



# TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com

12.28.23



**AN OPEN HOUSE** celebration was held Monday, Dec. 18, for Jodie Perry, to celebrate her journey from Chamber CEO to Mansfield Mayor. The event was held at the Richland Area Chamber of Commerce. Appetizers and lunch were provided by Exclusively Yours Catering. While at the event, she met with Tribune-Courier writer and photographer Traci Little. Perry has stated, "To #TeamMansfield, from the bottom of my heart, thank you! While I am so excited to have been elected as your next Mayor, I am also humbled by the support you have shown. I do not take it lightly, and I pledge to work as hard as I can to help spark the coming transformation for our community. My faith in our strong future lies with each of you. The #TeamMansfield spirit is one of working together to make this community better for all. And though the path forward will have ups and downs, I feel confident that our brightest days are yet ahead of us. Thanks to all who have supported and volunteered for my campaign, encouraged me along the way, and/or went out and voted. I will never be able to thank you enough. Keep believing in Mansfield, our time is coming. Perry was sworn-in Friday, Dec. 22, at 11 am in the Mansfield City Council Chambers. (See other photo Page 2)

## Richland SWCD workshop will teach about invasive species

Gardeners may be looking forward to spring and ready to order seeds and plants. Before making a purchase, gardeners should consider whether a plant is native or non-native and whether it will become invasive and take over other landscaping. Another key factor may be whether it will help pollinators and wildlife.

To help answer questions about invasive species, Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD) is hosting a workshop Thursday, Jan. 25 at 5:30 pm at the Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Avenue, Mansfield.

Those attending can learn about aquatic invasive plants in backyard ponds and natural areas in Ohio from Mark Warman. Several water weed species are on the move and threaten our recreation, ecosystem and economic interests. Identification, notes from the field and response strategies will be discussed. Notable and rare aquatic plant discoveries in Ohio from the past five years will conclude his presentation.

Mark Warman's job with the Cleveland Metroparks involves working on an aquatic invasive plant Early Detection and Rapid Response project in Ohio's Lake Erie Basin. His responsibilities are to survey macrophytes, assist with management strategies, and coordinate

(Continued on Page 4)

## Foundation funds housing projects and other needs

The Richland County Foundation Board of Trustees approved \$1,527,817 in grants to nonprofit organizations during its December meeting.

Projects at area nonprofit organizations that received grants from a combination of unrestricted, and field of interest funds include:

### Area Agency on Aging

A grant was awarded to the Area Agency on Aging for increased security at its new Ritter's Run Senior Housing Complex on Ohio Street in Mansfield. A local security company will install video cameras around the exterior of the units, individual alarms in each unit, and emergency notification tower systems along the walking paths around the units. The measures will allow residents to feel safe in their homes and neighborhood.

### Mansfield Art Center

The Mansfield Art Center received a grant to make its facility ADA-compliant in a dual effort to create a more accessible environment for visitors, as well as capitalize on funding opportunities. The changes include the installation of automatic doors at the entrance, equipping the elevator with an electric eye and ADA-compliant controls, removal of physical barriers in the elevator hallways, adding an ADA-accessible drinking fountain, portable seating for individuals who have a difficult time standing for long periods of time, and updates to the main floor restroom. Making the changes will allow the MAC to apply for grants through national arts foundations.

### Mansfield Leased Housing Corporation Rapid Rehousing Program

Mansfield Leased Housing Corporation (MLHC), a subsidiary of Mansfield Metropolitan Housing Authority (MMHA) formed to handle and own property for MMHA, was awarded a grant to help build an apartment complex at the Turtle Creek Apartment Complex off Cook Road and Lexington Avenue. They will add 120 new two and three-bedroom apartments that will house 400-500 people. The apartments will provide affordable housing for low-income families. The direct impact of this project will be new housing for families and the indirect impact will be over \$12M to the local economy in the first year and over \$2.6M every year thereafter, in the form of tax revenues for the city and county, and the creation of jobs in our community with over 161 new jobs in the first year and 44 sustained jobs in subsequent years.

This project is being supported by funding through the Mansfield Metropolitan Housing Authority, City HOME Funds, and bond gap financing. They are seeking the remaining amount of funding through the Ohio Housing Finance Agency for Low-Income Housing Tax Credits.

### Richland County Soil and Water Conservation District

Richland County Soil and Water Conservation District received a grant for additional technical and educational assistance for the agricultural community. RCSWCD plans to utilize funds from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), Richland County, as well as a match from the State's H2Ohio initiative, yet the reimbursement for this funding is typically protracted and they are seeking funds to start the program. They will have educational workshops, field days, one-on-one producer interactions, and partnerships with local schools and FFA chapters.

### Salvation Army

The Salvation Army was awarded a grant for its Emergency Social Services Program. Households that teeter on the edge of poverty are forced to choose between transportation, housing, and food expenses. As inflation outpaces earning potential, the expectation is for household seeking basic needs support to rise.

(Continued on Page 8)





**THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN** around 1915 in the Lexington railyard. Pictured are Grandma Helena Talhelm, Edna Bell Talhelm Rissler, Annie May Talhelm Rissler and Mary Agnes Talhelm Castor.

## Sundays Were for Pictures

By Bob Carter

It must have been a Sunday afternoon in early spring when a mother and her three daughters went for a walk to the railroad station in Lexington. The girls were married and the occasion may have been part of a family gathering.

The B&O station was a place to see who was going or coming in any small town. Lexington was no exception. In that period of time, four sets of tracks are visible, the main line and three sidings. The women were posing for this memorable picture standing on a railroad "Hand Car" which was used by the track maintenance crew. The wood handle shows where to provide the power.

Harry Linton worked for Harry Smith's Gas Power Plant as a mechanic and photographer for finished gas producers. As a side line he and his wife used his equipment to produce black and white photo post cards which showed mostly Lexington people and street scenes.

This card is special as it had been hand colored and then printed at a print shop that had a color press.

It is the only known example as in 1915 color film was very rare. The building next to the boxcar is the old Frye Candy Factory.

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## THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —

*Nyad* is a new Netflix movie starring Annette Bening and Jodie Foster. This is the true story of Diana Nyad, the first person to swim from Cuba to Florida, a feat which she accomplished in her 60s. Bening is terrific in the lead role, fusing constant energy and determination throughout the film.

Foster plays her best friend, Bonnie, who also becomes her coach. She coaches Diana through the seemingly impossible task as they enlist a group of people to steer the ship and anchor her in the right direction.

It takes Diana several tries and Bening displays her perseverance in the face of undaunting weather and unfortunate encounters with some sea creatures. The movie also intersperses news footage and clips of the real Diana Nyad as she made a lot of news when this event happened in 1979.

As good as the performances are, the movie never really invests its audience. It puts in so much news footage and then shows part of Diana's growing up that really cuts into the grip-

ping scenes which are her amazing feat swimming through the ocean. It feels like the movie does not have enough story to flesh out an entire run time, so it needs to add certain things in to make it a feature film length.

Foster is good in the role and has received some early awards nominations. She may sneak into the Oscar race though outside of one scene, she really is just fine in the role.

