



TRIBUNE-COURIER

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



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Photos By Traci Little

THE ONTARIO LIONS hosted the fall pancake day at Ontario High School on Saturday, Nov. 2, from 6:30 am to noon. The community came out to support the semi-annual event, which is held each spring and fall. (Top photo) Miss Ontario 2024 Katie Bolin helps serve pancakes in the kitchen. *(More Photos on Page 8)*

Richland County Domestic Violence Shelter receives grant, volunteer Suzanne Allen named 2024 JoAnn Dutton awardee

The Women's Fund of the Richland County Foundation awarded a \$6,775 grant to The Richland County Domestic Violence Shelter for its Empower Store Initiative to enhance Shelter accommodations for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking.

Specifically, the grant funding will help cover the cost of installing secure electrical outlets that will allow for mini refrigerators to be placed in individual rooms. Providing survivors with mini refrigerators offers significant benefits, including the ability to securely store medications and personal food items. This can be particularly crucial for individuals managing specific health conditions or dietary needs, while promoting physical health, emotional comfort and a sense of independence.



JoAnn Dutton Award winner Suzanne Allen and JoAnn Dutton's daughter Cathy Goldman

"We are truly grateful to the Women's Fund for recognizing the importance of this initiative to our survivors – 99% of whom are women and girls," said Domestic Violence Shelter Executive Director Colleen Rice. "We strive to empower survivors to achieve their full potential by providing a safe and dignified space for recovery and growth. Something as small as having a mini refrigerator in your room can convey a much-needed sense of autonomy, control, and respect for someone coming out of a traumatic, and often controlling, situation."

Local firm BP Electric will provide installation of the outlets needed for the mini refrigerators. This project is one part of The Shelter's larger Empower Store Initiative which also includes plans to purchase and install solar panels at the shelter to increase energy efficiency and sustainability.

The shelter joined the Women's Fund in celebrating shelter volunteer Suzanne Allen for being recognized as the 2024 JoAnn Dutton Awardee for her service and dedication to survivors at the shelter. Allen has offered support, comfort, guidance, and countless hours of time serving survivors of sexual assault in Richland County and surrounding areas.

Since she began volunteering in 2019, Allen has played a vital role in helping sexual assault survivors navigate the complex social systems that often follow in the wake of a crime, ensuring that they understand their rights and options. She is also a tireless advocate for policy change at the local, state, and national levels, using her firsthand knowledge to lobby for improvements in legislation and services for sexual assault survivors.

"Suzanne Allen is an amazing advocate, supporter, and friend of The Shelter, and more specifically, the sexual assault survivors we serve," said Rice. "I can't think of anyone more deserving of the recognition she is receiving today. We are proud to honor and celebrate her service and the powerful impact she has had on individual survivors, and our entire community."

The award is sponsored by the Women's Fund of the Richland County Foundation and honors women who daily demonstrate that individual volunteer service makes a community a better place.



Photos by Traci Little

ASIAN TASTE RESTAURANT celebrated its grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony at 20 Lexington Ave. in Mansfield on Oct. 30. This family-owned location offers a selection of Chinese dishes and authentic Vietnamese Pho, plus party trays for gatherings. The restaurant also offers signature dishes like General Tso's chicken, sesame chicken, beef with broccoli, and brisket pho, featuring a rich broth made from simmered fresh beef bones. Favorites also include plain lo mein, fried rice and summer rolls. For information visit www.asiantastemansfield.com or call 419-709-9378. The restaurant is open six days a week, closed on Mondays.

Operation Christmas Child collection is November 18–25

Volunteers are preparing to collect Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts during National Collection Week, Nov. 18–25. More than 4,700 drop-off locations will open across the country in November, and shoebox packers can find their local drop-off locations nearest them.

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has been collecting and delivering gift-filled shoeboxes to children including many who are suffering from war, poverty, disease and disaster. Operation Christmas Child hopes to reach another 12 million children in 2024 with the hope of Jesus.

Shoebox packing is fun for individuals, families and groups! Find a step-by-step guide on the How to Pack a Shoebox webpage. The project partners with local churches across the globe to deliver these tangible expressions of God's love to children in need.

Participants can donate \$10 per shoebox gift online through "Follow Your Box" and receive a tracking label to discover its destination.

"Children need hope, and they need to know that they are not alone and God loves them," said Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse. "Gift-filled shoeboxes open the door for us to share the hope of the Gospel with boys and girls around the world. Please pray that these simple gifts have an eternal impact."

Participants can find the nearest drop-off location and hours of operation as they make plans to drop off their shoebox gifts. The online lookup tool is searchable by city or zip code. Signs at each location

will identify the drop-off.

Local locations include Freedom Ridge, 2200 Bedford Blvd., Ontario; Impact Church, 160 Woodruff Rd., Mansfield; Grace Point, 683 Portland Way N., Galion; and Trinity Lutheran Church, 508 Center St., Ashland.

Freedom Ridge will be open Monday, Nov. 18, 9 am to noon; Tuesday, Nov. 19, 9 am to noon; Wednesday, Nov. 20, 9 am to noon; Thursday, Nov. 21, 5–8 pm.; Friday, Nov. 22, 9 am to noon; Saturday, Nov. 23, 9 am to noon; Sunday, Nov. 24, noon to 4 pm; and Monday, Nov. 25, 9 am to 3 pm.

Impact will be open Monday, Nov. 18, 9 am to noon; Tuesday, Nov. 19, 3–6 pm; Wednesday, Nov. 20, 9 am to noon; Thursday, Nov. 21, 3–6 pm; Friday, Nov. 22: 9 am to noon; Saturday, Nov. 23, noon to 3 pm; Sunday, Nov. 24, noon to 3 pm; and Monday, Nov. 25, 9 am to noon.

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, seeks to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world and, together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 220 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.

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Serving Ontario, Lexington, Madison, Bellville and Butler Communities in
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News Briefs

A free Shelby community meal will be held at Awake Church, 3616 St. Rt. 39, Shelby, on the second Thursday of each month, from 6–7 pm. Dates are Nov. 14 and Dec. 12.

For information visit www.awakeshelby.com or call 419-342-4636.

★

The Lexington Area Senior Citizens Inc., invites those 55 and older to attend meetings the third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 am at Der Dutchman, Rt. 96, Bellville. Meals are \$15. The next meal will be held on the special date of Monday, Nov. 18, and will include roast turkey. Pioneer Performing Arts will give a program.

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

★

The City of Ontario has released November meeting dates. Meetings are held at the city building at 555 Stumbo Rd., Ontario.

Nov. 6, 5:30 pm, Safety Committee; 6:15 pm, Caucus; and 7 pm, Council

Nov. 8, 9 am, Finance Committee

Nov. 13, 1 pm, Civil Service Commission; and 4 pm, Planning Commission

Nov. 20, 5 pm, Economic Development Committee; 6:15 pm Caucus; and 7 pm, Council

Those who need special accommodations can call 419-529-6714 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting time for arrangements.

★

Richland County adults 60 and older are invited to penny bingo games on Mondays from April to December at the Lincoln Highway Event Center, 1361 Park Avenue East, Mansfield (Madison area). Bingo starts at 11:30 am with doors opening at 10 am.

Fifteen games of penny bingo and full house will be played. Cost is a penny a card for 15 games and a nickel a card for full house. This is a 100% payout. Snacks are provided.

To RSVP, call Kathy Boyle at 419-543-1813. These events are supported and funded by the Richland County Senior Services Levy, administered by the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc.

★

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Ron Boyd to speak on “Does Democracy Survive?” at 10:30 am on Sunday, Nov. 10. This service will be held off-site. For information visit www.allsoulsuuohio.org.

★

First Congregational Church, 640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield, will host the Bowling Green State University Men’s Chorus on Friday, Nov. 8, at 7 pm.

The chorus is an auditioned large ensemble open to all tenor and bass singers on campus. The group encompasses students from across all majors, representing all seven colleges at the University, with over half of the members being non-music majors.

During the group’s 50 plus years of existence, the chorus has toured annually, produced numerous recordings and performed at state, regional and national gatherings of the American Choral Directors Association, the National Association for Music Education

and the Intercollegiate Men’s Choruses Organization.

A free-will offering will be accepted at the performance.

The church’s Holiday Bazaar will be Monday, Nov. 11 and Tuesday, Nov. 12, from 9 am to 3 pm.

The Funcenter Chordsmen Veterans Day Salute will be held Monday evening, Nov. 11, at 7 pm.

For information visit www.mansfieldfcc.com or call 419-756-3046.

★

The Crestview Music Boosters will be sponsoring its 31st Annual-Craft Show on Nov. 16, from 9 am to 3 pm.

Those attending should enter at the middle school gym doors, 1575 OH-96, Ashland. The craft show will feature 113 crafting vendors. Concessions will be available. For information email acmberaftshow@gmail.com.

★

First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Ave. West, Mansfield, offers a free produce distribution the second Tuesday of each month, April through November in the west parking lot.

The next free produce distribution will be Tuesday, Nov. 12, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. The church receives over 8,000 lbs. of fresh produce. This is open to everyone, please bring a state ID, driver’s license or proof of residence. This is a drive through distribution. Volunteers will load the produce into trunks or the back of vehicles. Vehicle should be empty and ready for loading. For information call the church at 419-522-0662. This is the final distribution of 2024.

