Happy New Year!



TRIBUNE-COURIER

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



news@tribune-courier.com 01.02.25







TOY DRIVE — The 2024 Ontario Police and Ontario Lions Club Toy Drive collected a large number of toys for local children. Toys were given to multiple families in Ontario. A special thank you went to Officer Lawhorn, Officer Shepherd, the Ontario Lions Club, Ontario Schools and the Ontario Police department for organizing this successful event.

MLEA supporters attend board meeting as contract issues remain unresolved

Madison Local School Board of Education held a regular meeting on Dec. 18, in the high school library.

Presentations were given by Jordan Nelson, Madison Middle School Principal, and Andrew Kepple, assistant principal/athletic director at the middle school.

A donation was accepted of positive lunch balances from students no longer enrolled in the district in the amount of \$955.62 toward negative lunch balances throughout the district.

Bradd Stevens, treasurer, presented the November monthly financial report and the appropriation modifications for FY 25.

Charles Curren was hired as an intervention specialist at the middle school, effective Dec. 2.

Troy Schulz was hired as an online academy teacher for the second semester. Kobi Johnson was hired as a detention monitor on an "as-needed" basis at the high school.

Chelsea Hermann was hired as the Basic Financials and Budgeting instructor and Tim Stahle was hired as the Phlebotomy Instructor for Madison Adult Career Center.

Karlie Barnhart was hired as a substitute teacher on an "on call" basis, as needed for the 2024–'25 school year.

Alec Keen was approved as a baseball volunteer.

Classified personnel hirings included Lester Dixon, bus driver Route 29; and Laura Simmons, 4-hour cafeteria worker at Mifflin.

Resignations were accepted from Pam Hoffman, on-bus instructor; Tessa Dale, 4-hour cafeteria worker at Mifflin; and Daniel Brammer, bus driver, Route 11.

Substitute employees hired on an "on call" basis, as needed, for the 2024–'25 school year include Partena Tesca, bus driver; Daniel Hunt, custodian; Tessa Dale, paraprofessional; Brenda Nadler, cafeteria; Steven Nadler, cafeteria; Daniel Brammer, bus driver.

The next regular board of education meeting will be determined at a later date. The organization meeting will be held Wednesday, Jan. 8, at 6 pm.

After the Dec. 18 school board meeting, Madison Local Education Association's spokesperson Kristi Green said, "Our members have been working without a new contract since Aug. 1, 2024, and this is not fair to our community or to the students we have dedicated our lives and careers to serving."

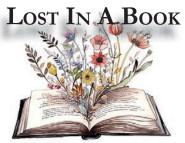
"The Madison Local Schools Board of Education must deliver a fair contract to the membership that allows teachers to continue to provide high quality, individualized instruction to Madison Local students so they can succeed in our schools and beyond."

Several members of the MLEA attended the school board meeting to show support for their bargaining team during the ongoing contract dispute. MLEA members who attended the meeting were in good spirits and remain hopeful that the board will come to the table and do the right thing, settle the dispute.

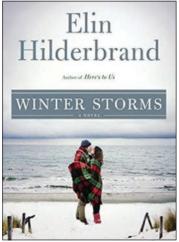
"Together, we must develop a culture of collaboration and cooperation to ensure the best possible educational environment for our students. Empowered by these actions, the district will be able to recruit and retain the best educators to meet students' needs while continuing to build a quality, Madison Local educational system for the Rams of today and in the future," Green added.

"MLEA is committed to working with the Board to come to a contract agreement that allows us to give our students the great education they deserve," Green said. "We will continue to bargain in good faith and remain hopeful a fair contract agreement can be reached as soon as possible."

The Madison Local Education Association represents more than 200 certified and highly qualified teachers and school counselors across five school buildings in the Madison Local School District.



A Book Review By Mandy Belczak Gurney



Each Christmas season l've read a book from the Winter Street Collection by Elin Hilderbrand. Her winter stories are as perfect for Christmas as her other books are for summer beach reads.

I'm in a tough season of life and just need to read books with characters I consider friends and settings that feel like a second home. In the third book of the series, The Quinn family are back on Nantucket with new problems, joyful weddings to plan and still awaiting their MIA war hero brother, Bart. Through all the messy moments they are there for each other. Perfect for what I needed during a stressful and distracted week.

My rating:

Vol. 64

Follow my blog at Green Gurneys at GreenGurneys.com

Renaissance to host free country music concert

The Renaissance Theatre will host Ren Country: An Evening of Community and Country Music, a free concert celebrating the spirit of country music, on Saturday, Jan. 11, at 7:30 pm.

The evening showcases local talent, heartwarming melodies, and toe-tapping rhythms that bring the community together through the universal language of music.

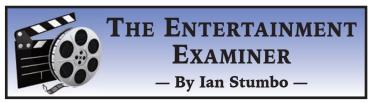
The concert will feature performances by Tom's Kitchen Table, Simba Jordan and Emily Raff, each bringing their unique take on country music and storytelling.

