



TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com

11.14.24



Veterans Day remembered with parade, ceremony on the square

Photos and Article By Traci Little

The 2024 Veterans Day Parade took place in downtown Mansfield on Nov. 11 at 10:30 am. After the parade, people gathered at the gazebo in Central Park for a ceremony, presented by the Richland County Joint Veterans Council.

The program included a welcome by Bruce Phipps, Commander, Joint Veterans Council, a presentation of colors by the Color Guards, the National Anthem, sung by John Darby, the pledge of allegiance by Josh Hurrell followed by an invocation by Pastor Carol Kilgore of Clay Memorial Lutheran Church. There was a wreath presentation by the Jared Mansfield Chapter, DAR and Debra Robinson introduced the speaker. The keynote address was given by Kari Pfeifer.

Some meaningful thoughts by the Veterans Day Ceremony speaker, Kari Pfeifer, State Commander, VFW Department of Ohio:

“As a veteran, I stand before you with a profound sense of pride, humility, and gratitude. It is essential to celebrate the service of all our veterans: those who fought during times of war and those who dedicated themselves to maintaining peace. The sacrifices and accomplishments made by today’s generation of patriots are numerous, and their dedication to our way of life and the values on which our country was founded serve as a powerful reminder that tyranny and evil will never prevail. The lessons imparted by veterans should never be forgotten, and it is up to each of us to preserve the legacy of their service.

We must ensure that the spirit, faith, and democracy that our veterans embody continue to inspire future generations. It should be our shared mission to educate and remind young people that the American spirit is defined by resilience, selflessness, and commitment. Today’s world often focuses on division, but Veterans Day allows us to remember that, despite our different beliefs and lifestyles, our collective desire for a better life has always unified us.

To my brothers and sisters in arms, here and around the world, I wish you a happy Veterans Day and offer my sincere and heartfelt thanks.”

Kari Pfeifer is a lifelong resident of Crestline and joined the Ohio Air National Guard 179th Airlift Wing as an Aeromedical Services Technician in April 1990. After 21 years of service, she retired as a Master Sergeant in July 2011. During her time with the 179th, she deployed across the United States and to overseas locations including Saudi Arabia and Oman.

Following her military career, her commitment to service continued. She became an active member of the Harley Helfrich VFW Post 2920 in Crestline, Ohio, holding positions such as Post Jr. Vice Commander, Quartermaster and Trustee. She served as District 10 Com-

mander of the VFW in 2016-’17 and as VFW Department of Ohio Co-Chair for Veteran and Military Support from 2013 to 2020.

In 2017, Pfeifer was appointed to the National VFW Women Veterans Advisory Committee by National Commander-in-Chief Keith Harman, representing the Big 10 Conference. She also served on the Executive Committee for the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame from 2014 to 2020, chairing the committee from 2016 to 2020, and is a member of the Ohio War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veteran Children Scholarship Board.

In June 2024, Pfeifer was elected as the VFW Department of Ohio Commander. Her mission remains clear: to support the veterans who came before her and those who continue to serve our great nation.

Following the address, there was a salute to the honored dead by the Richland County Joint Veterans Burial Squad, Taps, and a closing benediction by Pastor Carol Kilgore. *(See More Photos Page 6)*

Sutton Bank donation kicks-off shelter’s Richland Gives fundraiser

As the Domestic Violence Shelter prepares for the 2024 Richland Gives fundraising campaign hosted by the Richland County Foundation has announced the Phillips Family Foundation and Sutton Bank have already kicked off the fund drive.


The Phillips Family Foundation has pledged to match contributions to The Shelter up to the first \$50,000. Sutton Bank recently stepped in as the first donor with a check for \$12,500. Thanks to the Phillips Family Foundation’s matching gift pledge, Sutton’s \$12,500 donation doubles to \$25,000. The Richland Gives campaign officially begins on Nov. 18, but supporters are invited to start giving now by choosing The Domestic Violence Shelter from the options at www.RichlandGives.org.

“The Phillips Family Foundation and Sutton Bank have been tremendous friends and supporters of The Shelter for many years,” said Executive Director of The Shelter Colleen Rice. “The Shelter is currently facing a budget shortfall at a time when we are operating beyond our capacity and using overflow rooming resources. If our community takes advantage of this matching gift offer, we will have an additional \$100,000 with which to serve our most vulnerable neighbors. This is vital support that could not have come at a better time, and we couldn’t be more grateful for the Phillip’s Family Foundation and Sutton Bank’s generosity and leadership.”

(Continued on Page 5)



Photo By Mark Shutt

 **THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER**
— By Ian Stumbo —

One thing I don't think I have done in all my years of writing these reviews is do a writeup on a classic movie.

Just in time for Thanksgiving, one of my all time favorites called *Planes, Trains and Automobiles* is being re-released on 4K this week.

Written and directed by John Hughes, Steve Martin plays weary traveler Neal Page. Page just wants to get home to spend Thanksgiving with his family until he encounters the obnoxious yet sweet Del Griffith (John Candy).

Together, Neal and Del encounter several modes of transportation, an unfortunate hotel room stay, a profane tirade with a rental car agent and an exploding car all to make it home for the holiday.

This movie has held up so well over the years. Martin and Candy give terrific performanc-

es. Martin is effective as the guy about to fly off the handle and Candy has that sweetness and charm he brought to every role. Thank goodness for the late great John Hughes and his immense talents as a writer and director. He really knew how to write memorable characters and even more memorable moments.

Hughes was known for writing movies for teens around this time (*Sixteen Candles*, *The Breakfast Club*, *Weird Science*) that it was interesting to see him tell an adult story and do it in such a way that had a great deal of heart.

If you have never seen *Planes, Trains and Automobiles* (or even if you have) it is definitely one to watch this Thanksgiving season. It still holds up really well watching these two comedic geniuses at work in one of the great comedies of the 80s.



RCCS honors and celebrates National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month, and Richland County Children Services (RCCS), celebrates the families who have grown through adoption and brings attention to the thousands of children with legal permanency goals of adoption who are at risk of aging out of foster care without permanent family connections.

This year's theme "Honoring Youth: Strengthening Pathways to Lasting Bonds," emphasizes the importance of child welfare professionals helping young people build lifelong networks of support and community. The focus is on providing a sense of belonging and relational permanency for youth in foster care, promoting family, community, and cultural connections.

This year's theme to honor youth can help the thousands of children and teens across the country who are waiting to be adopted. More than 3,000 youths in Ohio are awaiting to be adopted.