★

Christmas Time in the City will be held at Richland Carrousel Park in downtown Mansfield Friday, Dec. 6, from 5:30–8:30 pm. A tree lighting will be held at 6 pm. There will be caroling, photos with Santa and live reindeer.

★

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

★

The Mansfield/Richland County Public Library (MRCPL) Evergreen Bookshop will be open for the monthly Friends’ Used Book Sale on Friday, Nov. 8, noon to 4 pm; and Saturday, Nov. 9, 10 am to 3 pm. A preview sale will be held for Friends of the Library members only on Thursday, Nov. 7, noon to 4 pm. Memberships may be purchased at preview sale (\$3 per year for individuals).

To show appreciation to patrons during this month of thankfulness, the sale is giving away a free book cover with each purchase (while supplies last).

Materials (adult, teen and juvenile items) are library discards and public donations offered for sale at extremely low prices. The bookshop is stocked with “new to the store” items each month. All proceeds from the sales sponsor enrichment activities provided by the MRCPL. The bookshop is staffed exclusively by volunteers in downtown Mansfield at 37 N. Walnut St. (corner of W. Third St. & N. Walnut St., next to the main library). For information call 419-526-4652.

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Richland Academy updates community on capital campaign

The Richland Academy of the Arts has received a surprise gift of stock valued at \$350,000 in support of the Academy's \$3.7 million ETA (Empower the Arts) capital campaign. The donor has been greatly supportive of a wide variety of capital projects that have been completed by non-profit organizations over the last 10 years in the Mansfield area.

"We are sincerely appreciative of this generous and unexpected gift in support of our campaign to raise funding this year for our special Academy project," said Dr. Michael Benson, the Academy's executive director.

"We are excited about how the planned renovations and modernization project will serve our community in the future and the vote of confidence the gift acknowledges."

The ETA capital fundraising campaign, which began in May, has raised nearly \$2 million toward the Academy's \$3.7 million goal. Donors who are contributing \$100,000 or more include the Richland County Foundation (RCF), the Robert and Esther Black Foundation funds of PNC Bank and RCF, the Thomas Foundation, the Taylor family funds of the RCF and Ashland County Community Foundation, the Gorman Family Foundation Fund of the RCF, and

the State of Ohio.

"We are so grateful to our donors who have faith in us," Dr. Benson said.

The \$3.7 million capital campaign is raising funding for the renovation and modernization of the Academy's two-story, historic downtown Mansfield buildings to make necessary and better use of the Academy's spaces.

"Our existing space is no longer a good fit for the Academy's cultural arts programming in dance, music, theater, visual arts, and martial arts," Dr. Benson said.

"We hope to begin our construction project early next year thanks to the donors who have given us such a great start," Dr. Benson said. "Our 33-year-old non-profit organization has outgrown the small rooms and outdated facility, though we want to remain and continue to invest in downtown Mansfield to support downtown re-development initiatives."

Gifts to the campaign may be sent to the Richland Academy of the Arts, 75 N. Walnut St., Mansfield, OH 44903. To make a gift of stock, which is easy to do and may provide tax savings, contact Campaign Director Chriss Harris at chrisharris@embarqmail.com.

Church Directory

Clay Memorial Lutheran Church

1601 Amoy East Rd., Mansfield
419-747-6882

Pastor Carol Kilgore
Sunday School 9:15 am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am

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 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

200 West Third St., Mansfield
419-524-4813 • mansfield1stcc1833@gmail.com
Rev. Gregory Bibler

Office Hours: Tu., W., Th. 9 am to 1 pm
10:30 am Sunday Worship
Christian Builders, Sunday, 9:30 am
www.FirstChristianChurchMansfield.com
FB: [FirstChristianChurchMansfield,Ohio](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChristianChurchMansfield)

First Congregational Church

640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield
419-756-3046 • www.mansfieldfcc.com

Pastor Brad Bunn
8:30 am Chapel • 10:30 am Sanctuary
Sunday School 10:30 am

First English Lutheran Church

53 Park Avenue West, Mansfield
419-522-0662 • www.felc-mansfield.org
Pastor Jay Jackson

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.

Hope Lutheran Church

(Formerly St. Paul & St. Timothy)
2010 Park Avenue West, Mansfield
419-529-4351 • www.lutheranhope.org

Pastor Jonathan Stuftt
9:30 am Sunday Worship
10 am Thursday Bible Study
Free Breakfast 2nd Saturdays 9 am
Free Dinner 4th Sundays 5 pm

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>

G & M Body & Paint Shop

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

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
ADA Accessible Nursery
and Children's Programming Available

Mansfield Baptist Temple

752 N. Stewart Rd., Mansfield
419-589-5413 • www.mbt.org
Pastor Rob Kurtz
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am & 5:30 pm Sunday Worship
7 pm Wednesday Service

Ontario United Methodist Church

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

St. John's United Church of Christ

68 Park Avenue East, Mansfield
419-522-2813 • www.stjohnsmansfield.org
Pastor Faith Proietti
10 am Sunday Worship
Office hours: Mon-Fri 9 am to 1 pm
AA Meetings M & F 10 am & noon;
Wed. noon Brown Bag and Sat. 6 pm
Clothing Ministry by appt: 419-512-9817

Trinity Grace Fellowship

1592 Grace St., Mansfield
419-589-5890 • trinitygracefellowship.org
Pastor Larry Carnes
9:30 am Sunday Worship
11 am Sunday School
Bible Study Mondays 2 pm

Wappner Funeral Home

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419-522-5211



Photo By Traci Little

THE CITY OF MANSFIELD AND DOWNTOWN MANSFIELD, INC. (DMI) made an announcement last week that downtown Mansfield was selected as the site for a television commercial shoot. The press release, dated Oct. 28, provided detailed information on the filming schedule and the anticipated impact on traffic and accessibility. Filming took place on Wednesday, Oct. 30, with street closures on N. Main Street from Fifth Street to Fourth Street and on Fourth Street between Diamond and Walnut. The streets were closed from 6 am to 9 pm. The announcement reassured local guests and visitors that businesses would still be accessible via rear entrances on N. Main Street, although some public walkways were temporarily blocked. Fourth Street businesses continued operating as usual, with measures in place to assist patrons. DMI, a non-profit organization committed to economic development and promoting a positive image of downtown Mansfield, was excited to host the commercial shoot as part of its mission to make the area a vibrant place to live, work, and invest. This filming event underscored the organization's dedication to enhancing the visibility and appeal of the downtown community.

Library exhibit explores patriotism in musical theater

The Mansfield Richland County Public Library is hosting a traveling exhibit from the Great American Songbook Foundation. Titled "Of Thee, I Sing: Politics on Stage," the exhibit is currently displayed in the main library's second-floor lobby until Nov. 14.

This historical exhibit is suitable for all ages and explores the intersection of politics, patriotism and entertainment in musical theater. Broadway shows featured in the exhibit include *Of Thee, I Sing* (1931), *Camelot* (1960), *1776* (1969), *1600 Pennsylvania Avenue* (1976) and *Hamilton: An American Musical* (2015).

The exhibit also addresses the treatment of war, race, women's rights and other significant issues in musicals such as *Hair*, *South Pacific*, and *Cabaret*. Additionally, it highlights the contributions of renowned Broadway and Tin Pan Alley composers who wrote campaign jingles and patriotic songs throughout the years.

This exhibit is available for viewing at the main library at 43 W. Third St., Mansfield, Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 8 pm, Friday and Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 1-5 pm. For all library information and resources visit mrcl.org.

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Ines Bond, October 31

Gary Wayne Sargent, November 1

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Photo By Mark Shutt

ODOT preparing for winter, recruiting plow drivers

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is already preparing for snow and ice.

Across the state, ODOT is conducting safety checks on snowplows and equipment, hiring drivers and mechanics, and topping off salt supplies to ensure it is ready to go when the first hints of winter arrive. The average first day of measurable snow in Ohio ranges from early November in the northern portion of the state to late November for southern Ohio.

“Ohio’s transportation network is critical to keeping our state moving, especially during unpredictable winter storms,” said Governor DeWine. “Safe and passable roads ensure that businesses can continue operating, emergency services can reach those in need, and residents can travel to work and school without disruption.”

In northeast Ohio, the agency utilizes nearly 650 drivers who often work 12-hour shifts during snow and ice events. While most are full-time drivers, many are hired seasonally. This team maintains more than nearly 13,000 lane miles of state and U.S. routes outside municipalities and all interstates in 17 counties, 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.

“These safety checks are important to ensure crews are well trained, equipment is road-ready, and deicing materials are stocked,” said ODOT Director Pamela Boratyn. “ODOT plow drivers take great pride and responsibility in keeping roads safe, and communities connected during the winter months. Motorists can also help by driving for the conditions and giving crews room to do their job.”

ODOT’s goal is to have primary routes back up to speed within two hours and secondary routes within 4 hours of the end of a snow event. Last winter, crews hit that goal 98.3% percent of the time.

While the department continues efforts to recruit plow drivers and mechanics, around 64 mechanics are busy doing 150-point checks from the plow blade to the salt spinner of each of the more than 400 trucks in the northeast Ohio fleet. These checks are done now so that any repairs can be made before the snow starts flying and the trucks hit the road.

In addition to trucks and personnel, ODOT Districts 3, 4 and 12 is ready for this winter with more than 300,000 tons of salt on hand.

Last winter in northeast Ohio, crews drove 1.8 million miles using 146,000 tons of salt and 3.1 million gallons of liquid deicers.