Tom's Kitchen Table – Rooted in Ohio's heartland, this group channels the camaraderie of friends making music around the kitchen table. They blend rich harmonies, folk instrumentation and a mix of country, rock and classics.

Simba Jordan – Known as the "Urban Cowboy," Simba's dynamic vocals, energetic dance moves and heartfelt performances have made him a favorite at festivals and clubs across the Midwest. Having shared stages with country superstars like Blake Shelton and Jason Aldean, Simba brings a blend of jazz, R&B and country influences to every performance.

Emily Raff – This rising star hailing from Ohio brings heartfelt storytelling and melodies to life. Raff's music has graced renowned stages like the Voices of America Music Festival, where she shared the spotlight with artists such as Riley Green and Chris Lane. Emily is currently working on her debut studio album, set to release this summer.

Reservations are required. Reserve at rentickets.org.



Robert Eggers goes four-forfour with his latest release, the gothic horror remake of the legendary *Nosferatu*.

Eggers is one of the most unique filmmakers around with *The Witch, The Lighthouse and The Northman* being great to solid releases and *Nosferatu* is right up there among his best. In 1838, Thomas

In 1838, 110mas (Nicolas Hoult) lives with his wife Ellen (Lily-Rose Depp).

Thomas works in real estate and is asked to sell a property to Count Orlok in the far away Transylvania.

Ellen does not want Thomas to go though as Thomas gets closer to the castle and eventually meets the count, he gets seduced by his vampiric spell. As Orlok (or Nosferatu as the vampire) gets deeper into Ellen and Thomas's minds he gets closer to them physically as he destroys everything in his path.

Eggers is a master of atmosphere. There is one scene specifically where Thomas is in a carriage heading up the castle that looks beautiful and haunting at the same time. Bill Skarsgard, well known for playing Pennywise in the new *IT* films, is unrecognizable as Orlok and is terrific in the role. Depp is also a standout. The demands on her physically and emotionally are tremendous and she does an excellent job displaying every

emotion her character is feeling as she is almost possessed by Orlok at some points.

Willem Dafoe is also great as a doctor well known for the occult who comes in and is the only one who can see that a vampire is at work while others think it is the result of a plague. Eggers puts the audience right in

the period and dialogue of the time and keeps the movie going with an intensity and curiosity as to what will happen next.

My few flaws are that the first half is better than the second as there is quite a bit of exploration and less tightness of the plot. Also, the movie is maybe a little too long at two hours and almost 20 minutes.

Despite these flaws, Robert Eggers *Nosferatu* is such a well-done movie that it may be among the best of the year. The look of the film and especially the performances bring out the best of what Eggers has to offer and is a creepy, chilling, gothic horror film that is well worth a watch.



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Tribune-Courier

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News Briefs

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

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

To RSVP, call Kathy Boyle at 419-543-1813.

These events are supported and funded by the Richland County Senior Services Levy, administered by the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc.

The Jan. 8, Ontario Planning Commission meeting has been cancelled.

Trinity Grace Fellowship, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield, will present its annual children's Christmas program during its regular 9:30 am service on Jan. 5.

The program is about the wise men following the new star God placed in the sky to the stable home of Jesus. The program was written and is directed by Kathleen Tice, who also created the costumes that will be worn.

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Dr. Paul Robinson to present "Getting off to a Fresh Start Or Becoming a Better Version of Yourself" on Sunday, Jan. 5. For information visit www.allsoulsuuohio.org.

CACY's Store it Safe Richland Program offers lock boxes for firearms, sharp objects and medications to protect and reduce risk of injury and save lives. Contact the CACY office at419-774-5683 or andersont@cacyohio.com for details. If someone is thinking of harming themselves, call the local crisis helpline at 419-522-HELP (4357).

The Lexington Area Senior Citizens will have no January meeting.

Richland Public Health will host a Winter Hike for Health on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 9 am to noon. The free event will be held at Malabar Farm State Park, 4050 Bromfield Rd., Lucas. Hikers will meet at the visitor center. Pets are welcome but should be on a 6 foot leash. For more information call 419-774-4761.

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



BRIAN AND MICHELLE GATES STATE FARM INSURANCE donated toys to the Ontario Police Department's toy drive. The toys went to local families for Christmas.

Parents' Bill of Rights heads to governor for final signing

House Bill 8, the Parents' Bill of Rights, is heading to the Governor's desk. State Senator Andrew Brenner (R-Delaware) supports this legislation.

House Bill 8 reinforces parents' fundamental ability to be involved in their children's education. It requires public schools to adopt a policy on parental notification on student academic, mental and physical health and well-being and instructional materials with sexuality content.

During committee, the bill was amended with Senate Bill 293 which requires school districts to adopt policies allowing students to be excused from school to attend a released time course in religious instruction.