So far this year, RCCS has had 24 children find a forever home through adoption. There are still 18 children in our care waiting for a permanent home and 124 in the foster care system.


"Richland County Children Services continues to create new families and provide the resources and support they need to thrive and grow," said Brigitte Coles, RCCS Community Engagement Specialist.

We need more heroes to help make a difference in a child's life! If you are ready to provide a child with a forever home, please contact RCCS today about our foster/adoptive parent program. Please call 419-774-4100 for more information and to start the process or visit our website <https://www.richlandcountychildrengservices.org/foster-adoption/foster-adoption-inquiry-and-resources>.

To be a foster and adoptive parent:

- Must be at least 18 years of age or older.
- Must be a resident of Richland County or surrounding counties.
- Can be married, single or divorced.
- Can have other children.
- Can own or rent your home or apartment.
- Must consent to a criminal background check

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Tribune-Courier

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News Briefs

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. monthly corporate board meeting will be held on Dec. 11, at 2 pm at 2131 Park Avenue West, Ontario. For additional information contact Susie Danuloff at sdanuloff@aaa5ohio.org or 567-247-7105.

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. 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.

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 acmber-aftshow@gmail.com.

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.

Main Street in Bellville will host a Christmas parade on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 11 am. After the parade, those attending can visit the township building (old fire station) for hot cocoa, cookies, hot dogs, crafts for kids, horse and carriage rides and a visit with Santa. All activities and refreshments are free. For parade entry information email tina-schristmasparade@gmail.com.

The Wings of the Viking New Opera Workshop with Sophia Pavlenko will be held Sunday, Nov. 24, at 3 pm at The Ohio State University's Founders Auditorium, 1760 University Dr., Mansfield.

The event is free and is for singers and musicians.

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Rev. Joan VanBecelaere to speak on "Implications of the election — no matter how it turns out" at 10:30 am on Sunday,

Nov. 17. This service will be held off-site. For information visit www.allsoulsuohio.org.

Area Global Methodist Churches will gather at 4 pm on Wednesday, Nov. 23 at Trinity Grace Fellowship, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield, to celebrate Christ the King.

There will be a potluck dinner following the service. Those attending are asked to bring something to share. Praise music will be provided by The Sunshine Band. Everyone is invited.

LifeWise Madison will host a time of worship on Saturday, Nov. 16, from 4–6 pm at Trinity Grace Fellowship, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield. Local bands and church praise teams will be featured. All are welcome and light refreshments will be served. This is a benefit to raise money for the LifeWise Madison program.

For more information contact Pam Adkins at 567-274-8532 or pamelaadkins@lifewise.org.

First Congregational Church, 640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield, will host the Bowling Green State University Men's Chorus on Friday, Nov. 17, 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.

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

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James A. Courtney Award recipients announced

Mechanics Bank has announced that Megan Boggs, Kelsey Carver, Sally Caskey and Angie Kern have been awarded the James A. Courtney Award. The award is presented to Mechanics employees who best exemplify the company’s mission — “to pursue excellence in every possible way to enrich the lives of people and the communities we serve.” The award is presented on a peer nomination basis.

Megan Boggs joined Mechanics in 2015 as a Customer Service Representative. She later served as a Customer Service Specialist, Senior Customer Service Specialist and Assistant Branch Manager prior to her current position of Answer Center Specialist. Megan holds a bachelor’s degree in Business Management from Mount Vernon Nazarene University.

Kelsey Carver joined Mechanics in 2021 as a Brand Impact Specialist. Kelsey holds a bachelor’s



Megan Boggs



Kelsey Carver



Sally Caskey



Angie Kern

degree in Communications from Marietta College.

Sally Caskey joined Mechanics in 2005 and has served as a Senior Staff Accountant and Assistant Controller prior to her current position of Shareholder Relations and Corporate Administration. Sally holds a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Bowling Green State University.

Angie Kern joined Mechanics in 2019 as a Customer Service Representative. Angie later served as a Customer Service Specialist and Senior Customer Service Specialist prior to her current position as Assistant Branch Manager.

The James A. Courtney Award, named for Mechanics’ former President, is the company’s most prestigious recognition of performance. Mechanics Bank is an independent, community bank with nine convenient locations.

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: FirstChristianChurch,Mansfield,Ohio

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
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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

Mansfield • Ontario • Ashland
419-522-5211

Home Energy Assistance Program offers assistance to Ohioans

The Ohio Department of Development and your Area Agency on Aging want to remind older Ohioans that assistance is available to help with their home energy bills. The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps Ohioans at or below 175% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of up to seven members and 60% of State Median Income for a household of eight or more members to pay their heating bills.

Applied directly to the customer's utility or bulk fuel bill, the benefit can help manage heating costs. Older Ohioans may go to their local Area Agency on Aging office for help with assembling the required documents and completing their HEAP application. They may also visit www.energyhelp.ohio.gov to apply online or to download a copy of the application.

When applying, individuals need to have copies of the following documents:

- Most recent utility bills.
- A list of all household members (including birth dates and Social Security numbers).
- Proof of income for the past 30 days for all household members (12 months for certain income types).
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members.
- Proof of disability (if applicable).

HEAP benefits are applied to an individual's energy bill after Jan. 1, 2025. Applications for the HEAP program must be received by May 31, 2025.

For more information or assistance with applying for a HEAP benefit, contact Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc at 419-524-4144 and ask for a navigator.

To be connected to a local energy assistance provider, call 800-282-0880 (hearing impaired clients may dial 711 for assistance) or visit www.energyhelp.ohio.gov.



LANA GARBERICH'S eighth grade art class at Ontario Middle School has worked to produce one winner to represent Ontario Middle School in the Lion's Club annual poster contest. This year's theme was "Peace Without Limits." Forty students participated and the winning poster selected belonged to Braylee Morehead. Randy Boyce, president of the Ontario Lions Club, selected Braylee's entry based on her originality and creativeness. Her poster will be in competition with other students from around the world.

•Sutton Bank donation kicks-off shelter's Richland Gives fundraiser

(Continued from Front Page)

It takes \$125,000 a month to operate the 24-hour shelter, crisis hotline, and sexual assault services. The Shelter is proud to have earned a Candid Platinum Seal for financial transparency and devotes less than 10% of its funds to administrative costs.

Last year, The Shelter served 160 survivors of trauma and abuse by providing 7,353 nights of safe shelter and support. On average, The Shelter estimates it costs \$200 a night to serve and house each survivor.

