates better ways for Ontario to be more resilient, resourceful and interconnected to assets and areas in the community.

Residents can participate in a brief survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PlanOntario>. The survey asks residents, business owners and other community stakeholders questions relative to their community priorities, growth, revitalization and livelihood of the community.

In addition to the community survey, Ontario middle and high school students will be able to help to plan Ontario by taking a student survey. The entire process will take roughly one year and the comprehensive plan will be ready for adoption in the summer of 2024 or thereabouts.

Reveille, a Bowling Green, Ohio-based firm that specializes in comprehensive community development and urban planning solutions, will assist a 14-member steering committee comprised of community and business representatives in developing Ontario's Comprehensive Community Plan.

Printed copies of the survey can also be obtained at the city mu-

nicipal building, 555 Stumbo Rd. Contact Kris Knapp, City of Ontario Services Director, at 419-529-2495 or kknapp@ontarioohio.org.

Ontario Community Craft show is December

The Ontario Community Craft Show will be held Saturday, Dec. 2, from 8:30 am to 3 pm at the Richland County Fairgrounds.

Admission is \$2 per person or a new toy (no stuffed animals). All proceeds will benefit the Ontario Lions Club's community projects and Ontario community events.

All toys will go to the SpringfieldSpringfield Township Fire Department and Ontario Police Toy Drive.



**Recycling Today
to Improve Tomorrow**

Formerly Milliron Recycling

BUYERS OF:
aluminum . stainless steel . brass . all scrap iron
commercial & industrial pick-up

2384 St. Rt. 39 | Monday - Friday 8 - 5 | Sat. 8 - 12

419 - 747 - 6522 | 800 - 921 - 0054

Lexington family receives Alaskan adventure of a lifetime as sons exceed expectations

By Traci Little

Mallory Westerheide is an awe inspiring mother of two special needs boys. When Mallory and Matt were married in 2011, they dreamed of traveling and adventuring together in an RV. When Mallory became pregnant, everything changed. At her 20 week ultrasound, she found out that something was wrong.

“They told me it was a lethal form of skeletal dysplasia and asked if I wanted to terminate my pregnancy,” said Mallory. She told the doctors no, and trusted that this was the baby that God had given her. After having Micah, Mallory got pregnant again but had a miscarriage. After that, she got pregnant with another baby boy named Maximus, who has the same condition as Micah. They are the only two children that have this rare genetic disease, and their developmental milestones remain uncertain.

Mallory and Matt are no longer married, but they both share a deep rooted love for their boys. They choose to put their differences aside to give Micah and Max the best life possible.

“Kids want to do things with both parents,” she said. “Giving them time with both parents together is what they need and want. It’s a sacrificial choice we continue to make.”

“Our boys were never supposed to walk or talk,” said Mallory. They both defied those predictions, even though both boys look much younger than their ages of Micah, 11, and Maximus, 8.

Matt is a traveling nurse and this past year he was stationed in Alaska. Mallory lives with their boys in Ohio and had never been to Alaska before. Matt invited them to come out for a couple weeks and spend time exploring together.

It takes a lot of work to just prepare to go to doctors’ visits and daily outings; how would I travel to Alaska with two autistic children? she thought.

Matt really wanted them to experience a once in a lifetime vacation so over this past summer of 2023, Mallory traveled to Whittier, Alaska and enjoyed 16 days adventuring around in a motorhome. Mallory’s friend, Crystal, who has been a close friend since junior high, came with her to help on the plane ride and while they were in Alaska. They flew from Columbus to Texas and then Texas to Alaska.

While in Alaska, Matt applied for an adventure with a nonprofit group called Adventure for Ava. He was accepted as one of four families to experience a family adventure together.

Adventure for Ava is focused on serving families with special needs. The purpose is to connect them to the outdoors and each other by providing a safe and accessible space for them to create and capture memories. After these four families experience this adventure together, four short adventure films starring the families are created.

Adventure for Ava (www.avasstory.org) began with Dan and Kristen Redfield. Before their daughter Ava’s diagnosis, they shared a love for the outdoors.

As her condition developed, their adventures outside came to a standstill. As first-time parents, they were shocked and heartbroken when their daughter was diagnosed with Tay-Sachs, a rare, genetic, and fatal disease. She became blind, paralyzed and had daily seizures. She required ‘round the clock care just to care for her basic needs.

As a professional filmmaker, Dan recognized the importance of his home videos and photos with his family. This inspired him to start a nonprofit called Adventure for Ava, where he takes Alaskan families with disabled children on adventures and captures the photographs and videos of the day as a keepsake. A short film is also produced for the family to cherish forever. “Looking back, I can’t imagine not having those memories captured. Seeing that smile of hers.... she knew she was loved,” said Kristen through tears.

Dan Redfield, (Ava’s Dad) is the director of Adventure for Ava. He asked himself how he could take this situation that’s hard and turn it into something that’s positive. That’s how Adventure for Ava was born.

The kids are taken out on a suitable and safe adventure. Their experience outside is captured. There’s a lot of work and dedication that goes into making a child happy and healthy, so it means a lot to families to take some time and do something different and fun, rather than the monotony of therapy and doctors’ visits. It gives the family a reminder of why they work so hard. Because Matt was living in Alaska, his family qualified for this adventure.

Micah and Max love the water and for their special adventure, the idea of going jet skiing was brought up. There were a lot of concerns because the boys don’t like putting anything on their heads and they would need to wear helmets and also heavy wetsuits.

At first the idea was dismissed with the thought of “how would they be able to do this?” Mallory thought through it some more and realized, “wait a minute, we CAN do this.”

She put together a social story that walked them through the process ahead of time. Mallory creates storybooks with pictures to go over with Micah and Max before trips or new events. She made one for their Alaska trip specifically regarding the jet ski adventure.

(Continued on Page 9)



•Lexington family receives Alaskan adventure of a lifetime as sons exceed expectations

(Continued from Page 8)

“Micah, Mommy, Max, Daddy and Crystal along with other friends get to go on a special trip! We get to go on a jet ski! We will have to put on extra clothes to keep us warm, dry and safe. After we get our warm clothes on, we get to go on a trip and see some really cool things! Like waterfalls and glaciers. When we are on our adventure, Dan and his friends will get pictures and videos of us having fun! If you need to, we can stop and take a break for a few minutes. When we are all done, we will go back to the RV and go get a cheeseburger!”

Charlie, the owner of Glacier Jet Ski Adventures explained the process to the family. He was patient with the boys. While putting on the heavy wetsuit, Micah got a little nervous but then he watched his daddy put one on and felt safe. Micah wants to be just like his daddy, so it was comfortable for Micah to follow his example.

Mallory always sets the bar high for both of her kids. She is one of the most resilient and strongest people I’ve ever met.

“They can do anything they set their hearts to,” said Mallory.

Seeing the boys relax, go with the flow and have fun doing something new, was truly rewarding for Mallory and Matt to see. Max rode with Charlie, and Micah rode with his dad. Micah kept saying, “Daddy fast” and it was so fun seeing Micah enjoy it. “I just love seeing him excited, that makes me happy,” said Matt. Max’s favorite part was the end when Charlie did fast circles, he kept saying “again.” While out on the jet skis they saw some massive sea lions swimming around. They also witnessed the breathtaking view of waterfalls up close and personal.

Over 85 percent of donations go directly into program services so the families don’t need to pay anything out of pocket. The world needs to see that these kids can do big things when given the opportunity! “Helping Families with Special Needs Capture Memories” is the mission and heartbeat.

The 2nd annual Film Premiere will be shown at Bear Tooth Theatrepub & Grill on Dec. 10, at 12 pm. Family and friends will be able to watch four short adventure films starring these amazing families with special needs.

“Go dog sledding with an Iditarod legend, ride side by side to Knik Glacier, race jet skis in Prince William Sound, and feed Kobuk the bear.” Part of the proceeds will benefit Adventure for Ava, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Watch these families share their stories of love, perseverance and adventure. Dan told me that they are planning on premiering the film online at the same time as the in person premiere which will be 4 pm Ohio time. It will be shown on Facebook via the Adventure for Ava page.

“We knew that Mallory and her boys were only up in Alaska for a short time, so we prioritized their adventure and chose something they were capable of doing that was exciting and different. I loved seeing Mallory and her family’s sense of independence. The boys may be delayed in certain areas but they’re such fun loving kids who just want to play and have fun. We loved seeing Mallory and Matt reinforce and encourage the boys’ sense of adventure. It’s tempting to play things safe and guard our kids from all the things that could go wrong. Mallory and Matt are helping those boys live their best lives full of love and adventure!” said Dan.