A total of 22 plow trucks were struck last winter statewide, down from 26 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. It is very important that drivers give crews plenty of room to work.

NAACP #3190 to hold officer and executive committee elections

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) #3190 will conduct the election of officers and at-large Executive Committee members on Saturday, Nov. 16, from 11 am to 2 pm. Voting will be facilitated through an electronic platform provided by the National office of the NAACP. Members will receive a link to their email or cell phone, allowing for one secure vote per account. All voting will be conducted online.

For those needing assistance with voting or access to the internet, support will be available at the UMADAOP office, 400 Bowman St., from 11 am to 2 pm on the election day.

To be eligible to vote, individuals must be members in good standing for at least thirty days prior to the election.

The election slate includes president, Alomar Davenport; 1st vice president, Dennis Baker; secretary, Yolanda Allen; assistant secretary, Terry Winnick; and at-large candidates Betty Palmer Harris, Leonard Dillon, Winston Greene, Tiffany Mitchell and Anne Rhodes.

For more information contact Cindy Baker at 419-526-4267.

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State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas, State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX

State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL



kimmyscucina
By Kim Sterry

**PUMPKIN STUFFED RAVIOLI
WITH BUTTER SAGE SAUCE**

Ingredients

- 8 ounces mascarpone, whipped
- 2-3 cups pumpkin (we cooked our own)
- 3/4 cup parmesan cheese, grated
- Salt & pepper
- Sage leaves (around 15 large leaves)
- 1 cup bread crumbs
- 8 Tbsp. butter
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1/2 cup half & half (or heavy cream)
- 3/4 tsp. fresh grated nutmeg
- Dough for ravioli

Instructions

For your ravioli stuffing, combine mascarpone, 2 cups pumpkin, cheese, salt & pepper, six chopped sage leaves and bread crumbs in a bowl. You want a "cookie dough" consistency. Depending on your pumpkin, you may need to add more. If you are using fresh there may be a bit more moisture as opposed to canned. Stuff your ravioli. Melt butter and combine with 10 sage leaves and let sit for up to an hour. Place in saute pan with olive oil, half & half and salt & pepper, heat on medium 10-15 minutes. Add grated nutmeg and keep warm until you are ready to serve.

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Lifestyle Inspiration



THE HOME OF
Ed & Teresa Vore of Lexington



Photo by Damon Callis



Day Trippin' With Damon – Swiftwater Bridge crosses the Wild Ammonoosuc River in New Hampshire. There have been four bridges built at this spot. The first was built in 1810 and was carried away in 1818 by a flood and replaced in the same year. The bridge was destroyed by a flood in 1828. The third bridge was erected in 1829 and remained until 1849. At that time it was dismantled and replaced by the current bridge. This bridge was rebuilt by the state in 1977 at a cost of \$34,347. The rebuilding costs were shared by the state and town. This section of the river was used to float logs to the sawmill. The bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

ONTARIO LIONS PANCAKE DAY



Photos By Traci Little



WOMEN'S FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS are Amy Goyal, Debra Weaver, Margaret Lin, Veronica Williams, Elizabeth Daniels, Nyasha Oden, Reneta Music, Amy Brunell, Sharlene Neumann, Elizabeth Buttil and Amy Hiner.

Women's Fund continues support to improve childcare

The Women's Fund of the Richland County Foundation awarded \$71,216 in grants and announced the JoAnn Dutton Award honoree during a recent luncheon.

For the sixth year in a row, the Women's Fund awarded a grant to make quality childcare affordable and accessible to women in Richland County. This year's \$25,000 grant went to the YWCA of Northwest Ohio. They will take applications from in-home childcare providers and centers for grants of up to \$2,500 for resources and continuing education. The Women's Fund believes that childcare is important to the economic security of women.

Other grants were awarded to The Domestic Violence Shelter to upgrade electrical service in individual rooms and provide mini refrigerators, the Music Academy of Karate and Empowerment for a self-defense class, North Central State College Foundation for an essentials and wellness program at its Child Development Center, Planned Parenthood for a program to improve access to contraceptive services, Project One for a five-day grace stay for women and children seeking refuge from human trafficking, Renaissance Theatre for a lactation pod for patrons and staff members, Richland Public Health to expand its infant car seat distribution, Shelby Diaper

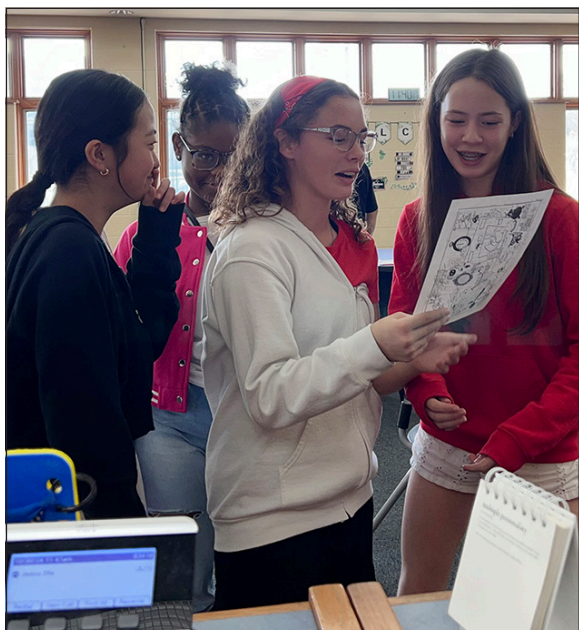
Pantry to distribute diapers, and Third Street Family Health Services for a mobile fresh food program for new and expecting mothers.

Since 1998, the Women's Fund has awarded \$617,240 via 333 grants impacting thousands of lives.

The Women's Fund also announced the JoAnn Dutton Volunteer Community Service Award winner. The award was named in honor of JoAnn Dutton, former executive director of the Mansfield YWCA. It celebrates women who devote a significant amount of time and energy in a meaningful way to local charitable organizations.

This year's winner is Suzanne Allen, a volunteer at The Domestic Violence Shelter. She was recognized for volunteering to respond to sexual assault cases at Avita and OhioHealth hospitals to provide immediate support, guidance, and comfort to those affected by sexual assault. Allen is a strong advocate for policy change, using her firsthand knowledge to lobby for improvements in legislation and services for sexual assault survivors on the local and national levels.

The Richland County Foundation, a not-for-profit 501c3 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.



STUDENTS IN KELLIE ANN RITCHEY'S language arts classroom at Ontario Middle School put their brains to work solving puzzles, riddles and problems to escape the class and earn a treat. They had to crack the safe to gain access to a set of riddles. Once they solved those, they had to characterize some spooky monsters by creating a wanted poster or a rap. Finally, they had to use clues to figure out which portrait contained the ghost's identity.

VETERANS DAY Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present

Parade, Veterans Honor Wall dedication ceremony planned

The Mansfield Veterans Day Parade will begin at the five-way light at Park Avenue West and Marion Avenue on Monday, Nov. 11, at 10:30 am. The parade will march down Park Avenue to the square where a memorial service will follow at the gazebo on the square.

A dedication ceremony will be held at 2 pm for the Veterans Honor Wall in Mansfield Cemetery, 389 Altamont Ave., Mansfield.

This ceremony will be held rain or shine.

The Richland County Veterans Service Commission, in conjunction with the Mansfield Cemetery and Purdy Construction, has been working on this important project since May 2022.

Pam Bautz from Mansfield Cemetery, along with Ken Estep and Sue Dell from Veterans Service Commission, got their heads together to figure out how to extend the life of the Veterans Honor Grounds.

With the trend moving towards more people choosing cremations over in-ground burials, the Veterans Honor Wall was a practical solution.

“After the amazing work done on the Old Soldiers Ground and the experience of installing columbariums for Mansfield Cemetery, the obvious choice for the construction and installation was Todd Wurthman and Purdy Construction,” said Sue Dell. “Mansfield Cemetery recently installed columbariums from Turner Vault, and their quality and willingness to help with this project made the choice easy.”

The Veterans Honor Wall shows special attention to handicap accessible walkways on both sides as well as in between the walls. Benches are available on the back side and a flag pole is placed in

the middle to overlook the Honor Grounds and the Honor Wall. This also gives the Richland County Burial Detail a safe place to salute veterans.

During the dedication, WWII veteran Robert Muck (Mack) will be the first internment. This decorated veteran has been waiting since 2001 for his final resting place. The remains of the veteran and his wife, Sarah, will be placed at the Veterans Honor Wall.

At the program, Ken Estep, executive director of Richland County Veterans Service, will give the welcome address with the Presentation of Colors by Bill Leding, Richland County Veterans Burial Detail.

The Pledge of Allegiance will be presented by Deb Robinson. The Invocation will be given by Joshua Hurrell of Avenue Church.

Larry Conn will introduce the Kyenote speaker Douglas Theaker, president of the Richland County Veterans Service Commission.

The program will include a Salute to the Honored Dead and Taps by Richland County Veterans Burial Detail and a benediction by Joshua Hurrell.

Richland County Veterans Service Commission members are president, Douglas Theaker; vice president, Larry Corn; secretary, Debra Robinson; Joshua Hurrell, Gary Utt; executive director, J. Ken Estep; service officers Penni Jordan, Duke Kornsuwan and Anita Corwin; secretary, Susan Dell; receptionist, Tauri Dell; and van drivers, Richard Baker and Donald McCorkle.

