



TRIBUNE-COURIER

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news@tribune-courier.com

12.12.24



Ontario brings new life to Hagerman display during annual lighting ceremony

Photos and Article By Traci Little

The 2024 Ontario Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony took place on Thursday, Dec. 5, at Marshall Park, attracting the community despite the chilly temperatures. From 5:30-6:30 pm, the evening was filled with holiday spirit as locals gathered to enjoy complimentary hot chocolate and cookies, while the Ontario High School Jazz Band provided festive tunes.

At 5:45 pm, the golf cart parade passed by, followed by the much-awaited arrival of Santa Claus, accompanied by Miss Ontario. The crowd was entertained by a performance of Rhapsody in Blue at 5:50 pm and at 6:15 pm, the Golden Girls, flag corps and majorettes showcased their talents. The evening wrapped up with the Lions Club Coloring Contest at 6:30 p.m.

This cherished tradition marked a joyful beginning to the holiday season, and this year, the addition of the Hagerman family's light displays made the event even more spectacular!

Mayor Kris Knapp expressed his excitement about the display, saying he was "ecstatic" to welcome the famous Madison Township lights to the park. The lights, which will remain up until Jan. 1, automatically light up each night.

The display, which includes around 40,000 miniature light bulbs, is located between the park pavilion and bandshell, facing Milligan Road. Looking ahead, Knapp plans to expand the display next year, after completing some further electrical work at Marshall Park.

Nearly all of the light displays were created by brothers Dick and Jim Hagerman, an electrician and carpenter, who began crafting the decorations in 1960.

The display was visited every year by ma-

ny at the Beal Rd. location in the Madison area. Ontario purchased the display last year. The Hagermans are thrilled the light display will continue to delight viewers in the Ontario area.

It's heartwarming to witness communities like Ontario, who continue to value community celebrations like this. Despite the cold, it was a night full of joy and lasting memories. (More Photos on Page 8)



Donors make Richland Gives a success

Richland Gives, an online giving event hosted by the Richland County Foundation, raised \$804,938 via 1,666 donors to benefit 99 Richland County nonprofit organizations. Since its inception in 2015, Richland Gives has raised \$3,795,331.

Richland Gives is designed to encourage people to contribute to local nonprofits they care about through a single giving website. The foundation hosted the day 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 awarded \$80,000 in grants as prize incentives during the giving event. The nonprofit organizations with the most donors or raised the most dollars in the small, medium, and large nonprofit categories were awarded \$5,000 for first place, \$3,000 for second place, and \$1,000 for third place. Nonprofits could win only one leaderboard prize.

Winners in the small nonprofit category for achieving the most donors were:

- 1 Visual Bucket List Foundation
- 2 Mansfield Noon Optimist Club
- 3 Mansfield Rotary Club

Winners in the small nonprofit category for achieving the most dollars were:

- 1 Taking Root Farms
- 2 Time for a Change Diaper Bank
- 3 Oak Hill Cottage

Winners in the medium nonprofit category for achieving the most donors were:

- 1 Humane Society of Richland County
- 2 North Central Ohio Land Conservancy
- 3 Habitat for Humanity or Richland and Crawford Counties

Winners in the medium nonprofit category for achieving the most dollars were:

- 1 Ohio Bird Sanctuary
- 2 Lucas Community Center
- 3 North Central State College Foundation


Winners in the large nonprofit category for achieving the most donors were:

- 1 St. Peter's School
- 2 Richland Pregnancy Services
- 3 North End Community Improvement Collaborative

Winners in the large nonprofit category for achieving the most dollars were:

- 1 Discovery School
- 2 Friendly House
- 3 Mansfield Art Center

(Continued on Page 11)



THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —

Some of my most enjoyable movie experiences come from not knowing much about a movie before I go into it. *Wicked* is one of those movies.

I knew a brief synopsis of the story, though not many of the details other than what I saw from the trailer.

Adapted from the Tony winning Broadway musical, this movie is actually part one of the backstory of the Wicked Witch of the West from *The Wizard of Oz*.

The musical *Wicked* was adapted from a book so this story has had a long life from the page to the stage to the screen.

Cynthia Erivo gives an Oscar caliber performance as Elphaba, a young woman who was born green and asked to watch after her sister as she attends college. The headmistress (played by Michelle Yeoh) sees Elphaba's advanced magical powers and invites her into the school rooming with a young, precocious Glinda (Ariana Grande).

Director John M. Chu does a tremendous job. It's amazing that the sets and even the train Elphaba takes to go to Oz at one point in the film are real sets and actually built. It would have been very easy to take the CGI route though it's obvious that a great deal of love and care was

given to this movie from people who love the material.

As Elphaba keeps discovering her powers, she is taken to Oz to meet the wizard (Jeff Goldblum). The story evolves from there ending in a tremendous performance of the well-known song "Defying Gravity". Erivo's singing voice is brilliant in this final sequence and it's choreographed very well and should make the audience excited for part two.

An interesting aspect is that this movie is two hours and 40 minutes long, which is how long the Broadway show was in its entirety. Obviously, scenes were stretched and moved around though this first part seemed very cohesive and told a great, epic story.

Admittedly, 2024 has not been the best year for movies in my opinion. I am happy to say that *Wicked* stands out as a grand, amazing looking film with terrific performances from Erivo and Grande and should be remembered at awards time. As musicals go, this is one of the better ones in a while and *Wicked* adapts to the big screen very nicely.



Kiwanis Club of Mansfield to host "Talkin' Cleveland Baseball" luncheon

The Kiwanis Club of Mansfield will host a "Talkin' Cleveland Baseball" luncheon featuring a live auction of baseball items.

Keynote speakers are Bob DiBiasio, Cleveland Guardians Senior Vice-President of Public Affairs, radio broadcaster Jim Rosenhaus and television broadcaster Matt Underwood. The event takes place on Thursday, Feb. 13, at the Mansfield Liederkrantz, 1212 Silver Ln., Mansfield.