Bening really captures Nyad's spirit and does the better work in this film but may struggle to get nominated because the best actress race is pretty stacked this year.

*Nyad* just misses a positive review due to its slow pacing and too many breaks in the main story. Foster and especially Bening truly give their all to these performances which really are the standout of the movie. Diana Nyad's story is an interesting one and it was neat to learn about her and her amazing accomplishment.

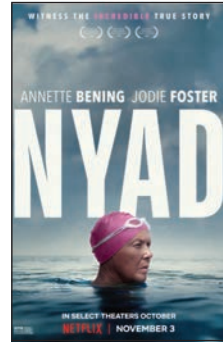


Photo By Traci Little

**LOCAL DIGNITARIES AND BUSINESS MEMBERS** attended the open house celebration for Jodie Perry on Dec. 18 at the Richland Area Chamber of Commerce. The event celebrated Perry's successful election to the position of Mansfield Mayor.



# News Briefs

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, Jan. 27 and 28. 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 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.

★

As people make travel plans to celebrate with family and friends this year, the American Red Cross is asking donors to set aside time to give blood or platelets for patients waiting for care over the holidays. Thanks to Prime Video and the new film *Candy Cane Lane*, those who come to give blood, platelets or AB Elite plasma Dec. 1-31, will automatically be entered for a chance to win a \$1,000 Amazon.com gift card and a 65-inch Omni QLED Series Amazon Fire TV.

Those who come to give blood, platelets or AB Elite plasma through Jan. 5, will receive an exclusive Red Cross long-sleeved t-shirt, while supplies last.

Making and keeping appointments throughout the month can help safeguard the national blood supply into the new year. Schedule an appointment by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Local bloodmobiles are scheduled for:

Wednesday, Dec. 27, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall RSMO, Ontario  
Thursday, Dec. 28, 9 am to 3 pm, Mansfield Engineered Components, 1776 Harrington Memorial, Mansfield  
Friday, Dec. 29, 10 am to 3 pm, YMCA, 750 Scholl Rd., Mansfield

★

Rumpke Waste & Recycling Services will partner with Richland County Regional Solid Waste Management Authority (RCRSWMA) in its roadside cleanup effort. Rumpke has been keeping neighborhoods clean and green since 1932 and this year marks the 15th consecutive year that Rumpke has partnered with the Richland County Solid Waste Authority.

To aid in RCRSWMA 2024 cleanup efforts, Rumpke will contribute \$15,000 of free disposal to the Solid Waste Authority at the RUMPKE Richland County Recycling & Transfer Facility.

## Area Agency on Aging board announces scholarship program

The Area Agency on Aging Foundation Board announced the launch of its 2024 scholarship program, aimed at supporting individuals pursuing higher education in the field of aging or disability services.

This year, the Foundation Board will award three scholarships to deserving individuals who demonstrate a commitment to making a positive impact in the lives of seniors and those with disabilities through their educational pursuits.

The scholarship award amount as determined by the Area Agency on Aging Foundation Board for Academic Year 2024-'25:

- One \$2,000 for a student attending a 4-year university
- One \$1,000 for a student attending a 2-year college, technical school, center of education, or is pursuing a certification
- One \$1,000 for a student attending any type of higher institute of learning or certification and a retiree or staff member of the Area Agency on Aging or is a child (step), or grandchild (step) of an actively employed (full-time or part-time) Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. staff member.

The application deadline will be March 15, 2024.

Applicants are encouraged to visit [aaa5ohio.org](http://aaa5ohio.org) for detailed eligibility criteria and application instructions. For information contact Susie Danuloff at [sdanuloff@aaa5ohio.org](mailto:sdanuloff@aaa5ohio.org).



Kodachrome Basin, Utah  
Photo By Mark Shutt

## Surprising Reasons to Support a No-Cost Pregnancy Center

- 1 No Insurance Required for Services
- 2 Early Pregnancy Confirmation
- 3 Compassionate & Supportive Staff

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[www.friendsofrichlandpregnancy.com](http://www.friendsofrichlandpregnancy.com)  
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419-522-8863

Your year end donation is tax deductible



# •Richland SWCD workshop will teach about invasive species

(Continued from Front Page)

partners to protect Ohio's water resources. Funding comes from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service via the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Program.

What is a weed and what makes a weed an Invasive weed? Janell Baran will teach how to identify and understand several of Ohio's most common plant invasives and then explore alternative — and sometimes unexpected — ways to combat them without the use of herbicides.



**Multiflora Rose, an invasive plant**

Janell Baran is the owner and operator of Blue Owl Garden Emporium herb farm and Blue Owl Hollow forest farm. After spending 20 years in the computer industry, a series of events inspired her to leave that life and become a farmer full-time in 2006. She now lives a busy, dirty, physically exhausting, but very satisfying life on an old mid-1800s farmstead nestled in the hills and hollows of central Ohio.

The cost for the workshop is \$10 per person and refreshments will be provided. Visit <https://richlandswcd.net/events/> or call 419-747-8685 for more information and to register for the workshop.

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District develops, implements, and assists landowners, government agencies and our partners with a wide range of natural resource conservation programs.

## Biblewalk offering free tours

BibleWalk is one of the country's leading Christian attractions, Ohio's only life-size wax museum and home to The Museum of Woodcarving. The life-size wax museum features over 100 scenes comprising of 325 life-size wax figures and 100 life-size hand-carved wooden figures.

BibleWalk first opened in 1987 and now offers seven different tours and nine rare exhibits. BibleWalk is also home to, "Dinner With Grace," a christian dinner theater.

BibleWalk is celebrating the season by offering a free tour through The Life of Christ. The celebration will run through Saturday, Dec. 30, from 10 am to 4 pm. BibleWalk is located at 500 Tingley Ave., Mansfield. For more information visit [biblewalk.us](http://biblewalk.us).

## Church Directory

### Clear Fork Alliance Church

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

### Community Bible Church

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

### First English Lutheran Church

53 Park Avenue West, Mansfield  
419-522-0662 • [www.felc-mansfield.org](http://www.felc-mansfield.org)  
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](http://www.mansfield1st.com)  
Rev. Joseph Yerger  
9 am Adult & Youth Sunday School  
10 am Sunday Worship

### Oakland Lutheran Church

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

### Ontario Christian Church

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

### Ontario United Methodist Church

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

### Southside Christian Church Disciples of Christ

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

### St. Mary of the Snows Catholic Church

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

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

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

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## Richland County Foundation opens scholarship application early

The Richland County Foundation opened its college scholarship application on Dec. 18, which was two weeks earlier than previous years.

"We hope students will take advantage of the earlier date to complete the application over the holiday break in December," said Community Investment Officer Siera Marth-May.

Richland County Foundation offers scholarships to graduating high school seniors, current college or career tech students, and non-traditional students. Past recipients of an RCF scholarship are eligible to receive awards again. No scholarships through the Foundation are automatically renewable so applicants must apply each year.