Mansfield Cemetery members are Pamela Bautz, administrator; Matt Casse, records and genealogy; and NyAzia Carter, office assistant.

Special thanks go to Ken Estep and the Veterans Service Commission Board; Pam Bautz, Matt Cassell and NyAzia Carter; Todd Wurthman and the crew from Purdy Construction; Mansfield Cemetery Grounds Crew; and the Richland County Commissioners.

Sales, guidelines and further internments will begin January 2025.

Advertisement for Smokin' Bros BBQ featuring a 'THANK YOU VETERANS' graphic, contact information (1041 Park Ave West | (855) 800-8820), and the USA Veteran Owned Business logo.



Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present **VETERANS DAY**

The Intersecting Journeys of Two Veterans: *Honor, Dedication and Love for Country and Family*

By Traci Little

In the world of military service, few stories capture the sacrifice and commitment made by both service members and their families. Two extraordinary veterans — an operating room nurse and a Flight operations specialist — whose paths intertwined through the U.S. Army, built a legacy spanning three decades in uniform.

At the age of 13, Rebecca White, an immigrant from Australia, began a journey that would define her identity. In 1987, she moved to the United States as a dependent of an American servicemember.

“I remember it being exciting, imagining I was going to see what was portrayed on American television. I just went with the flow at that age and didn’t think too much about it. There was a little bit of a culture shock — in American youngsters are a lot freer compared to the stricter culture I was raised in,” said Rebecca.

Four years later, at just 17, she took the oath to serve, embarking on her own military career that profoundly shaped her personal and professional life.

Rebecca’s journey began at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where she completed Basic Training and turned 18. She then advanced to Fort Sam Houston (now Joint Base San Antonio) to train as a Sur-

gical Technologist—a skill that would later serve her well in the civilian world.

Her first duty station was in the Mojave Desert at Fort Irwin, California, where she met her future husband, Specialist Dustin White, another young soldier at the start of his military career.

Dustin’s first impression of Rebecca was that she looked different than everyone else. “My roommate and I had a room on the second floor, so we got a birds eye view of all the new people coming through the barracks. We would see them walk through the door with their duffel bags and gear, so that was the first time I really saw her. She carried herself different from most of the girls and that’s what I think really attracted me to her,” said Dustin. In 1993, after Dustin and Rebecca’s paths crossed, they married a year later. Their shared commitment to service laid the foundation for a marriage that has lasted 30 years.

After several years of active duty, Rebecca left the Army in 1995 to focus on raising their children while Dustin continued his military career. After graduating nursing school in 2010, she returned to service as an Officer, joining the US Army Reserve as an Operating Room Nurse. Now a Major with 18 years of combined service, she is preparing for a nine-month overseas tour early next year. Her career goals are to transition into Medical Operations and Planning and to retire as a Lieutenant Colonel in the next 3–5 years.

(Continued on Page 12)



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VETERANS DAY *Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present*

•The Intersecting Journeys of Two Veterans:
Honor, Dedication and Love for Country and Family

(Continued from Page 11)

Rebecca is really looking forward to her upcoming tour where they will provide medical care to Servicemembers and the local population. There are lots of moving parts and tasks to take care of beforehand such as multiple events at the unit level and additional checks along the way to ensure all medical and administrative necessities are prepared for. Wills and power of attorney are prepared to make sure Soldiers' families have these in place. There are also events families can attend to hear about the many resources available to them while their loved one is away.

Rebecca adds, "it has been extremely helpful to have super supportive employers. It can be a hardship for employers to have one of their staff gone for an extended period." Even though laws exist to protect Reservists, some employers may not extend the same support. Balancing two careers, military and civilian, has brought its share of challenges unique to Reservists and "only those who have accepted the challenge can fully understand."

Rebecca is also teaching Dustin how to properly cook and prepare rice. "If you see me standing outside of a local Chinese restaurant, you know that I just couldn't master it," Dustin laughed.

"I'm really looking forward to this mission; it's not a dangerous

mission and I will be performing surgeries on the local population," said Rebecca.

Dustin White's military journey was inspired by his father, uncles, and a family friend in the Marine Corps. His dad spent three years in the Army. "He would talk to us about his time in the military, and I would love to listen to his "remember when" stories. His dream was to be solidified as a junior in high school where an Army recruiter came to speak to them. "The next thing I knew I was in Fort Knox, Kentucky at basic training. For the next year, everything went so fast. I picked a job, took all my tests and within six months of entering the delayed entry program out of Painesville, Ohio, he began his career in 1989 under the Army's slogan, "Be All That You Can Be."

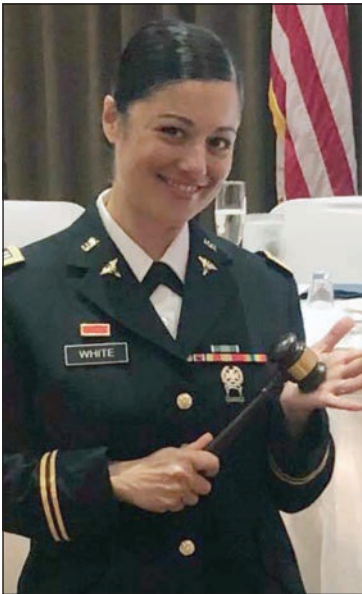
Over two decades, Dustin served in various roles, including Aviation Flight Operations NCO, MEDEVAC Operations NCOIC while deployed, and Platoon Sergeant with the 101st Airborne Division. His deployments took him to conflict zones such as the Persian Gulf, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

He played a crucial role in life-saving Medevac operations and deployed attack helicopters during wartime. He spent his last 10 years as a Platoon Sergeant, leading Soldiers. His service to this country took him to places he never would have dreamed including Germany, Italy, California, Alabama, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee and a year as an Army Recruiter in Mansfield, Ohio. Between these great assignments came the deployment to the Persian Gulf war in Iraq in 1991-'92, a second deployment to Iraq in 2005-2006 and a deployment to Afghanistan in 2007-'08.

Throughout his career, Dustin embraced every challenge. "I never denied a school, never failed a fitness test, or had disciplinary action, and can count on one hand the number of times I was late," he recalls. He retired as a Sergeant First Class after serving as a Platoon Sergeant for his final decade, mentoring the next generation of soldiers. "I wasn't a very good recruiter, because I simply shared my story and told the complete truth. I'm upfront and tell people that joining the military isn't for everyone. I share about all of the positive things we've gotten to do for not only ourselves but for our country and then I leave it at that. I'm not going to call and hound you to try to get your son or daughter to sign on a dotted line," said Dustin.

The Whites have built a life rooted in love and shared service. "We have been one ever since," Dustin proudly says of their 30-year marriage. Together, they raised three sons, who traveled the world alongside them and graduated from Lexington High School. The White's really believe that traveling around the world allowed their children to be more aware of a bigger world than people who have lived in one state or country their whole life. "I think having them experience

(Continued on Page 13)



Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present **VETERANS DAY**

•The Intersecting Journeys of Two Veterans:
Honor, Dedication and Love for Country and Family

(Continued from Page 12)

different cultures just made them broader human beings. It was a little tough coming back to the states because kids that have lived in the area their whole lives had established lives. Those kids had established roots with friends, family and their community, and they all knew each other. That’s the disadvantage of being a military child and the sacrifice they had to make,” said Rebecca.

The White’s story is one of resilience and perseverance, balancing deployments, career transitions, and family life. Rebecca pursued nursing and, upon completing her degree, returned to the Army. Meanwhile, Dustin retired after 20 years of active duty, though Rebecca continues to serve in the Army Reserve, aiming for new milestones before her own retirement.

Dustin now mentors young people considering military service, sharing his experiences to help them make informed decisions. Rebecca, too, continues her service with pride, preparing for her next deployment and cherishing the opportunity to make a difference.

Looking to the future, Rebecca hopes to retire as a Lieutenant Colonel, while Dustin enjoys the reward of a well-earned retirement. No matter where life takes them next, their journey of military service has truly united them.

“People ask me all the time how we made it to thirty years of marriage. You have to keep things interesting,” said Dustin.

“Always be willing to own your contribution to any of the prob-

lems that may exist rather than blaming the other person for everything. Each person needs to evaluate their own contribution to what’s causing an issue and seek to be better. Dustin has always been super supportive of me from the start. Everyone loves that about him,” said Rebecca.

With over 38 years, and counting, of combined service, the Whites’ story exemplifies the power of commitment and resilience. Their lives reflect the essence of living with purpose, sacrifice, and dedication to something greater than themselves.

“I would say if I had to do it all over again, I would not change a thing. I would still serve my country, and even as far as getting married so young, I probably would do the same thing. Everything to me worked out the way it was supposed to work out. I can say that I didn’t leave any stone unturned and did everything I wanted to do in the military. I loved every moment of the Army and accomplished and learned so much. I became a man while serving my country!” said Dustin.

(Continued on Page 14)



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VETERANS DAY Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present



The Intersecting Journeys of Two Veterans

(Continued from Page 13)

Rebecca got emotional as she closed with this thought, "neither of us has made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, although that's what we signed up to be willing to do. I would encourage everyone to bestow the same amount of respect and honor to our first responders and police officers who do the same thing we do each and every day!" Through their journey, Rebecca and Dustin remind us all: "Be all that you can be."



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Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present **VETERANS DAY**

VA delivers record care and benefits to Ohio veterans

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced it delivered more care and more benefits to more veterans than ever before in fiscal year 2024 — including to veterans, their families and their survivors in Ohio.

