



TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com

11.28.24



GROCERY OUTLET held a grand opening "receipt" ribbon cutting on Nov. 21 in Ontario. The store is the company's third in Ohio and will be open daily from 8 am to 9 pm. (See More Photos on page 9).

Grocery Outlet opens in Ontario

Photos and Article
By Traci Little

On Thursday, Nov. 21, at 10 am, Grocery Outlet celebrated the grand opening of its new store at 876 N. Lexington Springmill Rd in Ontario.

Hosted by the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development, the event included a unique ribbon-cutting ceremony where the ribbon was replaced by a giant receipt — a signature Grocery Outlet touch. Their Facebook banner captures the sentiment perfectly: "Welcome to Bargain Bliss!"

Meet the Owners

Maria and Ryan Buchanan, the independent owner-operators, are bringing their passion for community and bargain shopping to Ontario.

With five children, a love for outdoor adventures, movie nights and board games, the Buchanans envision their store as a welcoming space where every shopping trip feels like a treasure hunt.

The couple expressed their commitment to giving back to the community, forming partnerships with organizations like Catholic Charities in Mansfield and "People Helping People." During the grand opening, the Buchanans donated \$1,000 to the Catholic Charities HOPE

Food Pantry and announced plans to support the pantry through Grocery Outlet's weekly Retail Rescue Program.

A Store Full of Surprises

Housed in the former Office-Max location, the new Grocery Outlet spans 15,000 square feet, offering an extensive selection of groceries, fresh produce, pantry staples, meat, toys, decorations, and more — all at unbeatable prices. Shoppers can expect to find great deals every day.

Community Support

Local leaders, including Ontario Mayor Kris Knapp and Miss Ontario Katie Bolin, attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony to show their support.

Mayor Knapp praised the Buchanans' investment in the community, noting their cross-country journey from the west coast to Ohio.

He also highlighted the store's striking mural, which reflects the vision of Ontario and Richland County.

Ellen Heinz, President and CEO of the Richland Area Chamber, warmly welcomed the Buchanans, saying: "Running a small business takes a lot of time, energy, and effort, and we can't thank you enough for the investment of your lives. From our hearts to yours, welcome to our home, Richland County."

A Proud Legacy

Founded in California in 1946, Grocery Outlet has remained a family-owned corporation. Ryan Buchanan shared his excitement about joining the Grocery Outlet family and settling in Ontario:

"As soon as we stepped out of the car here, we felt like we were home."

Todd Yuninger, Grocery Outlet senior manager of sales and merchandising, said customers can expect to find everything they would in a grocery supermarket with significant discounts inside Grocery Outlet.

"Jim Read founded the company on the premise that there was a lot of food out there that goes to waste, and he thought he could buy it cheaper and sell it cheaper to the customer," Yuninger said.

Download the App

Grocery Outlet's mobile app offers shoppers exclusive deals, early access to offers, and entries into the WOW! Win What You Save Sweepstakes with every purchase. Updated weekly ads and daily savings are just a click away.

Grocery Outlet in Ontario is open daily from 8 am to 9 pm. Stay connected by visiting the Facebook page or exploring the deals at groceryoutlet.com. For inquiries call 510-845-1999.

Students excel on state tests at Madison

The Madison Local School District Board of Education met Nov. 20, at Madison Middle School.

It was celebrated that there is significant evidence that each teacher's students made more growth than expected on the Ohio State Test, during the 2023-'24 school year including Laurie Nichols, fourth grade math; Jordan Ullman, fourth grade ELA; Troy Stimpert, fifth grade math; Christine Vermillion, fifth grade science; Christa Shutt, eighth grade math; Sarah Weiser, eighth grade math; Jen Branstetter, high school ELA; Maggie Thomas, high school ELA; Karlie Utt, high school ELA; Kim Boehm, high school government; and Matt Wade, high school government.

Jacob Grove, Career-Technical Director, gave a presentation.

A donation of \$1,000 was accepted from VFV Post 3494 for SkillsUSA.

A donation of \$234.24 was accepted from Mifflin Elementary PTO for the purchase of Parent Communication Folders.

Donations also included \$452.19 from True North Gas Stations to the Madison Local School District as part of the Giving Pump program; \$270.45 from the Madison Academic Boosters to the Madison Comprehensive High School Academic Achievement fund; and \$1,000 from Madison Lions Club to the Madison Comprehensive High School Academic Achievement fund.

Treasurer Bradd Stevens gave a report and the board approved the monthly financial report as submitted, five-year forecast as submitted and a transfer in the amount of \$9,000 from the general fund to the food service fund for compliance of indirect cost reimbursements with the FY24 USDA Food Service Audit.

A requisition was approved to the Bureau of Workers Compensation in the amount of \$77,915 for calendar year 2025 premiums. A School Compensation Agreement between W. William

(Continued on Page 9)

THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER
— By Ian Stumbo —

Its been 24 years since the movie *Gladiator* won the best picture Oscar and now director Ridley Scott is ready to follow up that film with *Gladiator II*.

Paul Mescal stars as Lucius. Lucius is fighting for his country against the Roman army. When they lose, he is taken and forced to become a gladiator to earn his freedom. His vengeance is against their general played by Pedro Pascal.

Its amazing at 86-years-old, Scott is still making these epic films. The opening battle scene is terrific as are all the scenes in the arena. Two specifically involving a rhino and another in shark infested waters are very impressive.

Mescal does a fine job here. Its great seeing him in a big budget movie after getting an Oscar nomination last year for the smaller drama *Aftersun*. He doesn't have the acting range that Russell Crowe had in the



original though is very convincing in this role and has ties to that character. Connie Nielsen returns from the original as well.

The stand out performance is Denzel Washington who is getting early Oscar buzz. As Macrinus, he helps recruit and train the gladiators though also has an ulterior motives as he is close to the obnoxious twin rulers of Rome and has their ear as well.

Washington is great in playing both sides of this character and gives another great performance.

I was impressed at how much I liked *Gladiator II*. It looked great and was very colorful and vibrant. This is one to see on the big screen for the performances and certainly the battle scenes which are so expertly done by such a seasoned diverse director as Ridley Scott.



Richland Gives accepting donations

Now through Dec. 3, the community will come together for Richland Gives, a special opportunity to support local nonprofits working to transform Richland County.

Richland County Foundation is celebrating the 10th anniversary of Richland Gives, which is designed to encourage people to contribute to local nonprofits through a single giving website. The foundation hosts the campaign to build capacity, grow philanthropy and make the community stronger. It allows local organizations to raise funds and awareness as well as cultivate new donors and reinvigorate lapsed donors.

The foundation will award \$80,000 in grants as prize incentives during the giving event.

Visit richlandgives.org to donate and support local orgnaizations.



Pitigliano Italy • Photo By Mark Shutt

Free Thanksgiving meals available

Free Thanksgiving meals will be available Thursday, Nov. 28, at area locations. Dan Lew Exchange, 28 N. Main St., Mansfield, will serve from 11 am to 2 pm. Contact Eric Stigall for information at estigall92@gmail.com or 419-544-1790.