Dan went onto say, “The Adventure for Ava program has been a huge healing tool for me and my wife. We both know how hard it can be getting a family with special needs outside. We also understand that time is precious and the moments we can enjoy outside together should be captured and treasured. Being a full time filmmaker I’m able to tap into those skills and leverage my equipment which gives a deep sense of purpose with my work. The program has also turned a trial into an opportunity, something positive for others and our community. The biggest thing for me is the program keeps Ava relevant, and it keeps her name spoken. Everyone deals with grief differently, but for me, I love talking about her. I might cry a little, but I always cherish the opportunity to say her name. If I’m in an interview with a family and the walls are up, I’ll sometimes share a similar story with Ava, and you can watch the walls come down. People know they’re with someone just like them who has

walked a similar path, it’s almost like a different language. Sometimes it can be a healing tool for the parents I interview. I’ve heard things like “it’s just nice to talk to someone who gets it”. The healing is in talking with other parents and sharing our experience and stories, having a channel to continue to speak her name and the understanding that we took something negative and turned it into a positive. Today her name isn’t so much tied to “a little girl who died because of Tay-Sachs disease” but “a girl and her family help other families with special needs capture memories.”

Families are encouraged to sign up via the website (<https://www.avasstory.org/signup>). All the films can be viewed online (Facebook, YouTube and <https://www.avasstory.org/films>).

Some other adventures the family experienced while in Alaska were going to Running Reindeer Ranch, Husky Homestead, and a side by side ATV tour! They also spent the weekend at the Chickenstock Festival and took a drive to the North Pole to see Santa! After that they went swimming and to a hot spring for the evening. At the Husky Homestead adventure, the boys got to play with the puppies, and they showed the family how they train them by having them run on a treadmill first. The boys were sworn in as Junior Rangers at Denali National Park.

At the Running Reindeer Ranch that got to interact with a private herd of reindeer with a lot of new babies walking around. The all-day guided tour to Knik Glacier on side by side ATVs was absolutely amazing. Navigating through rain, streams, gravel bars and sand dunes, the sunshine finally peeked out as they reached the glacier view for lunch. The Alaska Backcountry Adventure Tours did not disappoint.

While traveling around in the RV, Max enjoyed the freedom to walk back and forth. The one way tunnel to Whittier was very exciting for the boys. Whittier is a very small town in Alaska. You take a one lane tunnel in and a tunnel out. You have to time it right, as trains also use it. After that, they loaded onto the state ferry in Whittier for a scenic boat ride through Prince William Sound. Here they enjoyed their first glimpses of glaciers. They explored Valdez and had some nice hikes in the chilly, wet, Alaska weather. It was especially fun for the boys to see their first moose out in the wild. At Bear Creek Weir, the group got to witness running salmon. They were jumping over a small waterfall and the boys watched with excitement. Micah experienced a polar plunge with daddy and was shocked at how cold the water really was. He also got to see a black bear on his drive back.

The boys still talk about the trip to Alaska and will say “Daddy Road Trip” over and over. Micah loved being a copilot in the motorhome. Mallory is extremely grateful to have made this trip with the boys. Most days are spent from sunup to sundown preparing the boys for school, daily activities, therapy appointments and doctor’s visits. She said it was nice to be able to do this with her boys and experience this once in a lifetime adventure together.



Urban Entrepreneurial Expo planned for Saturday, Dec. 2

Community members will have a chance to directly talk with employers and gain knowledge at the Urban Entrepreneurial Expo from 11 am to 2 pm on Saturday, Dec. 2, at Mid-Ohio Conference Center, 890 W. 4th St., Mansfield.

This Urban Entrepreneurial Expo luncheon is part of the North End Job Fair and is being presented by the community organization Restored Visions, along with Hope Alignment, which is a group of churches comprised of Faith Temple Church of God in Christ, Providence Baptist Church, Kingdom Grace Fellowship Church, Maddox Memorial Temple COGIC, and Latter Rain Church of God in Christ.

The event is also in collaboration with the North End Community Improvement Collaborative (NECIC) and several other community organizations.

The purpose of this job fair is to align hope in the North End community, particularly the 14 to 24 year-old demographic, by providing opportunities to explore entrepreneurship, employment, career and educational options.

A free lunch will be provided and potential employees can learn about starting their own businesses and/or learn skills to help you become more employable.

For more information contact Julia Lawson, NECIC Business Development Coordinator at 419-522-1611 or visit www.necic-ohio.org.



Glade Creek Grist Mill, Babcock State Park, WV
Photo By Mark Shutt

Home of
Joyce Ramey
Shelby

outdoor
SPACES
autumn vibes

Scholarships are available through Daughters of the American Revolution

Various local, state and national scholarships are available through the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Each has separate requirements.

The Jared Mansfield Chapter local scholarship is open to all students, both genders, who will be attending OSU-Mansfield, NCSC, or the Dwight Schar College of Nursing, Mansfield and pursuing any field of study.

The local Jared Mansfield Chapter Scholarship is open to any student currently enrolled at any of the above schools, as well as high school graduating seniors. Call scholarship chair Joedy Studer at 419-631-1015 for more information. The completed application must be postmarked by April 15.

The Ohio Society Daughters of the American Revolution awards the "Wings of Eagles" scholarship to graduating high school seniors, including those completing a certified home school program, in the amount of \$1,000 each. Awards are based on academic excellence and financial need.

All applicants must be citizens of the United States and legal residents of the state of Ohio and must attend an accredited college or university in the United States. Visit OSDAR at ohiodar.org to obtain a scholarship application. All applicants must be sponsored by the local DAR chapter and applications must be submitted to the local chapter by Jan. 31.

The National Daughters of the American Revolution also offers scholarships in many different majors. This year all students will submit their applications using an online process. The direct link to the online application submission portal is dar.academicworks.com.

Emailed or mailed applications will no longer be accepted. The deadline for these is Jan. 31.

DAR scholarships can open doors of opportunity to many students. Call scholarship chair Joedy Studer at 419-631-1015 for more information.



4-H recognizes achievement at annual program

(Continued from Front Page)

Health and Safety

Gold: Westen Rehberg, Roaming Rovers 4-H

Recreation Leader

Gold: Bryson Bays & Marissa Barciz, Next Generation 4-H

Honorable Mention: Adam Buzard & William Owens, Roaming Rovers 4-H

Historian/News Reporter

Gold: Selah Ogle, Country Clovers 4-H

Honorable Mention: Anna Blanton, Next Generation 4-H

All 4-H clubs have the opportunity to attain the gold, silver banner or bronze award distinction based on officer reports, project completion, member attendance, public speaking participation, health and community service activities, parent/family involvement, member/advisor training and community awareness/promotion.

The Gold Banner Club award was given to the Roaming Rovers (Shelby) 4-H Club. The Silver Banner Club Award was presented to the Ring Raiders (Shelby) 4-H Club.

Honorable Mention recognition went to Next Generation (Crestview area), Wild-n-Free (Mansfield) and the Richland Round-Up and Bibs & Boots 4-H Clubs (Shelby).