These outcomes for the nation’s veterans build on continued efforts by VA to expand and improve care and benefits for those who served, much of which has been made possible by the PACT Act — the largest expansion of VA health care and benefits in generations.

VA encourages all veterans, family members, caregivers, and survivors to learn more about VA and apply for their world-class health care and earned benefits.

“Veterans deserve the very best from VA and our nation, and we will never settle for anything less,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “We’re honored that more Veterans are getting their earned health care and benefits from VA than ever before, but make no mistake: there is still work to do. We will continue to work each and every day to earn the trust of those we serve — and ensure that all Veterans, their families, and their survivors get the care and benefits they so rightly deserve.”

Key outcomes for Ohio Veterans and their families, caregivers and survivors from this fiscal year include:

- Providing more world-class health care to Veterans: VA delivered more than 4,840,000 health care appointments to Ohio Veterans this year, and 12,929 Ohio Veterans enrolled in VA health care.
- Delivering more earned benefits to more Veterans: 180,969 Ohio Veterans received compensation and 6,960 received pension benefits

this year, representing an estimated \$3,950,000,000 and \$99,200,000 in earned benefits, respectively. Additionally, VA processed 72,749 disability benefit claims for Ohio Veterans, with an overall grant rate of 65.2%.

- Earning Veteran Trust: Nationwide, Veteran trust in VA reached 80.4% this year, an all-time record and an increase of 25% since 2016. Veteran trust in VA health care also reached 92%, another record.

- Supporting Veterans in crisis: VA provided no-cost emergency health care this year to more than 1,770 Ohio Veterans in acute suicidal crises.

- Supporting a record number of survivors of Veterans: 3,942 Ohio survivors received pension benefits this year, representing an estimated \$45,140,000 in earned benefits. Additionally, 16,947 spouses and dependents in Ohio received Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, representing an estimated \$341,300,000 in earned benefits.

- Supporting a record number of women Veterans: 18,007 women Veterans in Ohio received compensation, representing an estimated \$441,900,000 in earned benefits. Additionally, 1,354 women Veterans in Ohio enrolled in VA health care. VA now has more women Veterans enrolled in its health care system than ever before.

- Giving Veterans final resting places in VA National Cemeteries: VA interred 2,772 Veterans in VA’s national cemeteries in Ohio this year.

Eligibility has expanded for VA health care to all toxic exposed veterans years earlier than called for by the PACT Act. Also, \$800 million in grants to help veterans experiencing homelessness.

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VETERANS DAY Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present

Welding program seniors create gifts for veteran teachers

Photos and Article By Traci Little

During the 2023-'24 school year, Madison Adult Career Center (MACC) participated in the Central Ohio Region's Super RAPIDS Grant Program, a project led by the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE). This initiative supports regional institutions in enhancing educational and training opportunities that match local workforce needs. MACC received a \$200,000 grant, which enabled them to buy new, high-tech equipment for their Welding Technology and Precision Machining/CNC Technology programs.

This grant program aims to help institutions remove employment barriers and boost workforce development in high-demand fields. For MACC, this funding brought an impressive update to their training labs, including new equipment for both the high school and adult programs.

The Welding Technology program added a 56-ton, 5 HP 460V Ironworker, a 5' x 6' cast iron welding table, three Miller multi-processor welders, and a Lincoln Torchmate 4400 CNC plasma cutting system. The Precision Machining/CNC Technology program gained three Clausing variable-speed vertical milling machines and two

Clausing geared head engine lathes. This new equipment gives students the chance to train on advanced tools and develop valuable skills that increase their job prospects.

The new equipment also inspired students to take on a special project for local veterans. Chris Carnes, a senior in the welding program, designed a unique gift for teachers who are veterans: a burned out flag featuring the emblems of various military branches.

With guidance from his teacher, Mr. Mike Wagner, and help from his classmates, Chris used the new plasma cutting machine to create about 14 flags, which they plan to present to veteran teachers at Madison. So far, they have designs made for the U.S. Army and Airforce, and will add the Navy and Marines.

Mr. Wagner, who teaches both high school and adult welding programs, shares his expertise across multiple areas. He uses the same

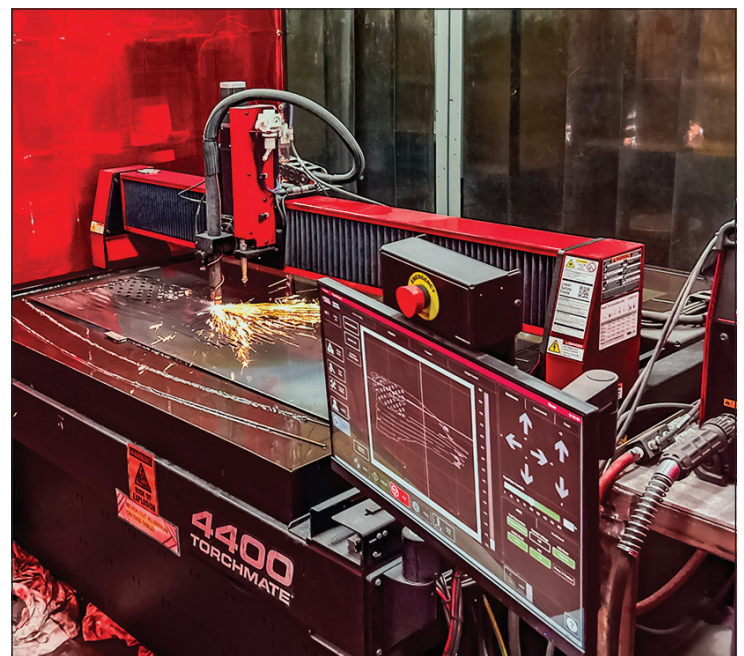
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Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present

VETERANS DAY



Madison Comprehensive High School welding student Chris Carnes and welding program instructor Mike Wagner

Seniors create gifts for teachers

(Continued from Page 16)

lab and equipment to train high school students, adult learners and even local employees in customized welding skills.

Karen VonStein, Career Tech Advisor, is extremely thankful to have Wagner as part of their staff. "This is Mike's first year teaching high school welding. He is a seasoned pro in welding and was recently recognized as the MACC outstanding adult educator of the year for Central Ohio," she added.

MACC's role in the community continues to grow with support from the Super RAPIDS grant. With upgraded training equipment, the center is preparing students to meet local workforce demands, supporting economic growth and helping create a strong foundation for the region's future workforce.

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VETERANS DAY Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present

Ohio Board of Nursing Director honors Army Veteran Holly Koester

After a heartfelt induction into the 2024 class of the Greater Cleveland Sports Hall of Fame, Holly Koester — a United States Army veteran who made history as the first individual to complete a marathon in all 50 states from a wheelchair — was honored by Ohio Board of Nursing Executive Director Marlene Anielski.

Anielski presented Koester with commendations from Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Congressman Max Miller. Koester’s remarkable achievement not only showcases her unyielding spirit and determination, but also serves as an inspiring testament to resilience and the indomitable human spirit.

The event was attended by community leaders, veterans, and supporters, all gathering to celebrate Koester’s monumental accomplishments and to honor her service to the nation. Anielski commended Koester for her perseverance and courage, stating, “Captain Koester embodies the essence of resolute willpower. Her journey across all 50 states not only breaks barriers but also sends a powerful message to everyone: that with grit and passion, we can overcome any obstacle.”

Holly Koester served as a Captain in the United States Army for 10 years until she sustained injuries in an accident during the Persian Gulf War. She has served as a newly injured spinal cord peer counselor at the Cleveland VA, a motivational speaker, a sports director and secretary of the Buckeye Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America, won six gold medals in the 2016 National Veterans Wheelchair Games, and was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in 2017. She is currently a Walton Hill resident.

Anielski added, “Captain Koester inspires us to dream big, regardless of the challenges we face – and to do so with a dedication to service and gratitude. As she continues to advocate for veterans, we applaud her tenacity and welcome her as one of Ohio’s most valued athletes and role-models.”



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Greater Cleveland Aquarium offering free admission for military and first responders

Veterans Day is a time to thank and honor those who serve. In appreciation, Greater Cleveland Aquarium is offering free general admission and parking to active duty military and veterans Friday, Nov. 8 through Monday, Nov. 11, from 10 am to 5 pm, with presentation of corresponding badge or ID.

Eligible guests include active duty military, veterans or reservists. First responders also receive free aquarium admission on Veterans Day Weekend, including physicians, nurses, police officers, sheriff/sheriff’s deputies, correctional officers, state troopers, federal law enforcement officers, career firefighters, volunteer firefighters, EMTs, paramedics and/or dispatchers with ID.

This appreciation offer cannot be combined with other discounts and is only available in-person at the aquarium ticket vounter. For complete details visit greaterclevelandaquarium.com.

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Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present **VETERANS DAY**

Community partners host Servitus 2024 in Mt. Vernon

Knox County Career Center’s (KCCC) Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) partnered with the City of Mount Vernon and Ariel Foundation Park to bring “Servitus 2024” to Mount Vernon, a day celebrating those who serve others.

On Saturday, Oct. 12, the public joined what had traditionally been a student-only event at Ariel Foundation Park in Mt. Vernon. Families gathered together to celebrate those who serve others.

Vendors, food trucks, military booths, and military personnel were on site for families and the public to visit. KCCC’s JROTC hosted 29 other JROTC teams for a fitness competition in the park.