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

The Foundation Board of Trustees also awards career technical education (CTE) scholarships to individuals who want to obtain cer-

tifications and credentials at accredited technical institutions. CTE applicants must demonstrate academic readiness for their program through one of three ways: WorkKeys Skills Assessment, WebXam Test Report, or a relevant academic transcript. The applications will be considered as they are received, and the award determinations will be made within eight weeks.

All awarded scholarships will be sent directly to the school.

Scholarships awarded through Richland County Foundation, are primarily based on the financial need of the applicant. Information used to determine need includes tuition, books, fees, room and board expenses, as well as any institutional scholarships or grants being awarded to the student.

Also considered is the information provided upon completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students completing the college scholarship application must complete their FAFSA; students applying for CTE scholarships should complete the FAFSA if it is a requirement for their program.

The FAFSA form is an application for federal student aid and can help students pay for college or career school. The application will be available by Dec. 31. Upon full completion of the form, a Student Aid Index is generated, which is used to help determine a student's need for financial aid. Students should complete the FAFSA application as soon as it becomes available.

For more information visit [richlandcountyfoundation.org](http://richlandcountyfoundation.org) or contact Marth-May at 419- 525-3020 or [smarth@rcfoundation.org](mailto:smarth@rcfoundation.org).

## Ohio House passes legislation regarding property tax liens

The Ohio House of Representatives voted in favor of House Bill 93, changing the limitations on recovery and lien imposition by municipalities against property owners of non-owner-occupied properties for unpaid water, sewer, and disposal services rates and charges. The measure is joint sponsored by State Reps. Mark Johnson (R-Chillicothe) and Riordan McClain (R-Upper Sandusky).

"When local municipal water or waste corporations certify property tax liens against non-owner-occupied residences for unpaid charges, liens are brought against the owner of the property rather than the resident," said Johnson. "This unfair, abusive practice needs to end."

"To me, this is a common-sense personal responsibility measure. If a renter signs up for utilities and uses them, they should be responsible for payment of such," Johnson continued. "Municipalities will finally have more incentive to shut off these services instead of relying on the property owner to prop up the less than responsible renter."

The legislation will ensure the property owner is not charged more than the "termination ,amount," or the amount that when unpaid, would result in the municipal services provider terminating that service. If the complaint is not resolved to the individual's satisfaction, they may appeal the matter to the local municipal court.

"Under current law, the practice of charging the property owner for the delinquent payments of the tenant is allowed," said McClain. "House Bill 93 seeks to correct this longstanding practice by removing the option to place a property tax lien due to services not contracted by the owner."

House Bill 93 awaits consideration by the Ohio Senate.



CLEAR FORK HIGH SCHOOL graduate Cael Clark receives a college scholarship.

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## Sharrock will retire on Jan. 31

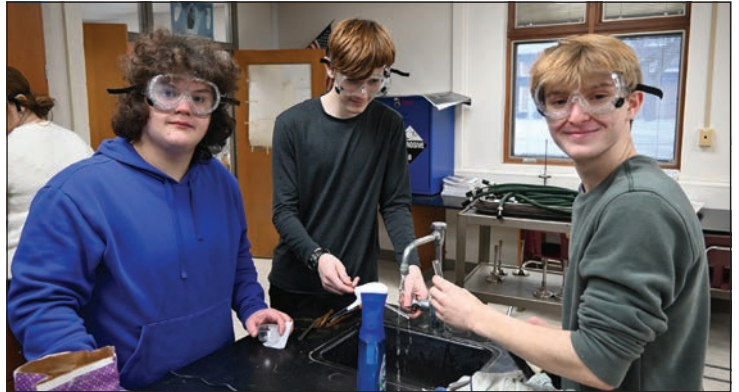
State Farm Insurance Agent Scott Sharrock will retire on Jan. 31, 2024. He has worked in Lexington for State Farm for 45 Years.

Sharrock worked for John Hancock Insurance for 10 years, meaning he was worked in the insurance industry for 55 years. He has received numerous awards from State Farm and was one of the top selling agents in the territory for many years. He has multiple generations insured at his office.

Sharrock graduated from Mansfield City Schools. He also worked as a mechanic in his early years.

He has been involved with his church, Crossroads on Park Avenue West. He is a supporter of the Special Olympics and the American Cancer Society.

He is married to his wife, Karen, and has a dog named Lucy.



**FOR THE MIDTERM,** Ms. Havers' CCP Chemistry class at Ontario High School made (unbeknownst to them) peanut brittle.



*Home of Joe & Vickie Palmer  
of Poland, Ohio*

**Christmas**

*outdoor*  
**SPACES**

## Kiwanis Club to host Guardians brunch Feb. 8

The Kiwanis Club of Mansfield will host a Talkin' Cleveland Guardians Baseball Brunch featuring a live auction of baseball items and keynote speakers Bob DiBasio, Cleveland Guardians Senior Vice-President of Public Affairs; radio broadcaster Jim Rosenhaus and television broadcaster Matt Underwood on Thursday, Feb. 8, at Der Dutchman Restaurant, 720 St. Rt. 97 W., Bellville.

Doors open at 10 am and the program begins at 10:30 am. Tickets are \$25 and include buffet brunch. Tickets are available online now at <https://www.thekiwanisclubofmansfield.org/Guardians>. Tickets are also available at Park National Bank's Ontario Office on Lexington-Springmill Rd. Proceeds from the event will benefit The Friendly House.

The Kiwanis Club of Mansfield was chartered in June 1920. The Kiwanis International family comprises nearly 600,000 adult and youth members in 80 countries and geographic areas. For information visit [www.kiwanis.org](http://www.kiwanis.org).



# Mansfield Adult Education Aspire students working to change recidivism in Richland County

One local instructor, Steve Wilkinson, who is employed by Mansfield Adult Education and Catalyst Life Services, is making a lasting impact in the lives of his students.

Since 2017, Mansfield Adult Education Aspire has been working with the residents at the CAC to increase their college and career readiness opportunities.

This year, program coordinator, Andrea Karpiak-Feasel established a partnership between Catalyst Life Services' Success Unlimited (One Strike established in 2013 by Dan Dickman), Richland County Job and Family Services (WIOA), and the Richland County Community Alternative Center (CAC) to create a stronger workforce and career readiness curriculum.

This year, the focus shifted to providing students with an instructor who had the knowledge to assist individuals with complex pasts and to decrease recidivism in Richland and surrounding counties. In turn, students at the CAC are given a better chance at starting over through a reformatted workforce development training program for people with compromised backgrounds.

"Steve really cares about what he's doing for us and it's important to him that we get to know things that we didn't have the chance to learn before. Steve introduces us to laws and other resources that are important for folks who have any sort of a background to know," said one student, Dion Walker.