Forty-seven youth were honored as recipients of the county's 63 county medal awards. These awards are given for outstanding project and/or activity achievement. The 2023 recipients and the category(ies) won are:

Carson Abbott – Safety & Safety Education
 Julia Auck – Personal Development, Family Life
 Mariah Barciz – Gardening & Horticulture
 Marissa Barciz – Personal Development, Family Life
 Bryson Bays - Sheep
 Shelby Bays – Goats, Sheep
 Tanner Beer - Rabbits
 Anna Blanton – Family Life, Rabbits
 Leah Blay - Horse
 Kaley Bowman – Food & Nutrition
 Asher Clark – Alpaca
 Lily Clark – Alpaca
 Elizabeth Cole – Photography
 Carson Cook – Swine
 Kash Cooke - Swine
 Katie Crider – Leadership
 Deborah Crouch – Achievement, Citizenship, Public Speaking
 Isaiah Crouch - STEM
 Sawyer Eshelman – STEM
 Ryder Frech – Beef
 Brooklyn Gilger – Food & Nutrition
 Jett Hale – Rabbits
 Lilly Heydinger – Rabbits
 Logan Hoffman – Shooting Sports
 Ashley Huber – Horse
 Ava Irwin – Photography
 Sofi Johnson – Leadership, Public Speaking, Safety & Safety Education
 Hayden Kuhn – Citizenship
 Makenzie Mills – Dog Care & Training
 Selah Ogle – Food & Nutrition
 Lexy Pace - Safety & Safety Education
 Westen Rehberg - Poultry
 Gracie Rodman – Veterinary Science
 Finlay Rowlands – Natural Resources, Poultry
 Lane Schuster - Swine
 Abigail Secriskey – Achievement, Leadership, Public Speaking
 Carson Secriskey – Achievement, Leadership, Wood Science
 Evan Smith - Goats
 Sarah Smith – Achievement, Public Speaking, Safety & Safety Education
 Makayla Spoerr - Poultry
 Chloe Stigall – Clothing & Textiles
 Jeff Stigall – Agriculture
 Evan Stuart – Public Speaking, Safety & Safety Education

Mary Thompson – Pet Care/Small Animals

Caroline Tilton – Beef

Emma Tingley - Horse

Lysander von Ehrenkrook – Natural Resources

4-H members in attendance were given recognition for completion of their 4-H project year. The Richland County 4-H Committee presented membership pins to youth with ten or more years of membership:

10 year 4-H members: Allyson Arnold, Wade Bolin, Braden Boyer, Madison Boyer, Marissa Circosta, Caleigh Cook, Morgan Cook, Dakota Craner, Isaiah Crouch, Cailey Fairchild, Boden Gallaway, Trenton Gallaway, Rylee Gowitzka, Sarah Hoak, Kassie Kleman, Hayden Kuhn, Maggie Lantz, Mandee Lantz, Michaela Lantz, Monae Leedy, Alexis McClain, Katelyn Messmore, Adalie Miller, Audra Music, Molly Parks, Gracie Rodman, Brevyn Shaffer, Abigail Smith, Abigail Snyder, Makayla Spoerr, Makenzie Spoerr, Brooklyn Weinandy and Linzy Weyhmeller

11 year 4-H members: Mariah Cook, Bergan Leonhardt, Macey Parks, Jack Stover

12 year 4-H members: Leah Blay, Karsyn Blust, Cadence Fairchild, Sofia Johnson, Kathryn Lindenberger, Ashley Markley, Kelsey Snyder, Arica Uplinger

13 year 4-H members: Allyson Cook, Deborah Crouch, Aubrey Hoffman, Caroline Tilton

14 year 4-H members: Carson Abbott, Ryan Culler

Adult volunteers were recognized for their years of service to the 4-H program. Special awards were given to advisors with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 or more years of service:

Five years of volunteer service: Katy Buzard, Nikki Carpenter, Christy Keith, Heidi Kleman, Jake Kleman, Joni Parks, Laura Stine

Ten years of volunteer service: Joe Arnold, Justin Bays, Heather Fairchild, Marcie Leedy, Laura Messmore, Ben Newmeyer, Krista Dull, Kim Stover and Kristen Wasilewski

Fifteen years of volunteer service: Ben Crouch, Amanda Lantz, Marie McKenna and Jim Overocker

More than thirty years of service: Cathy Gardner (39 years) and Diana Kelley (40 years)

Carson Abbott, retiring 4-H member, served as Master of Ceremonies. Sponsors for the 2023 Honor Program included BlueScope, OSU Extension - Richland County, Mansfield Noon Optimist Club, Villard Educational Grant Fund and the Richland County 4-H Committee.

Richland Gives fundraising continues through November 28

Richland Gives, an online giving event, will run through Nov. 28 at 7 pm.

The event is designed to encourage everyone to contribute to local nonprofits they care about through a single giving platform/website. The Richland County Foundation is hosting the day to build capacity, grow philanthropy and make the community stronger. Since its inception in 2015, Richland Gives has raised close to \$2.5 million.

The online giving event will allow Richland County nonprofit organizations to raise funds and awareness as well as cultivate new donors and reinvigorate lapsed donors. 105 local charities are registered for the event.

Thanks to the generosity of donors at the Richland County Foundation, \$80,000 in incentives will be awarded as grants to participating organizations, beyond what they raise from online donations.

Additional prize grants will be awarded to the nonprofits during Richland Gives. For details or to donate visit richlandgives.org.

The Richland County Foundation, a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization, 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 the community by investing gifts for charity wisely so that grants can be made to improve the quality of life for all of the county's citizens. Working together with donors, the Foundation meets needs today and plans for a strong future.

Richland County Transit's new services up and running in Ontario

Richland County Transit (RCT) rolled out a six-month pilot of new and updated services in September, which improved both fixed route and Dial-A-Ride services in Mansfield, Ontario and Madison Township.

RCT's new Ontario Circulator connects riders with many of the major shopping, medical and workplace destinations between Walmart and the OSU/NCSC campus.

The circulator runs hourly, and riders can transfer at Walmart to/from Route 1 (Park Avenue) and Meijer to/from Route 9 (W. 4th St.). Some of the other destinations along the circulator include The OSU/NCSC campus, Buckeye Village, Springfield Square, Kohl's, Ontario Town Center, Target, Cinema 14, Village Square Plaza, Richland Mall, Avita Hospital, Avita Pharmacy and Summit Therapy.

The circulator opened with 380 trips in the first 19 days of service during September. RCT will continue to promote the route and will re-assess this six-month pilot route early in 2024, with the goals of providing more than 600 trips per month and attracting multiple sources of local support.

In addition to adding the Ontario Circulator, RCT has realigned the other eight fixed routes to maximize passenger demand and efficiency. For example, Route 1 no longer runs through the shuttered West Park Shopping Center, and is instead providing service to Harwood Apartments. This route was also modified to cover Discount Drug Mart, while continuing service to downtown Mansfield, Kroger, Walmart and points in between.

Among the other major adjustments, Route 9 (W. 4th St.) added on-call stops at Charter Next Gen, FedEx, Beer Road and Urwin Parkway in Ontario; and Route 2 (Lex Ave) was streamlined from a 1 hour route to a 1/2 hour route and now shares the same vehicle as Route 7 (E. Mansfield/Madison).

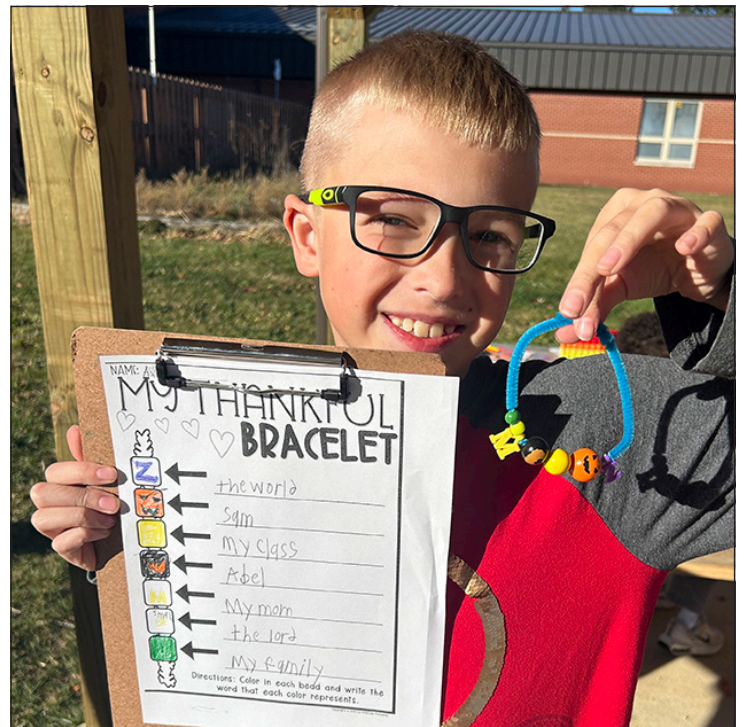
New route maps, schedules, and more information are available at <https://rctbuses.com>. Agencies or businesses that would like to receive a quantity of bus schedules for their clients should call the RCT office at 419-522-4504. Free travel training is available to any-

one who would like to learn more about riding RCT's routes, by calling the RCT office.

RCT's ADA paratransit service, known as Dial-A-Ride, has a new service area and now offers same day scheduling.