JROTC’s cadets competed against students from across Ohio and Pennsylvania in a tower climb, Army Humvee pull, and several obstacle courses.

KCCC had one of their teams finish second in the One Rope Bridge obstacle course.

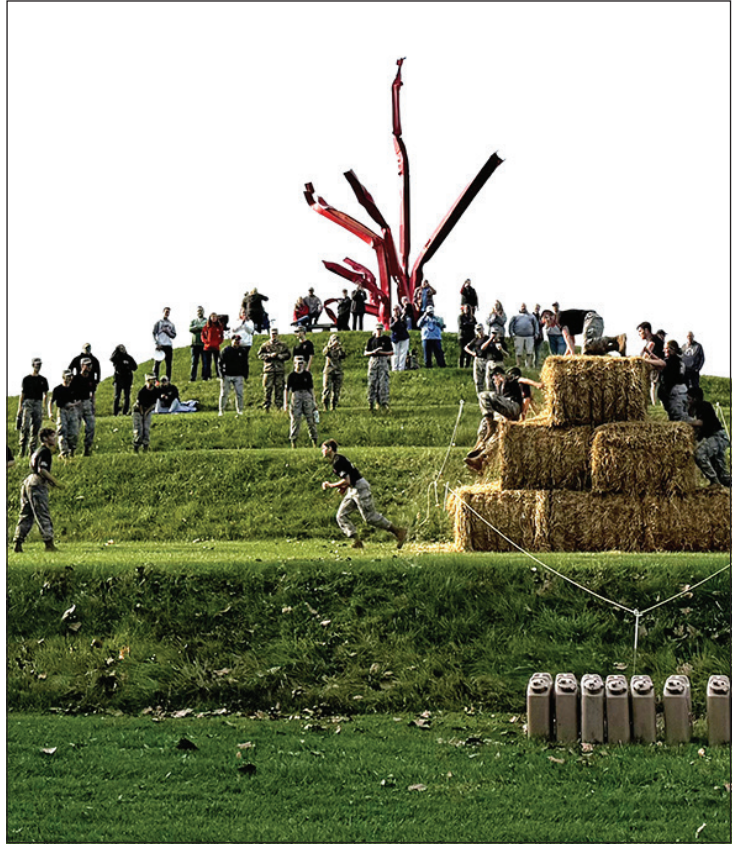
The overall winners for the for the day were Beaver Creek High School (first place), Green High School (second place), and McDowell High School (third place). KCCC’s teams finished fifth and seventh, respectively.

“I am thrilled with the direction we are headed with our competition and our new partnership with the city. We received tremendous support and interest from the community this year and laid the groundwork for future years. As the competition continues to grow, we look forward to connecting those who serve others with the next generation of servant-leaders. With the help of dozens of volunteers, we brought this opportunity to hundreds of students,” said Colonel Chris Salvucci, KCCC’s JROTC Senior Aerospace Science Instructor.

Salvucci added, “It’s tough to find activities where students can

lead with little input from coaches and instructors. Adult oversight is important but restricts a student’s ability to learn and develop the soft skills of leadership that can’t be taught in the classroom. Our competition was specifically designed to ensure safe oversight while allowing students to challenge themselves, make decisions, occasionally make mistakes, and learn from them. The students received no adult assistance while on our competition courses, forcing them to deal with unexpected events and situations using their innovation and skills. Our job as adults is to develop the next generation. This competition provided us an avenue to make that happen, and I am exceptionally proud that Mount Vernon, OH, provides this opportunity for students from around the Midwest.”

“It was a beautiful day with students and visitors throughout the park engaging with one another! If you missed it this year, you won’t want to next year,” Superintendent Kathy Greenwich commented.



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VETERANS DAY *Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present*

Madison Career Tech Students/Army National Guard Kick-off



THE MADISON COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL hosted its Ohio Army National Guard Kickoff event on Friday, Sept. 20. Officers from the Army National Guard led Madison Career-Tech (MCT) students through a series of team-building activities. The activities included a variety of challenges designed to develop teamwork and communication skills, such as a driving simulation highlighting the dangers of texting and driving, weight lifting competitions, balancing on wooden beams, inflatable jousting, exploring an Army truck, using enhanced night vision goggles in the field house, stretcher races and dragging heavy objects.



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Photos By Traci Little



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Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present **VETERANS DAY**

Madison Career Tech Students/Army National Guard Kick-off




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Photos By Traci Little

VETERANS DAY *Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present***Tribute to an Old Soldier**

By Carl Kuntze

It is difficult to reconstruct an impartial profile of General Douglas MacArthur. From published accounts, drastic variances exist in all of them, whether they are authorized biographies, historical analysis, or even raw public records. Admirers and detractors seem equally impassioned.

The cascade of secret communications and policy papers released either by declassification or The Freedom of Information Act contribute little to clarification. The volume of printed material is so intimidating, it would take a lifetime to sift through. Another factor to consider is MacArthur's life if so intertwined with eminent figures, who made mistakes, and were just as anxious to cover them up.

U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and General — and later Secretary of State — George C. Marshall spring to mind. Unlike the three mentioned, President Harry S. Truman was quite candid and unapologetic when he ended the general's career.

Younger historians appear to be the most critical of MacArthur, particularly those recounting The Korean War. They largely blame him personally for the reverses that resulted when Chinese "volunteers" swarmed across The Yalu on Nov. 26, 1950, to thrust UN and ROK forces back.

Completely forgotten was five months earlier, North Korean Forces crossed The 38th Parallel, similarly undetected. These massive oversights can be justifiably laid on the doorstep of military intelligence and The CIA. Complacency in their invincibility left The U.S. guard down. The same presumption led to The Vietnam War, when top military brass fed young draftees piecemeal to The Viet Cong.

MacArthur, in the certitude and extravagance of his pronoun-

ments, was solely shouldering responsibility. Secretary of State Dean Acheson was himself chastened for a speech he made at The National Press Club in Washington D.C., in which he placed South Korea outside the U.S. defense perimeter.

Completely ignored is that with The Inchon Landing, he accomplished his objective, the eviction of North Korean Forces and realignment of defensive fortifications at The 38th Parallel.

MacArthur learned that he was relieved of his command from leaked news reports. He returned home to a heroes welcome, after years of enforced self exile.

In an interview, President Truman, although criticized for his action, mollified his interviewer by stating that the general was assured his place in history, but civilian control of the military was a bedrock of our democracy.

MacArthur's lineage can be traced to The Artaire, a Scottish warrior clan. The family brought their military tradition with them when they migrated to The New World. His father, Arthur MacArthur served in the civil war, ending his military career with the rank of Lt. General.

Douglas MacArthur graduated from Westpoint with the highest academic credentials. He held prestigious positions too numerous to list, among them, superintendent of Westpoint and president of the 1928 Olympic Committee. He enjoyed rapid promotion because of his skill. He served in the Rainbow Division during World War I.

His circuitous route to The Philippines began in 1932 when he used force to oust The Bonus Marchers from makeshift shacks they built while clamoring for their bonuses, already approved, exigent because of the depression. It was an unpopular move he dispatched

(Continued on Page 23)


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VETERANS DAY

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Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present **VETERANS DAY**

•Tribute to an Old Soldier

(Continued from Page 22)

with reluctance. Nevertheless, he did his duty. It raised such an outcry, President Roosevelt felt necessary to remove him.

He was signed as a military adviser to shore up Philippine Armed Forces. He expected to complete his assignment by spring of 1942. The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. The Philippines, a few hours later, caught several aircraft on the ground — 35 B 17 Flying Fortresses and 90 P 40 Tomahawks fighter planes.

Although The Air Force was commanded by General Lewi Breerton, MacArthur was blamed for the destruction of The West Pacific Air Force. Likewise, The poorly trained, inadequately equipped Philippine Army bolted when confronted by rampaging Japanese troops, tanks and strafing planes.

Thinking along World War lines, supply depots were clustered along the coast and had opened to looters, the remainder was ultimately destroyed.

The humiliating retreat to Bataan would begin. The rumble of vehicles transporting troops and supplies were audible throughout Manila. Soon they were aligned to intercept the enemy. They held out for nearly seven months through inhospitable weather, disease, inadequate equipment and short rations.

MacArthur was extracted March 11, 1942, when the situation

looked hopeless. He resisted at first, pointing out the already demoralized troops would resent his removal. It was pointed out, it would be an unprecedented propaganda coup for Japanese forces to capture a high ranking /American General, with greater consequences at home.

Boarding a PT Boat with his family, he penetrated The Japanese blockade, then took a plane to Australia. He arrived in Adelaide to make his famous announcement, "I have come through. I shall return."

He expected to find a formidable force in Australia which he could lead back to The Philippines. Instead, he found a country just as vulnerable. It seemed hollow that he had been recalled to service and promoted to Major General, commanding the South Pacific Theater.

Nevertheless, he bunkered down to plan his next moves. He found an ally in Air Force General George C. Kenney., who tactfully persuaded him that air cover could effectively co-ordinate attacks with advantageous results. They would work well together in the South Pacific Campaign.

MacArthur would begin his slow advance to his primary objective. The Liberation of The Philippines. New Guinea, Rabaul and

(Continued on Page 24)



MacArthur's last visit to the Philippines in 1961.



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VETERANS DAY Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present

•Tribute to an Old Soldier

(Continued from Page 23)

Palau — unfamiliar names that were his stepping stones. He wanted to strike at the heart of the islands.