Doors open at 10:45 am and the program begins at 11:30 am. Tickets are \$25 and include lunch buffet. Tickets are available at the Park National Bank Ontario Office Lexington-Springmill Rd. and from any Kiwanis Club of Mansfield member.

Tickets may also be purchased at <https://thekiwanisclubofmansfield.org/>. Click on the "event" tab to purchase.

Net proceeds from the event will benefit The Friendly House. Sponsorship is provided by Richland County Agricultural Society, Directions Credit Union, Park National Bank and Ritter's Office Outfitters.

The Kiwanis Club of Mansfield was chartered in June 1920. It's partnership with the Friendly House dates to 1924. Founded in 1915, Kiwanis International is a global organization of clubs and members dedicated to serving the children of the world. Kiwanis and its family of clubs, including Circle K International for university students, Key Club for students ages 14-18, Builders Club for students ages 11-14, Kiwanis Kids for students ages 6-12 and Aktion Club for adults living with disabilities, dedicate annually more than 18 million service hours to strengthen communities and serve children.

The Kiwanis International family comprises nearly 600,000 adult and youth members in 80 countries and geographic areas. For more information about Kiwanis International visit www.kiwanis.org.

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.

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

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. Nursery services are available at 10:30 am. Elevators to each floor are also available.

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

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News Briefs

Clear Fork Alliance Church, 1008 Rt. 97 E., Bellville, will host its 23rd Experience Bethlehem event on Dec. 13, 14 and 15.

Admission is free and tours are held from 6:30-8:30 pm on Friday and Saturday and from 2-4 pm on Sunday.

This indoor event is a walk-through of the nativity story which concludes at a Bethlehem marketplace to spend free coins on games, crafts, food and prizes. Bethlehem will remain open one hour after the last tour. The church is located across from Clear Fork High School. Visit www.clearforkalliance.org



A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, Dec. 28 and 29. Acceptable items include steel and aluminum cans, crushed milk jugs, detergent bottles, plastic bottles with number 1 or 2 on the bottom, broken down cardboard, all papers included with the newspaper but no other magazines or paper. Please remove caps from bottles and rinse all containers well.



The Ontario Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Dec. 11, has been cancelled.



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.

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.



All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Wendy Bartlett to speak on "Advent Candle of Joy" at 10:30 am on Sunday, Dec. 15. For information visit www.allsoulsuohio.org.



The Madison Comprehensive High School Jazz Band and Jazz Choir will 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.



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 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at Mansfield 1st Presbyterian Church, 399 S. Trimble Rd., Mansfield, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 6 pm. This is a family friendly event, where children are welcome and is a traditional Christmas Eve worship service of "Lessons and Carols". Those attending will alternate between scripture and song and conclude with the singing of "Silent Night" and the lighting of personal, individual candles to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, "the Light of the World."



The Pioneer Career and Technology Center Board of Education will hold its regular December meeting at 6 pm, Monday, Dec. 16, in the Pioneer Room Restaurant located in the west end of the building at the Pioneer in Shelby.



First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Avenue West, will offer senior boxes provided by the Greater Cleveland Food Bank from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm or until supplies run out. This comes with a 15 lb. box of fresh produce and a two lb. box of cheese. These items are free to those who qualify by age (60+) and low income guidelines. Recipients must have at least one person age 60 or older in the household. The distribution will be held Dec. 17, in the South Mulberry Street parking lot. Please note the special date for December.

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12/8 @ 10:30 AM Choir presents JESUS!
12/15 @ 10:30 AM Children's Christmas Program
12/24 @ 7:00 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

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American Red Cross offers gifts to donors during December

As holiday celebrations continue into December, the American Red Cross encourages donors to keep the blood supply top of mind by giving blood or platelets this month. Type O negative blood donors and those giving platelets are especially urged to give now to help ensure patients can continue to receive the care they need in the coming weeks.

Schedule an appointment this December by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

For a limited time, those who come to give Dec. 9-15, will receive a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of choice. Those who come to give Dec. 16-Jan. 3 will receive an exclusive Red Cross long-sleeved t-shirt, while supplies last.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities:

Friday, Dec. 13, 8 am to 1 pm, OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital, 335 Glessner Ave., Mansfield; and 8:30 am to 2:30 pm, St. Peter's High School, 111 West First St., Mansfield

Saturday, Dec. 14, 8 am to 1 pm, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1951 Middle-Bellville Rd., Mansfield

Tuesday, Dec. 17, 1-6 pm, Crossroads Ontario Campus, 636 Lexington-Springmill Road S., Ontario; and noon to 6 pm, Saint Paul

Lutheran Church, 48 Church St., Bellville

Wednesday, Dec. 18, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario; 7 am to 1 pm, K of C Hall, 208 Vernon Rd., Shelby; and noon to 6 pm, Planktown Country Market, 1921 Free Rd., Shiloh

Friday, Dec. 20, noon to 5 pm, Resurrection Parish, 2600 Lexington Ave., Lexington

Saturday, Dec. 21, 8 am to 2 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

Tuesday, Dec. 24, 9 am to 2 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

Thursday, Dec. 26, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

Friday, Dec. 27, 10 am to 3 pm, YMCA, 750 Scholl Rd., Mansfield

Saturday, Dec. 28, 9 am to 2 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

Tuesday, Dec. 31, 9 am to 2 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

Friday, Jan. 3, noon to 6 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

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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>

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419-756-7066 • www.mansfield1st.com
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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

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Photo By Mark Shutt

Journey to Bethlehem tours return December 21 and 22

A journey that began 30 years ago will return Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 21 and 22 after a 15-year hiatus. "Journey to Bethlehem" is a 75-minute tour that visits 15 characters who experienced the first Christmas — the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Tours begin every 10 minutes from 3–5 pm each day at the ARC Empowerment Center, 378 Park Avenue West, on the east side of Sycamore Street.

"We know the story, we read it in the books of Matthew and Luke, we hear it in the carols, but I wanted people to hear the story from each of the persons who we know were there," said Paul Lintern.