The Richland County Community Alternative Center (CAC) provides residential placement and treatment services for Adult Court offenders as a part of jail diversion, treatment programming and sentencing options for both Common Pleas and Municipal Courts in Ohio. Residents of the CAC have the chance to enroll monthly into

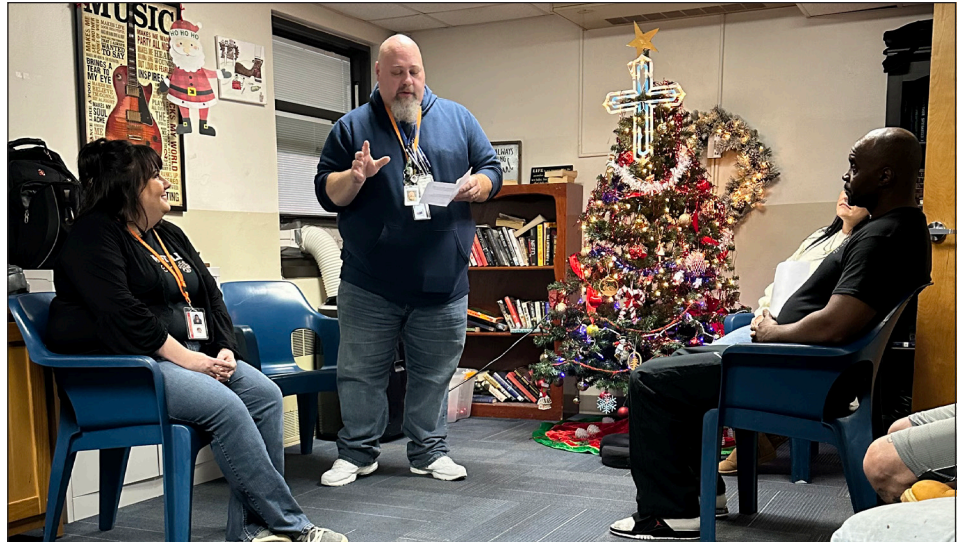
Mansfield Adult Education/One Strike classes that are held twice a week for a total of five hours. This is a workforce, college, and career readiness program that incorporates adult basic literacy and the needs and skills that someone with a compromised background needs to have in order to be successful.

This program starts the transitional work that a student needs while they're still in residential drug and alcohol treatment at the CAC. The curriculum also covers important topics such as: critical thinking, ethical leadership, emotional intelligence, working with others, meeting workplace expectations, effective communication, and many other workplace skills – essential skills as the students are soon to re-enter the workforce and society.

This transitional work is proving to be the most impactful to the students, with one student sharing encouragement to future participants: "If you're interested in changing your outcome when you get out of here (CAC), getting educated, and getting your background cleaned up you should definitely listen to Steve and take his advice," said James Riggensbach.

Dakota Dye, another participant of the program shared that "Steve has helped me with acquiring jobs even though I have a background." Dye also said that he has been taught about getting his records sealed by Steve and that a friend of his told him about Steve and helping with his record so that's how he knew to enroll when he got to the Community Alternative Center.

These services are not limited to residents of the Community Alternative Center, and they are available to any individuals in Richland County for free, please call Mansfield Adult Education at 419-525-6380 for more information.



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ALZHEIMER'S  ASSOCIATION®



# •Foundation funds housing projects and other needs

(Continued from Front Page)

The Emergency Social Services Program includes the soup kitchen, food pantry, direct financial assistance for utilities to prevent impending homelessness, and seasonal assistance. The funds will be used towards utility and food assistance. This program attempts to aid in self-sufficiency for vulnerable populations and reduce reliance on public assistance.

## Career Technical Education Scholarships

The Board of Trustees awarded 13 scholarships to students attending a career technical education school. The Scholarship Committee implemented a rolling deadline for CTE scholarships to meet various enrollment deadlines. In aligning with Ohio's Attainment Goal, the Foundation wants to help fill the gap between job openings and certified employees as well as lead the way to support workforce development through CTE scholarships.

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

Alzheimer's Association, NWO Chapter, American Red Cross East Central Ohio, Ashland University, Blue Rose Mission, Buckeye Council Boy Scouts, Buckeye Imagination Museum, Catholic Charities, Catskill Area Hospice and Palliative Care dba Helios Care, City of Mansfield, Community Foundation of Otsego County, Discovery School, Downtown Mansfield, Inc., Family Planning of South Central New York, Family Service Association, Fenimore Art Museum, Friends of the Richland County Park District, Glimmerglass Festival, Grace Episcopal Church, Habitat for Humanity of Richland and Crawford County, Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, Humane Society of Richland County, Lucas Community Center, Lucas

Local Schools, Mansfield Art Center, Mansfield City Schools, Mary McLeod-Bethune Intervention and Enrichment Center, Mid-Ohio Guardianship Services Inc., NAMI Richland County, North Central Ohio Land Conservancy, North Central State College Foundation, North End Community Improvement Collaborative, Ohio Bird Sanctuary, Ohio Genealogical Society, Ontario Local Schools, Pathfinder Village Foundation, Inc., Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio, Raemelon Therapeutic Equestrian Center, Renaissance Performing Arts, Richland Academy of the Arts, Richland County Commissioners, Richland County Soil & Water Conservation District, Sacred Heart Catholic School, Saint Peter's Parish, Salvation Army, Smile Train, St. Paul Outreach, St. Peter's School, Taking Root Farms, The Center for Individual & Family Services Inc. dab Catalyst Life Services, The New Store, The Springbrook Foundation, United Way of Ashland County, United Way of North Central Ohio, United Way of Richland County, Visual Bucket List, Way to Battle, Wayfinders Ohio, Wayne Center for the Arts, Western Reserve Land Conservancy and YMCA of North Central Ohio.

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

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

## RPA to host auditions

Auditions for the Renaissance Performing Arts MY Theatre production of *Cinderella* will be held on Monday, Jan. 15 from 6–8 pm, and on Tuesday, Jan. 16 from 6–8 pm at the Renaissance Theatre in downtown Mansfield.

Appointments are not required for auditions, and it is not necessary to attend both days of auditions. Those auditioning must be between the ages of 12 and 18 years of age (unless still attending high school) during the 2023–'24 school year.

Anyone auditioning should be prepared to sing a 16–32 measure excerpt from a song of their choice and bring sheet music in the proper key. An accompanist will be provided.

Actors may also be asked to read a short scene from the script. Those auditioning should bring a list of schedule conflicts between the dates of auditions and the performances of *Cinderella*. Performance dates are April 12–14. All performances will be held in the Theatre 166 performance space at the Renaissance. Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* will be directed by Dauphne Maloney, with musical direction by Brian K. Nabors.

The production will feature the songs "Ten Minutes Ago," "Do I Love You Because You're Beautiful?" and "Impossible." The original musical was presented on television in 1957 starring Julie Andrews and was the most widely viewed program in the history of the medium. Its re-creation in 1965 starring Lesley Ann Warren was no less successful and so was a second remake in 1997, which starred Brandy as *Cinderella* and Whitney Houston as her Fairy Godmother.

As adapted for the stage, with great warmth and more than a touch of hilarity, this romantic fairy tale still appeals to children and adults alike. This Enchanted Edition is inspired by the 1997 teleplay.

Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella* was adapted for television by Robert L. Freedman and directed by Robert Iscove, with choreography by Rob Marshall. Produced by Whitney Houston and Debra Martin Chase for Walt Disney Television, the production aired on Nov. 2, 1997. Several songs were added, including "The Sweetest Sounds" from *No Strings*, sung by *Cinderella* and the Prince, and "There's Music in You", written for the 1953 film "Main Street to Broadway", sung as the finale by the Fairy Godmother. Sixty million viewers watched the broadcast, making it the most-watched television musical in decades, and earning ABC its highest Sunday-night ratings in 10 years.