"Parents deserve to understand what is happening with their child during the school day," said Brenner. "I am glad to see this piece of legislation make it across the finish line and allow families to choose what is best for them and their family."

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mymechanics.com







CONSUMER HELP: How to Decode the Fine Print of Credit Card Offers

Credit card offers are often packed with appealing benefits, but many of the terms can be confusing or unclear, leading to unexpected expenses and longer debt cycles.

"Introductory offers are tempting, but it's the ongoing terms and conditions that ultimately impact your finances," said Amy Robbins, associate director of operations for Take Charge America, a national nonprofit credit counseling and debt management agency. "With a clear understanding of the fine print, you can make more informed decisions about which credit cards make sense for your goals and adjust your spending habits."

Robbins shares essential terms:

Annual Percentage Rate (APR): APR, or annual percentage rate, is the yearly interest rate charged on balances carried over month to month. Many cards offer a low introductory APR for new purchases or balance transfers, typically lasting six to 18 months. After this introductory period, a higher, standard APR applies. Most cards have a variable APR, meaning the rate adjusts with changes in the Prime Rate.

Prime Rate: The Prime Rate is the benchmark interest rate that banks use when lending to their most creditworthy customers. It often influences variable interest rates on credit cards, meaning your rate may change as the Prime Rate fluctuates.

Grace Period: This is the window of time, typically between 21 and 30 days, when you can pay off your monthly balance without incurring interest. A longer grace period may be helpful in paying off balances interest-free.

Fees: Credit cards may come with annual fees, late fees and charges for balance transfers or cash advances. Not every card charges these fees, so be sure to confirm which fees apply.

Credit Limit and Utilization Ratio: Your credit limit is the maximum amount you can borrow on your card. The credit utilization ratio, or the percentage of your credit limit that you're using, affects your credit score. Generally, keeping your utilization below 30% of your available credit is advisable for maintaining a strong credit rating.

Rewards and Incentives: Some cards offer rewards, such as cash back, points or travel miles, which can be attractive for frequent users. Make sure these perks align with your spending habits – and be cautious not to overspend just to earn rewards. Also ensure the annual fees don't negate the awards.

hurch 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

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

200 West Third St., Mansfield 419-524-4813 • mansfield1stcc1833@gmail.com Rev. David Zerby 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 10:30 am Sunday School (3 years-high school) 10:30 am Monday Morning Bible Study 7:30 am Wednesday Men's Breakfast 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.

Lexington Church of Christ

230 Delaware Ave., Lexington 419-884-1532 • www.lccoh.com Lead Minister Brandon Bogue 9 am Sunday School 10 am Sunday Worship

Lexington Presbyterian Church

35 Church St. West, Lexington 419-884-1330 Pastor Denny Nezrick 10:30 am Sunday Worship https://www.facebook.com/Lexington-Presbyterian-Church-117768414915815

Mansfield 1st EPC

399 Trimble Rd., Mansfield 419-756-7066 • www.mansfield1st.com Rev. Joseph Yerger 9 am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10 am Traditional 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 Oakland Lutheran Church 2045 Olivesburr Rd., Mansfield 419-571-9920 Pastor Paul Lintern 9 am Sunday Worship

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

Southside Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

2055 Middle-Bellville Rd., Mansfield 419-756-3436 Pastor Paul Lintern 10:45 am Sunday Worship

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

G & M Body & Paint Shop 1689 West Fourth St., Ontario 419-529-2747

Wappner Funeral Home Mansfield • Ontario • Ashland 419-522-5211

Lexington Board of Education wraps up 2024

The Lexington Board of Education met Wednesday, Dec. 18. Gracie Masi, student representative to the board, presented her report.

The treasurer presented the monthly financial report for November. The board approved the donation of a ³/₄ size violin, case and bow from Carl Frederick valued at approximately \$583.15 to be used for students at Eastern Elementary.

The board approved a renewal with Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield for medical, Rx and dental insurance administrative services for calendar year 2025. Rates are medical/Rx/stop loss administrative fees of \$40.64 per employee per month; dental administrative fees of \$5.16 per employee per month; and pharmacy rebate offset of \$45 per employee per month. The board approved Specific Stop Loss coverage through Anthem for calendar year 2025 at a premium of \$264.26 per employee per month.

The 2025 medical, dental and vision insurance funding rates, representing a 676% increase for medical and a 3.37% increase for dental were approved.

Kim Garver resigned as an intervention specialist at Eastern, effective Dec. 3. Cailyn Kennedy resigned as an intervention specialist at

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Robert Harvey Beegle, December 16 Noah B. Peters Jr., December 16 Lawrence "Larry" Ernest Fulmer, December 17 Gary Arthur Buchanan, December 18 Euthimios Ghessouras, December 18 Larry Max Salser, December 18 Larry Allen Neal, December 19 Barbara Joan Oglesbee, December 19 Robert William Stewart Jr., December 19 Randy Dwight Williams, December 20 Carol M. Devan, December 21 Billy Joe Harrill, December 21 Nancy Marie Tucker, December 22 Michael Glenn Link, December 23 Joyce Ann Williams, December 24 **Deloris Fay Brain, December 25** Patrick Norem Fernyak, December 25

View Full Obituaries at www.dignitymemorial.com

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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 Western, effective May 30, 2025.