With music mixed in, the tour begins with a conversation between Matthew and Luke, and each group is guided by its own shepherd who leads them to the Angel Gabriel, two prophets, an innkeeper and people who don't even identify as part of the Christmas story.

Lintern wrote the Journey to Bethlehem in 1993 for First English Lutheran Church, about a half mile east of the ARC, where it was performed nine years in a row.

An outdoor version of the Journey was held at Camp Mowana several times about 15 years ago, and "drive-through" versions of the Journey were presented.

The cast is assembled from a variety of sources including Mansfield City Council members Rev. El Akuchie, Aurelio Diaz and Deborah Mount, of Wards Three, Five and Six, respectively, as the magi. Some cast will be reprising their roles from up to 30 years ago.

Project One Director Amanda Nichols is coordinating the event as a second weekend of Christmas at the ARC, following its annual Christmas giveaway Dec. 14, for nearly 600 children.

Reservations for the free event can be made by calling the ARC at 567-241-6781 for specific tour times, at 10 minute intervals, with up to 12 in a tour.

Scholarship applications being accepted

The Marilyn Archer Annual scholarship information has been updated. All senior high school students in Richland County are eligible to apply for the scholarship by already having or opening a free savings account at Advantage Credit Union. Students can become a member at no cost.

For over 30 years, the credit union has awarded a \$1,000 check to a local high school graduate to help towards their college expenses.

With a 500-word essay, along with a high school transcript, list of extracurricular activities and statement of desire, one senior will earn \$1,000 towards making their first year at college a little easier.

Applications are due by Monday, March 31, 2025, at 5 pm.

If a student does not have a free Advantage savings account, the credit union will open one for them and make a \$5 deposit. Applicants may visit the office at 700 Stumbo Rd., in Ontario, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm. A valid government issued photo ID is required.

Attention Richland County High School Seniors

Apply for our Marilyn Archer Scholarship

- Due date is March 31, 2025
- Get \$1,000 toward college expenses
- Stop by our Ontario office for more details at 700 Stumbo Road
- Visit us online at Advantage4.org

Advantage Credit Union, Inc. 419.529.5603 Insured by NCUA

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- Debra Kay Cline, November 25
- Robert Charles Myers, November 28
- Kenneth Clyde Bonham, November 30
- Terry Lee Hammer, November 30
- Billy Joe Caudill Sr., December 1
- Donald Koehler, December 2
- Dorothy Elizabeth Elsasser, December 4
- Andrew Scott Bolen, December 6

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Call if transportation is needed to the clinic. Walk in's are welcome.

567-247-6483



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JOIN US FOR A WALK!**

**3rd Wednesday
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10:00 - 11:00**



**Mobility Walk at the Ontario
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(former Richland Mall)



Meet at the Food Court
at 10:00 a.m.

Are you looking for a fun way to get healthy, meet new friends and learn about your community... Join us!



Photos By Traci Little

THE LEXINGTON KIWANIS hosted its annual Pancakes with Santa event on Saturday, Dec. 7 in the Lexington High School cafeteria. Families gathered from 8 am to noon to enjoy an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast. At just \$7 per person, with free meals for kids under 12, the event was a hit for attendees of all ages. In addition to breakfast, children had the opportunity to meet Santa and take home a complimentary photo print, adding a special touch of holiday cheer. The event was filled with festive fun, bringing the community together to celebrate the season. (Photo Above) Charlotte Coffing, 6, asks Santa for an American girl doll.



You're INVITED **THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
 Tuesday, December 24, 6 pm
 Message: "Miracle of Christmas"

Ontario United Methodist Church
 3540 Park Ave. West
 www.ontarioumc.com



City of Ontario Tree Lighting



Photos By Traci Little





Photos By Traci Little

THE ONTARIO COMMUNITY EVENTS CRAFT SHOW took place on Saturday, Dec. 7 at the Richland County Fairgrounds in Mansfield. From 8:30 am to 3 pm, visitors enjoyed browsing through booths featuring over 100 local crafters offering unique holiday gifts. Admission was \$2 per person or the donation of a new toy (excluding stuffed animals), with all proceeds benefiting the Brian Morris Family, the Ontario Lions Club and Ontario Community Events. Donated toys were given to the Springfield Township Fire Department and Ontario Police to support local families in need. The event was a wonderful opportunity to support local artisans and spread holiday cheer while contributing to a great cause.



Taking Root Farms celebrates groundbreaking in Mansfield

Photos and Article By Traci Little

The excitement was palpable at the groundbreaking ceremony for Taking Root Farms on Dec. 5, held at Raemelton Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Mansfield. The event, which kicked off at 1 pm, celebrated the launch of a unique, rural day habilitation community for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Taking Root Farms, set to open on six acres at Raemelton, is more than just a farm — it's a transformative space that will offer full-day, sustainable farming programs five days a week. Once open, it will be the first farm-based nonprofit of its kind in Richland County and the surrounding areas. The program aims to empower adults with I/DD, providing opportunities for personal growth, community connection and enhanced well-being.

Founded by Angela Eisaman, the farm will offer a range of activities based on individual preferences, including worm farming, composting and small animal care. The facility will accommodate 20 to 25 participants daily, with programs designed to encourage purposeful activities in a nature-based environment that fosters social interaction with peers, volunteers and staff. The farm will not offer housing but will provide daily services for adults 18 years and older who are high school graduates.

"There's a lot of things available when you're in school, but once that bus stops coming, there's not a lot for these individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities," said Eisaman. "Right now, the design model in our country for these types of programs are urban-based. We saw the need for more of our individuals to experience nature in a suburban environment."

The groundbreaking ceremony took place on the property that has supported individuals with special needs since 1995. The new 5,000-square-foot main facility will include a lounge, kitchen, computer lab, mudroom and reception area.

On the surrounding farmland, participants will grow vegetables, care for animals, and engage in activities that suit their individual interests.

"The Field of Opportunities capital campaign is \$2.5 million. We have raised \$2.3 million, and of that \$2.3 raised, 2 million will be used to fund the building/infrastructure, parking and sidewalks," said Eisaman.