Passengers who qualify for RCT's Dial-A-Ride ADA service are able to request a same-day trip, if space is available, by calling the RCT office at 419-522-4504. The service area now includes more homes and businesses in Ontario, as the service boundary there has expanded to the west to correlate with the new fixed route service area.

RCT will evaluate all of these piloted changes by February 2024, to determine which changes will be made permanent. Updates will be posted on the RCT website.



STUDENTS IN MRS. SECRIST'S AND MRS. JOLIN'S classes at Ontario spent time together reflecting on what they were thankful for. Students were required to choose seven beads that would be added to a bracelet. Each bead represents something the students are grateful for.



Guaranteed CD rates are looking great

7 month¹ **4.80%** APY² 11 month¹ **4.95%** APY²

Contact me to earn more on your savings with competitive Certificate of Deposit (CD) rates from U.S. Bank.



Michelle Gates ChFC®
Agent

2021 Park Avenue West, Suite 100
Ontario, OH 44906
Bus: 419-756-5010
michelle@michellegates.com

Rates effective as of July 28, 2023. CD specials require a \$1,000 minimum opening deposit up to a maximum of \$250,000. Subject to certain conditions and qualifications. Deposit products offered by U.S. Bank National Association, Equal Housing Lender, Member FDIC.

1 Offer good for the initial term only. CD is automatically renewed for the same term. The rate is determined based on the published rate for the CD, excluding CD Specials, that is closest to but not exceeding the term of the CD. Advertised rate and APY are offered at the bank's discretion and may change daily.

2 Annual Percentage Yield (APY) assumes principal and interest remain on deposit for the term of the certificate. All interest payments for the APY will be made at the end of the term or annually, whichever occurs first. Penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal. Fees could reduce earnings on the account.

State Farm and the State Farm logo are registered trademarks of State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company.



THE FIFTH GRADE Stingel Leadership Team recently cleaned all of the outside windows of the school. The leaders worked hard to give each window a shiny finish. The Leadership Team includes Lucy Spellman, Briggs Musick, Ariel Truex, Jett Hale, Briella vanHaringen, Maeley Hiner, Kacey Finley, Braxton White, Addilyn Harvey, Cali Miller, Larkin Rietschlin and Hannah Them.

Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development launches partnership

The Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development is working with community partners to build an ecosystem of computer science education for K-12 students and digital skilling for adults through its Microsoft TechSpark fellowship.

One initiative being introduced for schools and organizations is “Girls Who Code,” an international nonprofit leading the movement to close the gender gap in technology. The programs spark computer science interest and support persistence in technical fields from early education through career. Clubs are free programs for 3rd-5th and 6-12th grade students to join a group of supportive peers and role models using computer science to change the world. A group can adapt the curriculum to meet its unique needs. Though clubs are designed for girls to build confidence and explore coding, boys are welcome to join. According to its website, “Girls Who Code” alumni earn computer science and related degrees at 7x the national average.

On Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 3:30 pm the Chamber is hosting a webinar with Girls Who Code Community Partnership Manager Kibret Yebebit to review the logistics, curriculum, and benefits of starting a club. Register here for the webinar.

Schools, homeschool networks, afterschool programs, and libraries in the Richland County area to consider starting a club. Volunteers age 18+ can start and lead Clubs, regardless of experience.

The Chamber is a “Girls Who Code” community partner that has resources to support local clubs. Club members in the partnership will receive priority access to events and swag incentives as well as priority consideration in Girls Who Code Summer Programs. A dedicated Community Partnership Manager at Girls Who Code will work

with Richland County clubs.

“I envision Girls Who Code Clubs changing the narrative around computer science education in Richland County,” said Angie Cirone, Mansfield-Richland Area Educational Foundation Director. “Through the Microsoft TechSpark grant, we’re planning to strategically add opportunities for students to explore tech-related careers in fun and engaging ways.”

Organizations that apply to start a club should select the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development as its Community Partner. The attached flyer has more information on Clubs.

PROTECT

WHAT MATTERS MOST

Whether you are home or away, protect what matters most from unexpected power outages with a Generac Home Standby Generator.

SO MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS
Contact a Generac dealer for full terms and conditions.

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE
CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE
(419) 742-1206

FREE 7-year Extended Warranty* – A \$735 Value!

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.




GENERAC®

Madison students attend SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference

Article and Photos By Traci Little

The SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference for the northwest region took place in Columbus on Nov. 9 and 10. Madison Comprehensive High School took six of its officers to compete for the Regional Office level.

The first day of the competition consists of meetings and classes that the students attend. They go over the framework of what SkillsUSA involves. They also get to meet with industry leaders and see what it's like going to the next level and ask any questions they may have.

The second day is when the actual voting process happens. They bring the students all in a room with just the Northwest region. The voting delegates sit in the middle and the students sit on the sides. They give their speeches and from there they choose 14 out of the 18 students to move on. The remaining 14 were taken into a room individually and they had to answer one final question. After that they select their final 7 candidates.

Out of the six students that Madison brought, juniors Lillian Truax and Gage Masters were both chosen. I sat down with these wonderful students on Friday afternoon and was truly inspired by their heart and passion for leadership.

Karen VonStein, the Career Tech Assessment Coordinator at Madison Comprehensive had this to say.

"We want to make sure they are learning while they are there. We are taking them from a school environment, and we stay all night. They get to go to a dance and go out to eat at a nice restaurant. We had an unforgettable time at Bucca di Beppo Italian restaurant. We had some amazing food and while we were there, the kitchen caught fire! At the dance they handed out little things to keep their name in the mind of the voters. Lillian had a bracelet with her last name on it and Gage had a pencil that said, "avoid life's disasters, vote for Masters!"

These were little reminders to help others remember to vote for Truax and Masters. There's very clear directions about when you can hand these types of things out. They were able to bring four voting delegates who helped pass these things out and talk to people. You want to bring people who are outgoing, friendly and charismatic that can walk up and talk to people and get them to vote for our people. They did a really great job getting out there and dancing and having fun and making themselves known to the other voting delegates. There were almost 50 voting delegates there the whole time observing and listening to the speeches.

Lillian Truax – Health Technologies Career Tech Program

"I've always been an introverted person and never really put myself out there. But this year, I was determined to take chances, get involved and make something out of myself. After getting accepted into my Career Tech program, I continued to learn more about the SkillsUSA program. I went to one of the meetings and tried out to be an officer and made it. The next step was running for Regional Officer and decided I wanted to pursue that. It was nerve wracking and scary and I even questioned whether or not I still wanted to do

it. I don't like public speaking and that part was really intimidating," said Lillian.

"I was very nervous and usually tend to trip over my words because of this. Being prepared gave me confidence and I had my notecards up there in case I forgot anything. The individual question was nerve wracking because we didn't know what they were going to ask. I felt more confident than I thought I was going to be, so I feel like my key to success was showing that throughout the whole process."

What gave Lillian the ability to step out of her comfort zone and do this?

"I had a really hard time my freshman and sophomore year of school. I lost a lot of friends transitioning to high school which made me really timid and nervous. I had a close friend that was a lot more outgoing than me, and she really helped me branch out and talk to more people and eventually I got everything figured out and found a place for myself."

Lillian came up with her slogan based upon her last name Truax. She decided to go with the play on words with Ax in her name. "We thought of Paul Bunyon and how he cleared a path for settlers and my speech was based upon that and his story."

Lillian would love to one day become a Nurse Practitioner but start out as an RN first. Her first choice is Ohio State, and her second choice would be North Central State College.

"This has been such an empowering experience for me and one I will never forget. My family and friends were so proud. We have a pretty big family and we're so close. I was texting in our family group chat where I kept them up to date with the process and when I was selected, they were so happy and proud."

Gage Masters – Carpentry Career Tech Program

"It was a really fun experience and I'm so glad I got to go. When I first learned about SkillsUSA and got elected as an officer, I was voted as the local Junior President. I'm not a public speaker and don't like being in front of people, but Ms. VonStein really pushed me to run for Regional Officer. I'm more comfortable with hands on, behind the scenes type of work and that's why I love carpentry. At the same time I realized I needed to become more of a leader and take on more responsibility. I get more nervous preparing and all the way leading up to it, but once I get in front of people and start my speech and put on the spot, I'm so comfortable and everything is fine - it's crazy!"