Anne Mutti will retire as a junior high English teacher, effective June 1, 2025.

The board approved Todd Galownia as the District Intervention Specialist, completing the contract for the remainder of the 2024–'25 school year; Abbie Masi as a long-term sub fo physical education; Cassidy Albright as a long-term sub at Eastern, from Jan. 6–May 28; Abbie Higinbotham as a long-term sub for high school English, from approximately March 31–May 29, 2025.

A salary adjustment was approved for Bruce Dewey from MA to MA + 10.

Shelley Griffith resigned as a two-hour preschool bus aide, effective Dec. 2.

Employment was approved for Milvia Kendrick, educational aide at Central; Norm Nichols, transportation; Brian Smith, sub custodian; Shelley Griffith, transportation, 2-hour midday driver for preschool; Terri Haeseker, transportation, 2-hour midday bus aide for pre-school; Allison Bates, educational aide at Western.

Jay Porter resigned as a boys' JV soccer coach.

Dave Watters was approved as a volunteer assistant swim coach for the 2024–'25 school year.

Parent volunteers approved were Karrie Davisson, Casey Britton, Lizabeth Usher, Tara Rose, Shawna Hess, Amber Murfield, Andrea Schenian and Meaghan Hostetler.

The substitute lists were approved as provided by MOESC, dated Nov. 22–Dec. 13, 2024.

Treasurer Jason Whitesel was named the designee for the Auditor of State public records training, on behalf of Mr. Stoner, Dr. Gottschling, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Schuster and Ms. Whitney.

The board voted to join the OSBA for calendar year 2025.

A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission Project Agreement and Related Matters was approved.

A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Notes in the Amount of Not to Exceed \$3,200,000 in Anticipation of the Collection of Permanent Improvement Tax Proceeds was also approved.

The Post-Issuance Compliance Policy passed, which approves a written Post-Issuance Compliance Policy in connections with the issuance of tax-exempt and tax-preferred obligations by the school district.





Never Alone Act signed into law by Governor Mike Dewine

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed the Never Alone Act, sponsored by State Representatives Melanie Miller (R-City of Ashland) and Beth Lear (R-Galena) into law during a signing ceremony recently held at the Statehouse.

House Bill 236 previously passed with a unanimous vote of 89-0 in the Ohio House. The Act 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. "I want to thank Governor DeWine for signing the Never Alone

"I want to thank Governor DeWine for signing the Never Alone Act from an idea into reality," said Miller. "The Never Alone Act ensures that everyone has someone who can speak for them and be by their side whenever they find themselves in a hospital, nursing home or other type of healthcare facility when they do not have a voice."

"While the need for an advocate became obvious during COVID, it remains clear that patients and residents need access to loved ones whenever they are in a vulnerable healthcare situation," Lear said.





"We simply want to ensure no one is forced to suffer or die alone ever again. We must protect our most vulnerable citizens during a healthcare crisis."

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 go into effect 90 days after the Governor's signature.





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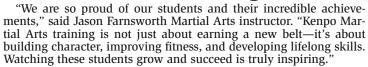


Academy celebrates martial arts students advancing in rank

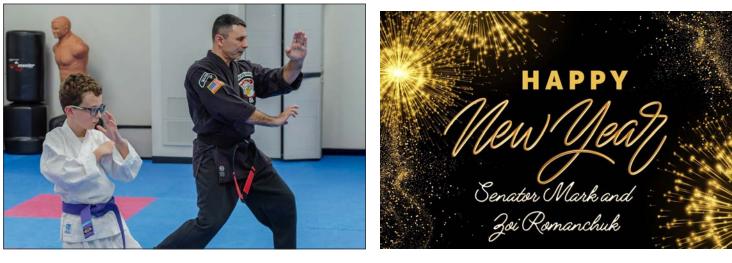
Richland Academy of the Arts proudly announces the achievements of its Kenpo Martial Arts students, who recently demonstrated their skills, discipline and dedication by earning new belt ranks during testing completed recently.

These students have worked diligently to refine their techniques and embrace the values of martial arts, including perseverance, confidence and respect.

Advancing their rank were Amelia Nowakowski, Junior Yellow Belt; Tylee Tharp, Junior Yellow Belt; Mason Turner, Junior Yellow Belt; Dayton Davenport, Junior Orange Belt; Levi Sothen, Junior Orange Belt; Felix Price, Junior Orange Belt; Chase Orton, Junior Orange Belt; and Larkin Boyd, Junior Blue Belt.