Mansfield Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 1040 Cook Rd., Mansfield, will serve from noon to 2 pm. Dine-in and carry-out will both be available. Call 419-651-3456 for information.

The Candice Williams Helping Hands Foundation will serve from 1-4 pm at 380 N Mulberry St. (Friendly House Association), Mansfield. Dine-in and carry-out will both be available. Live entertainment will be provided and a raffle will be available.

Homebound seniors 65+ needing delivery can call Theresa Williams between Nov. 25-28 at 419-961-8334.

Vol. 64
No. 7

Tribune-Courier

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

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

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

Urban Land Auction

247+- Acres Vacant Land
4 Adjoining parcels---243 Acres Tillable
Delaware County, Oxford Township
Thursday December 12, 2024---6 PM

20 Main Street, ASHLEY, OH 43003

Maxine & Helen Smith, owners
WIGTON REAL ESTATE & AUCTION LLC
Wes Wigton Auctioneer / Realtor 740-816-0049
Larry Wigton Broker / Auctioneer 419-864-8417
Farm road to road---ST RR 229 to Steamtown Road
Pick up a flyer on Steamtown Rd

visit wigtonauctions.com for terms/details...740-362-0007

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 Thursday, Dec. 12, from 6-7 pm. 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 Dec. 18 and will be the Christmas luncheon. Ontario High School will provide entertainment.

The group will also gather for lunch at Reindeer Grill, 10 S. Park St., Mansfield, Dec. 4, at 11 am.

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

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.

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.

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-christmasparade@gmail.com.

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Brian Moore to speak on "Advent Candle of Hope" at 10:30 am on Sunday, Dec. 1. For information visit www.allsoulsuuohio.org.

State Rep. Marilyn John (R-Richland County) was recently chosen by the House majority caucus to serve as the Majority Floor Leader for the 136th General Assembly.

"It is a true honor to be chosen by my colleagues to serve in this position," said John. "I would also like to congratulate my other col-

leagues that were elected to serve on the upcoming leadership team and as members of the 136th General Assembly. I look forward to continuing to serve the people of our great state together!"

John is currently serving her second term in the Ohio House of Representatives. She represents the 76th House District, which encompasses all of Richland County.

Richland Public Health will be closed from 8 am to 4:30 pm on Dec. 9, for a scheduled staff in-service day.

The City of Ashland Christmas Parade "A Vintage Christmas" will be held Saturday, Dec. 7, at 6 pm. To participate in the parade, visit <https://forms.gle/7r78jwL7VAo4VUou7> by Friday, Nov. 29. Call 419-903-0505 or email director@ashlandmainstreet.org for information.

To submit a news brief item send an email with information to news@tribune-courier.com. To advertise email tribune.courier.traci@gmail.com

Santa Breakfast planned at RRLC

The Richland Rural Life Center, 969 E. Crall Rd., will host a Santa Breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 7, in two sessions.

The meal will include all you can eat pancakes with scrambled eggs, sausage, fruit, orange juice, milk, water and coffee.

Children are encouraged to write a letter to Santa. Those attending will have a chance to visit and take photos with Santa by a warm wood fireplace.

Following breakfast, visitors will decorate cookies next door in Santa's workshop. All children must be accompanied by an adult, no high chairs are provided.

Cost is \$10.50 for age 12 to adult; \$6 for ages 4-11 and three and under are free.

Reservations are being taken now for 9 am and 10 am seatings. Visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844AEA-B22A0F9C61-53329163-breakfast#/>

A limited number of walk-ins will be available (cash only).

All You Can Eat Pancakes with scrambled eggs, sausage, fruit, orange juice, milk, water and coffee
 Age 12-Adult: \$10.50 • Age 4-11: \$6
 Age 3 and Under: Free



Reserve Tickets:



Saturday, Dec. 7
9 am & 10 am Seatings
Richland Rural Life Center
 969 E. Crall Rd., Mansfield

Lexington Court's Annual
Bazaar
 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6 | 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM | 250 DELAWARE AVE.

Pioneer Career and Technology Center approves contracts and employments

At the Nov. 18, meeting the Pioneer Board of Education approved an addendum to the MOESC Agreement and accepted donations from Sherri Massie of The Gorman-Rupp Company, Mansfield, \$350

to be deposited into the principal's fund; and Bill Heacock, Lexington, various tools valued at \$400 to be used in the carpentry and home remodeling labs.

Richland Academy will present ballet

Richland Academy of the Arts will present its ninth annual production of *The Nutcracker Ballet*, hosted at the Renaissance Theatre on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, Dec. 8 at 2:30 pm as part of the Spotlight Series. This classic is perfect for all ages

The board approved additional students for participation in the SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference including Serenity Cole, Graphic Arts; Raina Snively, Culinary; and Tatiana Wright, Graphic Arts.

Each year, this production brings together a community of young dancers from across Richland County and beyond, making it a powerful experience for everyone involved.

Supplemental contracts were approved for certificated personnel for curriculum development including Mary Cosker, Tina Duckworth, Aaryn Evans, Kathleen Fiske, Cassandra Lowery, Janifer Stewart and Cassie White.

Eighth-grade Isabelle Ruhl will step into the role of young Clara. This year's cast features Eva Rietschlin and Sophia Sandwall from Ontario High School; Nora Ball and Kaylie Yetzer from Lexington High School; Olivia Laux from St. Peter's High School; Jaylee Blackrom from Madison Jr. High School; Ava Irwin from Mansfield Christian School; Piper Hilterman from Classical Conversations Homeschool Program; and guest dancer Matthew Piper as the Nutcracker Prince.

The board approved stipend contracts for certificated personnel for Kris Bruce, chaperone for the FCCLA Fall Leadership Training.

The board approved employment of substitute instructors, a career coach and substitute classified personnel.

Agreements were reached between Pioneer Adult Education and ACEMAPP, Avital Health Systems, Brethren Care Village, Jag Healthcare, Inc., Jag Healthcare Wooster Behavioral Health, Ohio Health Corp. and Willows at Willard.

**Join the FREE Tribune-Courier Email List:
Fill Out the Form at <http://eepurl.com/hns9N9>**

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 Stufft
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 9am to 1pm
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

Businesses join together for Small Business Saturday

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

On Nov. 30, shoppers are invited to visit participating local small businesses in the Richland County area and enter their prize drawing. Participating stores are offering prizes that vary from \$25 to \$200. No purchase is required to enter.

While there, shoppers can also enter a countywide grand prize contest for \$100 worth of prizes. To enter this prize drawing, shoppers simply complete an online prize form by scanning a QR code with their cell phone.

The QR code can be found on the flyer posted in each participating store.

Five winners will be selected for a total of \$500 in prizes. One prize entry per store will be permitted, with a maximum of six total entries from the participating store list.

Participating stores can be found at <https://portal.richlandarea-chamber.com/events/details/small-business-saturday-2024-6174>

This event is supported by Medical Mutual and is being held in conjunction with the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development, Shelby Area Business Group, Be Focal Buy Local, Downtown Mansfield and The Clear Fork Valley Chamber of Commerce.

