



JENNIFER WAGNER is sworn in as a new board member at Richland Newhope by Richland County Commissioner Darrell Banks.

Jennifer Wagner appointed as new board member

Jennifer Wagner has been appointed as the newest member of the Richland Newhope/Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Appointed by the Richland County Commissioners, Wagner took the oath of office at the commissioner's office on Jan. 21. She has the opportunity to serve on the board for up to three 4-year terms.

"For the past 27 years, I have had the privilege of volunteering with individuals with developmental disabilities, and I am deeply honored to now serve on the Richland County Board of DD," Wagner said. "I look forward to contributing to the board's efforts in creating opportunities and fostering a supportive, inclusive community for all."

Wagner is the Member Services Manager at the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development, where she leads the Chamber's membership program and serves as the primary liaison for both prospective and existing members. She also oversees the management of the Chamber's benefit plans and nurtures strong relationships with internal and external partners to support the Chamber's mission.

Wagner is a TWIN (Tribute to Women & Industry) honoree and serves on the Board of Directors for the Raemelton Therapeutic Equestrian Center, as well as the Advisory Board for the Madison Adult Career Center. An active member of the First Congregational Church, she finds immense joy and fulfillment in volunteering with individuals with disabilities. Jennifer currently volunteers at Raemelton Therapeutic Equestrian Center, where she received the Volunteer of the Year award in 2015.

Born and raised in Mansfield, she now resides in Ontario with her husband, Blake, and their three sons. She also enjoys being a dog mom. In her free time, Jennifer values traveling, spending time with family and friends, shopping, participating in church activities, playing pinball, and cheering on The Ohio State Buckeyes.

"Jennifer will be a valuable addition to our Board, bringing a unique perspective to our processes. I look forward to collaborating with her in this new role," said Richland Newhope Superintendent Michele Giess.

Todd Friend will lead Ontario School Board as president

The Ontario Local School Board met Jan. 14, for the regular and organizational meeting.

Todd Friend was elected board president and Heidi Zimmerman was elected board vice president for 2025. Treasurer Randy Harvey administered the oath of office for these elected positions.

The meeting dates for the board of education meetings were set to be the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in the Ontario High School Library unless it is necessary to provide otherwise.

Board committee members appointed for 2025 are legislative liaison, Jerod Them; financial and audit committee, Todd Friend/Heidi Zimmerman; Ontario Athletic Council, Brett Baxter/Todd Friend; enterprise zone tax abatement committee, Todd Friend; student achievement liaison representative, Todd Friend; Ontario Community Partnership, Brett Baxter/Heidi Zimmerman; permanent improvement committee, Brett Baxter/Amy Hiner; and community engagement committee, Todd Friend/Amy Hiner.

Superintendent Keith Strickler recognized the board members for their service and presented them with a certificate in honor of School Board Recognition Month.

Strickler was authorized to employ personnel between board meetings as needed. Such employment would be presented for approval by the Board at the next regular meeting.

He was also authorized to accept written resignations of personnel between board meetings as needed. Such resignations would be presented for approval by the board at the next regular meeting.

Treasurer Harvey was authorized to invest interim and/or inactive funds and the board approved every depository bank, covered by FDIC, for future deposits. The board also adopted the 2025-'26 tax budget.

A service fund for board of education expenses incurred during the performance of duties was established.

The board approved designating the treasurer, Randy Harvey, as the public records officer for the district. Harvey acknowledges receipt of the public records policy from the board. In addition, the board designated the treasurer to be its representative for the required public records training.

Third grade student Breckelle Miller was recognized for her first place performance at Carnegie Hall. Eleventh grade student Mason Egner was recognized for earning his SACA Basic Operations certification.

The resignation of Brock Spurling, sixth grade intervention specialist, was accepted, effective Jan. 7.

Linda Cooper was hired as a long-term substitute sixth grade intervention specialist teacher at \$351.81 per day, effective Jan. 13, through the end of the school year.

Ted Vail (former permanent sub) was hired as a two-session bus driver, salary \$12,436.20. Substitute classified staff hired for the 2024-'25 school year included Daniel Brammer, bus driver; and Michele Karshner, custodian.

Stipends were approved for staff personnel for College Credit Plus Incentive Program payments (state grant for new CCP classes started in 2023-'24). These included Tim Henige, \$375; Melanie Ferguson, \$375; Roger Nikiforow, \$750; Meghan Willeke, \$750; and Jodi Cooper Wentz, \$375.

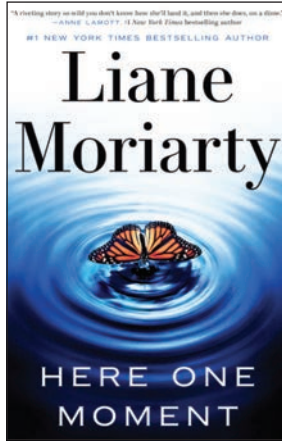
Employment was approved for extracurricular/supplemental staff personnel for the 2024-'25 school year including Mike Ellis, baseball varsity head coach, \$5,635; Jamee Burke, softball varsity head coach, \$5,635; Scott Kreger, softball varsity assistant, \$4,538; Rachel Miller, high school track head coach, \$5,947; Meghan Willeke, high school track assistant coach, \$4,538; Ryan Oliver, middle school track head coach, \$3,902; Peyton Perini, middle school track assistant coach, \$2,163; Father Mike Ellis, boys tennis head coach, \$3,302;

(Continued on Page 4)

LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review
By Mandy Belczak Gurney



I recently read *Here One Moment* by Liane Moriarty. Even at the end, I'm still unsure of what I think and maybe that's what makes this book special.