Masters said it was really hard to come up with his slogan and find something that rhymes with Masters. His whole speech revolved around being a mastermind. "I would say I'm a pretty good mastermind and I have to use those skills in carpentry. "Trying to avoid life's disasters and if you vote for me, I will make sure we don't hit any disasters" became a catchy phrase he used.

I brought up former President Ulysses S. Grant, the famous wartime

(Continued on Page 15)



Lillian Truax – Health Technologies Career Tech Program



Gage Masters – Carpentry Career Tech Program

•Madison students attend SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference

(Continued from Page 14)

hero who always tried to find the best possible route towards success. I told them, "Hey, I'm ready to do the same thing and will do whatever it takes to use my mind and determination to figure out the best way for us to go with no limits."

"I think they chose me because of my confidence, and I was also very vocal and loud during my speech. I made eye contact, did the best I could to make an impression on them and make them remember me. I also felt I was really consistent with my points through the whole process that it was enough to stick with them and want to vote for me.

"I plan to go to college for structural engineering. I want to learn as much as possible there and end up finding a job within that. I want to be the person that's on the job, helping, and working with my hands to get the job done! For example, using my mind to find out how much this beam can take and how many supports we need for a certain load, type of work."

Masters says that the Career Tech program has taught him so many things that he thought he already knew but really didn't! "It's been so valuable to learn these things while I'm in school and hopefully use them out in the field one day."

These kids were so inspirational to me. Stepping out of our comfort zone isn't easy by any means, but they have seen and tasted how rewarding it is to step out and be a leader in their school, community and state!

In January they will go to Regional Officer Training Institute at Deer Creek State Park, and they will spend from the 15-18 down there and visit the Statehouse, meet with Legislatures, and go to the Supreme Court. SkillsUSA really emphasizes the importance of going to meet with the State Legislatures face to face to talk about the program. Career Tech is so valuable to the students and plays a part in where they want to go after High School and later in life. "The vast number of opportunities that Career Tech provides to our students is so valuable and important. Hearing it from a teacher is one thing but hearing it from the students who have taken on these leadership roles and have the ability to walk in and present themselves and talk about is truly powerful!" said VonStein.

"One of the state advisors came up to us after the voting in Colum-

bus and told us that in all the years he's been doing this he has never met two students that were more confident, commanded the room, that were poised and just ready to take on these leadership roles like Truax and Masters. He wants them to run for State Office. I'm very proud of both of these kids! They have just impressed us immensely with their work ethic, willingness to step out of their comfort zone and take on new challenges," said VonStein.

"I feel like our teachers really prepare these students by bringing their experiences and on the job setting into the classroom and prepare these students to be successful. It gives them so many opportunities and opens their minds about what they really want to do. It gives them the foundation to really figure out what they want to do when they leave high school. It opens so many doors! I could sing these teachers' praises - they are so patient and willing to take the time and work with these students. Having teachers that have come from the industry they teach is invaluable. They truly want to make a difference here at Madison. I believe our students are some of the luckiest kids in the whole world."

Madison Comprehensive High School is the only comprehensive school here in Richland County that has the Career Tech program housed within their own building. The students don't have to leave and go somewhere else; they get to stay with their peers and teachers. This is so comforting to them! They don't have to be removed from school but get to stay with the people that have supported and encouraged them along the way.

"I feel honored to be a part of the Madison school system and play a small part in these kids' lives. We want our kids to know they are loved and supported and live out that RAM PRIDE out in the community. We are truly a family!" said VonStein.



THE OCEANUS CLASS at Ontario High School observed live plankton under the microscope. The samples were obtained from the school wetlands. Although these are freshwater plankton, they are very similar to ocean plankton which are the most important part of the ocean food chain.



Improve your brain health...

VOLUNTEER!

Call 567.302.3610

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION®



PIONEER Superintendent Greg Nickoli, Tina Hurst and Linda Belomy of Pioneer congratulate Distinguished Alumni Award Honoree Steve Tackett.

Pioneer awards Distinguished Alumni Award to Steve Tackett

Pioneer Career & Technology Center announced Steve Tackett as the recipient of the honorary Pioneer Distinguished Alumni Award. This award was established for an Alumni member who has served as a role model, did well at Pioneer, and continues to live, work and serve in their community.

Steve Tackett is a 1983 Pioneer Graduate from Plymouth, who completed the Industrial Drafting program. While at Pioneer, he received the 1983 Citizenship Award. After graduation, Steve began his career at Hi-Stat Manufacturing as a CAD operator, then transitioned to Gorman Rupp in Bellville, where he still works today.

In his 30 years there, he has continued to use the skills he learned at Pioneer and is now the Engineering Technical CAD Manager. He has also stayed involved in his church for the past fifty years and serving as Sunday School Superintendent since 1998. Steve continues to give back to the manufacturing industry and his community.

On behalf of Pioneer Career & Technology Center and the Pioneer Alumni Association, we feel this year's honoree exemplifies this award and everything Pioneer and career technical education has to offer.

Pioneer Career and Technology Center has been providing quality career-technical education to high school juniors and seniors for 55 years. We serve over 1,100 students representing over 35 Career Tech Programs and 14 partner schools and offer adult education programs. Visit go2pioneer.com for information on Pioneer CTC.

Pioneer recognizes RPA as 2023 Ralph Phillips Business Partner

Pioneer Career & Technology Center has announced The Renaissance Performing Arts Theatre as the Ralph Phillips Business Partner of the year. Inspired by Ralph Phillips and Phillips Manufacturing & Tower Company, this 17-year tradition is one of great honor. The award was created to recognize outstanding businesses who support the goals, mission, and excellence of Pioneer.

Chelsie Thompson, President & CEO and Mike Miller, former president, along with staff and families, joined Pioneer administrators, past recipients, and members of the community to receive their award in recognition. Anne Kurtzman, Pioneer Performing Arts Instructor, nominated The Renaissance & Performing Arts Theatre for the award and expressed her appreciation for all they have done to support the students of Pioneer.

"The Renaissance Theatre has become integral to the success of Pioneer's Performing Arts Program," Anne shared. During the school day, students receive instruction by Renaissance staff and work behind the scenes with them for the real-world application of performing art skills. The Renaissance allows students to work on the tech crew for theatre performances, utilize their space for hands on learning opportunities, and also awards Pioneer students with internship opportunities. The partnership is an essential connection to the industry.

Pioneer's Culinary Arts program hosted a dinner event for the award celebration. Students showcased their skills to serve a delicious menu of specialties to our honorees. It is an honor to recognize our business partners; Pioneer is thankful for their continued support.

Pioneer Career and Technology Center has been providing career-technical education to high school juniors and seniors for 55 years. Pioneer serves over 1,100 students representing over 35 Career Tech Programs and 14 partner schools and offer adult education programs. For information visit www.PioneerCTC.edu.



PIONEER Superintendent Greg Nickoli, Mike Miller of the Renaissance, Renaissance President & CEO Chelsie Thompson and Pioneer Performing Arts Instructor Anne Kurtzman.

LET'S GET VACCINATED

YOUR HEALTH MATTERS.

Vaccination is one of the most effective methods of preventing infectious diseases. Let us help you find a provider near you.





ELLA SHAFFER, daughter of Tony and Crystal Shaffer, received an award through the Ohio Scholastic Coaches Association (OSSCA). Ontario High School student Ella Shaffer received the award for her character and values that are based on the Army Guard core values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage. Nominations from all over Ohio are reviewed and one male and one female from each Division is selected and recognized locally, and at the All Ohio Banquet on Dec. 10, in Columbus.

Premier Bank launches 4th Annual kindness campaign

Premier Bank has announced the launch of its 4th Annual “Powered By (kind) People. Fueled By You.” campaign.

The “Powered By (kind) People. Fueled by You” tagline is a reflection of Premier Bank’s longstanding commitment to the community.

Powered By (kind) People represents the strong sense of passion the Bank’s associates have for supporting local communities, coupled with the Bank’s commitment to giving back.

“Fueled By You” represents the inspiration that the Bank’s clients and communities give them to give back and spread kindness in the places they call home.

“This annual campaign is especially meaningful to us because it symbolizes our associates, customers and the communities that we serve,” said Gary Small, President & CEO, Premier Bank. “The kindness we witness in our communities motivates us to support local initiatives, events and projects.”

“Whether we are donating our time or resources, we know that every act of kindness makes our communities stronger. We invite the entire community to join us in our dedication and passion for spreading kindness, doing good deeds and strengthening our communities!”