Kenpo at Richland Academy of the Arts emphasizes values like discipline and resilience while providing a fun and engaging way for students to explore their full potential. Richland Academy invites the community to learn more about its programs and support the Empower the Arts campaign, which helps expand opportunities in the arts for students of all ages. Visit richlandacademy.com or call 419-522-8224 for further information.







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PreK - Kindergarten

Priority Applications accepted until Jan 31 Limited Seats Available Jan 13 Grades 7-12

Jan 28

Independent Studies

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Burano, Venice Italy • Photo By Mark Shutt







Pastor Larry Carnes Sunday Service 9:30 AM 1592 Grace ST, Mansfield

Chris Klemann named new Sutton Bank Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer

Sutton Bank has announced the appointment of Chris Klemann as Executive Vice President (EVP) and Chief Operating Officer (COO), marking an important milestone in the bank's continued growth and strategic expansion.

Klemann brings over two decades of leadership and operational expertise in strategy, profitability, and business development, positioning the bank for future success as it scales to meet the growing needs of its customers, partners and communities.

"We are thrilled to have Chris join our team as Executive Vice President and COO," said Tony Gorrell, CEO of Sutton Bank. "His proven track record of operational excellence and innovative, strategic vision aligns seamlessly with our mission of providing superior service. Chris's leadership will be in-



strumental in expanding the overall value we deliver to our customers, payment partners, communities and stakeholders as we continue to grow and evolve."

In his new role, Klemann will oversee bank operations, focusing on efficiency, resource management and cross-functional collaboration, while helping to advance the Bank's overall strategic vision.

Prior to joining Sutton Bank, Klemann served in executive roles at Texas Capital, Signet Jewelers, and Nationwide, with extensive experience in banking, payments, and financial services. Within these roles, he has led large-scale transformation efforts, end-to-end operations and controls, compliance, data analysis, and growth initiatives. His experience in strategic planning, streamlining operations and increasing revenue makes him a valuable addition to the Sutton Bank leadership team.

"I'm excited to begin this new journey with Sutton Bank. I look forward to contributing to a team that embraces innovation while still holding true to the vision of being the relationship bank of choice within the communities Sutton Bank serves," said Klemann. "What excites me most is the opportunity to make a meaningful impact, leveraging my experience to support the Bank's growth initiatives."

Klemann holds a Master of Business Administration degree from The Ohio State University. He and his wife Brittany have six children.

Sutton Bank is a progressive, independent, community bank established in 1878, and headquartered in Attica, OH. Sutton Bank has consistently been named one of the top small business and agricultural lenders in the State of Ohio. Member FDIC. For more information visit suttonbank.com.



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STUDENTS IN SECOND GRADE at Stingel Elementary learned about teeth health. The Bookwalter & Skulski Orthodontics office visited to talk about the importance of brushing, flossing and eating healthy food. They were also shown protective items dentists wear and were treated to a new toothbrush, timer and toothpaste.

Richland SWCD snowman paint party slated for Jan. 14

Next year's Conservation Creation Arts & Crafts Workshop will be hosted by Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD) on Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 6 pm.

The evenings are filled with laughter, fun, learning about interesting topics related to nature and conservation and creativity.

Richland SWCD provides the materials and tools needed to make the project. Reservations are requested and the workshops cost \$12 per person.

The first workshop of the new year will be a

snowman paint party. It will be held at the Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Ave., Mansfield.

Participants will paint a cute and festive snowman under the direction of Becky Williams and learn about the Precipitation Monitoring Program at Richland SWCD.

Reservations are due Jan. 7 at https://richlandswcd.net/events/ or call 419-747-8685.



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.

Older Ohioans may go an area agency 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 print a copy of the application.

When applying, individuals need to have copies of 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 and proof of disability (if applicable).

bers and proof of disability (if applicable). Applications for the HEAP program must be received by May 31, 2025. For information call 419-524-4144.







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Thursday, January 2, 2025



FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR, the annual Christmas program at Mansfield Christian School drew record attendance. Almost 3,000 guests attended the four programs including Independent Studies, Pre K & K, grades 1–4 and grades 5–12. The first grade students recited Luke 2: 1-20 from memory which has been a continued tradition for many years.









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12 Thursday, January 2, 2025



THE ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL KEY CLUB held its annual food drive collecting cans and boxed foods for OHS families in need. With only 805 cans collected at the end of the week, Mr. King extended the drive one more day and challenged OHS to double it to 1,600. Students went above and beyond the challenge bringing 1,257 cans in one day. A special thanks goes to officers Sky Liu, Madeline Saltzgiver and Angel Tan; members, Ayla Reed, Bella Sorrenti and Taylor Dille; guidance helpers, Ally Bell and Elise Le-Hew, and those who collected, sorted and boxed all the food — 2,063 items in total.





News Briefs in Education

Hannah Smith of Mansfield has been named to the Pennsylvania Western University Dean's List for the fall 2024 semester.