Admiral Halsey selected Leyte as the precise spot that would give free egress of his fleet, a successful maneuver that caught The Japanese by surprise.

It would be an epic naval battle that would be permanently engraved in the history books.

Against naval advise, MacArthur insisted on wading ashore with Philippine Commonwealth President Sergio Osmena and General Carloos Romulo and his entourage while there were still Japanese snipers on the beaches.

The moment of landing was frozen forever in time in finely sculpted statues commemorating the event. MacArthur wading ashore in fulfillment of, "I Shall Return," visited for the last time in 1961. A ten day visit from June 30 to July 9. He's participate in the joint Independence Day celebration in which he spoke of the price of freedom and the constant vigilance required to prereserve it. His voice was still strong.

We did not know it then, he was saying good bye. He would perish three years later. He spent the rest of his tour visiting battle sites, perhaps thinking of war comrades that died.



THE LEYTE LANDING MEMORIAL commemorates a vital point in the World War II Battle of Leyte, when American forces landed. The Leyte Landing Memorial is located at the very place where General Douglas MacArthur led American liberation troops onto Red Beach in Palo in the Philippines. The park is the site of the annual memorial rites and re-enactment of the historic landing attended by local and foreign dignitaries together with war veterans and their families.

Chordsmen to present Veterans Day Salute

The Fun Center Chordsmen Veterans Day Salute will be held Monday evening, Nov. 11, at 7 pm at First Congregational Church, 640 Millsboro Rd. E., Mansfield.

The public is invited to the free event. There will be a guest speaker and refreshments will be served.

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Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present VETERANS DAY

VFW Department of Ohio Commander Pfeifer to speak at ceremony

Kari Pfeifer, VFW Department of Ohio Commander, will speak during the annual Veterans Day ceremony at the gazebo on the square in downtown Mansfield on Monday, Nov. 11.

The ceremony will follow the Mansfield Veterans Day Parade, which begins at 10:30 am.

Pfeifer is a lifelong resident of Crestline. She joined the Ohio Air National Guard 179th Airlift Wing as an Aeromedical Services Technician in April 1990, and after 21 years of military service retired as a Master Sergeant in July 2011.

During her time of service with the 179th, she deployed to several locations within the United States, and several locations overseas including Saudi Arabia and Oman.

Shortly afterward, Pfeifer realized her calling and her desire to not only give back, but to pay it forward.

She is member of the Harley Helfrich VFW Post 2920 in Crestline. She has served as Post Jr. Vice Commander, Quartermaster, and Trustee.

She served as District 10 Commander of the VFW in 2016-2017, and VFW Department of Ohio Co Chair for Veteran and Military Support from 2013-'20.

In August 2017, Pfeifer was appointed to the National VFW Women Veterans Advisory Committee by National Commander-in-Chief

Keith Harman. She represented the Big 10 Conference for the VFW.

Pfeifer also served on the Executive Committee for the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame from 2014-2020, and was the Chairperson from 2016-'20. She is also serving on the Ohio War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veteran Children Scholarship Board.

In June 2024, Pfeifer was elected VFW Department of Ohio Commander and will continue to do everything in her power to support the veterans who served before her, and those serving this great nation today.



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VETERANS DAY *Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present*

Ruck for Vets event raises \$7,900

The first annual Ruck for Vets was held Oct. 19. This event started as a goal to raise \$1,000 dollars for veterans.

Thanks to corporate sponsors and 25 participants, \$7,900 was raised for veterans.

The 10-mile route began at Ralph Phillips VFW in Shelby and wound its way to city reservoirs, by Shelby veteran landmarks and ended back at the VFW for awarding of event patches to those who finished.

There were food trucks and a Howl-oween event honoring National Veterans Pets. Organizers plan for this to be an annual event. For information visit <https://www.ruckforvets.org>.




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One Team, One Family means even more because of you!

Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present **VETERANS DAY**



THE RUCK FOR VETERANS event was held Oct. 19. Participants stand by the finish sign, sponsored by Beer's Automotive Services and Repair. The event raised \$7,900 for veterans.



MILE 6 was sponsored by the Sportsman's Den.



PARK NATIONAL BANK sponsored mile 8 of the 10-mile event.

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THE OHIO STATE REFORMATORY

VETERANS DAY Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present

New school district program to recognize military veteran families

The Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) and the T. D. Rutan Military Interstate Children’s Compact State Council of Ohio have created resources to help districts recognize an educator, employee, staff member, coach, booster or volunteer who has served or is currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

All districts are urged to recognize these individuals during Military Family Appreciation Month at a November board meeting.

“Behind every brave service member stands a family whose love, resilience and sacrifice strengthen the very foundation of our nation’s freedom,” said Dr. Kathy McFarland, OSBA chief executive officer. “We honor not only those who serve, but the families whose unwavering support makes this service possible.”

Several Ohio school districts have already committed to this program and will honor their team members in November. These districts are Clear Fork Valley Local (Richland County), Mad River Local (Montgomery County), Hamilton Local (Franklin County), Anthony Wayne Local (Lucas County), Hilliard City Schools and Medina County Career Center.

“Clear Fork Schools are proud of our country and the ones that serve in the military forces,” stated Clear Fork Valley Local Schools Board of Education member Brian Johnson. “We are honored to have veterans of the armed forces working in our schools and thank them

for their service to our country.”

“We take great pride in honoring our service members, veterans, and their families,” states Zach Vorst, Hilliard City Schools board member and an Ohio National Guard veteran. “Many of our schools have earned the prestigious Purple Star designation, a testament to our commitment to supporting military-connected students. We are proud to have members of our staff serving in the military, both in our schools and throughout the community, as educators, staff, volunteers and friends.”

Darin Lewis, a Medina County Career Center instructor, appreciates this recognition. “As a member of a Gold Star family, working in an environment that promotes military support and national pride is incredibly meaningful to me and my family. This commitment to honoring our country and its heroes truly resonates in our community.”

Ohio is home to more than 750,000 former service members, the sixth-highest figure in the nation. We encourage every district to identify and celebrate these military-connected Ohioans.

Doughboy Foundation sponsors annual Bells of Peace ceremony

The Doughboy Foundation will sponsor the annual Bells of Peace Ceremony on Monday, Nov. 11, at the National World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The public is invited to attend and can RSVP at https://doughboy.org/event/bells-of-peace-ceremony/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery to attend in person

A livestream of the event will be available at <https://www.youtube.com/live/dX1bsOOFpaw>.

Bells of Peace commemorates the end of World War I and pays tribute to the 116,516 Americans who died during that conflict.

November 11 is Veterans Day which honors military Veterans in the United States Armed Forces.

Originally the date was known as Armistice Day which commemorated the cessation of hostilities in WWI and is observed in other countries as Remembrance Day.

In addition to remembering the original intent of Armistice Day, we also honor the service of all American Veterans.

The main speaker will be former WWI Centennial Commissioner Mr. John Monahan, a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Army.

French General François Lecointre will offer brief remarks before awarding the Legion of Honor/French Order of the Merit to United States and French service members.

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Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present **VETERANS DAY**

Discovering the Tradition of Coins on Gravestones

Have you ever wandered through a cemetery and noticed a glint of metal resting atop a gravestone? Those small tokens, left by visitors, carry a deep sentiment that goes beyond their humble appearance. Each coin tells a story of honor, camaraderie, and remembrance.

The act of leaving coins on gravestones has a profound significance. It's a way for people to pay their respects and honor individuals who have served their country through military service. When you come across these coins, you're witnessing a tradition that speaks to the pride and appreciation we feel for those who dedicated their lives to protecting our nation.

But why coins, you might wonder? Each type of coin carries its own meaning, reflecting a unique connection between the visitor and the departed. Let's uncover the emotions tied to each coin denomination:

Penny: A penny left on a gravestone symbolizes that someone has visited the final resting place. It's a small yet poignant way of saying, "You are not forgotten." This simple act bridges the gap between the living and the deceased, letting them know that their memory lives on.

Nickel: If you encounter a nickel on a gravestone, it signifies a special bond. The person who left it behind likely went through boot camp alongside the individual buried there. It's a tribute to the shared experiences and the enduring camaraderie formed during their military training.

Dime: The presence of a dime carries a powerful message. It indicates that the visitor served together with the deceased military member. This coin represents a deep connection forged on the bat-

tlefield, highlighting the sacrifices made side by side.

Quarter: A quarter left on a gravestone reveals that a previous visitor was present when the soldier passed away. This coin holds the weight of shared grief and the memory of that somber moment. It's a way to acknowledge the significance of being there in their final hours.

The tradition of leaving coins on gravestones is a remarkable one. It transcends words, allowing emotions to be expressed through these small tokens. For the families of those who served in the military, these coins carry immense significance. The knowledge that their loved ones are remembered and respected brings comfort during their times of reflection.

This tradition is a reflection of the enduring impact that military service has on individuals and their communities. It underscores the bonds formed in times of hardship and the unbreakable connection between those who have served. When you see these coins on gravestones, take a moment to acknowledge the stories they tell and the lives they honor.

From pennies to quarters, each coin represents a unique connection to the departed and the shared experiences that bind us all. The sacrifices made by military members echo through time, and their memories live on in the hearts of those who pay their respects. So, the next time you come across a coin on a gravestone, you'll know that it carries a story of remembrance, camaraderie, and honor.