Because one simple act can fuel the cycle of kindness, the Bank proudly invites associates to participate in their Community Volunteer Program, which is designed to give associates the opportunity to

12 Days of Christmas raffle offers over \$5,000 worth of prizes

The inaugural “12 Days of Christmas Raffle,” was launched by Modern Woodmen of America, and allows entrants to support a local cause (funds raised will be given to 33 Forever), along with the opportunity to win prizes from local businesses.

This online raffle features 12 prize packages, each worth a minimum of \$400, and there will be over \$5,000 in total prizes awarded.

Each entry costs \$33 and provides 12 chances to win (one chance every day for 12 days). Tickets are currently for sale through Dec. 12 at www.12daysofchristmasraffle.com.

Winners will be announced at the 12 Days of Christmas website each day from Dec. 13 to 24.

Participating vendors include Buckeye Imagination Museum; Golden Poppy; Hudson and Essex; Kimmy’s Cucina; Kingwood Center Gardens; Nickel & Bean; The Note; The Phoenix Brewing Co.; Relax, It’s Just Coffee; Renaissance Theatre; Snow Trails; Studio 19 Salon & Spa; and Wayne’s Country Market.

Modern Woodmen is a member-owned fraternal financial services organization. “This organization believes in financial security through life insurance, retirement planning and financial services; quality family life through fraternal member programs and activities; and community impact through local volunteer projects that make a difference where members live, work and play,” said Jonathan Dech, Modern Woodmen financial representative.

“In considering how we could serve the community, fundraising for an incredible, local nonprofit seemed like a no-brainer. Additionally, we wanted to be able to celebrate the strength and variety of local businesses, thus leading to the concept for 12 Days of Christmas.”

Jeff Heck, co-founder of 33 Forever, said the idea for the 12 Days of Christmas Raffle was met with much enthusiasm.

“When they approached us, we thought it was an amazing idea, something really unique to the community, and we’re really honored to be the first nonprofit selected to participate,” he said.

33 Forever strives to positively impact those affected by depression, anxiety and their related disorders, including suicidal thoughts. The organization was created to honor the life of Danielle Leedy and her longtime passion to raise awareness, empower and comfort those struggling with depression, anxiety, self-worth issues and suicidal thoughts.

“We are supporting financially and in other ways a mental health rehabilitation center, which is in the process of being developed in the northwest Ohio area,” Heck said.

This post-hospitalization rehabilitation facility, which will be known as “Dani’s Place,” will aim to help individuals receive the next step of care in their journey to recovery. The center is anticipated to be open and operational some time in 2025.

represent Premier Financial Corp. through events and organizations that they are passionate about. This program provides paid volunteer time for employees annually.

“Partnerships with community organizations, schools and local businesses let the Premier Bank team share their time and expertise through paid volunteer hours and beyond,” added Small.

The Bank has also invited 13 of their valued community partners throughout their markets to join them in a video series titled “Powered by (kind) People. Fueled by You. Video Series,” as they work together to spread kindness and collectively support important programs to benefit families in the communities they serve.

For more information, please visit YourPremierBank.com/Kindness and use #PoweredByKindness to share acts of kindness on Facebook and Instagram to inspire others to keep spreading kindness.

Premier Bank, headquartered in Youngstown, operates 75 branches and nine loan offices in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Pennsylvania and also serves clients through a team of wealth professionals dedicated to each community banking branch.

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

Madison Schools celebrate passage of levy by 33 votes

Madison Local School District held a meeting Nov. 15, in the Madison Middle School Auditoria. The final levy count recently came in from the Richland County Board of Elections. The Madison School levy passed by a narrow 33 votes.

At the meeting, teachers were recognized for significant evidence that each teacher's students made more growth than expected on the Ohio State Test during the 2022-'23 school year.

Recognized were Melissa Vetter, fourth grade math; Kristen Agee, sixth grade ELA; Kevin Andress, fifth grade science; Cortanee Caugherty, eighth grade ELA; Goldie Spencer, fifth grade science; Troy Stimpert, fifth grade math; Megan Studer, fifth grade ELA; Zinda Thomas, eighth grade science; Sarah Weiser, eighth grade math; Jen Branstetter, high school ELA; and Maggie Washington, high school government.

A presentation was given by Jacob Grove, career-technical director. The board approved the monthly financial report as submitted.

A resignation was accepted from Tim Niswander, fitness coordinator - winter, effective Oct. 30.

Doug Rickert was hired as the assistant varsity (JV) girls' basketball coach; Lyle Scott was hired as the seventh grade girls' basketball coach; and Teri Foley-Kanz, 1/2 seventh grade cheerleading advisor (winter).

Leslie Pope was hired as the Madison Adult Career Center Cosmetology Instructor.

Substitute teachers hired on an "on-call" basis, as needed for the 2023-'24 school year, are Olivia Compton, Brian Coulter, Barbara Gombosch, Addie Heifner, David Kaple, Emilee Parker, Amanda Risner, Cassandra VanCura, Hannah Owens and Marc Twitchell.

Resignations were accepted from April Ross, special education aide - Mifflin; Mya Wiseman, MECLC; and Natalie McCracken, MECLC.

Twyla DeVito, was hired as a Special Education 1-1 Aide at Mifflin and James Ernsberger was hired as a 4-hour cafeteria worker at South. Richele Garand has been awarded the custodian day shift position at the high school, effective Jan. 3, '24, replacing William Chinn, Jr., who is retiring. Deborah Bowling has been awarded the 4-hour cafeteria position at Madison South, replacing Lori Hursh who accepted another position.

Substitute employees hired on an "on-call" basis, as needed, for the 2023-'24 school year Carrell Gandy, secretary; and James Pasheulich, cafeteria.

The board approved in-lieu of transportation students Jackson Esterline, Raegan Byus and Ryan Byus for the 2023-'24 school year.

The board approved the staffing agreement with Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center for staffing services for Mansfield Christian School, commencing July 1, 2023, and ending on July 31, 2024.

The pay rate for substitute cooks was approved for \$10.45/hr, effective Jan. 1, 2024.

The board approved April 8, 2024 as a calamity day for the solar eclipse.

A resolution was approved authorizing META Solutions, acting jointly as a member of the Ohio School Consortium, to issue a request for proposal for the purchase of competitive retail natural gas service from the lowest and best bidder submitted to the consortium and authorizing the board to purchase competitive retail natural gas service from the bidder.

The board approved a resolution to make provisional changes to board policies and administrative guidelines and forms to comply with HB 33.

The next board of education meeting will be Dec. 19, at 6 pm in the high school library.



ONTARIO STINGEL, with the help of the Richland County Solid Waste Facility and third grade students, have implemented the new "Green Team". Every month, different students from each class in the third grade take the responsibility of emptying all of the school's recycling bins. The Richland County Solid Waste Facility even rewarded the entire third grade with a pizza for party for their dedication to recycling.

Subscribe for FREE and receive the weekly issue delivered to your email. Send us an email with your name to - news@tribune-courier.com

Lexington's pickleball courts are complete, Light Up Lex is Nov. 27

The Lexington Village Council met Nov. 6, with Mayor White presiding. In attendance were council members Zack Alleshouse, Adam Gongwer, Bob Jarvis, Wynn Kearns, Kim Little, Jeff O'Brien and Todd Wise. Also attending were Attorney John Studenmund, Chief Troy Weaver, Village Administrator Andrew Smallstey and Peter Them.

Resident Keith Bacin of Cedarwood Dr. thanked Chief Weaver for overseeing the fall festival held at Patriot Park. Bacin also thanked the street department for the excellent job done with leaf pickup.

Administrator Andrew Smallstey reported that the new pickle ball/basketball courts at Bicentennial Park are now completed.

Light Up Lexington is Monday, Nov. 27, at 7 pm. The program will take place on the patio across from village hall. The village is working with Rachel Pugh of Hello Events for event planning. There will be an addition of food trucks and additional lighting for the evening. Light Up Lex posters awards will be issued at the Senior Depot.

Councilman Alleshouse asked about possible rerouting traffic during the presentation. Smallstey replied it would be impossible given the semi-trailer traffic.

Bryer Miller from the street department has successfully completed CDL training hosted by the City of Ontario.

Council agreed to a two-year contract with Sidecar Health last year for employee medical insurance. The village is currently eligible for renewal and the rate would be around 1.5%. This is an indication that Sidecar plan is working as designed.