For more information contact Jennifer Wagner at 419-522-3211.



years of giving, countless lives changed.



Celebrate Richland Gives 10th Anniversary by Supporting Local Nonprofits!

Join us in celebrating the 10th anniversary of Richland Gives, our community's annual online giving event. Over the past decade, your generosity has supported hundreds of nonprofits, enriching countless lives. Let's continue the tradition this year and make an even bigger impact.

Now through December 3rd, visit richlandgives.org to donate and support the causes that matter most to you. Your contribution makes a difference, whether it's for education, health, animal welfare or historic preservation. Be a part of this incredible milestone and help us build a brighter future for Richland County!



Visit richlandgives.org Now Through December 3rd and Make a Difference!

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

- Curtis Thompson, November 15
- Jamar A Cole, November 16
- Debra Ann Morley, November 16
- Darline Anne Hunt, November 17
- Roy Gene Little, November 17
- Ruth Ann Wells, November 17
- Jeffrey "Jeff" Lee Jones, November 17
- Robert L Marcum, November 17
- William Jones, November 19
- Dr. Rollin J Anderson, November 21
- Amy Lou Sayre, November 21
- Ardith "Beth" Wake, November 21

View Full Obituaries at www.dignitymemorial.com

Our Family Serving Your Family for Five Generations Since 1872



WAPPNER

Funeral Directors & Crematory

Three Locations to Serve You

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

www.wappner.com

Lexington Board of Education approves employments

The Lexington Board of Education met Wednesday, Nov. 20. Gracie Masi, student representative to the board, presented her report and the treasurer presented the monthly financial report for October 2024.

The 5-Year Forecast was approved for FY25 through FY29. A donation of \$350 was accepted from the Gorman-Rupp Company for student programs and activities.

A donation of \$400 was accepted from West Holmes in support of a Lexington family.

Stephanie Jedra will retire as a fifth grade teacher at Eastern, effective Dec. 31.

Resignations were accepted from Julie Hartge, intervention specialist at Western, effective, Nov. 4; and Aubrey Klink, high school mentor, effective Nov. 13.

Maternity leave was approved for Noelle Dudgeon from approximately Jan. 6 to approximately March 17, 2025.

Employment for the 2024-'25 school year was approved for Cassidy (Dillon) Albright, substitute teacher, effective Oct. 9, through student teacher experience and as a home instructor for a student, effective Oct. 23, as needed during the 2024-'25 school year; Sydney Byerly, substitute teacher, effective Oct. 9, through student teacher experience; Geoff Newland, long-term substitute at the junior high from approximately Nov. 21, 2024 through Feb. 18, 2025; and Justice Holmes, long-term sub, Western PE (for Cheryl Longnecker who is subbing for Noelle Dudgeon) from Jan. 6 through March 17, 2025

A payment of \$350 was approved for Sally Giefer for mentoring Marty Shoup (high school English, Year I) during the 2024-'25 school year.

Salary adjustments were approved for Kevin Richer, BS to BS + 10; and Trisha Hughes, ME to ME + 10.

Lisa Williamson will retire at Western, effective Dec. 31.

Resignations were accepted from Heather No-land, educational aide and sub calling at Eastern; and Brenda Kehrle, pre-school bus route, effective Dec. 2.

The board approved the employment of Heather Noland, student service secretary on a two-year contract; and Elizabeth Vallance, substitute educational aide/secretary at the high school; Emily Cockley, transportation substitute van driver; Janet Aldous, transportation substitute van driver; Frank Wuchich, transportation substitute van driver; Geoffrey Newland, substitute educational aide; Brandy Perry, pre-school educational aide; Suzanne Fackelman, substitute educational aide; and Grace Lingrel-Delong, high school second shift custodian.

The board approved coaching recommendations including Mitch Sellers, freshman baseball; John Murray, strength/conditioning (December and January); Michael Gallik, volunteer wrestling; Walker Carr, volunteer wrestling; Philip Smith, volunteer wrestling; Zachary Zolman, volunteer wrestling; Geary Gallik, volunteer wrestling; and Melanie Walker, volunteer cheer advisor.

Jessica Klupp and Marilyn Waxter were approved as parent volunteers.

The board approved the substitute lists as provided by MOESC dated Oct. 18 - Nov. 15, 2024.

A resolution authorized the purchase of competitive retail electric

service from the lowest responsible bid for the period of two years, beginning July 2025 with an optional three years not to exceed a total of five years.

A tax abatement between CNG and the Village of Lexington and the corresponding School Compensation Agreement was approved and will be paid over the 15 years of the agreement.

The board accepted the report of nutrition compliance pursuant to Board Policy and ORC 3313.814.

The board has been advised to rescind and adopt board policies as suggested in the annual fall NEOLA updates.

Chamber Small Business of the Year Committee narrows candidates

The Board of Directors and Small Business of the Year Committee of the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development will soon honor and celebrate all small businesses and name their 2024 Small Business of the Year recipients. The event will be held on Dec. 10 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Kehoe Center. Each finalist will be featured in a short video highlighting their business, sponsored by Mechanics Bank.

Presented by Medical Mutual, the awards will be given to the Small Business of the Year with 15 and more employees and 14 and fewer employees, along with large and small non-profit organizations.

Attendees are asked to register by Nov. 29, by calling the Richland Area Chamber at 419-522-3211, or registering online at <https://portal.richlandareachamber.com/events/details/small-business-of-the-year-awards-celebration-2024-6098>

Finalists in the 14 and fewer employee category are Dr. Bookwalter & Dr. Skulski Orthodontics, Eichinger Brafford McClead Group and Local Project Pro.

The 15+ employee category finalists are ES Consulting, K E McCartney & Associates, Inc. and Southern Title of Ohio, Ltd.

The large non-profit winner, Friendly House, and the small non-profit winner, Rubies Women's Group, have already been announced and will receive their awards during the presentation.

Allison Pence Art has also been awarded the Entrepreneurial Spirit Award.

The non-profit semifinalists include Malabar Foundation, NAMI, Ohio State Reformatory, Raemelon Therapeutic Equestrian Center, Richland Carousel Park, Richland County Land Bank, Richland Outreach Center and Ultimate Veterans Adventures.

For-profit semifinalists include Bob & Bob Door, Clothes Mentor, Custom Control, DECA Manufacturing, EZ Suite Management, Ideal Electric, Kimmy's Cucina, Laurences' Towing, McCready Interiors, Miller's Jewelry, Olive & Oak, Pinnacle Building Services, RLB, Studio 19 and Shelby Mansfield KOA.

Premier sponsors include Alumni Roofing Co, DRM Productions Inc, OhioHealth Mansfield and Shelby Hospitals, Park National Bank and Richland Source.

ONTARIO COMMUNITY EVENTS
Craft Show

Saturday, December 7 (8:30 am - 3:00 pm)
Richland County Fairgrounds

Admission is \$2 per person or a new toy (no stuffed animals please)
All proceeds will benefit the Brian Morris Family, The Ontario Lions Club, and Ontario Community Events. Toys will be donated to the Springfield Twp Fire Department and Ontario Police.