Source: <https://homemaking.com/maka/meaning-behind-the-tradition-of-coins-on-gravestones/>

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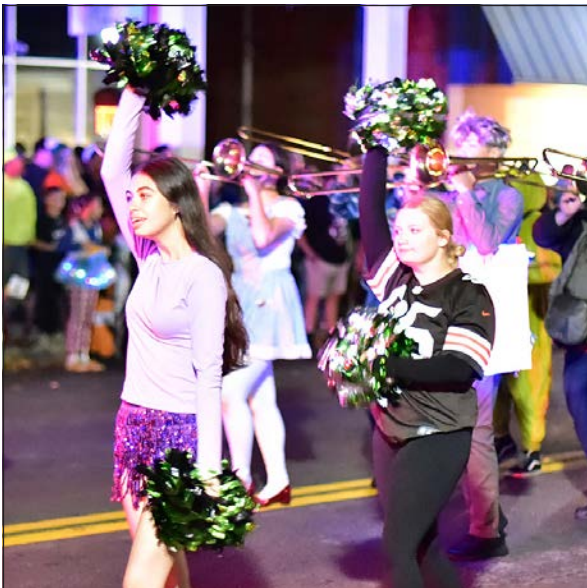
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Bellville Halloween Parade • Photos By Jeff Hoffer



Bellville Costume Contest • Photos By Jeff Hoffer



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Lexington, Ontario and Shelby stay alive in playoffs

By Kris Leiter

Welcome to week two of the playoffs tomorrow and what a great post-season we had last week!

Here are the timelines for week two of the OHSAA post season playoffs.

On Friday, Nov. 8, second-round games will be played at the better seeded team's venue. On Friday, Nov. 15, third round games will be played at neutral sites. On Friday, Nov. 22, will be regional finals.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Dec. 5-7, will be state championship games, hosted at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton.

Kick-offs are at 7 pm unless noted.

Ontario

A big hats off to Ontario, the 3 seed, (10-1) defeated the Clear Fork Colts, 14 seed, (4-6) 24-2. Ontario has been on the warpath with a great season with their stout defense and offensive Ohio State commit Bodpegn Miller. Ontario, the 3 seed, (10-1) will host Clyde, 6 seed, (8-3) at Copeland Field.

Shelby

Who let the Dogs out? Shelby, 2 seed, (10-0) is still hot as they defeated Elida, 15 seed, (3-7) 49-1.

Shelby also recently defeated Ontario recently in the regular season 50-36 in a big rival of undefeated teams.

Shelby, the 2 seed, (11-0) will host Ottawa-Glandorf, 10 seed, (6-5) this Friday at the beautiful Whippet Athletic Complex.

Lexington

The stout Lexington Minutemen, seeded 12, (6-5) entered week one of the post-season to spoil it for the Maumee Panthers by a score of 28-14, who were seeded number 5, (8-3) in Maumee's own backyard!

Lexington came to play! The Minutemen scored first and only blood in the first quarter with seven points on the board. The Panthers notched the score with 14 at halftime with Big Lex for a halftime score 14-13, with Maumee leading. Lex held the Panthers scoreless in the third quarter and by the fourth, Lex scored 15-0 and came out the victors! Lex (6-5), 12 seed, will travel to Rocky River, 4 seed, (8-3) Friday.

Division III, Region 14

- 8. Vermilion (9-2) at 1. Sandusky Perkins (10-1)
- 13. Napoleon (6-5) at 5. Bay Village Bay (7-4)
- 10. Ottawa-Glandorf (6-5) at 2. Shelby (11-0)
- 6. Clyde (8-3) at 3. Ontario (10-1)

Region 10

- 9. Richfield Revere (7-4) at 1. Toledo Central Catholic (10-1)
- 12. Lexington (6-5) at 4. Rocky River (8-3)
- 7. Parma Padua Franciscan (6-5) at 2. Medina Buckeye (10-1)
- 6. Defiance (7-4) at 3. Cleveland Benedictine (9-2)

Lucas

Lucas (5-6) fell to Malvern (10-1) by a score of 40-26 in first round. Hats off to Lucas for another successful post-season showing. The Cubs were trailing by only two points 8-6 after the first quarter. The second quarter, Malvern would put 14 points on the board as Lucas would notch eight points in the second quarter and Malvern would claim the halftime lead 22-14. Third quarter both would hold the same pace and both would score six points each. The fourth and final quarter, the Green Hornets sealed the deal with 12 points with Lucas scoring just six points in the last quarter.

Clear Fork

Clear Fork, 14 seed, (4-6) may have bowed in round one to long-time rival Ontario, 3 seed (9-1), who also is still alive in tourney play. The past few weeks of the season, the Colts had been kicking up some dirt in mighty way, and when they played Shelby just few short weeks ago, Clear Fork dominated the game for three and half

quarters and by all means, could have very easily win that game.

Crestline

Let's talk Crestline Bulldogs, the 16 seed, (5-5). Western Reserve, 1 seed (9-1) was the victor 52-0. It was nice to see Crestline enter the post-season playoffs. Since the OHSAA expanded the field to the top 16 teams, it gave the Bulldogs an exciting opportunity to extend their season.

Crestview

Crestview, the 14 seed (5-6) bowed out to Ottawa Hills, the 3 seed, (8-1) by the score of 49-12.



THE ONTARIO WARRIORS defeated the Clear Fork Colts in the first round of post-season play on Nov. 1. The Warriors advance to week two against Clyde this Friday.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS MEDINA HIGHLAND REGIONAL SEMI-FINALS · OCT. 29
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

OHSAA State Cross Country Championship

OHSAA Division II

Local Boys State Placers:

- 2nd, Latrell Hughes, junior, Lexington 15:13.46
- 10th, Chance Basilone, senior, Lexington 15:40.64
- 33rd, Xavier Trent, junior, Ontario 15:51.63
- 38th, Lincoln Rice, junior, Lexington 15:58.56
- 45th, Gage Devaney, junior, Lexington 16:03.61
- 83rd, John Bartone, sophomore, Lexington 16:29.35
- 128th, Luke Haring, Lexington, 16:59.05
- 131, Will Hooper, sophomore, Lexington 17:00.33

Local Boys State Teams:

- 2nd, Lexington 123

Local Girls State Placers:

- 12th, Katya Prykhodko, junior, Lexington 18:30.93
- 28th, Jenna Halfhill, sophomore, Lexington 18:50.15
- 40th, Brailey Slone, junior, Lexington 19:05.05
- 48th, Anna Will, sophomore, Shelby 19:10.39
- 110, Brynn Bruner junior, Lexington, 20:27.69
- 117th, Jacie Foster, junior, Lexington, 20:37.78
- 121, Hallie Durbin junior, Lexington, 20:42.07
- 147, Abby Moeglin, senior, Lexington, 21:20.91

Local Girls Teams:

- 5th, Lexington 194

OHSAA Division III

Local Boys State Placers:

- 49th, Cooper Brockway, senior, Crestview 16:25.78

Local Girls State Placers:

- 14th, Riley Patrick, junior, Mans. Christian, 18:41.48
- 16th, Meagan Them, senior, Mans. Christian, 18:46.44
- 28th, Leyna Gerich, senior, Crestview, 18:59.41
- 44th, Alina Durbin, junior, Crestview, 19:17.50
- 47th, Chloe Sturts, senior, Lucas, 19:20.42
- 98th, Emmie Kemp, junior, Crestview, 20:27.31
- 102, Layne Kemp, Crestview, freshman, 20:30.34
- 119, Audrey Wolford, junior, Crestview, 20:55.25
- 141, Mia Hurichouser, senior, Crestview, 21:31.07
- 153, Georgia McFarland, senior, Crestview, 21:52.51

Local Girls Teams:

- 7th, Crestview, 220



Photos By Jenna Wolford

(LEFT PHOTO) CRESTVIEW SENIOR Leyna Gerich placed 28th in the Division III girls race. (Right photo) Crestview senior Cooper Brockway placed 49th in the Division III boys race.



THE CRESTVIEW HIGH SCHOOL Girls Cross Country Team took seventh at the OHSAA State Cross Country Championships in the District III race on Nov. 2. The girls tied the school record for placing at the event. Senior Cooper Brockway ran as an individual for the boys. He placed 49th. Pictured are Coach Stephanie Brockway, Gracie Gallaway, Laynie Kemp, Alina Durbin, Leyna Gerich, Cooper Brockway, Emmie Kemp, Mia Humrichouser, Audrey Wolford, Georgia McFarland and Coach Amy McFarland.



Photo By Jenna Wolford

MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN junior Riley Patrick placed 14th with 18:41.48 and senior Meagan Them placed 16th with 18:46.44 in the Division III race.



THE LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BOYS team was state runner-up in the OHSAA Championships Division II race on Nov. 2. The girls team took fifth in their race. Latrell Hughes was individual state runner-up with a new school record Holder. Lexington athletes named All-Ohio were Chance Basilone, Katya Prykhodko and Jenna Halfhill. Lincoln Rice, Gage Devaney and John Bartone had PRs to complete the top five for the team.



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL junior Xavier Trent qualified for the OHSAA cross country state finals. He was given a send-off by high school students on Friday. He finished 33rd with a time of 15:51.63 in the Division II race.



ONTARIO STINGEL ELEMENTARY hosted "Flight Night" recently. Families were able to participate in many activities to promote STEM and reading. Teachers prepared activities ranging from paper airplane throwing to karaoke. There were guest readers and food trucks too.

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