For additional information regarding auditions contact Dauphne Maloney at [dauphne@mansfieldtickets.com](mailto:dauphne@mansfieldtickets.com) or by calling 419-522-2726, ext. 212.

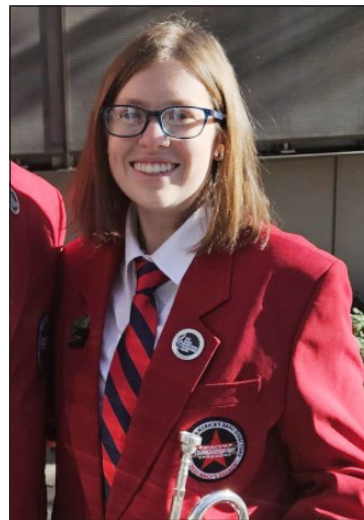


**THE TURTLE CREEK APARTMENT COMPLEX** on James Avenue and **RITTER'S RUN APARTMENTS** on Ohio Street, both in Mansfield, received grants during the Richland County Foundation Board of Trustees meeting.





**ONTARIO** assistant band director and choir teacher Megan Hiler spent her Thanksgiving break in New York. She marched with other band directors in the national Band Directors Marching Band for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The band was featured in a FOX News segment.



## News Briefs in Education

Hannah Smith of Mansfield has been named to Pennsylvania Western University Dean's List for the 2023 fall semester.

Over 3,200 Pennsylvania Western University students earned placement on the dean's list. Degree-seeking undergraduate students who achieve high academic standards must earn a minimum semester GPA of 3.40 to be named to the list.

Students must earn a minimum of 12 graded credits during the semester, not including credits by proficiency examinations, incomplete grades, temporary grades or satisfactory/unsatisfactory grades.



Ohio Dominican University has named 274 students to its 2023 fall semester dean's list. Among those included on the list are area students Madeline Heichel of Lexington and Elizabeth Zerby of Lexington.



**SCIENCE CLUB** members at Ontario High School engineered marshmallow catapults at their last meeting. They engaged in competitions for both distance and accuracy.

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THE ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL choir and jazz band performed for the student body on Dec. 11.







**TONYA WELCH'S** Environmental Science class at Ontario High School gave presentations on some of the most devastating natural disasters throughout history. Students were decked out in their Christmas sweaters.



## Bill to provide academic intervention services

The Ohio Senate passed Senate Bill 162, sponsored by State Senator Andrew Brenner (R-Delaware), requiring that any public school student who demonstrates a limited level of skill on a state assessment receive academic intervention services at no cost to the student.

A "limited" level of skill means the lowest possible demonstration of academic understanding of the content being taught. Limited proficiency is the lowest possible score that a test taker can achieve.

"Just last year, almost a third of Ohio's students scored limited in math, and a fifth scored limited in English," said Brenner. "It is essential that we provide these evidence-based resources to students as soon as

possible before it is too late to address their ongoing learning deficiency."

Senate Bill 162 addresses the critical need for learning acceleration for Ohio's students most in need of additional academic support. A student's comprehension in English Language Arts and in Math are rated at one of five levels of proficiency: limited, basic, proficient, accomplished, and advanced.

Services that would be available for students may include tutoring supports, additional instructional time, an extended school calendar or any other academically centered support service that the school or district determines will improve the student's academic performance. Senate Bill 162 now heads to the Ohio House for consideration.

## DAR scholarship deadline nearing

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 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 OS-DAR at [ohiodar.org](http://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](http://dar.academicworks.com).

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

Call scholarship chair Joedy Studer at 419-631-1015 for more information.



**FIVE STUDENTS** cashed in their PBIS points to earn the opportunity to be principal for the day. They had official badges, completed walk throughs, monitored lunch and more. On one of the days Mr. Miller completely embraced the role and was an official sixth grade student. He attended Zoey's classes and Zoey ran the school. There were many unique opportunities sprinkled in along the way such as feeding the staff, holding a snake, visiting the board office and more. These individuals led with kindness, fairness and the excitement needed in a leader.





Photo By Traci Little

## Riley Little crowned TCS Homecoming Queen

Temple Christian School crowned Riley Little as the homecoming queen and Joel Yoxtheimer was crowned king during a ceremony at the school.

2023 Homecoming Queen Riley Little is the daughter of Tim and Traci Little.

She attends Community Bible Church where she sings on the worship team and helps in the kids classes. At her former church in New York, she was a leader in the vacation Bible school.

"I started attending Temple my sophomore year and have played volleyball and basketball, and was part of the school drama production, *Anne of Green Gables*," said Riley.

Her hobbies include playing basketball and volleyball, hanging out with friends and playing the ukulele.

In the summers, she works at Whit's Frozen Custard in Ashland.

After graduation, she plans to attend Bob Jones University and

major in kinesiology.

2023 Homecoming King Joel Yoxtheimer is the son of Dave and Gwyn Yoxtheimer.

He attends First Baptist Church in Ashland where he sings in the choir and is active in his youth group.

"At Temple, I play basketball, have been a part of the yearbook staff, sing in the choir and have been a part of six school drama productions, including the role of Avery in *Charlotte's Web*, *Sebastian in The Little Mermaid* and *Mr. Phillips in Anne of Green Gables*," said Joel.

His hobbies include playing the piano and violin, hanging out with friends and learning about cars.

Last summer, he worked at Walmart and went on a mission trip to Columbia with his church.

After graduation, he plans to attend college and become a pediatric physician's assistant.

Freshmen attendant Elise Yoxtheimer is the daughter of Dave and Gwyn Yoxtheimer. She is a member of First Baptist Church in Ashland where she has worked in the nursery for three years.

At Temple Christian, Elise is a member of the yearbook staff and has been a part of several school drama productions including *Charlotte's Web*, *Snoopy the Musical* and *Anne of Green Gables*.

Her favorite hobbies are shopping, hanging out with friends, camping and swimming.

In the summer, she volunteers at the Raemelton Therapeutic Equestrian Center. Elise is undecided about her future plans after high school.

Freshmen escort Carson Little is the son of Tim and Traci Little. He is a member of Community Bible Church where he is involved with his youth group.

At TCS, Carson plays on the varsity basketball team and sings in the choir. His hobbies are playing basketball and baseball, watching sports and playing video games. In the summer, Carson mows lawns.

Carson's future plans are to attend college and major in business or sports management.

Sophomore attendant Brendel Bower is the daughter of Kenny and Suzanne Bower. She is a member of New Beginnings Free Will Baptist Church where she works in the nursery and is part of the vacation Bible school staff.

At Temple Christian, she plays volleyball and has been in seven school drama productions including *The Little Mermaid*, *Snoopy the Musical*, and *Anne of Green Gables*.

Her favorite hobbies are spending time with friends, taking naps, going to Cedar Point, playing volleyball and attending church youth group activities.