"The monies will also fund programs like walking trails, accessibility upgrades, and raised garden beds. The goal is to create a sustainable, impactful resource for adults with I/DD in Richland County and the surrounding region, where everyone has the chance to learn, work, and thrive."

Eisaman expressed her gratitude for the community's support, sharing her personal connection to the project. She was inspired by her own son Mitch, who, at 30, spends most of his time at home. Her hope is that the farm will provide her son and others like him with opportunities to find purpose, fulfill their potential and build friendships.

"This is not a one-man show," Eisaman

said at the ceremony. "This is a board-directed, community-driven project."

The ceremony was attended by board members, local officials, supporters, and media. Eisaman thanked everyone for their continued dedication, acknowledging the hard work and support that has brought the project to this point. "We are not stopping now," she said. "Whether we dig dirt or we dig ice, our dedication knows no season!" mentioned board member, Tatiana Dove.

The Taking Root Farms team includes Eisaman, Mary Bolin, Mike Jarvis, Joanne Humphrey, Sasha Rondy, Tatiana Dove, Ted Wendling, George Andress, Jeremy Swank, and honorary K9 ambassador Naomi Jarvis. Eisaman credited local businessman, Merris Welge, for inspiring her to believe that people would give their time, talent, and treasures to the project, and never to dismiss the three. She's continuing to see the beauty of that sentiment come to fruition today.

Though the farm's permanent building is under construction, Taking Root Farms has already begun providing services, including community outings for participants. With the help of driver Ashley Billotte, participants have enjoyed trips to COSI, concerts, bowling, and dining out. Eisaman highlighted the lack of opportunities for adults with I/DD after they graduate from school, noting that most programs are urban based. Taking

Root Farms is shifting that model by offering a nature-filled, suburban environment including meaningful activities.

Looking to the future, Taking Root Farms aims to provide year-round, full-day programming five days a week. About 90 percent of the farm's operating funds will come from federal and state reimbursement allocations, with the remaining 10 percent covered through fundraising efforts.

"We have a 50 year lease of six acres with Raemelton Therapeutic Equestrian Center. This includes the area behind the polo barn and hillside. We are hoping to acquire additional adjoining property to double our acreage and subsequently provide more opportunities for long term expansion, Eisaman further explained, noting the farm's long-term goals for expansion.

The project's success is a testament to the collective effort of the community, including the support of the Richland County Foundation and the Milliron Foundation, both contributing \$500,000 each!

"I remember meeting with the late and great philanthropist, Mr. Grant Milliron, who suggested that he would give us a farm. But the more he thought about it, he mentioned acquiring this location, and that's how the marriage came to be!"

With a mission to empower adults with I/DD,
(Continued on Page 11)



• Donors make Richland Gives a success

(Continued from Front Page)

The first 10 organizations to raise \$10,000 via 10 donors were awarded a \$1,000 grant prize were: Discovery School, Taking Root Farms, Lucas Community Center, North Central State College Foundation, Visual Bucket List Foundation, North Central Ohio Land Conservancy, Mansfield Art Center, The New Store, St. Peter's School and Humane Society of Richland County.

The organizations awarded grant prizes for raising either the most money or having the most donors during Golden Ticket hours were: Time for a Change Diaper Bank, Visual Bucket List Foundation, 4-Leaf Rover, Lucas Community Center (won two tickets), Ohio Bird Sanctuary, Renaissance Performing Arts, St. Peter's School, Friendly House, Richland Pregnancy Services, Discovery School, and Taking Root Farms.

Nonprofits that raised at least \$2,000 between Nov. 18 and Dec. 3, during early giving were entered into a random drawing for a chance to win a \$250 grant prize. The winners were: North End Community Improvement Collaborative, Richland Academy of the Arts, Ohio State University Student Emergency Fund, North Central Ohio Land Conservancy, Richland Pregnancy Services, United Way

• Taking Root Farms celebrates groundbreaking in Mansfield

(Continued from Page 10)

Taking Root Farms offers multiple ways for individuals and businesses to contribute, including one-time donations, naming opportunities, recurring gifts, sponsorships, and volunteering. To get involved or learn more, visit www.takingrootfarms.com or contact them at takingrootfarms@gmail.com or 419-688-0019. Join the movement to transform lives and make a lasting impact on the amazing Richland County community.

"Richland County is going places, and once you personally embed yourself into it, you'll be able to experience firsthand all it offers. The talent and drive we have to always do better, create and to just really come together as a group and say - we are important in this community, everybody is important in this community! The things that are going on behind the scenes are incredible and I am so proud to be a part of it and I'm glad I didn't leave this earth, not being a part of that!" Eisaman passionately stated.

Join the continued excitement as you witness Taking Roots Farms empower individuals and contribute positively to Richland County.

Buckeye Imagination Museum launches "12 Gifts of Christmas"

The Buckeye Imagination Museum has announced the launch of its annual holiday initiative, the 12 Gifts of Christmas, with generous support from Brightspeed.

This program gives the community a chance to nominate deserving families to receive a truly special gift this holiday season — a Buckeye Imagination Museum Membership.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to bring joy and inspiration to families who could use a little extra cheer this time of year," Fred Boll, Executive Director. "Thanks to Brightspeed, we're able to provide 12 families with a year's worth of creative play, learning and family bonding."

Nominations are now open, and the museum is calling on the community to share stories of families who would benefit most. Whether it's a family facing challenges or one who continually gives back to others, the program is designed to uplift and celebrate the spirit of the season.

The selected families will each receive an annual membership to the Buckeye Imagination Museum, granting unlimited access to exhibits and programs that encourage creativity, exploration, and play.

Community members can submit nominations online at <https://buckeyeimaginationmuseum.org/brightspeed-christmas-giveaway/>. Nominations will be accepted through Dec. 31.

of Richland County, Change Up Charity, and St. Peter's School.

Peer-to-peer fundraiser pages that raised at least \$250 were entered into a random pull prize to get their total raised matched by up to \$1,000. A page set up by Miriam Mandour was titled "Omari's Wolfpack Read-A-Thon." The Discovery School will be awarded \$760 for her efforts.