By making this generous contribution, the Phillips Family Foundation and Sutton Bank are not only supporting the mission of the Richland County Domestic Violence Shelter, but also encouraging other members of the community to support The Shelter with donations as well.

The 2024 Richland Gives fundraising event begins at 7 am on Nov. 18 and continues through 7 pm on Dec. 3. Those wishing to donate to The Shelter can visit www.RichlandGives.org and choose The Domestic Violence Shelter.

The Domestic Violence Shelter has been aiding and empowering survivors of abuse, violence, and trauma since 1978. The shelter offers survivors comprehensive support services and resources while working to prevent domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and teen dating violence. For immediate assistance, call our 24/7 hotline at 419-774-5840. To learn more about the shelter and how you can support our work visit www.TheDVShelter.com.

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

- Sondra "Sandy" L. Benick, November 4
- Dane Ryan Lester, November 4
- Paul Rupert Otterbacher, November 5
- Martin "Marty" Erwin Boyce, November 6
- Adam Michael Christie, November 6
- Karolyn J. Coffee, November 7
- Marie Wappner, November 7
- Donald Gene Cole Jr., November 8
- Lena "Rose" Holzworth, November 8
- Gary Maxheimer, November 11

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Veterans Day 2024



Photos By Traci Little

Veterans Day 2024



Photos By Traci Little

Veterans Day 2024



Photos By Traci Little

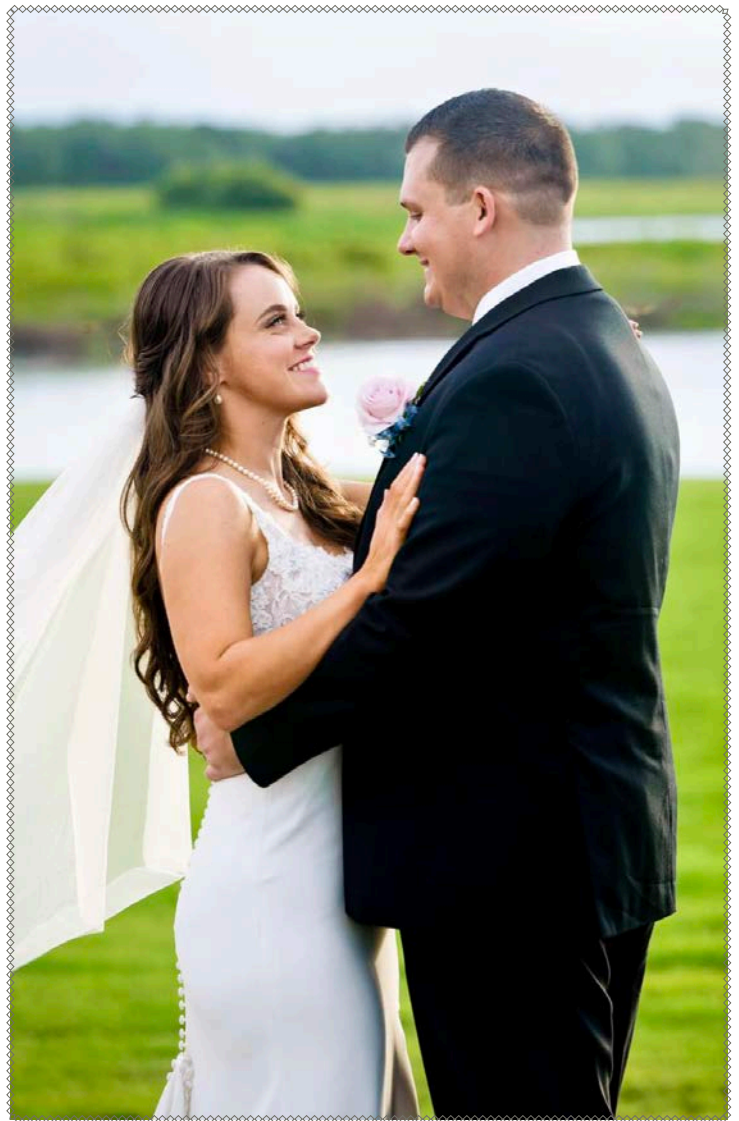


Photos By Traci Little

A CROWD GATHERED at the Mansfield Cemetery Veterans Honor section to honor the unveiling of the Richland County Veterans Honor Wall, a lasting tribute to the bravery and dedication of local heroes. This special project, made possible through the dedication of Purdy Construction, provides a place for remembrance and respect for our veterans and their families. The wall is located in Mansfield Cemetery, 389 Altamont Ave., Mansfield. The 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) was the first interment. 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 permanently at the Veterans Honor Wall.



Wishes and Weddings



*Mr. and Mrs. Cameron Kindred (Allison Seeliger)
June 22, 2024*

Officiant: Pastor Steve Carretto

Ceremony and Reception: Lavender on the Lake

Photographer: George Street Photography

Florist: Wedding Day Flower Rentals

Gown: Justin Alexander

Design from Bridal Gallery Orlando

Residing: Orlando, Florida

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Wishes and Weddings



*Mr. and Mrs. Richard Markeson (Gabbie Parnell)
April 15, 2024
Officiant: Father of the groom
Ceremony & Reception: Louisburg, NC
Gown: Ayla's Bridal and Boutique (Mansfield)
Residing: Raleigh, NC*

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Allison Cole Photography



Wishes and Weddings



*Mr. & Mrs. Bryce Anderson (Taylor Swindall)
 August 24, 2024
 Ceremony & Reception: Mount Vernon Estates,
 Ashland, Ohio
 Officiant: Reverend Doctor Nate Meiers
 Photographer: Dennis Crider Photography,
 Loudonville, Ohio
 Caterer: Bella's 220, Ashland, Ohio*



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Wishes and Weddings



*Mr. & Mrs. Tyler Gorbett (Melissa Magyer)
August 17, 2024*

*Officiant: Father Timothy Huffman
Ceremony: St Peter's Catholic Church,
Steubenville, OH*

*Reception: Pittsburgh Airport Marriott
Photographer/Video: K & M Photography*

DJ: Finest Events by Jonathan Mihellis

*Dessert: Pittsburgh cookie table with over 4,000
cookies made by bride's mother, Mary Magyer; aunt,
Kathy Cicchirillo; and friend, Christine Wroniak
Residing: Columbus, OH*




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@ijartistryphotography

Hello






I'm Ivie-Jean,
and I would love to
work with you!
Message me on Instagram
to book your session!