Great holiday gifts
Support local
Over 100 crafters

Grocery Outlet opens in Ontario



Submitted Photo

Owners Maria and Ryan Buchanan





Fresh Grounds Coffee House celebrates grand reopening under new ownership

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Fresh Grounds Coffee House has reopened its doors under the new ownership of James and Brooke Boyd, marking an exciting new chapter for this beloved community.

Located at 1621 W. Fourth St. in Ontario, the grand reopening event held on Friday, Nov. 22 at 10 am, was filled with warm speeches, delicious coffee and heartfelt community support.

City officials and local leaders joined in the celebration, including Ontario Mayor Kris Knapp, who remarked, "As a coffee drinker every morning, I'm looking forward to this location thriving. Good things are happening here!"

Other dignitaries, such as Richland County Commissioner Tony Vero and Richland City Councilman Aurelio Diaz, highlighted the Boyd family's dedication and Fresh Grounds' role as a community staple.

Richland Area Chamber President Ellen Heinz applauded the Boyds for their vision and commitment, calling the reopening "a true success story on how to grow and elevate a business."

Miss Ontario, Katie Bolin, added a touch of charm, expressing her excitement for the refreshed ambiance and congratulating the team on their success.

Fresh Grounds has retained its friendly team and signature offerings while introducing updates that make the coffee house even more inviting. Guests at the event enjoyed a sneak peek at new menu items, including seasonal favorites like French Toast, Maple, and Pumpkin Toast. The much-anticipated Peppermint Mocha will join the lineup next month, just in time for the holidays.

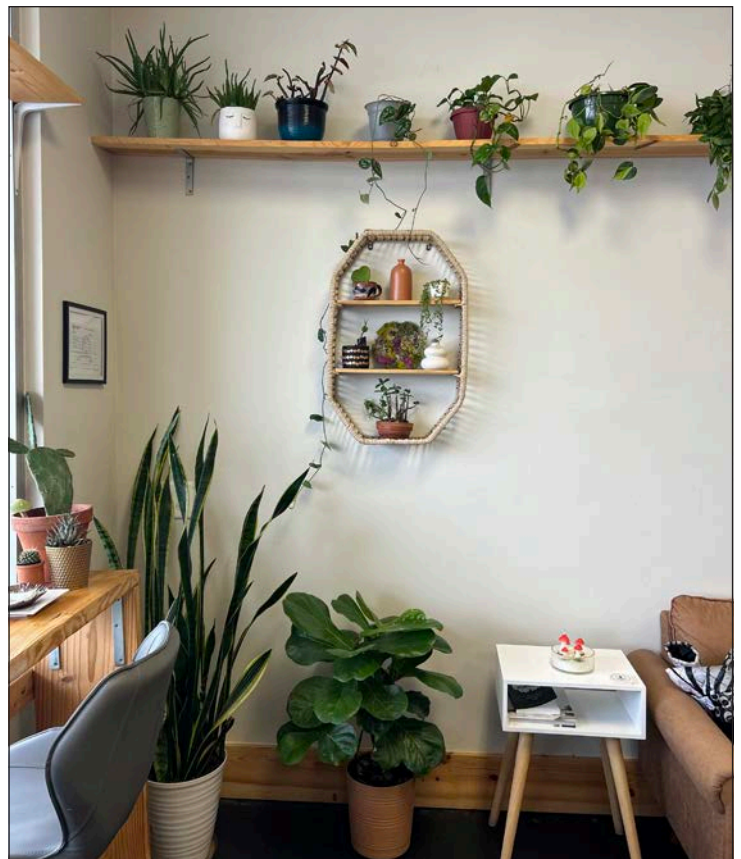
Fans of their cold brew won't be disappointed — it's still their best-seller, touted as "the smoothest cold brew you've ever had."

Fresh Grounds is open Monday through Saturday, 7 am to 3 pm, offering a perfect spot for locals to gather, work, or simply enjoy a quality cup of coffee.

James Boyd shared his passion for the business during the reopening, stating, "When I had the opportunity to partner with Fresh Grounds' founder Chriztine Elizabeth, it was a no-brainer. This place has the best coffee, the best atmosphere, and the best people—ingredients for success. We're grateful to Ontario and all our customers for their support."

Whether you're a longtime regular or a first-time visitor, Fresh Grounds invites you to experience their freshly brewed, locally sourced coffee, friendly service, and updated ambiance. Stop by, say hello to James and Brooke Boyd, and discover why this coffee house remains a cornerstone of the Ontario community.

Congratulations to James and Brooke Boyd on this exciting new chapter!



•Students excel on state tests at Madison

(Continued from Front Page)

Schmidt & Associates Inc./B.P. Industrial, LLC and the Madison Local School District was approved.

Teddy Haring resigned as ½ assistant varsity wrestling coach and Nick Melton resigned as assistant varsity boys' basketball coach.

Ian Pasqualini was hired as assistant varsity wrestling coach and Colton Foley was hired as assistant varsity boys' basketball coach.

Ashley Stumbo was hired as a Madison Adult Career Center Dental Assisting instructor.

Substitute teachers hired on an "on call" basis, as needed for the 2024-'25 school year are Angel Bischak, Charles Curren (long-term sub middle school intervention specialist), William Dixon, Leah Gundry, Kaleb Hollar, Chara Mays, Alice Moreland, Taylor Morgan, Geoffrey Newland, Cassaundra Shafer, Joseph Stilson, Marc Twitchell, Kierstynn Welch, Allyson Wigton, Alayna Wynn and Amy Zender.

The board approved volunteers Teddy Haring and Mike Thomas, varsity wrestling; Christopher Reynolds, swimming/diving; and Trevor Kirsch, middle school girls' basketball.

Tom Williams (LOA) resigned as first shift custodian at Eastview.

The board hired Holly Fair, four-hour cafeteria worker at the high school; Tina Clark, second shift custodian at South; and Vicky Buckley, four-hour cafeteria worker at the middle school. Holly Fair replaces Heidi Weikle who accepted another position.

Substitute employees hired on an "on call" basis, as needed, for the 2024-'25 school year are Delmon Rose, bus driver; and Lester Dixon, Sr., bus driver.

An unpaid leave of absence was approved for Heather Wendland, special education paraprofessional at Madison South Elementary, Nov. 1, 2024 to Jan. 15, 2025. Chelsea Smith was hired as an administrative assistant to the superintendent.

The Heartland Council of Governments (operating as North Central Ohio Computer Cooperative - NCOCC) Internet Service Provider fees for the 2024-'25 school year were approved in the amount of \$113,226. The fees were approved at the Aug. 28, meeting as part of the NEOnet Fee Schedule, however the vendor had to be modified to fulfill the terms of the agreement between Madison Local Schools and the Heartland Council of Governments prior to their merger with NEOnet.

The purchase and installation of a new boiler for the Madison Early Childhood Learning Center was approved in the amount of \$61,460 from Standard Plumbing and Heating. The amount also includes the removal and disposal of the old boiler.