The Fab Freshman \$500 award goes to the nonprofit that participated in Richland Gives for the first time and secured the most donors. The winner is the Music Academy of Karate and Empowerment.

Nonprofits that meet their match in full were entered into a random drawing prize to get their completed match value matched up to \$1,000. The winners are North Central Ohio Land Conservancy, Nuhop Center for Experiential Learning, and the Domestic Violence Shelter.

The Best Looking #RichlandGives page winner of \$1,000 as judged by Mighty Cause employees was: Friendly House

A \$500 grant prize was awarded by a random drawing for those who attended either the in-person kick-off event or an educational webinar. The winners are: The Visual Bucket List Foundation and The Starfish Project

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.

Ohians can receive help from Home Energy Assistance Program

The Ohio Department of Development and the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging wants 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.

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Third Street facility celebrates grand reopening

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Renovations at the Shelby Health & Wellness Center, located at 31 E. Main Street, have been completed, marking a significant enhancement to the community's healthcare services. It is an affiliate of Third Street Family Health Services.

The center celebrated with a ribbon cutting on Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 1 pm on behalf of the Richland Area Chamber and Economic Development. Jennifer Wagner welcomed the guests to the beautiful grand reopening.

"I look at this as not just any old transformation, it's an elevated commitment to the wellbeing and health of our community that we love. We thank you for this, and then some," said Wagner.

The City of Shelby Mayor Steve Schag described the unveiling of the newly renovated Third Street Family Health Services facility as an inspiring moment for the community. "We use the word exciting a lot at these ribbon cuttings," the mayor remarked, "but it's absolutely appropriate here. It's been exciting for me to witness the positive evolution of downtown Shelby."

Reflecting on the transformation, Schag noted, "The streets look differently than they did forty years ago. Our project coordinator, Mr. Gies, reminded me that this building used to be a Kroger store, if you can believe that!"

He praised the synergy between local institutions, pointing out the proximity of the Crossroads Ministry Center and its theme of hope. "Now, just a few steps away, we have this health and wellness center with the theme of healing," the mayor added. "All of our businesses up and down Main Street, with their decorations, are creating a holiday spirit. So there you have it — hope, healing, and holidays. You

can't get much better than that in downtown Shelby."

Expressing gratitude, he addressed the Third Street Family Health Services team directly. "On behalf of the citizens of Shelby and the residents of northern Richland County, we want to thank you for a monumental investment here. We truly believe this facility will be instrumental in the betterment of numerous lives for decades to come."

The remarks concluded with a heartfelt acknowledgment of the center's value. "We are truly blessed to have a state-of-the-art facility like this to serve our citizens, providing affordable healthcare services. Thank you on behalf of us all—we are blessed to be a part of it."

The ceremony underscored the community's pride in its ongoing revitalization and the collective effort to create spaces of hope, healing, and connection.

Jessica Gribben, the Economic Developer Manager of the Richland Area Chamber, exclaimed, "Seeing a facelift like this is amazing! Now it seems inviting, happy, healthy and well, so thank you for your investment here in Shelby on Main Street. It's a big deal to have all this care right here in our community. It's a beautiful facility, and we really appreciate the services you offer to Shelby. It makes us better — so thank you!"

Proclamations were given on behalf of the office of Secretary of State, Frank LaRose, as well as Senator Mark Romanchuk.

The updated facility now offers state-of-the-art primary care and dental services in a modernized environment designed to improve both patient care and comfort. This renovation reinforces the center's role as a vital part of Shelby's healthcare infrastructure.

Residents are encouraged to visit and experience the newly improved space, which stands as a testament to the commitment to quality healthcare in the community.

Third Street's CEO Peggy Anderson stood before the enthusiastic crowd marking this a significant milestone for the community. "We're very excited," Anderson said, welcoming attendees. "We'll make sure to give you all a tour once this short program wraps up."

The facility, which originally opened eight years ago in what was once a Kroger store, has undergone a dramatic transformation. Anderson reflected on the journey: "It's fascinating to see how this space has evolved and to be part of a community where people can walk or quickly drive here, often faster than they could reach other clinics."

The renovation, initially funded by federal grants through HRSA, quickly expanded in scope, necessitating additional support from state and local funders. "Like any construction project, costs grew beyond our initial budget," Anderson noted. "Thankfully, we were able to secure additional funding from the Milliron Foundation, the Shelby Community Foundation, Delta Dental, and the Gorman Family Foundation. We're incredibly grateful for their contributions."

(Continued on Page 13)





• Third Street facility celebrates grand reopening

(Continued from Page 12)

Enhancing Care Through Integrated Spaces

One of the primary goals of the renovation was to create a more integrated and welcoming environment for patients. Anderson explained, “Previously, our building was essentially one long hallway. Patients visiting our dental team on one side often didn’t know we offered medical services on the other. The redesign prioritizes connectivity and accessibility, creating a space that Anderson described as “bright, clean, and safe.”

Key upgrades include two new behavioral health rooms with services set to launch in 2025; three additional women’s health rooms; space allocated for a potential pharmacy in the future, dedicated telehealth and infusion room; expanded provider and staff workstations including a new nurses’ station and medical assistant work areas; a multipurpose room and a staff break room, a first for the medical side of the facility; relocation of the main entrance to improve accessibility, along with a new wheelchair-accessible ramp; and an integrated lobby accommodating up to 43 patient chairs.

Community Support and Resilience

Anderson credited the success of the project to the unwavering support of the staff, providers, and community.

“Our team endured significant disruptions during the renovation,” she said. “They relocated to other sites for nearly a year yet maintained positivity and continued providing exceptional care. Many patients followed their providers to the temporary locations and are now excited to return.”

The project’s completion was a collaborative effort involving federal, state, and local partners. Anderson extended special thanks to

Representative Marilyn John and Senator Mark Romanchuk for their advocacy in securing state funding, which helped bring the project to the finish line.