Colonel Kmetz speaks at OSU-M Veterans Breakfast

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Ohio State University at Mansfield marked Veterans Day with a special appearance by Col. Kenneth Kmetz, a 1998 graduate of Ohio State Mansfield and Deputy Wing Commander of the 179th Cyberspace Wing of the Ohio Air National Guard.

A Veterans Breakfast was held on Nov. 6 at 9 am in Eisenhower Hall's Marketplace.

Col. Kmetz, who has served in the Air National Guard for over 30 years, gave the keynote address during the annual breakfast. Throughout his career, he has held key roles in civil engineering, security forces, and maintenance groups, playing an essential part in maintaining air and cyberspace operations on state and national levels.

"It was an honor to serve our country, and I looked forward to honoring others who have served, including those lost in battle," Kmetz said. "Today, we recognized the patriotism, love of country, and sacrifice of all veterans."

A veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Kmetz has received multiple awards, including Meritorious Service Medals and Outstanding Unit Awards, highlighting his dedication and leadership.

The breakfast welcomed veterans, their families, students, staff, faculty, and community members to honor veterans' service. Jason Opal, dean of Ohio State Mansfield, said, "We were honored to welcome Col. Kmetz. He embodies the spirit of duty, purpose, and selflessness we celebrated on this day."

Reflecting on his military experience, Kmetz shared, "The military provided me a place where I fit in and was part of something bigger than myself. It challenged me to be better while providing opportunities for growth."

He also acknowledged the respect shown to military members in society, contrasting it with experiences in other countries. "Countless times, strangers thank me for my service. That is an honor, and I'm humbled every single time. The greatest strength of the military isn't our technology but the support of the American people," he said.

Kmetz emphasized the importance of family and community support, adding, "If my wife hadn't supported me being in the military, I would have left 32 years ago." In his speech, Kmetz shared several inspiring quotes like these:

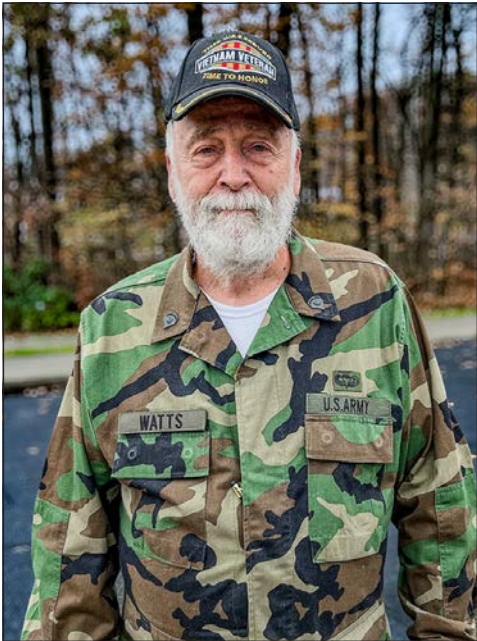
"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction... it must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same." — Ronald Reagan

"Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened." — Billy Graham

He closed with, "We don't know them all, but we owe them all. May God bless America, may God bless you and your family, and may His grace bring you peace."



Col. Kenneth Kmetz



ROBERT WATTS attended The Ohio State University Veterans Breakfast on Nov. 6. He said he remembers being drafted into the military out of Norwalk, in June of 1970. He served two years, and he's glad he did. "I was a good influence on my son who just retired from the military after 22 years. He joined right after 9-11. I'm really proud that I was able to be an example to him."



Photos By Traci Little



Photos By Teresa Vore

A NEW SIGN HAS BEEN ADDED to the Louis "Louie" Beach Skatepark at Veterans Park in Shelby. This sign project was coordinated with 3rd Life Upcycling and Likes Metal Works LLC. Welders Scott Wagner, Grant Smith and Aaron McManis of ArcelorMittal fabricated the pieces for the new ramp where the new sign is attached, as well as two bases for the skatepark. Carpenter Donald Carr painted the sign. BJ Price and Adam McElroy are the co-founders of Skate Ohio and worked to make the park a reality. ArcelorMittal funded the entire addition to the skatepark in honor of Louie Beach, who lost his life in an industrial accident. The grand reopening of the skatepark was on Oct. 25.

Local schools attend OSBA Student Achievement Fair in Columbus

A teacher academy, a student-led credit union and a tiny house project are among the dozens of programs featured at this year's Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Student Achievement Fair.

The Student Achievement Fair at the 2024 OSBA Capital Conference and Trade Show highlights outstanding learning initiatives created by Ohio public school districts. The celebration of learning and

achievement, in its 26th year, was held Nov. 11, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. More than 6,000 public education leaders attended the Capital Conference from Nov. 10-12.

Nearly 500 exhibitors displayed their goods and services. Local participating school districts include Hillsdale Local (Ashland), Mansfield City.



SAMARITAN HOSPITAL FOUNDATION The Power of Youth Award recipients Hayden Dipuccio and Maria Welch; and Samaritan Hospital Foundation Heart of Giving Award recipients Dr. Jim Patterson, Sandy Burkholder, Christina Teevan and Ken Milligan

Samaritan Hospital Foundation hosts appreciation dinner

Each year in October, a crowd of nearly 150 gathers to celebrate individuals in our community who give generously of their time, talent, treasure and service to help others.

This year, the Samaritan Hospital Foundation's (SHF) annual Heart of Giving Appreciation Dinner honored four individuals with Heart of Giving Awards and a new award added last year to recognize a young person in our community who goes above and beyond for others — this year SHF recognized two outstanding youth, Hayden Dipuccio and Maria Welch.

The event began with videos highlighting how SHF grants are positively impacting the health and wellness of individuals in Ashland County and the hospital.

These include Ashland County individuals with special needs and disabilities and their families were invited to the Ashland County Fairgrounds for an evening of all-inclusive fun!

The Summer Splash event, organized and funded by Samaritan Hospital Foundation, included a variety of activities and food throughout the evening. Individuals with special needs and their families enjoyed tethered hot air balloon rides, a petting zoo, motorcycle rides, fire trucks from the Ashland Fire Department, nail painting, a catered meal and live music.

During the dinner, SHF called members of the Widows Sons motorcycle group to the stage to thank them for their incredible turnout at the Summer Splash event that helped make the day unforgettable as children and adults alike were all smiles riding on the backs of motorcycles, and for the work they do year-round to raise funds and give back to the Ashland Community.

Over the past 11 years, SHF has granted \$538,000 in scholastic awards to the next generation of nursing and allied medical students. This year, the Foundation, through the Paul R. Myers Medical Scholastic Award and the Dr. Philip E. Myers Medical Scholastic Award, approved two of the highest scholastic awards granted to date. Katia Ringler and Frankie Dinsmore each received a \$7,000 scholastic award toward their education in recognition of their outstanding academic achievements and community involvement.