(Continued on Page 13)



Photo By Traci Little

2023 Temple Christian School Homecoming Queen and King Riley Little and Joel Yoxtheimer



# •Riley Little crowned TCS Homecoming Queen

(Continued on Page 14)

In the summer, Brendel enjoys attending the ARISE youth conference with her church.

Her future plans are to attend Pensacola Christian College and major in early childhood education to become a kindergarten teacher.

Sophomore escort Colton Adkins is the son of Terry and Jen Walton. He is a member of Mansfield Baptist Temple where he works in the bus ministry, helps in junior church and is active in his youth group.

At TCS, Colton plays on the varsity basketball team and sings in the high school choir. His hobbies are playing basketball, football, and baseball, writing songs, sorting cards and hanging out with his family.

In the summer, he works with his stepdad doing concrete work and participates in door knocking with his church. Colton's future plans after high school are undecided.

Junior attendant Ashlynn Knepshild is the daughter of Jeremy and Kim Knepshild. She is a member of Mansfield Baptist Temple where she is involved in her youth group, sings in the music ministry, and helps in the nursery.

At Temple Christian, she plays basketball and volleyball, sings in the choir, and was in the school drama production of Anne of Green Gables. Her hobbies are playing sports, eating new foods, hiking and spending time with family and friends.

In the summers, Ashlynn works at Pizza Company, details cars,

cleans offices and babysits. She plans to attend Pensacola Christian College after graduation but is undecided on a major.

Junior escort Malachi Keim is the son of William and Jenica Keim. He is a member of Berean Baptist Church. At church, he attends mission trips, is part of the tech team, participates in student ministries and helps with Beyond Measure Market.

At TCS, Malachi plays varsity basketball, sings in the choir and was in the drama production, *Anne of Green Gables*.

Malachi's hobbies include playing basketball, hunting, eating, fishing, watching sports and hanging out with his friends.

In the summer, he works for First Class Roofing with his Dad. He is undecided about his future plans after high school.

Senior Attendant Makayla Westbrook is the daughter of Brandon and Tammy Westbrook. She is a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Norwalk where she is involved in singing on the worship team, working in Vacation Bible School, helping with Cowboy Camp and being a part of Christmas plays.

At Temple Christian, she plays basketball and volleyball and sings in the high school choir.

Makayla's hobbies are playing volleyball and hanging out with her friends.

In the summers, she works at her grandma's coffee shop and babysits. Makayla plans to attend Ohio Christian University after graduation to play volleyball and to major in either sports management or business.



Photos By Traci Little





**THE ONTARIO MIDDLE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL** attended Crossroads Church to help with the Richland County gift pickup for families in need. The Warriors have been invited yearly to help with this tremendous event and this year the students had a full day of serving others. The students helped hold doors for people arriving, served hot chocolate and cookies, helped set up Christmas decorations and pick up gifts and loaded them in cars.



# Pioneer accepts donations for scholarships, programs

The Pioneer Board of Education met Monday, Dec. 18.

The board approved an Exchange of Services Agreement with The OSU/Mansfield Branch for the Teaching Professions program.

The board accepted a Talent Ready Grant for \$23,038 for Adult Education.

Donations were accepted from Avenue Church, Park Ave., \$750, to be used to purchase food items for the Pioneer Sharing Closet; Mary Lee Barr, Shelby, \$500 for the Art Barr Memorial Scholarship to be used for a scholarship awarded annually to a Pioneer senior; Pamela Blankenhorn, Shelby, \$300 for the Art Barr Memorial Scholarship which is awarded annually to a Pioneer senior; and Phil Johnson, Holy Christmas Trees, Lexington, donation of three Christmas trees with at total value of \$180. These trees were the centerpiece for the holiday themed activities for the YMCA Senior Activity group which was hosted at Pioneer.

Donations were also accepted from Ron Lewis, Galion, donation of woodworking and carpentry magazines for use in our the Carpentry and Home Remodeling Career Tech programs; Ontario United Methodist Church, Ontario, homemade hats and scarves for the Pioneer Sharing closet for students in need; Michele Starkey, Mansfield, items with an approximate value of \$200 for the Pioneer Sharing closet for students in need; Mr. & Mrs. Doug Theaker, Mansfield, donation of clothing items for the Pioneer Sharing closet with an approximate value of \$300, used for students in need; Tiffany Toombs, Ontario High School, donation of clothing items for the Pioneer Sharing closet with an approximate value of \$500 for students in need; and Dawn Wright-Smith, Blackbaud Giving Fund, Charleston, SC; \$30, to be deposited into the Alumni Endowment fund and used for annual student scholarships.

Pioneer Penguin Fund Donations will be used for students in need during the holiday season. Donations came from Mary Lee Barr, \$100; John Burgess, Brighton Cong. Men's Group, \$134; Julie White, \$75; Stephanie Roberts, \$40; Rene Phillips, \$100; Kevin Burke, \$100; and Adam Galley, \$30.

The board approved paternity leave for Rich Ulmer through Jan. 2, 2024, and supplemental contracts for certificated personnel Terri Crain, STNA Clinicals; and Meghan Haney, STNA Clinicals.

The board approved stipend contracts for certificated personnel Google Level 1 Certification, Cheri Laughbaum and Skyler Rose; Eduprotocol Training (two trainings), Amanda Glessner and Jeni Stewart; and Google Training, What to expect on Level 1 Test, Amanda Glessner and Jeni Stewart.

The board approved the employment of Crystal Black, Mike Foltz, Anthony Miller and Kathy Weidig as substitute instructors.

The retirement resignation of Michael Grimwood, maintenance coordinator, effective Jan. 1, 2024, was accepted.

The board approved employment of substitute classified personnel Tessa Slone, custodial/security; and Crystal Black, secretary and education aide.

The board approved employment of student workers for the Early Childhood Education program.

Monday, Jan. 22, at 6 pm was set as the next meeting in the Pioneer Board of Education Conference Room. The regular meeting will follow the organizational meeting.

Douglas Theaker was elected as Board president pro-tem for the Jan. 22, Organizational Meeting.

The board approved a Memorandum of Understanding for the Career Coach Program at Clear Fork High School.

A Resolution of Commendation was adopted for Linda Schumacher upon her retirement as treasurer of Pioneer Career and Technology Center.

The board adopted Resolutions of Appreciation for board member's service including Spencer Shipman for one year of service to the Pioneer CTC Board of Education.



**EACH YEAR**, the Ontario Middle School Leadership Council has a fall fundraiser to give back to the community by using the profits to help with the Richland County Adopt A Child program. This year Warriors raised enough money to help 10 children in need. Students went shopping and loaded carts up with all the necessities as well as some toys to help make Christmas a little nicer this year.