Looking Ahead

The renovation isn’t the end of Third Street’s plans for the space. Anderson revealed that future goals include updating the building’s facade, modernizing the design, and repaving the parking lot. “Parking lots are surprisingly expensive,” she emphasized, adding that the team is actively exploring funding options for these upgrades.

As the event concluded, Anderson highlighted her immense gratitude. “This is an exciting project for us, and it wouldn’t have been possible without the dedication of our staff, the generosity of our funders, and the support of this community. We can’t wait for you to see it.”

After the ribbon cutting, attendees were invited to tour the facility and witness firsthand the transformation of a space that has become a cornerstone of local healthcare, and as a tradition of the Chamber, invited to sign the ribbon.

Academy offering multi-class discounts for spring registrations

Richland Academy of the Arts (RAA) invites individuals of all ages to explore, create and grow within a community that celebrates imagination and artistic expression.

RAA offers a wide range of programs in dance, music, visual arts, theater and martial arts. These programs are designed to inspire students at every stage, whether they’re just starting their artistic journey or looking to refine their skills. With classes for children, teens and adults, every participant can discover their creative passions in a supportive, professional environment.

“At Richland Academy of the Arts, we believe that the arts are a powerful tool for transformation,” states Dr. Michael Benson Executive Director of RAA “Every class offers students the opportunity to grow both as artists and individuals. This spring, we invite the community to join us, explore their creative potential, and experience the joy of self-expression.”

In addition to the programs offered, RAA will offer a special discount this spring. Register for three or more classes in theatre, group music, visual arts, adult dance or creative movement to receive a \$10 discount off tuition. This discount applies to a single student or multiple family members, allowing families to combine registrations to receive the discount. The maximum discount per family is \$30.

As part of its ongoing commitment to fostering creativity, the Empower the Arts Capital Campaign aims to expand its facilities and resources to better serve the community. Visit richlandacademy.com to learn more information.

Roseland Neighborhood Christmas Party is planned for December 17

Richland County Children Services (RCCS), in collaboration with Roseland Area Neighborhood Watch President Robert Beatty, the City of Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department and Maddox Memorial Church of God in Christ, will come together for the holiday celebration the “Roseland Neighborhood Christmas Party.”

Maddox Memorial Church Pastor Aaron Williams is hosting the celebration at the church located at 1148 Walker Lake Road., on Tuesday, Dec. 17, from 5–7 p.m.

The celebration will be for the whole family and feature DJ Jeff Angelini from Nyte Flyte Entertainment. There will be free hot chocolate, cookies, games, gifts, giveaways, an appearance by Santa Claus and more.

If you would like to be part of the celebration contact Angel Singleton, City of Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department Coordinator, at 419-610-6915 or mansfieldcityparks@gmail.com.

Richland Academy continues tradition with The Nutcracker Ballet

Photos and Article By Traci Little

This past weekend, the Richland Academy of the Arts delighted audiences with their annual production of *The Nutcracker Ballet* at the Renaissance Theatre. The cherished holiday classic featured Tchaikovsky's enchanting score and vibrant staging, transporting attendees into a magical world.

Under the direction and choreography of Sarah Horrigan-Ramos and Marden Ramos, the performances followed Clara on her captivating journey through the Land of Snow and the Kingdom of Sweets, where she encountered the Sugar Plum Fairy and enjoyed a variety of mesmerizing dances.

Presented as part of the Spotlight Series and sponsored by Brightspeed's "Christmas at the Ren," the Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon shows on Dec. 7 and 8, showcased the exceptional talents of the performers and brought festive cheer to the Renaissance Theatre's Main Stage.




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DEE CAMPBELL and second grade teacher Lindsey Mawhorr are surrounded by Discovery students who helped with a clothing drive. Pictured are Alasdair Nugent, Dee Campbell, Lindsey Mawhorr. Front Row: Kamdyn Patrick, Kyro Hardin, Ewan Nugent, Miah Enderle and Rylee Gayheart.

Sami's Toys for Kids, Discovery School team up for clothing drive

Dee Campbell works hard to keep the memory and spirit of her brother, Sam Ramirez, alive, especially at Christmas time.

"Local stores told me while Sami was sick that he would go in as soon as they got their first shipments of gloves and hats for the year and buy lots of them, then go to local elementary schools and drop them off in the office," said Campbell. "That was the kind of person Sami was. Always thinking of others."

Every Christmas, Sam would lead a toy drive, providing Christmas for local children. Now, four years after his passing, his sister Dee has carried on this tradition gathering toys as well as new and gently used clothing to give to families in need during the holidays.

Last year, Discovery School partnered with the drive to donate some children's clothing after the PTO rummage sale, and this year, the school and Dee decided to try to help out in a bigger way.

The school held a week-long clothing drive, asking for newborn through adult sized clothing that will be hung in a store-like manner allowing families to shop for items in addition to receiving from Sami's Toys for Kids.

Assistant head of school, Alyssa Nugent, helped connect with Campbell for the drive. Nugent was proud of how everything came together, noting, "We have a connection because Dee's grandchildren attend Discovery. When she called this year, I knew how special Sam was to this community and how his mission connects with ours. Our families and students took action so quickly and filled an 8-foot table in the entryway within days!"

On Friday, Dec. 6, students and teachers helped load Campbell's car completely full, despite the frigid temperatures. "What you've helped do today is going to make a lot of people's Christmas happier!" Campbell told the group as they gathered for a picture after loading. The two organizations hope to start even earlier next year to help more families next December.



Photos By Mike Wilson

GIVING ONTARIO held a toy collection event Sunday, Dec. 8, at the Ontario Center, formerly Richland Mall. The event was held from noon to 6 pm and featured an autograph signing by Ontario's Bodpegn Miller and a visit from the Miss Ontario Court. Those donating had a chance to win an Ontario Helmet signed by the 2024 Elite Eight Warriors or an official Ohio State Helmet.

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Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights



Bodpegn Miller signs Letter of Intent for OSU Football

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Bodpegn Miller has officially signed his letter of intent to continue his academic and football journey at The Ohio State University next fall. The 6'4", 180-pound wide receiver brings a rare combination of speed, athleticism, and playmaking ability, poised to make a significant impact for the Buckeyes.