The student must earn a minimum semester GPA of 3.40 and a minimum of 12 graded credits during the semester, not including credits by proficiency examinations, incomplete grads, temporary grades or satisfactory/unsatisfactory grades.

Smith studies at PennWest's Clarion Campus.

Presley Davis of Mansfield was named among the students who qualified for Belmont University's fall 2024 dean's list. Dean's list eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

Ohio Dominican University has named 109 students to its fall 2024 dean's list. To make the list, full-time undergraduate students must have achieved a 3.5 GPA or better after completing a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Local students on the list are Naomi Haring of Mansfield, Andrew Young of Mansfield and Elizabeth Zerby of Mansfield.

Ohio Dominican University (ODU) congratulated students who earned their degrees at the conclusion of the fall 2024 semester.

The university celebrated during its 117th Commencement Ceremony, held Friday, Dec. 6, in the Alumni Hall on ODU's campus.

Local students earning degrees were Madeline Heichel of Lexington and Cameron Todd of Ontario.





STUDENTS IN TONYA WINNINGHAM'S second grade class learned about holiday traditions around the world in December. They especially found the traditions of Mexico and Canada interesting to compare to the United States since we are all part of North America. Students enjoyed sampling an authentic food item from each country. Besides the two already mentioned, students learned about traditions in Australia, Israel, Germany, Italy and France. They made a postcard for each place and had a passport they recorded a fun fact in each day.





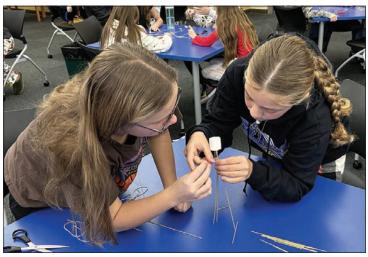


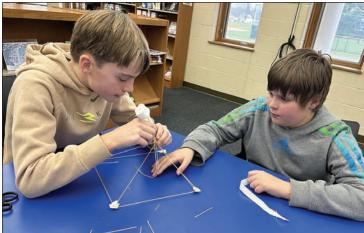
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14 Thursday, January 2, 2025

Tribune-Courier







ONTARIO SIXTH GRADE students recently participated in the "marshmallow challenge" during an assignment incentive day before Christmas break.

Tribune-Courier

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news@tribune-courier.com

Audition dates scheduled for Mary Poppins production

The Renaissance Theatre will hold auditions for the MY Theatre production of Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's *Mary Poppins* on Monday, Jan. 20, at 6:30 pm and Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 6:30 pm in the Renaissance Theatre Ballroom, located at 138 Park Avenue West in downtown Mansfield. Appointments are not required for auditions.

Those auditioning must be 18 years of age or younger (unless still attending high school) during the 2024–'25 school year and should be no younger than nine years of age. Anyone auditioning should be prepared to sing a 16–32 measure excerpt from a song of their choice and bring sheet music in the proper key.

An accompanist will be provided. Some actors may be asked to read a short scene from the script. Those auditioning should bring a list of schedule conflicts between the dates of auditions and the performances of Mary Poppins. Performance dates are April 25–27. All performances will be held on stage at the Renaissance. Mary Poppins will be directed by Dauphne Maloney, with musical direction by Brian K. Nabors.

Based on the stories of P.L. Travers and the Walt Disney Film, the musical features original music and lyrics by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman, with new songs and additional music and lyrics by Anthony Drewe and George Stiles. The book of the show was written by Julian Fellowes. Produced by Cameron Mackintosh and Disney Theatrical Productions, and directed by Richard Eyre with co-direction from Matthew Bourne, the original West End production opened in December 2004 and won two Olivier Awards, including Best Theatre Choreographer. The original Broadway production opened in November 2006, ran for 2,619 performances, and received seven Tony nominations, winning for Best Scenic Design in a Musical.



FOR THE MIDTERM LAB, CCP Chemistry at Ontario High School performed a partial thermal degradation of mixed saccharides with protein inclusions (made peanut brittle). They had to perform chemistry calculations to decipher the amounts of ingredients.

Tribune-CourierThursday, January 2, 202515Ontario High School Band Concert • Dec. 16





Columbus Zoo Lights Photos By Jeff Hoffer









CLEAR FORK VS SHELBY VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL · DEC. 27 SHELBY WINS 59-55 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS SHELBY JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL · DEC. 27 SHELBY WINS 69-33 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



MADISON VS MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN GIRLS JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL DEC. 17 · RAMS WIN 42-19 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN







MADISON VS MANSFIELD SENIOR GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL DEC. 19 · RAMS WIN 45-27 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN









MADISON VS DOVER VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL · DEC. 20 DOVER WINS 56-34 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



MADISON VS DOVER JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL · DEC. 20 DOVER WINS 38-33 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