Introduced in 2023, SHF added The Power of Youth Award to recognize a young person in our community who shares his or her time and talents to help others. This year, two youth were recognized with the award that included a \$5,000 check to go toward their education.

Hayden Dipuccio, a senior at Ashland High School as well as a three-sport athlete and an honor roll student, was recognized with The Power of Youth Award for going out of his way to be inclusive and for his servant's heart — from taking the time to help a younger autistic child navigate a high school event and donating signs from his Yard Card business to brighten someone's day, to serving as a volunteer at A Night to Shine with the Ashland Special Needs Minis-

try. Hayden gives without expecting anything in return.

Maria Welch graduated from Crestview High School in 2024 with a 4.0 GPA. She is currently taking courses through NCSC in their Biology program and has been accepted into The Ohio State University Pre-med Biology program. She is the daughter of two military veterans who both experienced major health issues as a result of their active duty. Because of her parents, Maria is passionate about becoming a physician to dedicate her life to bringing light and healing to the health issues that impact veterans and active military members. For her aspirations to care for those who serve our country, Maria was recognized with The Power of Youth Award.

During the Heart of Giving Awards portion of the event, SHF recognized four individuals in our community for their faithful service to make a difference in the lives of others:

Sandy Burkholder was honored for decades of serving the Ashland community with her time and talents alongside her employer, Armstrong, through the company's community initiatives such as Breaking Bread that has brought in over \$100,000 and more than 200,000 pounds of food to help those in need and Healing Heroes that raises money to provide service dogs for disabled veterans. Sandy also generously shares her faith and her 100-acre property to help young people find their way to Christ through the ministry she started with her husband, Jon. Pathfinder Farms is the Burkholder's Christian-based ministry that has grown to offer a variety of programs to help kids build life skills. To date, Sandy and Jon have reached hundreds of young men and women in the Ashland area — helping them to find their way.

Ken Milligan was recognized for a lifetime of serving the Ashland community, including as United Way president, serving on the board of trustees, and as campaign chair resulting in the first campaign to top the \$1 million mark! Ken has also served on the Ashland Community Foundation board of trustees and as board chair, Ashland Chamber of Commerce board of directors and is recipient of the Jim Lingenfelter Service Award, Associated Charities board president, Ashland Downtown Development Committee, Ashland School Foundation Advisory Committee as member and on the board of directors, Samaritan Hospital Endowment Advisory Committee, and many others. He has also served for 30 years in many capacities through his church, Trinity Lutheran.

Dr. Jim Patterson, retired Ashland optometrist and retired Colonel from the Air National Guard, was recognized for a lifetime of giving back through caring for the vision needs of the Ashland community, volunteering through vision mission trips overseas, and, last but not least, serving our country as Commander of the Medical Group for the Ohio Air National Guard 179th Airlift Wing.

Patterson used his optometry skills to serve on 15 vision mission

(Continued on Page 15)

Honor and Merit Rolls

Clear Fork High School 1st Nine Weeks



MACKENZIE REESE'S preschool students at Ontario had a harvest celebration recently.

ALL A

Seniors — Melodie Blubaugh, Noel Cline, Carter King, Fisher McLaughlin, Emily Montgomery, Alexander Ousley, Rebecca Pryor, Reina Rehberg, Peyton Salisbury, Kaybria Sims and Lola Stillion

Juniors — Brinley Barnett, Benjamin Campbell, Milee Carillon, Xander Cyphers, Kaiden Dettmer, Madelyn Hite, Jasmine Johnson, Zoe Lamp, Jozie Lloyd, Savannah Mazzola, Austin McFerren, Kenadee Muntain, Hunter Rahall, Bailee Riddle, Selena Ross, Lilliana Trunzo, Gavin Walker, Mason Walls, Sophia Wilson and Ashtyn Wine

Sophomores — Asia Bechtel, Taylor Bly, Jadalyn Brokaw, Grace Burgholder, Mackenzie Daniels, Layla Daugherty, Aiden Demoss, Jonathan Evans, Mariah Hatfield, Alaina Hawkins, Davis Hoeflich, Marcus Hoeflich, Caleb Mack, Brody McGregor, Alekai Price, Samuel Robinson, Hudson Schag, Ella Schmidt, Kabuto Setser, Hailly Thrush, Arianna Vanhooose, Austin VanHouten and Owen Weiser

Freshmen — Elyza Baumgardner, Ian Black, Gunnar Dill, Alyson Geary, Audrey Haring, Alyssa Johnson, Luke Keever, Maria Knight, McKenley Knuckles, Katelyn Lucci, Kylie Ludwig, Karlynn Mortimer, Adelyn New, Paige Raike, Quentin Rinehart, Emma Shultz, Adelyn Snyder, Quinn Stover, Addison Thrush, Allison Walker and Malia Walker

HONOR ROLL

Seniors — Judah Chamberlain, Lexie Colegrove, Emily Conrad, Venessa Eicher, Christopher Fenton, Brooklynn Lutzmann, Peyton Rader, Arianna Reid, Dawson Staley, Mason Wade, Christian Walker

Juniors — Ethan Beck, Piper Black, Alyssa Burger, McKinlie Carpenter, Ava Carr, Mattie Colegrove, Gwyneth Jones, Bryar Ousley, Porter Schmidt, Clinton Stallard and Audrey Vanausdle

Sophomores — Melissa Atherton, Zane Atkinson, Mary(Max) Betts, Cooper Brokaw, Addison Brown, Wesley Bunnell, Christopher Bush, Kane Delancy, Gavin Domka, Benjamin Dudley, Christian Edwards, Allie Emerson, Tiegana Franta, Noah Goodman, Charles Granholm, Erika Hollar, Kelsea Hunter, Hannah Kinnard, Joseph Lykins, Avery McWilliams, Katrina Neal, Kendyll Renz, Ava Roberts, Ashtyn Salisbury, Addison Schlosser, Deacon Sims, Chloe Steward, Wade Traxler, Addison Weikle and Adalyn Wise

Freshmen — Matthew Anders, Nathaniel Buck, Chesnie Flynn, Broghan Gatton, Zayden Haynes, Ashlyn Inman, Brooklynn Kriedman, Keegan Lorentz, Ethan McFerren, Aubryn Nickoli, Kendall Oswalt, Braylen Peteri, Madilynn Peters, Jasper Picchioni, Sophia Schag, Caitlin Seward, Ashley Smith, Marley Strouse, Alina Van Horn and Victoriya Vaughn