Those who know Miller often highlight more than just his athletic excellence — they speak of his humility, kindness, and unwavering respect for others. Known for lifting people up and staying grounded, Miller's character shines as brightly as his talent.

Despite an accomplished high school football career filled with historic moments, what truly resonates with those around him is how Miller makes them feel: accepted, loved, and appreciated.

Adopted from Ethiopia as a young child, Miller has risen to become one of the most versatile athletes in the region. His accolades include being named Division IV Northwest District Co-Offensive Player of the Year, earning first-team All-Northwest District and All-Mid-Ohio Athletic Conference honors, and securing a spot as a second-team All-Ohioan in 2023.

At a signing ceremony held in the Ontario High School gymnasium on Wednesday, Dec. 4, Miller addressed a crowd of students,

staff, family, and friends, expressing gratitude for their unwavering support:

"I couldn't have done this without the love and support of this amazing community—my family, coaches, teachers, and friends. It all started here in Ontario. My coaches built the character in me that I'll need to succeed at Ohio State.

This is bigger than me. I want to give all the credit and glory to Jesus Christ, my Savior. Without Him, none of this would be possible. I won't forget Ontario—it's in me. I'll always remember where I came from and all of you who've supported me."

Miller's story is one of resilience, talent, and heart—a testament to what is possible when character and determination come together. As he takes the field as a Buckeye, the Ontario community will proudly cheer him on.



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Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Shelby girls topple Clear Fork Lady Colts 49–36

Photo and Article By Kris Leiter

Relentless, perseverant and intense. Those are three words that come to my mind as I watch Coach Natalie Lantz's Shelby girls basketball team take on their opponents on the hardwood.

Lantz brings another year of experience to the Whippets coaching staff. She has went from playing at Shelby High School under Ellen Lawrence back in the 90s to playing collegiate basketball at Ohio University for the Lady Bobcats.

Lantz started as a sophomore and they won the Mid-American Conference that year.

She was also scouted by the WNBA, but suffered a career-ending injury and rehab that would last for months. Nonetheless, that's quite a résumé!

Monday Shelby and Clear Fork, familiar foes of the Mid-Ohio Athletic Conference, met up at Shelby. The two are the top teams in the MOAC. As expected, it was an epic battle on the court.

Clear Fork held first place with a 4–0 record, 2–0 in the MOAC. The Colts are manned by head coach Scott Sellers.

Shelby was just behind them at 2–1 overall, and second place at 1–0 in the MOAC

It's almost a year to the date of when I wrote about this same scenario. Last year, it was in Belleville at the Colt Corral.

The Lady Whippets are "loaded for bear" as they say, stocking the shelves with eight seniors and three juniors.

Clear Fork rings in with three seniors and four juniors. They bring a good wealth of experience as well.

Within minutes of the tip-off, Clear Fork was holding the lead 3–2 at 6:09 on a first quarter clock.

Less than minute later, at 5:12, the Lady Whippets started the turbo and went on a 10–6 run, flipping the script and taking the lead at 2:00 left, 10–9 Whippets.

As this familiar story goes, Scott Sellers and the Lady Colts got the Lady Colts kicking and at 1:39, junior Brinley Barnett fouled while shooting, visited the charity stripe and dropped the free throw to complete the 3-point play, the Colts were trailing by one point, 11–10.

To close out the first quarter at :39 seconds, senior, Mel Blubaugh added to the tally before the horn, dropping another two points for a first quarter cease fire of 11–10, Colts.

As mentioned above, intensity was up close and personal and it was only the first quarter.

Enter another Shelby phenom, household name senior Serena Ramsey, the 5' 11" guard.

Serena is the sister of phenom Whippet football and basketball standout Isaiah Ramsey, who was a monumental piece to the Shelby's boys' state runner-up team last year and is currently on the Ashland University Eagles football roster.

Once quarter number two opened, at 7:40, Ramsey tallied another two points to bring the lead back to the Whippets, 12–11.

As the second quarter continued, the Colts continued scoring. They would hold their own as the minutes ticked away.

Clear Fork took the lead early in the third quarter, at 6:45, and the Colt's Barnett added two points and at 5:53, she was fouled and made a free throw, stretching the Colt lead 15–12.

At the defense battle between these foes, few steals would add to the mix and loose ball turnovers and a tug-of war ensued for the lead.

At 3:40, Blubaugh emerged and added a 3-bagger, stretching the lead to 18–14 Colts holding, but by only a two-possession score.

Shelby's perseverance and their relentlessness kept Shelby close behind. In the next quarter, at 6:10, senior Sophia Long joined in the party and dropped two foul shots. Shelby locked horns at 21–21 and tied the game.

At 3:20, Blubaugh dropped a huge 3-bagger and edged the Colts up another three points, Clear Fork now ahead, 29–26, but Shelby was nipping close behind!

Shelby's Scott Sellers wasn't going to sit back and do nothing. Throughout the third quarter alone, there would be three lead

changes and two ties.

At 2:25, Shelby's Sophia Long would bring the Whippets back on top 30–29. This would be where Shelby would start the sprint to the finish line and turn on the firepower!

The Whippets showed no mercy and went on a 12–0 run! By the end of three quarters, Shelby held a comfortable 11-point lead. Who let the dogs out?

Contributors at 2:11 were senior Eve Schwemely with two points, senior Charlie Neise with a 2-bagger and junior Natalie Kennard with two points to close out the third quarter. By end of the third Shelby held a 39–29 lead!

As the final quarter would ring in, so would the Whippets clean-up committee. The Whippets went on another 11–5 scoring run and closed out the contest with a 13-point margin, 49–36.

In the fourth quarter, senior Alyssa Booker dropped four points at 7:15 and 5:36. Another four points came from Natalie Kennard at 7:15 and 2:40. Eve Schwemely added two points to the tally as well at 4:46. This was another great game between these two teams!