MADISON VS DOVER FRESHMAN BOYS BASKETBALL · DEC. 20 DOVER WINS 52-29 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL SWIM TEAM · DEC. 17 · ONTARIO WINS













LEXINGTON VS MANSFIELD SENIOR VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL · DEC. 20 LEXINGTON WINS 74-70 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



LEXINGTON VS MANSFIELD SENIOR JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL MANSFIELD WINS 55-52 · DEC. 20 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



LEXINGTON VS ONTARIO GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 30 LEXINGTON WINS 58-42 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



LEXINGTON VS ONTARIO GIRLS JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 30 LEXINGTON WINS 58-42 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



MADISON VS CLEAR FORK BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 23 MADISON WINS 49-46 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



MADISON VS CLEAR FORK BOYS JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL · DEC. 23 MADISON WINS 44-25 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



MADISON VS CLEAR FORK BOYS FRESHMAN BASKETBALL · DEC. 23 MADISON WINS 48-26 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



Tribune-Courier Thursday, January 2, 2025 31

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING · DEC. 18













Cubs fall to Danville 59–43

By Kris Leiter

The Lucas Cubs (Mid-Buckeye Conference, 1–8 overall, 1–1 conference) fell to the Danville Blue Devils, (Knox-Morrow Athletic Conference, 1–4 overall, 1–3 conference) 59–43 in a non-conference game on Dec 13.

During the first quarter, the Blue Devils went on a 11–2 scoring run for a first quarter tally.

At 4:50 on the first quarter clock, Cubs' 5' 10" senior Bobby Grover fouled and dropped 1–2 from the charity stripe to tally the first Cub point. At 2:40 remaining in the first, 6' 5" senior Zac Winters dropped a bucket to add to the Cubs total.

As the second quarter commenced, the Cubs started to close the gap. At 5:21, 6' 0" sophomore Anthony Fanello dropped 2–2 from the foul line to put the Cubs within four points at 13–9, Danville leading.

The Cubs wasted no time starting the second quarter. With less than a minute into the second quarter, at 7:20, Grover dropped a BIG 3-pointer for the Cubs, 11–5, Blue Devils.

To follow in Grover's footsteps, at 6:25, Cub junior 6" 1 Tim Daley added two points, 11–7, Blue Devils.

As the second quarter would ensue and close out, the Cubs notched 12 points in the quarter. The Blue Devils held the first half with a 26–17 lead.

As the third quarter opened, Danville dropped a free throw and expanded the lead to 10 points, 27–17.

At 6:21 in the third, Winters continued to shine for the Cubs. He would get fouled and drop his 2-bagger and make the foul shot to complete the 3-point-play, closing the gap 27–20.

The Cubs added another BIG-3 by Fanello at 4:45, closing the score within five points, 28–23! The Cubs were within five points!

Winters added four more points — two points at 2:50 and at :59 seconds, he would go 2–2 from the foul line.

As the third quarter continued, the Blue Devil scoring didn't let up, ending the third, 43–27.

In the fourth quarter, the Cubs continued to keep the Blue Devils in their sights, but foul shots would be the demise of the Cubs, making 8–12 from the line.

At 5:40, Fanello dropped two points, 46–30, Blue devils. At 4:39, Winters would make a free throw.

At 3:47, Fanello would contribute a free throw as well, making the score 48–34. Grover would then follow up at 3:09, to drop a field goal for two points. At 1:36, Winters made both free throws at 2:12, adding two more to the Cub total, 53–38.

The Blue devils scored 17 points in the fourth quarter and the Cubs would be trailing by 14 points, 50–36.

By the end of the fourth quarter clock, the Blue Devils had added nine more points and close out with a final of 59–43.

Cubs leading scorers were Zac Winters with 20, Anthony Fanello with 10 and Bobby Grover with 6.

Teddy Bear Concert set for Feb. 16

The Renaissance Theatre will present a Teddy Bear Concert on Sunday, Feb. 16, at 2:30 pm.

This performance features an original script by artistic director Michael Thomas, bringing the story of *Little Red Riding Hood* to life through engaging audience participation, interactive storytelling and live music by the Mansfield Symphony's Woodwind Duet.

Children are able to get up close and personal with symphonic instruments and participate in the storytelling. Geared to children ages 2–10, each concert offers an interactive element as well as a relaxed environment. Small audience sizes, lights up, and low sound levels create safe sensory spaces for audience members with autism and other sensory-processing needs. Performances are held at the Renaissance's Theatre 166 venue. Tickets are \$5 and are available at the Renaissance Box Office, at 419-522-2726, or at www.rentickets.org.

2024 All-Ohio Football players

Division III:

First Team Offense

Wide Reciever/Tight End: Brayden Fogle, Lexington, 6–5, 225, jr. Second Team Offense

Linebacker: Camden Boozer, Lexington, 6-0, 195, sr.

Honorable Mention Punter: Griffin DeBolt, Mansfield Senior, 6–0, 180, sr.