There are less than 200 meters left to be replaced for the meter project. The village has distributed door hangers for those that need scheduling. Light training and informational webinars have begun for the customer portal. This will allow residents to check their usage and account information directly online.

Councilman Kearns asked who has to have meters installed — businesses or residents. Smallstey replied that most are apartment complexes and businesses.

Work has begun on the 2024 budget. Income tax revenue is still up. Councilman Gongwer noted there were logs precariously stacked at a resident's front yard on Mayfair Rd.

Councilman Wise commended Smallstey in regard to the village's new website. All appears to be up to date. Wise asked if something will be on the website regarding pickleball.

Mayor Brian White made a presentation about Lexington to the Rotary Club of Mansfield.

"Thanks to all who attended the joint meeting with the planning commission, where the EDGE group put on a presentation about Main Street and moving forward," said Mayor White.

The mayor noted that Mid-Ohio Racetrack has improved their entire track. A good crowd showed up for fall festival at Patriot Park.

He also mentioned that Lewis Ryan passed away. He was 101 years old.

As reported by Chief Weaver, there were no issues during the Haunted Hallways at the high school or at the festival in Patriot Park. Trick or treat was smooth going also.

The new SRO 40-hour training has been completed. Drug take back was the coming Saturday. Last year over 37 pounds of drugs were collected. The Lexington site collected the second most medications in the area.

An ordinance was approved to prohibit the use of engine retarders on commercial and heavy vehicles in a manner which creates a public nuisance.

An ordinance was approved, providing for permanent budget amendments and appropriations for November for the administration, parks, general and police funds.

Councilman Kearns requested a motion to approve the Lexington-Troy Township Union Board Cemetery decision to seek a replacement levy for the maintenance and operation of the cemetery for the election on March 19, 2024. It was approved.

Councilman Kearns reported that the cemetery board met and approved this one half mil replacement. Current funding at \$40,000 will raise to \$85,000, if passed. The money is necessary to help pay for projects, infrastructure, signage, tree maintenance and several other expenses.



ONTARIO'S SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION Coordinator, Cathleen Johnson, started a new chapter of SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) at the high school with the Drug Free Seniors. Several students attended a conference at Nationwide Arena and were able to watch the Blue Jackets game during Scoring For Safety Day on Nov. 14.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL "VOLLEYBRO" TOURNAMENT

Sponsored by the Warrior Leadership Committee, Ontario High School held its first ever "Volleybro" tournament. Each class made a team of boys, coached by the girls. The seniors won the tournament but were bested by the staff team. Proceeds went to the Ontario Substance Abuse Program.



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS. MARION HARDING BOY'S VARSITY BASKETBALL SCRIMMAGE NOV. 18 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



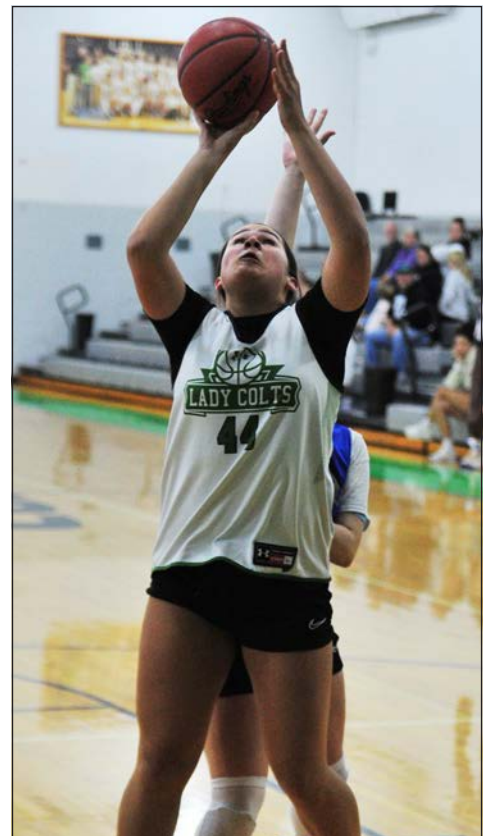
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS WOOSTER VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL SCRIMMAGE NOV. 14 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS WOOSTER JV GIRLS BASKETBALL SCRIMMAGE NOV. 14 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Bowling — one of Ohio's fastest growing high school sports

By Kris Leiter

Let's play some pre-Thanksgiving sports trivia, and I do love trivia in case you haven't guessed.

Do the terms "turkey," "house" and "dressing" ring a bell? Perhaps your Thanksgiving menu this week? How about OHSAA High School Bowling terms? And no, I don't mean your teenagers grabbing their friends and heading down to Lex Lanes for a few hours of casual fun.

I'm talking about the "infant" OHSAA sport: high school bowling — one of the fastest growing High school sports that is blazing across the United States.

Grab that cup of coffee and prepare for that conversation at work this week, where you can impress your co-workers about this subject. Actually, it may not be as surprising as you might think.

Yourself, and possibly your friends, may have students currently involved in this "newly" adopted high school sport added to the OHSAA.

This sport is comparable to the likes of high school football, basketball, as a competitive high school varsity sport, for both boys and girls alike.

The sport might not be as highly publicized yet as the major three sports, but trust me, it is just as competitive and very exciting to watch, with fist bumps and cheering comparable to a high school basketball game.

But just in case you haven't heard and if you feel a bit bewildered, as in, "Did this happen during Covid, when we were in the cave of our lockdown — when professional cornhole was the only sport broadcast on television?" and yes, that seems like yesterday...

Be at peace my friends and rest assured, you didn't miss the memo. When I say "newly" adopted sport, I'm talking a mere 15 years old.

In the school year, 2006-'07, The OHSAA Board of Control voted and approved that Ohio would welcome this "new child" of a sport to its "umbrella" as an OHSAA High School Sanctioned Sport in the Buckeye State.

LOCAL TEAMS

And here in our very own Richland County, we stand proudly that we have many of our local high schools that have this sport as part of their athletic program.

I was actually privileged to have been a part of the Lexington High School coaching staff as the assistant bowling coach back in 2013, along with varsity head coach Roger Long, who has manned the Lexington Bowling teams for the past 15 years.

The ironic part about this sport, the bowling matches and practices do not take place at their respective high schools, like the traditional sports in high school.

Actually, multiple high school teams will usually share the same "house" or bowling alley.

So, do we just grab our casual shorts and t-shirt and show up for the team? This isn't just a casual Saturday of fun bowling. Uniforms are an OHSAA requirement as well. They are regulated just like other sports.

There are also the tournaments: state and local, as well as collegiate opportunities as well.

There are some local bowlers who have gone on to bowl at Indiana Wesleyan, Mt. Vernon Nazarene and Lincoln Memorial.

After all that, I thought I would get the scoop firsthand from a couple of local coaches.

I took a little trip to Lexington last week to Lex Lanes, and two high schools, Lexington and Mansfield Senior, were practicing.

It was an opportune for a sports writer to get the scoop from the coaches on their team's outlook on the upcoming season.

I was able to chat with Roger Long from Lexington and John Grant from the Mansfield Senior High TYgers Bowling program.

Long and Grant kindly brought me up to speed on the changes that the sport has endured since its inception in 2006.

I was curious to know if there are Divisions I through VII as in

football, and the likes of other sports teams in the area."

Long mentioned, "There are only two divisions: Division 1 and 2; Lexington being a smaller Division 1 school.

He added, "There are around 350 boys' teams and 330 girls' teams in Ohio."

That's incredible as there are a total of 819 schools in the State of Ohio! Around 90 percent of all Ohio schools have this awesome sport!

"We are a local member of the same Ohio Cardinal Conference here in Richland County as the basketball and football teams in this area, along with Ashland, Mansfield Senior, West Holmes and Wooster," said Long.

"There are a couple of local OCC schools that do not have high school bowling teams, such as Clear Fork, Madison and Orrville."

I asked him which area teams to keep an eye on.

He chuckled without hesitation, "Ashland, without a doubt. They are the team to keep an eye on, they has dominated the conference handedly in recent years."

As for Lexington, "We look to improve from last year," said Long. "We have (junior) Bailey Carmichael with a 200 average returning to our lineup."

"Bailey is amazing and last year almost bowled the perfect 300 game. He was a bit shy of his final strike in the last frame, rounding out with a 278 game, which is no small feat."