Leading scoring for the Colts came from Brinley Barnett with 17 points, three 3-pointers and 4–4 from the free throw line and Mel Blubaugh with 12 total points, and two 3-pointers.

Shelby's leading scorers were Serena Ramsey with 16 total points; Charlie Neise with 10 and Eve Schwemely with 7 points and 5–6 at the free throw line. Natalie Kennard would also drop seven points for the Whippets!



SHELBY senior Trinity Baker (1) 5' 4" guard, Serena Ramsey (14) and Clear Fork junior Brinley Barnett (25).

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS ASHLAND GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 5
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS ASHLAND GIRLS JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 5
ASHLAND WINS 19-22 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

TOM ELLIS 10TH ANNIVERSARY MEET • DEC. 7 • PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN

First, Jaxon Stancombe and Aiden Proctor
Second, Gavin Cupp • Third, Jayden Hall



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**MADISON FRESHMAN BASKETBALL · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN
DEC. 3 RAMS WIN AGAINST GALION 58-41 · DEC. 6 WOOSTER WINS 51-40**



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**MADISON VS WOOSTER VARSITY BASKETBALL · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN
DEC. 6 · WOOSTER WINS 64-46**



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**MADISON VS WOOSTER JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL
DEC. 6 · RAMS WIN 50-49 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN**



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS CLEAR FORK VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL · DEC. 3
CLEAR FORK WINS 67-36 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**ONTARIO VS CLEAR FORK JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL · DEC. 3
CLEAR FORK WINS 34-29 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER**



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS WEST HOLMES VARSITY BASKETBALL · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN
DEC. 5 · WEST HOLMES WINS 57-43



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS WEST HOLMES JV BASKETBALL · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN
DEC. 5 · WEST HOLMES WINS 38-31



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS GALION BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 3
RAMS WIN 47-42 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**MADISON VS GALION BOYS JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 3
GALION TIGERS WIN 37-34 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN**



CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE

The following is a succinct summary of the legislation adopted by the Council of the City of Ontario, at their regular meeting held on December 4, 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. 24-23 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS SECTION OF CHAPTER 193 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO REGARDING MUNICIPAL TAX, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

RESOLUTION NO. 24 – 15 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE 2024 ONTARIO COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-25 – AN ORDINANCE REZONING PARCEL #s 038-60-170-12-000 and 038-60-170-13-000 ON MABEE ROAD FROM R1- LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL TO B- BUSINESS DISTRICT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-29 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1137-STANDARD ZONING DISTRICTS; 1137.05 - B-BUSINESS DISTRICT; PARAGRAPH (C) CONDITIONALLY PERMITTED USES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Cathy VanAuken
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, OH
(T-C 12-12, 19 '24) (40L)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, Dec. 16, 2024, at 1 p.m., and Monday Dec. 16, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at Madison Township, Township Hall, 817 Expressview Drive, Mansfield, OH 44905, the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (“NOPEC”), on behalf of Madison Township, will hold public hearings with respect to the Plan of Operation and Governance for the aggregation of competitive retail electricity (the “Aggregation Program”), as previously authorized by such members pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 4929.26.

The Aggregation Program will apply automatically to all eligible customers of retail electricity within Madison Township, except for those who elect to opt-out. Customers may opt-out without charge during a designated opt-out period prior to initiation of service under the Aggregation Program and not less than every three (3) years thereafter.

NOPEC seeks to provide competitive electricity service for consumers by selecting a supplier through a negotiation process and leveraging the combined resources and buying power of member communities in NOPEC.

The Plan of Operation and Governance addresses the following topics

regarding the Aggregation Program: (1) goals, operations and funding; (2) consumer participation, including terms of opting out; (3) customer care; (4) organizational structure and management of NOPEC; and (5) the steps toward establishing the Aggregation Program.

Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council
Leanna Rhodes
Fiscal Officer
Madison Twp., Richland County
Mansfield, OH
(T-C 12-5, 12 '24) (47L)

LEGAL NOTICE

The Troy Township, Richland County, Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on January 8th 2025 at 7:00 PM at the Township Hall, 247 South Mill Street, Lexington, OH. The purpose of this meeting will be to consider an application for home occupation for Troy A. Bennett who wants to operate a Wedding Venue in his barn located on his property located at 3087 Steam Corners Rd., Mansfield, Ohio.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and address any concerns.

Kevin J. Angle,
Zoning Board of Appeals, Secretary
Village of Lexington, OH
(T-C 12-5, 12 '24) (18L)



LEXINGTON COURT held its annual Bazaar on Friday, Dec. 6, from 10 am to 3 pm, at the center, 250 Delaware Ave., Lexington. The event included a basket raffle and fifteen vendors.

Free arts integration class offered to teachers

The Mansfield Partners in Education Team, comprised of the Renaissance Performing Arts Association, the Mansfield Art Center, and Mansfield City Schools, will host a one-day professional development workshop on arts integration for educators and administrators on Wednesday, Jan. 15, at the Renaissance Theatre. This workshop is ideal for primary, intermediate, and middle grades educators (most beneficial for those teaching students in grades K–8).

Teaching artist and National Board Certified Teacher Paige Whelan will lead the interactive session, Animation Challenges: Inspiring Collaboration and Problem-Solving. The workshop is free for all participants thanks to the generous support of the Ohio Arts Council and Charles P. Hahn of Cleveland Financial.

Participants will learn how to engage students in problem-solving and collaboration through animation challenges. Using simple tools like Google Slides, teachers will explore how students can create GIFs or digital flipbooks to demonstrate their understanding of various curriculum concepts, including science, social studies, reading

and math. This innovative approach inspires creativity, encourages collaboration, and fosters a sense of community. It equips students with the confidence and critical thinking skills they need to solve problems independently and as a team.

The workshop will take place from 4:30–7:30 pm at the Renaissance Theatre. Registration

is free and open to all area teachers and school administrators. Attendees will also gain contact hours toward Continuing Education Credits (CEUs). For more information or to register, visit rentickets.org.

The Renaissance is located at 138 Park Avenue West, Mansfield. For information email dauphne@mansfieldtickets.com.

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