MERIT ROLL

Seniors — Kaiden Bloomfield, Sarah Brook, Kylie McGinty, Chloe Mowry, Evan Tahmalwash, Emery Volz, Dillion Wheeler and Alexis Youngblood

Juniors — Tobin Amos, Ohio Barber, Sabree Caudill, Reece Cook, Chance Duncan, Xander Frederick, Lucas Goodman, Aidan Haring, Addison Johnson, Nicholas Martin, Briana McGinty, Garrett Ranshaw, Hadley Slaughter, Faith Smith, Ian Symsick, Sophia Wharton, Nathaniel Wine and Jacob Zac

Sophomores — Morgan Armstrong, Aubree Barnes, Arianna Bostic, Audrey Bowman, Weston Coble, Carter Coale, Keegan Cooper, Wade Davis, Colin Hull, Christian Kinnamon, Brynley Kirkpatrick, Broegan Lyon, Isabella McKenna, Zachary Nelson, Hayden Northrup, Marin Ocheltree, Rogan O'Leary, Mya Perry, Marley Pinkerton, Alexis Radcliffe, Isaac Ross, Bryn Sansom, Alex Schlosser, Miley Shafer, Peyton Sickles, Nicholas Skaggs, Madisyn Smith, Cami Smitticus, Kaiden Thomas, Tristin Thornton, Jerry Vigil, Owen Weikle, Zach Wynn and Abbygail Zack

Freshmen — Aiden Armstrong, Conner Bailey, Kendall Baughman, Wyatt Bunnell, Payton Dewey, Devin Dorion, Braeden Hill, Gage Hoffman, Areanna Hood, Malayna Kehl, Jyllian Langer, Presley Lilly, Brody Oswalt, Jaxon Oswalt, Ashley Peterson, Cole Sellers, Jaydee Skeens, Zhoie Steagall, Collin Thompson and Barrett Walters

•SHF hosts appreciation dinner

(Continued from Page 14)

trips to the Dominican Republic where he and his team would set up clinics in churches and church members homes to reach people unable to travel to cities for care. Jim and his team served the vision needs to restore sight to thousands of people as well as their spiritual needs by teaching them about Jesus.

Christina Teevan was recognized for answering God's call through decades of serving, loving, and caring for families and individuals with special needs. As Executive Director of the Ashland Special Needs Ministry, she serves Ashland families who have special needs by providing respite care that addresses the individual needs of each family. Christina also serves as a leader at Joni and Friends camp, speaks at special needs conferences to share her knowledge with others, and started a program called Pure Joy at Grace Church, which is a Sunday School for kids and adults with special needs. And when she isn't doing all of this, she's attending IEP meetings, taking meals to families, driving families to appointments, and offering to help in any way she can.



MRS. ECHELBERGER'S preschool class at Ontario made pumpkins while working on shape recognition and emotions. Students chose to make happy pumpkins, silly pumpkins and grumpy pumpkins.

Nominations being accepted for leadership, economic awards

The Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development is accepting nominations for the 2025 ATHENA Leadership Award and the RCDG Economic Excellence Awards. Winners will be announced and honored at the Chamber's Evening of Excellence Annual Meeting and Dinner in February.

One outstanding woman in the community will be honored with the ATHENA Leadership Award, sponsored by Park National Bank. The Richland Area Chamber became the new home for the ATHENA Leadership

Award in 2016. It was previously awarded through the TWIN (A Tribute to Women & Industry) Committee in Richland County since 1989. A panel of past ATHENA Award recipients reviews the nominations, which are due Jan. 10.

The Chamber will also honor Economic Excellence Awards winners. The RCDG Economic Excellence Awards are an opportunity to highlight a business, individual, or organization that has significantly impacted the growth and development of the local

economy. Economic Excellence Award nominations are due January 17, 2025.

Nominations for these awards can be submitted at <https://richlandareachamber.com>.

The annual meeting will be held on Feb. 12, at the Mid-Ohio Conference Center, starting with cocktail hour at 5:30 pm, followed by dinner and awards at 6:30 pm.

Early bird ticket price is \$50 through Jan. 31. Call 419- 522-3211 or visit www.RichlandAreaChamber.com for more information or to learn about sponsorship packages.



SECOND GRADE STUDENTS at Stingel Elementary recently visited the Ohio Bird Sanctuary for a field trip to learn about nature and birds. Students took a nature walk and completed activities to learn about the dangers birds face during migration. Students learned about birds of prey and saw a few up close. Pictured are Tonya Winningham's students on the field trip.

MWCD announces new pump track at Tappan Lake Park

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) has announced the installation of a brand-new pump track, set to open in Spring 2025 at Tappan Lake Park. This new addition will cater to outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels, offering a safe environment for biking, skateboarding, rollerblading and scootering. The pump track will be located near the park's swim beach, with easy access to other amenities, including hiking trails and picnic areas.

This new track is part of the park's ongoing commitment to expand recreational offerings. A pump track is a circular trail designed with a series of rollers, banked turns and smooth terrain, allowing riders to navigate the course without pedaling, using body movements to maintain momentum.

"We're thrilled to offer a new outdoor attraction that encourages active recreation for individuals and families," said Pete Novotny, MWCD Chief of Recreation. "The pump track is designed to be inclusive, so whether you're new to riding or an experienced pro, you'll find something exciting and challenging."

Along with the pump track, additional amenities are planned at the park entrance to complement the recently opened Welcome Center including a new shelter and firepit area perfect for gatherings and events, along with scenic walking paths through wildflowers.

For guests seeking active recreation, the area will feature a variety of new amenities: a basketball court, two pickleball courts, and outdoor lawn games like concrete corn hole and table tennis. Additionally, a dedicated gaga ball area invites group play for visitors of all ages. A new playground will further enhance family-friendly activities, complete with climbing rocks, swings, creative play structures, and shaded seating areas to relax and enjoy the natural surroundings.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned for the grand opening in Spring 2025, with activities and events to be announced closer to the date. Tappan Lake Park invites the community to stay tuned for updates and to visit the park year-round for a variety of recreational activities.

For information visit www.mwcd.org.

Students earn scholarships

Students from our area were among over 750 students who earned scholarships at Baldwin Wallace University this fall.