As Long coaches the boys team, Jason Whitesel heads up the girls Lady Lex squad.

Coach Whitesel brings a wealth of experience, such as starting his bowling career at the young age of four and has actually bowled a number of perfect 300 games... seven to be exact. Again, that's amazing!

For you readers who have never bowled or witnessed a 300 game, as the bowler is prepping the last few frames, the entire alley of bowlers will become very quiet. It is a very unique experience that will give you goose bumps.

I had also had an opportunity to talk to John Grant, manning the TYgers of Mansfield Senior for his eighth season.

"We have had our program since 2015. We had a pretty successful campaign last year with a 10-4 record," said Grant.

"Our top boys should be able to hold their own, such as Alex Grant (Jr.) 194 average, Davion Wellson (Sr.) 188 average and Andrew Carse (Sr.) 178 average."

"Our girls will bring some strong bowling to the table as well, such as Aryah Lawhorn (Sr.) 122 average and Emma Hutchison (Sr.) 115 average."

My next discussion was with Gary Simmering, a long time staff member at Lex Lanes, for 47 years. I asked how many 300 games he has bowled in his lifetime.

Simmering smiled, "Six that I can recall, along with a few 800 series."

As a bowler myself, I have seen Simmering many times over the years, always lending a helping hand to bowlers, from youth to adult leagues.

I asked him his thoughts about the local high school teams and how they have brought some positive vibes to the area.

"As for the high school bowling teams coming here, it gives kids a great opportunity to get involved," said Simmering.

So, if you get chance, swing down to Lex Lanes sometime this winter and you will be amazed!

Again, I hope you have been educated a bit more on this little known sport.

As for the answers to the Trivia questions at the beginning of the column:

- Turkey: 3 strikes in a row
- House: any given bowling alley
- Dressing: The oil that they apply to the bowling lanes "they are 'dressing the lanes'"

USPS Operation Santa Letter adoption now open

The public can now adopt a letter written to Santa by going to USPSOperationSanta.com. In response to customer requests, this is the first time the U.S. Postal Service has opened the program before Black Friday.

USPS Operation Santa turns 111 years old this year. The program relies solely on random acts of kindness and the generosity of strangers. It allows people to help children and families have a magical holiday when they otherwise might not — safely and securely. USPS Operation Santa is not a guaranteed gift-giving program.

Since Sept. 18, the Postal Service has received letters from across the country and has been delivering them to Santa's U.S. workshop at 123 Elf Rd., North Pole 88888. Letters sent with First-Class Mail postage and complete, accurate and legible return addresses have been opened, reviewed and posted on USPSOperationSanta.com. People can begin reading and adopting letters today.

To register to answer letters, participants must have a verified identity. If potential adopters are unable to complete their ID verification online, they will be provided with a code and given instructions on how to complete verification in person at a local post office. Once verified, the adopter will receive a welcome email with detailed information on how to participate in the program.

Potential adopters can read letters and choose one or more to fulfill. Once a letter is chosen, adopters must follow the directions they were sent in their welcome email to ship gifts.

Packages must be shipped via Priority Mail service, but gifts do not need to be in Priority Mail-branded boxes.

Letter adopters are responsible for postage fees to ship the gift packages.

Tips for Reducing Shipping Costs:

- Postage to ship packages is based on size, weight and distance. Here are some tips to lower costs. Use Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes, free at your local Post Office. Take a box with you when shopping and only purchase items that can fit in the box.

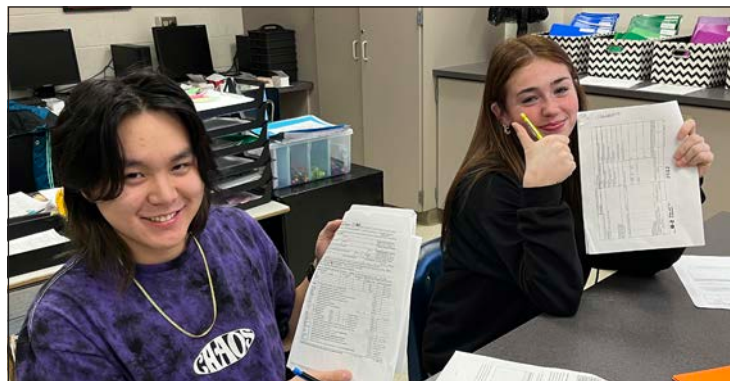
- Adopt a letter from your state or a nearby state.

- Pay careful attention to the dimensions of the gift — especially the size and weight. Shipping heavy, oversized packages can be expensive.

- Consider a gift card instead of purchasing larger, heavier items. Gift cards need to be sent in a Priority Mail envelope, 4 inches by 6 inches or larger, to accommodate the shipping label.

The last day to send letters to Santa is Dec. 11 and the last day to adopt a letter is Dec. 18. It is also the recommended date to ship packages.

There is only one USPS Operation Santa program, sanctioned by the U.S. Postal Service. Fulfilling wishes through the official Postal Service program is voluntary, and any organization asking for money to adopt letters is in violation of the laws under which the Postal Service operates and is not condoned by or affiliated with the U.S. Postal Service.



STUDENTS IN BRITTANY RHODES' personal finance class at Ontario High School were tax experts using sample W-2 forms to prepare a 1040 tax form for five different people to determine if the person would get a refund or owe a tax payment.

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE

VILLAGE OF LEXINGTON FULL-TIME INCOME TAX CLERK

The Village of Lexington will be hiring one full-time Income Tax Clerk to process income tax payments and collections. Clerk will perform a wide variety of tasks including, but not limited to, all as listed below. Hours of work are 7:30am-4pm Monday through Friday. INCOME TAX CLERK JOB DESCRIPTION & QUALIFICATIONS:

- Review annual income tax returns and withholding accounts
- Will be extracting data and providing reports based on that data
- Will be required to process confidential and sensitive data
- Perform account reconciliations - daily, monthly, and annually
- Communicate with the public as well as tax preparers/accountants
- Under semi-direct supervision perform clerical tasks associated with income tax collection, processing, and auditing.
- Maintain confidentiality of all personnel and taxpayer information and ensure compliance in accordance with federal, state, local and company regulations and guidelines.
- Demonstrated ability to handle confidential information and meet strict deadlines, detail oriented and self-motivated.
- Demonstrated proficient skills in the use of personal computers and supporting software in a Windows base environment, including MS Office products such as Word and Excel.
- Strong organizational and prioritizing skills, excellent interpersonal and effective, clear communication skills.
- Ability to develop strong working relationships, work effectively with a team and to work with personnel from all levels of organization.
- Reliability and Attention to detail is a must
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Able to perform responsibilities by due dates assigned

- Organization and project tracking skills
- Ability to work independently and as a member of a cohesive committed team
- Flexible and able to adapt to change

This is a full-time position with full benefits package and competitive wages. The Village of Lexington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Interested individuals should submit an application with resume by November 29, 2023 at 4:00 pm to the office of the Assistant Finance Director, Peter Them, at the following location: Village of Lexington Municipal Building, 44 West Main Street, Lexington, Ohio 44904

Brenda J. Wilson, Clerk of Courts
Village of Lexington, OH
(T-C 11-16, 23 '23) 71L

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Sealed bids for Gasoline and Diesel Fuel for January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024 will be opened at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 7, 2023 by Kris Knapp, Service-Safety Director of the City of Ontario.

Specifications may be obtained electronically from the Service-Safety Director. Email a request to kknapp@ontarioohio.org, or a paper copy is available at the City of Ontario Municipal Building, 555 Stumbo Road, Ontario, Ohio 44906.

All bids should be sealed in an envelope, clearly marked: 2024 GASOLINE & DIESEL FUEL BID, the name of the Bidder, and include a CERTIFIED CHECK OR BOND on a solvent bank, in the amount of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).

The City of Ontario reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Check or Bond on rejected bids will be returned promptly, and on accepted bids, the same will be retained until the contracts are consummated.

Kris Knapp
Service-Safety Director
City of Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 11-16, '23 '23) 30L

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



**1728 W. Fourth Street
Mansfield, Ohio 44906
Phone: 419-529-4687
Fax: 419-529-4154**

landerson@firstfederalbankofohio.bank



Lisa Anderson
NMLS 618735
Branch Manager - Loan Officer

Seniors



THE ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL Academic Boosters provided a breakfast for students with all A grades in the first quarter.



Juniors

Sophomores



Freshmen