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## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

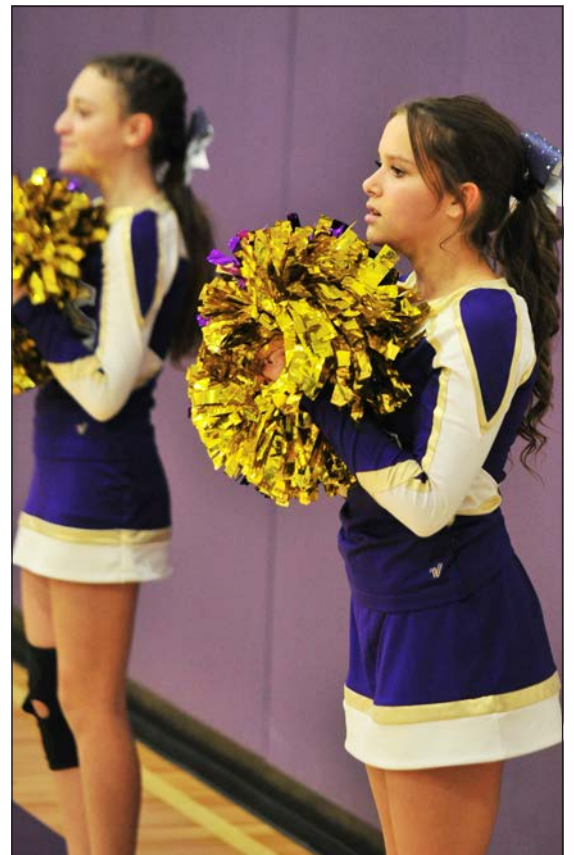
LEXINGTON VS WOOSTER SEVENTH GRADE BOYS BASKETBALL · DEC. 13

PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER





## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS WOOSTER EIGHTH GRADE BOYS BASKETBALL · DEC. 13  
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS MADISON VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 15  
LEXINGTON WINS 60-49 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER





## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

## Lexington overtakes Rams to remain undefeated

By Kris Leiter

I opted to cover the “curiosity” beat in Lexington Friday night, Dec. 15, for a couple of reasons actually.

I’ve been part of the Lexington community since 1993 and since my son graduated from Lexington, and I have connections and friends here, it’s like home.

Also, I still had not had an opportunity to see Lexington’s new gymnasium since the new school campus opened last year.

Coach Scott Hamilton and the Lexington Minutemen have been blazing a flawless, undefeated season thus far and were entertaining an Ohio Cardinal Conference rival, the Madison Rams.

Even though Madison hasn’t been in the winning column a lot, they do have some quickness in those sneakers.

The Rams put on a “track meet” of a game against Shelby a few weeks ago. Even though Madison lost, it was a fast paced, entertaining game.

I was curious to see these two conference rivals — you never know what can happen.

Being an undefeated Big Lex, I was thinking the Minutemen would be dropping basket after basket, however, quite the opposite. As the ole’ saying goes, “what goes up, must come down,” but not necessarily into a round cylinder, such as a basketball hoop.

Neither team was having a scoring a frenzy, as both teams were showing the half-court ball control offense. Lexington utilized the full-court press frequently in the first quarter.

Madison defense kept a close eye on Lex’s shooters. It apparently wasn’t going to be a record breaking, high scoring game.

After the first quarter, this scoring by both teams would resemble a football game. As I got my stat sheet, the box score read 10-7. Lexington leading. Madison was nipping their heels.

At this point, I was also curious to know if Madison would be the team to topple the undefeated Minuteman. Could it happen? As in sports, on any given day, any given game...

The defense held true and the shots were still going up, and then toppling out. A few times and a few more times.

As the second quarter began, the points were starting to drop in a bit more for both teams, and as the second quarter scoring totals were tallied, it was 14-12, with Lexington still leading.

Madison was only two points shy of tying the box score total in the second quarter!

As for Lexington, they did bring some entertainment value at 6:44 on the clock with a crowd rocking, slam dunk!

As the first half ceased, the scoring was 24-19, Lexington leading, but Madison was not going away easily and just might possibly “flip-the-script” and hand Big Lex their first loss.

As the second half commenced, Lexington 6’-8” senior Elijah Hudson, with his daunting frame, would contribute four points and have a run of seven points, including a 3-pointer by sophomore Gavin

Husty, 5’-11,” midway through the second quarter, to open up the score 21-11.

Madison countered with a few points of their own. Lexington sophomore Sam Hudson fouled Madison’s Eli Lewis. Lewis made the second of his two foul shots.

Madison was gaining, slowly but surely, could it happen? Madison was not going away easily.

As the next 2 minutes would ensue, Madison would contribute 6 more points, now closing the gap 24-19. Madison was not exactly going home without a gallant effort, no matter the outcome.

Alas, could the third quarter tell the tale? What would Scot Hamilton tell his young men during the intermission, just as the fourth quarter commenced?

I’m not sure what was said in that huddle, but apparently Hamilton and the boys from Lex were not going to let the Rams come into Lexington without a fight.

As for any undefeated coach can attest, not all the victories have been a breeze, and the Rams were there to play and go home winners.

As the gates opened the third quarter for the Minutemen, so did the hot hands of Lexington, as they would pour in 8 points into the next 5 minutes of play. This would include contributions by Dantrell Hughes with 4 points and Latrell Hughes with 2 points.

The Minutemen were spreading the lead to 38-26 with 2:30 left on a third quarter clock. As the third quarter would end, the scoreboard would show 44-29.

As the fourth and final quarter began, Lexington would open the scoring gap, and as much as Madison would continue to persist, Lexington continued to press and utilize their stunt defense.

Madison would then be the culprit of the fouls, running a string of three personal fouls and Lexington capitalized on those fouls and turned them into points.

With 2 minutes left on the clock, it was apparent Lexington would defend their turf once again and continued to spread the lead by 11 and 12 points at times.

As the last few seconds would diminish on the clock, Lexington would remain undefeated and close out the night with a 60-49 victory!

Madison had good efforts with two players in double figures. Senior 6’3” Will Kemple had 11 points, and two 3-pointers and junior 6’2” Owen Wigton had 11 points with a 3-pointer as well.

As Forest Gump says, “You never know what you’re going to get!



THE MADISON MIDDLE SCHOOL and High School Rams Wrestling Ladies competed at Clyde. Estella Koppert-Smith, Chloe Gilbert and Hadleigh Hutcheson all placed third in their weight class.

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## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS MADISON JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 15

PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER





# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

## ONTARIO VS MARION HARDING VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL · DEC. 16 PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER





## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS SHELBY SEVENTH GRADE BASKETBALL · DEC. 18

PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER





## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**ONTARIO VS SHELBY EIGHTH GRADE BASKETBALL · DEC. 18**

**PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER**





## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

## Rams stung by Mt. Vernon Yellow Jackets in 44-37 defeat

Photos and Article By Kris Leiter

The Mt. Vernon Ladies Yellow Jackets came into Mansfield with their stingers ready and held their own to defeat the Madison Lady Rams 44-37 in the Madison Middle School Gymnasium.

Both teams played aggressive defense, as Mt. Vernon started off by fouling within the first minute of the game, sending the Lady Rams' Aniyah Monica to the charity stripe and to make both free throws to tally the first two points of the game at 7:11 on the clock.

As Madison's defense would return the favor, they sent Mt. Vernon to the foul line, tying the game 2-2.