A purchase was approved for a 2024 Chevy Silverado 3500 with 8' aluminum box bed from Byers Chevrolet in Grove City, OH, in the amount of \$62,588 to be used by the maintenance staff for snow removal and the salting of parking lots.

The Service Agreement between Madison Local School and the Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board to provide six days of Leadership & Learning services beginning Nov. 1, 2024 and ending on May 31, 2025, was approved.

The next regular board of education meeting will be at 6 pm on Dec. 18, in the Madison Middle School Auditoria.

Richland Academy will present ballet

Richland Academy of the Arts will present its ninth annual production of *The Nutcracker Ballet*, hosted at the Renaissance Theatre on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, Dec. 8 at 2:30 pm as part of the Spotlight Series. This classic is perfect for all ages

Each year, this production brings together a community of young dancers from across Richland County and beyond.

Eighth-grader Isabelle Ruhl will step into the role of young Clara. This year's cast features Eva Rietschlin and Sophia Sandwall from Ontario High School; Nora Ball and Kaylie Yetzer from Lexington High School; Olivia Laux from St. Peter's High School; Jaylee Black from Madison Jr. High School; Ava Irwin from Mansfield Christian School; Piper Hilterman from Classical Conversations Homeschool Program; and guest dancer Matthew Piper as the Nutcracker Prince.

Tickets are available at 419-522-2726 or online at rentickets.org.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE MELANIE MILLER (R-City of Ashland) gives sponsor testimony on the Never Alone Act, with State Rep. Beth Lear (R-Galena).

Ohio Senate Committee continues hearings on Never Alone Act

The Senate Health Committee held its second hearing on the Never Alone Act, sponsored by State Representatives Melanie Miller (R-City of Ashland) and Beth Lear (R-Galena).

House Bill 236 passed with a unanimous vote of 88-0 in the Ohio House. The legislation ensures every patient has access to an advocate to be with them in a hospital, nursing home, or other congregate care setting - especially during a health emergency.

"This is another step in the right direction to protect the rights of a patient to have access to a loved one or advocate to act on behalf of their best interest while in a hospital or care facility," said Miller. "I appreciate the Senate Health Committee continuing to make progress on the Never Alone Act."

Specifically, the Never Alone Act:

- Requires a congregate care setting to inform a patient or resident that the patient or resident may designate an individual to serve as an advocate and to provide the patient or resident the opportunity to make a designation.

- Prohibits a congregate care setting from 1: denying a patient or resident access to an advocate and 2: prohibiting an advocate from being physically present with a patient or resident.

- Prohibits a political subdivision, public official, or state agency from issuing an order or rule, or enforcing on behalf of the federal government a federal order or rule, that would require a care setting to violate the bill's provisions.

Requires the Department of Health to create a Never Alone information sheet and each congregate care setting to provide each patient or resident with a copy at the time of admission.

The Never Alone Act will continue to receive hearings in the Senate Health Committee.

Christmas concert events planned

The Madison Comprehensive High School Jazz Band and Jazz Choir will perform "A Very Jazzy Christmas" Cabaret on Sunday, Dec. 8, at 5:30 pm at Madison Middle School, 1419 Grace St. Admission is \$5.

The high school choirs will also perform in the annual holiday concert on Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7, at the middle school.

The choir at Hope Lutheran Church (formerly St. Timothy Lutheran and St. Paul Lutheran) will host a Community Christmas Choir.

This year the Christmas Celebration Cantata celebrates 20 years and will include a selection of favorite cantatas from the last two decades. This event will be held at Madison Middle School on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3 pm. A freewill offering will be accepted.



Farnsworth recognized for 35 years as instructor

By Katrina Beer

For over 35 years, Jason Farnsworth has been dedicated to more than just teaching Kenpo Martial Arts — he's been building character and fostering community.

As the Kenpo Martial Arts instructor at the Richland Academy of the Arts (RAA), Farnsworth teaches Ed Parker's Kenpo, focusing on developing character, self-discipline, confidence, and respect, which benefits both students and the wider community.

Farnsworth's journey began in high school, where Kenpo Martial Arts complemented his wrestling training. His passion for Ed Parker's Kenpo ignited in 1994, and since then, he has been committed to perfecting and teaching this art. Today, his program emphasizes life skills as much as physical techniques.

"Kenpo Martial Arts is about more than self-defense," Farnsworth said. "It's about prepar-

ing individuals to face life with confidence and discipline. My goal is to help students grow not just as Kenpo practitioners, but as people."

His classes go beyond techniques, creating a supportive environment where students cheer each other on and challenge themselves to improve. Positive reinforcement and mutual respect are cornerstones of his teaching, which he believes helps students develop lifelong values. Farnsworth often recalls moments of growth, like when a young student used a technique learned in class to protect classmates from bullies.

"Watching students gain confidence and discipline is the most rewarding part of teaching," he explains. "These lessons translate into real-world skills that help them become positive, contributing members of the community."

Farnsworth's classes start with fundamentals and adjust

to the needs of his students, mixing hard work with engaging activities that keep everyone motivated. Through Kenpo Martial Arts, he hopes to continue shaping individuals who are not only strong in body but also in character, ready to lead and give back to the community.

Farnsworth is also a proud supporter of the Richland Academy of the Arts' Empower the Arts Capital Campaign, which will help expand resources and opportunities for students and the community.

Founded in 1991, the Richland Academy of the Arts is located in the heart of Mansfield on the corner of 4th Street and Walnut St, beside the carousel.

Supported by the Ohio Arts Council and the Area Agency on Aging, RAA was established to enrich the lives of individuals and the community through the arts. For more information visit richlandacademy.com or call 419-522-8224.

Scholarships available through DAR

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

The Jared Mansfield Chapter local scholarship is open to all students, both genders, who will be attending OSU-Mansfield, NCSC or the Dwight Schar College of Nursing, Mansfield and pursuing any field of study. The local scholarship is also open to high school graduating seniors. This scholarship is renewable, and the student may apply each year. Call Joedy Studer at 419-631-1015 for information. The completed application must be postmarked by April 15.

The Ohio Society Daughters of the American Revolution awards the "Wings of Eagles" scholarship to graduating high school seniors, including those completing a certified home school program, in the amount of \$1,000 each. Awards are based on academic excellence and financial need. All applicants must be citizens of the United States and legal residents of the state of Ohio and must attend an accredited college or university in the United States.

Visit OSDAR at ohiodar.org to obtain a scholarship application. All applicants must be sponsored by the local DAR chapter and applications must be submitted to the local chapter by Jan. 31.

The National DAR also offers scholarships in many different majors. All students will submit their applications using an online process at <http://dar.academicworks.com>. Emailed or mailed applications will no longer be accepted.

Home Energy Assistance Program offers help to Ohioans

ging 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.

Those in need of assistance 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.

First Congregational Church invites community to special services

First Congregational Church, 640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield, has announced the holiday schedule for the historic church located across the street from the Mansfield Art Center.