Division IV:

Offensive Players of the Year: Bodpegn Miller, Ontario, sr. Quarterback: Bodpegn Miller, Ontario, 6–4, 190, sr.

Brayden DeVito, Shelby, 5–11, 175, jr.

Wide Reciever/ Tight End: Brady Bowman, Shelby, 5–9, 150, so. First Team Defense

Defensive Line: Karsen Homan, Shelby, 6–4, 195, sr. Outside Linebacker: Xadrian Ream, Shelby, 6–1, 305, sr. Linebacker: Landon Sowards, Ontario, 5–10, 200, sr.

Third Team Defense Defensive Line: Rayvon Skelton, Ontario, 5–9, 240, sr. Linebacker: Dennis Lafon, Shelby, 5–8, 155, sr.

Honorable Mention Offensive Line: Grady Taylor, Ontario, 6–2, 240, sr. Kicker: Kooper Kilgore, Ontario, 5–10, 170, fr.

Division I, II, V, VI, VII: No one from our coverage area

(By Kris Leiter)



STUDENTS AT LEXINGTON WESTERN ELEMENTARY had a Polar Express Day. They wore pajamas, read the story, built marshmallow trains and sipped on hot chocolate.

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 18, 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 -10 – AN ORDI-NANCE APPROVING UPDATES TO THE CITY'S PERSONNEL MANUAL, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-23 – AN ORDI-NANCE AMENDING VARIOUS SEC-TIONS OF CHAPTER 193 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO REGARDING MUNICIPAL TAX, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-24 – AN OR-DINANCE ESTABLISHING TEM-PORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025 AND EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-25 – AN OR-DINANCE 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. 24-30 - AN OR-DINANCE ESTABLISHING WAGES AND SALARIES FOR NON-COLLEC-TIVE BARGAINING UNIT EMPLOY-EES OF THIS CITY, REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 24-19, AND DE-CLARING AN EMERGENCY.

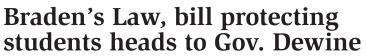
ORDINANCE NO. 24-31 – AN OR-DINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 24-06 KNOWN AS THE PERMA-NENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDI-NANCE FOR 2024 BY MAKING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND, SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, AND THE ENTER-PRISE FUND.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-32 – AN ORDI-NANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR (OR HIS DESIGNEE) TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT THROUGH BUCKEYE ENERGY BROKERS FOR THE GAS AGGREGATION PRO-GRAM, AT A RATE NOT TO EXCEED \$0.66 PER CCF, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-33 – AN ORDI-NANCE AMENDING THE TAX CRED-IT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND CHARTER NEXT GENER-ATION, INC., ALLOWING THE MAY-OR TO SIGN THE AMENDMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 24 – 34 – AN OR-DINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAY-OR, OR THE MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO EXPEND DEMINIMUS FUNDS FOR EMPLOYEE MEALS AND RE-FRESHMENTS FOR EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION FUNCTIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

> Cathy VanAuker Clerk of Council City of Ontario, OH (T-C 1-2, 9 '25) (81L)



House Bill 531, which creates the offense of sexual extortion and makes it a third-degree felony, heads to the Governor's desk for his signature. State Senator Andrew Brenner (R-Delaware) supports this bill and introduced companion legislation, Senate Bill 263.

On Oct. 17, 2021, Olentangy High School sophomore Braden Markus was contacted on social media by a person posing as a 15-year-old girl. "She" was sending Braden lewd photos, convincing Braden to send photos back. The individual then demanded \$1,800 or threatened to release the photos online. 27 short minutes later, Braden died by suicide.

"Minors are victims of online sextortion thousands of times every year. Olentangy student Braden Markus is a victim and his death will not be in vain. It is our job as legislators to stop it. HB 531 and my companion bill SB 263 are a great step in the right direction to increase penalties for sextortion. I am glad I can be a part of correcting this wrong and working to stop it in the future. "

House Bill 206, which permits a school district, community school, or STEM school to expel a student for actions that pose imminent and severe endangerment to the health and well-being of students and school faculty, heads to Governor Mike DeWine's desk. State Senator Andrew Brenner (R-Delaware) supports this legislation.

"This legislation protects students and staff safety and helps ensure a safe learning environment for all," said Brenner.

House Bill 206 requires a school superintendent to develop a set of conditions that a student expelled for posing a threat must meet before returning to school the following school year.

One of those conditions must be an assessment by a psychiatrist, licensed psychologist, or licensed school psychologist.

Provisions also included in this legislation are the following:

•Data will be submitted to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce when a student expulsion occurs

•Increased funding for School Choice administration in fiscal year 2025

•Easier access to seizure medication for students in a school setting •An option for qualifying community schools to avoid closure

"This bill addresses many concerns that have come forward from parents, staff, and administrators in our schools across the Buckeye State. I look forward to these solutions going into effect and making a positive impact on our next generation," said the senator.

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