Local students earning scholarships were Wyatt Estep, a graduate of Galion High School majoring in music education, earning the E.S. & M.R. Griffiths Scholarship; Jack Hiebel, a graduate of Lexington High School majoring in marketing, earning the Boesel School of Business — Undergraduate Scholarship; and Ellie Snyder, a graduate of Mansfield Senior High School majoring in communication sciences and disorders, earning the Earl S. Buck Scholarship and the Jo-chum-Moll Scholarship.



JULIE BUKER'S ART 3 & 4 students at Ontario High School created multi-media self-portraits. Students pictured are Isabella Sorrenti, Lena Creed, Jonah Fenner and Trinity Burgy.



THE KONA CHAPTER OF NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION was held Nov. 6, at Ontario High School. The Candle of Character: was lit by Zachary McChristy, NHS Vice-President. The Candle of Scholarship was lit by Ethan Radojcsics, NHS Secretary; and the Candle of Service was lit by Evan Ruhe, NHS Treasurer. The Candle of Leadership was lit by Vanessa Liu, NHS President. 2024-25 induction candidates are Brady Baumgard, Darbie Broom, Sasha Bulakovski, Serena Caudill, Blake DeWees, Mason Egner, Mackenzie Goodlin, Kailey Hale, Emma Henderson, Brooke Holmer, Brinlee Kreger, Kaylee Lynch, Emma Mies, Delaney Moritz, Madeline Mullins, Jacob Palmer, Eva Rietschlin, Madeline Saltzgeber, Remington Schroeder, Payne Schwartz, Lily Secrist, Alexia SESCO, Hayden Sexton, Jacob Seymour, Joie Simmering, Alexis Swank, Justin Switaj, Addison Thurber, Jaxson Tinkham, Grantham Trumpower, James Unger, Anna Ward, Michael Ward and Jace Young. Current members are Aerialyn Bischak, Jack Belding, Katherine Bolin, Taylor Dille, Sophia Fraley, Blake Gregory, Natalie Hall, Parker Henderson, Vanessa Liu, Zachary McChristy, Rowan McManes, Claire Morrison, Alan O'Blisk, Camden Platner, Ethan Radojcsics, Evan Ruhe, Claire Shaw, Landon Sowards, Grady Taylor, Jakiah Trammell, Morgan Turnbaugh, Kennedy Weiler and Jack Zahn.

Mansfield Symphony Youth Strings to perform fall concert

The area youth who make up the Mansfield Symphony Youth Strings will perform the fall concert in the Lexington High School Auditorium, 103 Clever Ln., Lexington on Sunday, Nov. 17, at 3:30 pm.

The concert is under the direction of MSYS director and conductor Alora Eyerly, a 2019 graduate of Lexington High School.

The MSYS will perform "Angels We Have Heard on High," arranged by Elliot Del Borgo; "Fantasy on Greensleeves," arranged by Mark Williams; "Sweet Petite Winter Suite" by Brian Balmages; "Star Dancer" by Mark Williams; "December Fanfare" by Andrew Dabczynski; "Scarborough Fair," arranged by Brian Balmages; and "A Christmas Symphony," arranged by Elliot Del Borgo.

MSYS consists of North Central Ohio string musicians, primarily in middle and junior high school.

A vital part of the Mansfield Symphony's Education initiative, the MYS gives participating students an additional opportunity for musical growth by rehearsing and performing with other student

musicians from the area, allowing them to perform a wide variety of music.

This season's youth strings group is primarily made of students from a 12-county region, including violin I, Ezra Anderson, Eliana Selvage, Odin Sombrio, Gabriella Van Langevelde and Rian Walker; violin II, Amyah Chiverton, Simon Domka, Madeline Erlenbach, Cacie Norton, Jacoby Rapp and Aiden Schmitt; viola, Olivia Casto, Sydney Miley, Layvin Padisak and Charlize Plogstead; cello, Gabriel McFadden, Harrison Rice, Jonah Wilson and Layla Wehr; and bass, David Secrist.

Tickets are available at the Renaissance Box Office, over the phone at 419-522-2726, and online at rentickets.org. Adult tickets are \$10 and student tickets are \$5. Mansfield Symphony Youth Strings performances are presented as part of the Mechanics Bank Education Series with additional support from the Russell and Mary Gimbel Foundation.

KCCC hosting open house/first chance application night Nov. 21

Knox County Career Center (KCCC) will host an open house/first chance application night on Thursday, Nov. 21, from 4:30-6:30 pm.

This event will be open to the public. Business partners, alumni and community members, along with current students and their families will be in attendance.

In addition, current sophomores and juniors at our associate schools, along with their families, will have an opportunity to visit KCCC's career tech programs. Sophomores can visit any of our two-year programs. Juniors will have the chance to visit our senior-only

program, Pre-Professional Mentorship. Students will have an opportunity to apply in person in the cafe. If students are unable to attend, the application window will be open from 4:30 pm to midnight by visiting www.knoxcc.org and clicking on "Apply Now".

Food trucks will be available. KCCC's Culinary Arts students will sell coffee and pastries out of the River Room Cafe and WNZR will be broadcasting on-site. A dunk tank will feature Mr. Riggle to raise money for Knox County Food for the Hungry. For information email careereducation@knoxcc.org or call 740-397-5820.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Ontario and Shelby will battle in the playoffs Friday

By Kris Leiter

This page may look similar to last week's column, and that's a good thing, as Ontario, Shelby and Lexington will all advance from last week's (week 2) post-season.

Welcome to week 3 post-season tomorrow! Kick-offs are at 7 pm unless noted otherwise.

As we move on into week 3, the stakes get higher, as neutral sites will now be used. The schedule shows:

- Friday, Nov. 15: third round, neutral sites
- Friday, Nov. 22: regional finals
- Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Dec. 5-7: state championship games hosted at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton

Shelby and Ontario — Only one will move on

It's bittersweet, sad and exciting. Someone will win this Friday and someone will go home.

Ontario and Shelby, two of the most talented teams in Richland County, will battle it out in the sweet 16 of OHSAA post-season.

The football gods have spoken, and if you could write a movie script, this would be it. This is one of the most anticipated games of the year.

The blood and sweat go back to last year, as Ontario was the victor in the last seconds of the game. Just a few short weeks ago, in Shelby, the Whippets chimed the victory column in the last few minutes of the game.

This Friday, the teams will battle at Arlin Field in Mansfield. It really is a shame that one of these teams will not continue, but that is the game of sports. Considering both teams have amazing talent such as Ontario's tauting quarterback Bodpegn Miller, an Ohio State commit. Let's not forget Ontario's Rayvon Skelton, who is All-conference for the Ontario Warriors.