"It's the most magical time of the year and we are so happy to welcome everyone in the community to our beautiful location to participate in all we have to offer," said Ellen Haring, moderator.

Each Sunday in December, Advent season will be celebrated with communion, special events and fellowship.

On Dec. 8, at 10:30 am, the Chancel Choir will celebrate by sharing a special presentation of "Jesus! The advent of the Messiah." This large-scale production will feature live musicians and a full choir sharing traditional Christmas hymns. Also on Dec. 8, the church will gather for a "Sweet Treat Cookie Walk." Those attending are asked to bring a cake as a fundraiser for the youth mission, where guests can get their fill of holiday sweets.

On Dec. 15, at 10:30 am, the community is invited to attend a children's Christmas program, featuring youth and teenagers sharing the story of Jesus' birth with music, costumes and narration.

On Dec. 24, at 7 pm, a candlelight Christmas Eve service will be held. This special service is designed for all to reflect and remember the reason for the season. Held in the historic sanctuary, the services will be lit by candlelight.

Rev. Brad Bunn, shared, "The First Congregational Church is such a special place in our community, and we invite everyone to come and celebrate this special time of year with us."

Sunday services are held at 8:30 am and 10:30 am and all are welcome. Services are also broadcast via Facebook (follow us there to stay up to date with events and more). Nursery services are available at 10:30 am. Elevators to each floor of the building are also available.

Alzheimer's Association schedules virtual program for caregivers

The Alzheimer's Association has scheduled a free, virtual program, "Strategies for Surviving the Holidays" on Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 12:30 pm or 6:30 pm.

Pre-registration is recommended. To register, call the Alzheimer's Association's 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900. Free educational programs and support groups are offered monthly. Visit www.alz.org/crf and search by zip code to find scheduled local programs.

The holidays are often associated with togetherness, sharing, laughter and memories. But they can also bring stress, disappointment and sadness when a loved one is living with Alzheimer's or another dementia.

A person living with Alzheimer's may feel a special sense of loss during the holidays because of the changes he or she has experienced. At the same time, caregivers may feel overwhelmed maintaining traditions while providing care.

While holiday activities may look different after a dementia diagnosis, it is important to find creative ways to engage meaningfully. By using some special considerations and strategies, the holiday season will be a time to connect with loved ones living with cognitive impairment or dementia.

"This virtual program will help caregivers think through how holiday expectations and traditions may need to be changed to better involve a loved one with dementia," said Pam Myers, senior director, programs for the Alzheimer's Association Northwest Ohio and Central Ohio Chapters. "Our program will provide information to help attendees gain an understanding of Alzheimer's disease and learn strategies for making the holiday season less stressful for both the caregiver and the person living with dementia."

"We will also share proven strategies to prepare your family and guests to understand how seasonal activities should keep the needs of those living with dementia and their caregivers in mind, but can still be enjoyable for everyone," Myers continued.

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



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL held "Hello Week" a kindness initiative led by Warrior Leadership Council. Students began the week by chalking the sidewalks with positive messages. They greeted everyone at the door. Students also wrote positive post-its and then shared them.

Buckeye Imagination Museum to host "Holiday Kick-off" event

The Buckeye Imagination Museum invites families to usher in the holiday season with its "Holiday Kick-off" event on Friday, Nov. 29, from 5-8 pm. This festive evening includes a visit from Santa Claus, an outdoor Christmas tree lighting ceremony and special holiday-themed crafts.

Santa will make a special appearance to greet guests and lead the countdown to the lighting of the museum's beautiful outdoor Christmas tree, a moment sure to delight visitors of all ages. Families can also enjoy creating unique holiday crafts.

The event is included with same-day museum admission.

"This event is the perfect way to celebrate the joy and togetherness of the holiday season," said Fred Boll, executive director of the Buckeye Imagination Museum. "We're thrilled to share this magical evening with our community."

The tree lighting with Santa will be at approximately 6:30 pm.



Academy participates in Richland Gives

Richland Academy of the Arts is joining other local non-profits during Richland Gives.

As of Nov. 26, Richland Academy donors have given a total of \$3,200 toward the \$25,000 goal. The donations raised between now and Dec. 3, Giving Tuesday, benefit the Empower The Arts capital campaign that supports facility modernization and renovation for exceptional education and experiences in the community.

Richland Gives is an online giving event from Nov. 18 through Dec. 3, hosted by the Richland County Foundation to build capacity, grow philanthropy and make the community stronger.

To learn more about Richland Academy of the Arts or to donate to Richland Gives visit richlandacademy.com or richlandgives.org.



Toy drive collection underway

The "Giving Ontario" Toy Drive is going on now through Dec. 18.

The Springfield Township Fire Department, The Ontario Center and Ontario Community Events will join together to collect toys for local children and teens.

New, unwrapped toys, gift cards and teen gifts can be dropped off at either fire station, 3700 Park Avenue West or 400 S. Lex-Springmill Rd., Ontario.



A NEWLY FORMED CLUB at Ontario is under the direction of Mrs. Hannah Sudduth for the purpose of including students with disabilities in more activities. The club recently sponsored a game night.

SCIENCE CLUB at Ontario High School made natural, reusable beeswax food wraps and tested them against traditional plastic wrap. Students thanked Durbee's Honey Bee Farm for donating beeswax to this project.



THE ACADEMIC BOOSTERS at Ontario High School celebrated students with Highest Honors in the first quarter by treating them from the Burstin' Bubble Tea and More food truck recently.



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS CLEAR FORK GIRLS BASKETBALL · NOV. 22
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER · LADY COLTS WIN 57-17



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

OHSAA has need for sports officials — “We Want You”

By Kris Leiter

Years ago, there were posters of Uncle Sam pointing and proclaiming, “We Want You!” That’s what the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) is also saying these days.

If you have ESPN set in your favorites or if you perhaps you are a book of knowledge on rules for all football games on Thanksgiving, the OHSAA wants you.

The OHSAA is located in Columbus. It is the governing body for the rules and regulations for high school sports in Ohio. It informs, updates and implements rules for our beloved Buckeye state.

Every state in the U.S. has a similar organization.

This gives an opportunity to enter the world of officiating for people who have a passion for sports and giving back to sports.

As you hesitate and with an emphatic say “no way,” bear with me for a few minutes. I think you will be pleasantly surprised.

The two words, “pleasant” and “surprised” don’t even go hand-in-hand with being a high school referee.

The OHSAA wants people who love sports and they desperately need certified sports officials (high school officials in all high school sports).

I was prompted to write this article when I recently ran into an old friend and officiating colleague, Todd Baird from Shelby.

Baird has been officiating high school football 31 years, basketball 18 years and girls fastpitch for 9 years. That’s quite a résumé.

I was blessed to be a part of Baird’s football officiating crew back in the mid 1990s. As I pen these words, I reflect back 30 years ago, when I also donned the hardwood and the turf on Friday nights. I wore the striped “zebra” shirt.

For whatever reason, in the year of 1988, I must have bumped my head and the thought of becoming a high school official intrigued me. I proudly signed up for classes to become a high school referee for football and basketball.