As the next few minutes ticked off the clock, it was nip and tuck for the teams, and as the first quarter concluded, the Lady Rams and head coach Mike Leeper were leading 13-10.

As the second quarter commenced, the 3-pointers would begin to fly, and that they did.

At 6:44, Natalie Back, for the Rams, would knock down a 3-pointer, extending the Madison lead 16-12.

Within seconds, reciprocating for Mt. Vernon would be a 3-pointer by Kaitlyn Thompson...the score now, bringing the Yellow Jackets within one point!

At the 5:57 mark, it was 16-15; the Rams still holding.

Again, Mt. Vernon's, Maddie Jones connected with another 3-pointer to overtake the lead, now 18-16, putting Mt. Vernon back in the driver's seat.

As the Lady Rams continued their staunch defense, it was also adding to the personal foul count as Mt. Vernon was capitalizing and turning those fouls into productive points on the scoreboard.

Mt. Vernon's Rees Lepley, Ellie Jones and Hayley Burke knocked down a couple of buckets to contribute to the cause, and by the time the first half clock ended, Mt. Vernon would be holding a commanding halftime lead of 31-22.

Madison was still in the hunt, but they would definitely need to close the gap, as the Yellow Jackets had been finding the net.

Mike Leeper's squad continued to keep his defense on point and the Rams found a couple of additional points in the arsenal, and closed the gap to 33-28 by the end of the third quarter.

The Rams were not going away easily!

Unfortunately, fouls would continue to be the demise for the Lady Rams, as Mt. Vernon would take advantage by adding 8 more to their total, now opening the gap 42-34.

As the Lady Rams, would continue to add a few, but still trail, it was just not enough to hold off the Lady Yellow Jackets, for a final of 44-37.

Rams leading scorer in double figures was Chloe Ebling with 13 points and Natalie Back with 8 buckets on the night!





# Balderson-led Bill to combat opioid addiction passes house

The House overwhelmingly passed the Remote Opioid Monitoring Act by a vote of 386-37. The bill, which was introduced by U.S. Representatives Troy Balderson (OH-12) and Robin Kelly (IL-02) in June, would direct the federal government to conduct a study on the benefits and efficacy of remote monitoring technology that would enable healthcare providers to track and ensure the wellbeing of patients who are prescribed opioids.

The bill was included as a part of the larger Support for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act, which focuses on equipping communities to fight substance abuse. Ohio, particularly its Appalachian region, has felt the brunt of the ongoing opioid epidemic. From 2011 to 2020, 27,071 Ohioans tragically lost their lives in an unintentional opioid overdose.

"For many Ohioans, their first exposure to opioids comes from a lawful prescription from their doctor," said Balderson. "Sadly, through either misuse or abuse, patients can become addicted to the medication. Remote monitoring is an invaluable tool for physicians to prevent addiction from the outset and save lives."

Once a patient's prescription runs out, or when they build up a tolerance to their dosage, they may turn to illicit synthetic drugs like heroin and methamphetamine to fuel their addiction.

Use of illicit drugs can already turn deadly, but the risk of overdose has skyrocketed with the rising presence of fentanyl. According to the most recent data from the Ohio Department of Health, illicit fentanyl is now involved in more than 80 percent of drug-overdose deaths in Ohio.

Addiction can quickly set in when opioids are involved, making it even more important for medical professionals to intervene as soon as possible when they see the warning signs.

Remote monitoring gives health care providers the ability to view trends and identify problems in physiological functions when a patient is no longer under their direct supervision. This can include tracking medication adherence and monitoring patients' vital signs.

"We commend Representatives Balderson and Kelly for their visionary leadership in advancing crucial legislation," said Jodi Salvo, Director of Substance Use Prevention Services at OhioGuidestone, a non-profit behavioral health agency that serves 26,000 people each year across the state.

"By directing the federal government to undertake a comprehensive study on the benefits and efficacy of remote monitoring, we are embracing innovative solutions that empower healthcare providers to track and safeguard patients prescribed opioids. As Representative Balderson rightly highlights, the journey for many Americans into opioid use often begins with a lawful prescription."

"The Remote Opioid Monitoring Act addresses this critical point by leveraging cutting-edge remote monitoring technology. As this legislation progresses to the Senate, we remain hopeful that its innovative approach will garner the necessary support to become a transformative force in the ongoing battle against opioid addiction."

"The House reauthorization of the SUPPORT Act provides first responders, treatment providers and Ohioans battling the opiate epidemic with much needed reinforcement by permanently eliminating barriers to accessing treatment, assisting in building the Behavioral Health workforce necessary to address the epidemic and authorizing research into innovative approaches that could also lead to safely expanding access and availability of medications for opiate use disorder treatment," said Dustin Mets, CEO of CompDrug, an Ohio non-profit company offering prevention, intervention, and treatment services to those with addiction and mental health issues.

"We won't succeed if we don't eliminate barriers to accessing safe care, have a workforce to serve those individuals seeking care, and work to find innovative solutions. The House's reauthorized SUPPORT Act does all three."

The Remote Opioid Monitoring Act would require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the remote monitoring of patients prescribed opioids. The study would look at the efficacy and current use of remote monitoring in federal health care programs, and it would provide recommendations to expand remote monitoring services within those programs.

The legislation will now be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

Full text of the Remote Opioid Monitoring Act can be found at [https://balderson.house.gov/uploadedfiles/remote\\_opioid\\_monitoring\\_act.pdf](https://balderson.house.gov/uploadedfiles/remote_opioid_monitoring_act.pdf)

## CLASSIFIEDS

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### LEGAL NOTICE

The following is a succinct summary of the legislation adopted by the Council of the City of Ontario, at their regular meeting held on December 13, 2023.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 23-04 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR NON-COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT CITY EMPLOYEES, REPEALING ORDINANCE 22-56, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-24 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO, OHIO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024 AND EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-26 – AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE SERVICE DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO, REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 23-09, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-28 – AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING REVISED RULES FOR THE USE OF THE COMMUNITY ROOM IN THE ONTARIO CHARLES K. AND CHARLOTTE M. HELLINGER MUNICIPAL BUILDING,

REPEALING ORDINANCE 19-09, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-29 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FEES CHARGED BY THE CITY FOR VARIOUS SERVICES, REPEALING ORDINANCE 22-40.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-30 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING WAGES AND SALARIES FOR NON-COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT EMPLOYEES OF THIS CITY, REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 23-18, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-31 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 23-02 KNOWN AS THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR 2023 BY MAKING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND.

Cathy VanAuker  
Clerk of Council  
City of Ontario, Ohio  
(T-C 12-21, 28 '23) 64L

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held before the Council of the City of Ontario during a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at the Ontario Municipal Building, upon a proposal to add Section 1139.03 Advanced Manufacturing and Technology Floating Overlay District to the City Zoning Ordinance.

The City of Ontario Planning Commission has recommended in favor of this change. All persons interested in these issues are invited to attend and express their views.

Cathy VanAuker  
Clerk of Council  
City of Ontario, Ohio  
(T-C 12-21, 28 '23) 17L

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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Branch Manager - Loan Officer