On the Shelby side of the ball, quarterback Brayden Devito has done nothing short of showcasing his phenomenal passing skills and making Shelby proud! It's been a joy following Shelby and Ontario,

and since last year, the blood, sweat and tears have been a wild ride between these two teams.

Ontario

Ontario, the 3 seed (11-1) defeated Clyde 38-7 last week. The Warriors will continue tomorrow against Shelby, in what you could say will be the game of all games. This will be the third game of this rivalry, going back to last year.

Shelby

The Dogs in Shelby are still barking and they are getting louder! It's no surprise the Whippets took down the Ottawa-Glandorf Titans 26-14 last week.

Shelby, the 2 seed (12-0) will travel to Arlin Field in Mansfield to battle it out with rival foe, the Ontario Warriors, the 3 seed (11-1) this Friday.

Lexington

The Lexington Minutemen, seeded 12 (7-5), are alive and well and handedly defeated the Rocky River Pirates (8-4) 49-29!

Lexington is not slowing down anytime soon as they keep burning up the tournament trail! They will be going to battle against the perennial powerhouse, Toledo Central Catholic in Tiffin at Frost-Kalnow Stadium.

Division III - Region 14

1. Sandusky Perkins (11-1) vs. 13. Napoleon (7-5) at Milbury Lake High School Community Stadium
2. Shelby (12-0) vs. 3. Ontario (11-1) at Mansfield Arlin Field

Region 10

1. Toledo Central Catholic (11-1) vs. 12. Lexington (7-5) at Tiffin Columbian Frost-Kalnow Stadium
3. Cleveland Benedictine (10-2) vs. 7. Parma Padua Franciscan (7-5) at North Royalton High School Serpentine Stadium



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Lexington High School Powderpuff Football game brings community together

Photos and Article By Traci Little

On Monday evening, Nov. 4, at 7 pm, Lexington High School hosted a Powderpuff Football game, an event organized by the school's Student Council. The game served as a community-building activity and a fundraiser to support local families affected by a recent house explosion tragedy.

To raise funds, the student council created and sold t-shirts, with all proceeds going directly to the impacted families. Student Council member Emily Woods shared her excitement for the event, saying, "We want the event to bring the community together and be a fun atmosphere for the students!"

The event kicked off with warmups at 6:30 pm, and the games started promptly at 7 pm. The Powderpuff games featured two matches happening simultaneously on the football field. Each game consisted of four quarters, with running 10 minute clock for each quarter. The sophomore class triumphed over the seniors, while the freshman class defeated the juniors.

This set up an exciting championship showdown between the Freshmen and Sophomores, with the Freshmen ultimately claiming victory with a final score of 18-9.

The Senior team roster included Abigail Moeglin, Emily Thomas, Alison Shaheen, Jaiden Kastran, Avavia Francis, Addison Cyrus, Kate Ciconali, Taylor Giddens, Aubrey Beuford, Ruthie Togliatti, Savannah Wolf, Kyler Lamb, Addison Nicol, Emma Caldwell, Grace Masi and Moriah Lawhorn.

The junior team roster included Aubrie Brokaw, Abigail Palevich, Hallie Junjubarg, Kyra Boyd, Allison Laury, Marjorie Ramirez, Aaliyah Hess, Haley Davies, Mia Ramirez, Camryn McGuire, Addy Brant, Abby Martin, Rylie McGuire, Willow Antreassian, Jade Hunt, Lily Thomas, Kelley Kurtz, Kaylee Stull and Lauren Risser.

The sophomore team members are Hayley Walker, Lauryn Jakubik, Claire Hammer, Emily Vanguilder, Whitney Stoots, Morgan Harrod, Sydney Noland, Polly Taylor, Payton Noland, Sylvia Secrist, Madison Ross, Quinn Patrick, Leah VanMeter, Hailey Hildebrand and Carlianne Hughes.

Freshman team members are Grace Reiss, Jaylee Norris, Daphne Woodruff, Mariana Molton, Genevieve Tommelio, Delaney Martin, Addison Williams, Audrey Wendling, Olivia Rush, Josie Adams, Taylor Wilson, Alexis Cantrell, Kayla Soehnlén, Ashton Williams, Allyson Meredith, Abbey Young, Mariah Cole, Chloe Holiday, Alexa Whitaker, Emile Neighbors, Jaiah Shifferly, Natalie Radcliff and Brynley Leirsman.

The Powderpuff Football game brought energy, excitement and a sense of unity to the community, all while raising support for a meaningful cause. Congratulations to the freshman team on their championship win, and to all the players and organizers for a successful event!



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights



Photos By Traci Little

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights



Photos By Traci Little

Operation Christmas Child locations will open for collection

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.



TONYA WELCH’S biology students at Ontario High School completed a cellular respiration and fermentation lab called “Feel the Burn”. Students performed various activities to determine which pathway occurred based on breathing rates.

Brenner, Gavarone introduce Bill to protect elections

State Senator Andrew Brenner (R-Delaware) and State Senator Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) introduced Senate Bill 324, which further builds upon Ohio’s work to protect elections.

“We take pride in maintaining safe and secure elections,” said Brenner. “This legislation will strengthen the Buckeye State’s election laws and add protections so that Ohioans continue to know there is a reliable system in place when they cast their vote.”

“Ohio is the gold standard when it comes to running elections,” Gavarone said. “Senate Bill 324 addresses areas of the election law we can improve, including an extra layer of protection to enforce our state constitution’s citizenship requirement.”

The legislation requires voters to provide proof of citizenship to their boards of elections when registering to vote or updating their registration if they have not previously done so. If proof of citizenship is not provided, the board can allow a voter to cast a provisional ballot, but the voter must provide proof of citizenship for it to be counted.

Senate Bill 324 also requires absentee ballots to be hand-delivered to election officials or mailed back in. A voter’s assistant must also sign a form attesting they are legally able to deliver another person’s ballot. The bill now must be referred to a committee. Follow the legislation at <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/135/sb324>

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE

The following is a succinct summary of the legislation adopted by the Council of the City of Ontario, at their special meeting held on November 6, 2024.

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. 24-19 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING WAGES AND SALARIES FOR NON-COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT EMPLOYEES OF THIS CITY, REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 23-30, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-20 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 301 DEFINITIONS; 301.183- LOW-SPEED MICROMOBILITY DEVICE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-21 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 371 PEDESTRIANS; 371.14- LOW-SPEED MICROMOBILITY DEVICES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Cathy VanAuker
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, OH
(T-C 11-14, 21 '24) (31L)

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