There are benefits to being a referee. You may have once played high school or college sports and later donned the school colors for your kids’ sports. The kids are older and you miss the thrill of the game. Well it may be time to jump back in.

According to Baird, “I am giving back. You do it for the love of the game. But, wages are getting to be a big deal too.”

This sort of job also has its health benefits, allowing referees to stay active and mentally sharp.

You might say, “Ok, how many millions will I make on this officiating gig?” Surprising, you can make some nice money, and it’s all online, so it’s convenient in this day and age of technology.

You can make \$70–\$80 for a high school basketball game. They’re raising the pay and they’re making it easier, says Baird.

When you start out, you can get comfortable at the junior high level where the crowds are small. You don’t have to dive into the pressure of the Final 4 in NCAA.

Pay ranges for basketball include \$40–50 for junior high basketball for two back-to-back games; \$40–50 for one junior varsity game and \$70–80 for a varsity game.

Football runs about \$40-50 for two back-to-back junior high games, \$60 for junior varsity and \$80–90 for varsity.

Once I have twisted both your arms and convinced you that you are ready for this long-time adventure, it’s time to fire up the computer and start your into the wide world of high school sports.

As mentioned, the OHSAA is looking for officials in many sports, whether its basketball, softball, baseball or ice hockey. Obtaining an

initial license has become much easier over the years.

Nowadays signup is easy. Baird says, “They’re doing everything online. You can get your license the same day.”

The OHSAA has made it convenient to study and pass the test all online and become a certified high school sports official. By the way, it’s open book when you apply for the beginning Class 2 certification.

Once the test is passed, participants become a Class 2 certified Official, which allows them to officiate any games below the varsity level.

A Class 2 includes middle school and junior high games. Once you rack up the miles on those tennis shoes for two years, you can apply for a Class 1 Certification and that allows you to advance to the high school varsity level at the sports mentioned a bit ago.

At the junior high level, the kids are still learning and you are still learning and there are a good number of veteran officials in the local associations to assist you as you move up the ranks from middle school,

to junior varsity and varsity.

The transition from level to level will be based on your comfort level and pace and there is no rush.

As you gain experience, you will meet other officials to connect with and can form a partnership to work games together. There is a huge advantage to having a consistent partner. You learn from each other and eventually work as one unit.

During each sport season, you will become part of a local association of other officials.

There are four local rules meetings required per season as well as one state interpretation meeting. At these meetings, you will meet other officials, beginners as well as veterans.

During these meetings, they discuss scenarios and you will start to gain so much knowledge and continue to learn. You can also chat with like-minded people

There is definitely a major shortage at the high school level for area sports.

I remember when I first started, I was blessed to officiate a pre-season scrimmage for a game with Jimmy Jackson, who eventually went on to play for The Ohio State Buckeyes. He was a two-time All American and Big Ten Player of The Year in 1991 and eventually played professionally for the Dallas Mavericks.

Jackson was a star player at Toledo Macomber and they were playing Madison and another school for a tri-team scrimmage. I still remember it like it was yesterday. Good memories.

Maybe by now, you’re ready to suit up? I would encourage you to stick your toe in the water. Maybe you will be the next person we write about after you get your 30-year pin.

The Ohio High School Athletic Association is online at <https://www.ohsaa.org>.



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

Or Visit <http://eepurl.com/hnS9N9>

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL VS SANDUSKY PERKINS AT TIFFIN · NOV. 22
REGIONAL FINALS · SANDUSKY WINS 28-21





Richland County Foundation opens scholarship application early

The Richland County Foundation has opened its college scholarship application earlier this year than in previous years.

The Foundation hopes students will take advantage of the earlier date to complete the application over the holiday break in December.

Richland County Foundation offers scholarships to graduating high school seniors, current college or career tech students, and non-traditional students.

Past recipients of an RCF scholarship are eligible to receive awards again. No scholarships through the Foundation are automatically renewable so applicants must apply each year.

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

The Foundation Board of Trustees also awards career technical education (CTE) scholarships to individuals who want to obtain certifications and credentials at accredited technical institutions.

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

All awarded scholarships will be sent directly to the school.

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

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

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

For more information visit the website at richlandcountyfoundation.org or contact Community Investment Officer Bobby Rhea at 419-525-3020 or brhea@rcfoundation.org.

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

The Foundation helps people in Richland County give back to their community by investing their gifts wisely so that grants can be made to improve the quality of life for all the county's citizens. Working together with donors, the Foundation meets important needs today and plans for a strong future.



ON TUESDAY, NOV. 26, the day before Thanksgiving break, Ontario High School celebrated OSU Day by playing board and card games in the library.

Gain peace-of-mind with the most powerful line of home standby generators.

NEVER WORRY ABOUT POWER OUTAGES AGAIN.



Proudly manufactured in the USA

When choosing a standby generator, check the specifications closely. Only Briggs & Stratton PowerProtect™ generators feature NGMax™ technology, delivering up to 12% more power on natural gas than the competition. For homes with natural gas, Briggs & Stratton is the ideal choice.

Industry-Leading Comprehensive Warranty for Years of Worry-Free Performance

Standard Warranty of **7 YEARS** SB49 Value

Call 1-866-749-3645





Seltzer Park, Shelby • Photo By Dyanna Lynn White

Applications open for camper, volunteer and seasonal positions at Flying Horse Farms

The application window will open Dec. 2 for camper, volunteer and seasonal positions for 2025 experiences at Flying Horse Farms, a medical-specialty camp with a life-changing mission.

This is a camp for kids with serious illnesses to experience joy, connection and fun at no cost.

The camp is open for kids and families at no cost.

Located in Mt. Gilead, Flying Horse Farms (FHF) provides kids and young people (ages 7–21) an opportunity to attend residential camps and family camp weekends with programming designed to help them heal, grow and thrive. When at FHF, kids can just be kids, surrounded by a compassionate community that supports their physical, mental, and emotional needs.

FHF welcomes campers living with a range of medical conditions, including cancer, heart conditions, rheumatologic diagnoses, blood disorders, lung conditions, gastrointestinal disorders, craniofacial diagnoses, spinal cord diagnoses and internalized mental health diagnoses.

As a volunteer or seasonal staffer, paid positions include activity counselors, cabin counselors, content specialist, entertainment team, facilities team, kitchen crew, lifeguards, psychosocial team, seasonal nurses and staff & team leaders

Visit <https://flyinghorsefarms.org/come-to-camp/> to check out the 2025 schedule and complete an application.

Flying Horse Farms is located at 5260 State Route 95, Mt. Gilead. For information call 419-751-7077.

**Print and save
past issues of the
Tribune-Courier at
www.tribune-courier.com**

**Receive the Tribune FREE by email.
Send name to news@tribune-courier.com**

Kingwood Center Gardens featured on Ohio Holiday Lights Trail

Spectacular displays, dazzling drive-through shows, movie-worthy main streets and one-of-a-kind traditions are all featured on TourismOhio's 2024 Ohio Holiday Lights Trail.

With 73 stops, this year's trail brings together Ohio's most beloved displays, including favorites like Mansfield's Christmas at Kingwood at Kingwood Center Gardens, inviting Ohioans and visitors to experience the brilliance of the holidays.

"If you're looking to experience the magic of the season with the best light displays in the state, the Holiday Lights Trail is a great place to start," said Governor Mike DeWine.

"Following the trail gives families the opportunity to bundle up and explore some of the most enchanting holiday experiences in the heart of it all."

The Ohio Holiday Lights Trail can be viewed online or downloaded on the Holidays in Ohio featured page on TourismOhio's website Ohio.org.

"The magic of the Ohio Holiday Lights Trail lies in the dedication of the communities who help bring these displays to life," said Lydia Mihalik, director of the Department of Development, which oversees TourismOhio. "Each display reflects the creativity and passion of the many Ohioans who are spreading holiday joy and helping families make memories together."

"Kingwood Center Gardens is thrilled to be featured on the Ohio Holiday Lights Trails for the fourth year in a row. The Christmas at Kingwood's holiday experience continues to be an annual family tradition for many. In 2023, over 20,000 guests visited from 48 states, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico. The walking tour includes favorite features like the outdoor Trail of Lights, Community Tree Walk, and the elegantly decorated Kingwood Hall mansion complete with a 19-foot-tall Fraser fir tree in the grand foyer," stated Brenda Nelson, director of development and marketing.

Christmas at Kingwood opens on Nov. 30 and includes many events like a visit from Santa, reindeer, trains, and exclusive concert nights. Timed-entry tickets are required; learn more and purchase tickets at KingwoodCenter.org.

"Ohio's Holiday Lights Trail is a twinkling treasure hunt full of festive surprises that light up the season in unexpected ways," said Sarah Wickham, Ohio state tourism director. "It's the perfect way for Ohioans and visitors to experience our state's holiday spirit and make spirits bright, one sparkling light at a time."

CLASSIFIEDS

CITY OF ONTARIO OFFICE PERSONNEL CIVIL SERVICE EXAM

The City of Ontario, an Equal Opportunity Employer, currently has an opening for an Office Personnel position in the Water/Sewer Department. This position requires skills in general office duties such as data entry, customer service, phone calls, cash and credit card handling, Word, Excel and general clerical work. Starting hourly rate is \$21.10. The successful applicant must be bondable. We offer an excellent benefit package.

Applications may be picked up at the Ontario Municipal Building, 555 Stumbo Road, Ontario, Ohio, or online at www.ontarioohio.org, and must be returned by December 4, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. in a sealed envelope addressed to the Civil Service Commission-Office Personnel Position. The Civil Service examination for the Office Personnel position will be held Sunday, December 8, 2024, 9:00 a.m., at the Ontario Service Building, 3375 Milligan Road, Ontario, Ohio.

Cathy VanAuker
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, OH
(T-C 11-21, 28 '24) (31L)

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Sealed bids for Gasoline and Diesel Fuel for January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025 will be opened at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 5th, 2024 by Adam Gongwer, Service-Safety Director of the City of Ontario.

Specifications may be obtained electronically from the Service-Safety Director.

Email a request to servicesafetydirector@ontarioohio.org, or a paper copy is available at the City of Ontario Municipal Building, 555 Stumbo Road, Ontario, Ohio 44906.

All bids should be sealed in an envelope, clearly marked: 2025 GASOLINE & DIESEL FUEL BID, the name of the Bidder, and include a CERTIFIED CHECK OR BOND on a solvent bank, in the amount of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).

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

Adam Gongwer
Service-Safety Director
City of Ontario, OH
(T-C 11-21, 28 '24) (32L)

LEGAL NOTICE

The following is a succinct summary of the legislation adopted by the Council of the City of Ontario, at their regular meeting held on November 20, 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. 24-18 – AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A MORATORIUM INDEFINITELY, ON THE ACCEPTANCE, CONSIDERATION AND/OR GRANTING OF ANY APPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL LICENSING APPROVAL, AND/OR ANY ZONING, OCCUPANCY, OR OTHER PERMITS RELATING TO CULTIVATORS, PROCESSORS OR RETAIL DISPENSARIES OF MARIJUANA WITHIN THE CITY OF ONTARIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-22 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 24-06 KNOWN AS THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR 2024 BY MAKING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND, SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, ENTERPRISE FUND, INTERNAL SERVICE FUND, TRUST AND AGENCY FUND, BOND RETIREMENT FUND AND THE EMPLOYEE DEDUCTIONS FUND.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-14 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND AWARD CONTRACTS FOR VARIOUS MATERIALS AND SERVICES NEEDED DURING THE YEAR 2025 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Cathy VanAuker
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, OH
(T-C 11-28, 12-5 '24) (47L)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Madison Township Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at the Madison Town Hall, 817 Expressview Drive, rear entrance. The requested hearing is as follows:

APPLICATION# 1-24

1. Legal Description - 1351 Ashland Rd, Mansfield, Ohio 44905 Parcel number 0250906708000) with zoning district of R-3. A variance requesting to erect Sign that exceeds the resolutions allowable square footage. Advertising Billboard for Lind media

At this hearing, all persons shall be given ample opportunity to speak "for, or against" the application. The purpose of this hearing is to determine whether the applicants will be granted their request.

Madison Township Board
of Zoning Appeals
Dan Bishop, Chairman
Mansfield, OH
(T-C 11-28 '24) (26L)



ODOT ready for snow season

Ohio Department of Transportation crews have been making sure trucks, drivers and equipment are ready to safely roll across the state when snow begins to fall.

ODOT has more than 810,000 tons of salt under roof and more than 4.5 million gallons of liquid deicer ready to go.

Beginning in September, each of ODOT's 1,700-trucks and other snow fighting equipment went through a rigorous 150-point inspection by ODOT mechanics in every county.

The agency utilizes nearly 3,000 drivers who often work 12-hour shifts during snow and ice events.

While most are full-time drivers, about 500 drivers are hired seasonally.

This team maintains more than 43,000 lane miles of state and U.S. routes outside municipalities and all interstates in Ohio, except the Ohio Turnpike.

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

A total of 22 plow trucks were struck last winter, 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.

Unfortunately, when someone does hit a snow plow, they are more likely to be injured than the plow driver, which is why it is very important that motorists give crews plenty of room to work.

ODOT has launched a new public awareness campaign to remind drivers of the importance of giving crews room to get their job done. Media can download any of the graphics, video, and radio ads to use in available PSA rotations.

During winter 2023-'2024 ODOT's goal was to have primary routes back up to speed within two hours and secondary routes within four hours of the end of a snow event. Last winter, crews hit that goal 98.3% percent of the time.

Last winter, crews drove 4.8 million miles using nearly 371,785 tons of salt and 10.3 million gallons of liquid deicers.

**Join the FREE Tribune-Courier Email List
and Receive the Weekly Issue
in Your Inbox.
Fill Out the Form at
<http://eepurl.com/hnS9N9>**





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



Lisa Anderson
NMLS 618735
Branch Manager - Loan Officer