An older woman on a plane starts predicting other passengers' deaths. What unravels are several stories, all connected by the moment on a plane. Each person starts to consider their lives and questioning if their changes can change the future. It's a story about how precious life is, and the ones who are most precious to us.

Liane Moriarty knocks it out of the park, as always. *Apples Never Fall* and *Big Little Lies* remain as my favorites, but this one is still a fun and heartfelt story worth reading.

My rating: ★★★★★

Follow my blog at GreenGurneys.com

Road Apple Run returns March 1

The 19th Annual Road Apple Run 5K road race will be held Saturday, March 1, at 10 am. Race day registration will begin at 8:30 am in the commons area of Crestview High School, 1575 OH-96, Ashland.

The Road Apple Run will be an out and back 5K race on a scenic country road in northern Richland County. Bordered by several peaceful Amish farms, the course is mostly flat with some slight upgrades. The biggest challenge will be avoiding the 'exhaust' from the frequent travel of the horse drawn vehicles.

The entry fee is \$25 and includes a free t-shirt if registered by Feb. 21. Entry also includes a raffle ticket for a chance to win gift baskets and gift cards.

To register online visit <https://registration.midohiorm.com/events/2025-road-apple-run-5k-road-race-12302024234>.

For a mail-in form visit https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n5uD-8wIIGPF_1s39EWYfKgyktb-cg-UN0/view

Awards will go to the first and second place male and female finishers in the age groups of 10 and under, 11-12; 13-15; 16-18; 19-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; 60-69; and 70+. Overall awards will be presented to the top first and second place in each gender.

The Savannah Lions Club will be offering a post-race breakfast by donation only.

All proceeds from the 5K will support Crestview's track and cross country teams.

Donations are also being accepted to help pay for expenses. For more information contact Amy McFarland at 419-895-1700 ext. 18105 or roadapplerun@gmail.com.

THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER
— By Ian Stumbo —

Brady Corbet's *The Brutalist* received 10 Oscar nominations this past Thursday and is an epic film about an immigrant trying to achieve the American dream only to be brought down by forces beyond his control.

Adrien Brody gives an excellent performance as Laszlo Toth, a man who has escaped the Holocaust and is able to come to America and settles in Philadelphia.

Toth finds himself rejected, even by his own family, until he is asked to design a reading room for a wealthy man named Van Buren (Guy Pearce).

Van Buren realizes that Toth is a very well-known architect throughout Europe and recruits him to build an enormous structure for him. Van Buren is not what he seems and even as he helps Toth to reunite with his wife Erzsebet (Felicity Jones), Toth realizes what is really going on with people he thought he could trust.

The Brutalist is three and a half hours with a 15-minute intermission (a first for me as a moviegoer). This may detract people from seeing this film, though the movie is so well made and feels like an old-fashioned epic that is not seen anymore. Corbet has

amazing shots of the building as Toth is building it and there is a train crash sequence that is so interestingly shot it demands the audience stay with it until something happens.

The performances are just terrific. Brody, Pearce and Jones all received Oscar nominations and deservedly so. Brody is still the youngest best actor Oscar winner since he won for 2002's *The Pianist* at age 29. He runs the gamut of emotions as Toth while trying to make his dream come true as an architect and also wanting to take care of his wife.

This may be Pearce's best performance as an extremely privileged man who takes advantage of Toth every chance he gets. Jones has some terrific scenes though she does not enter the film until after the intermission.

The Brutalist is a great examination of an immigrant's life story and journey from 1947 to 1980 and is constantly interesting and, at times, challenging. The performances, direction and cinematography are excellent and this is a new epic that deserves to be seen.



Vol. 64 No. 16
Tribune-Courier
Serving Ontario, Lexington, Madison, Bellville and Butler Communities in Madison, Mifflin, Springfield, Troy, Washington and Jefferson Townships
PO Box 127, Ontario, OH 44862 • 419-529-2847
news@tribune-courier.com • www.tribune-courier.com
© All Rights Reserved

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

TRIBUNE-COURIER
Lexington BOE busy during organizational meeting
Project fosters environmental and agriculture education
The Domestic Violence Shelter urgently accepting donations

Scan to Subscribe to the FREE Weekly Issue

News Briefs

The Lexington Area Senior Citizens Inc., invites those 55 and older to attend meetings the third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 am. February through May, the group will meet at New Life Church of Christ (NLC of C), 195 W. Durbin, Bellville. Cost is \$17 for the meal.

Meetings June through December will be held at Der Dutchman, Rt. 96, Bellville. Meals are \$16, with an additional \$2 for pie.

The next meal will be held on Feb. 19 with broasted chicken and entertainment by the Strut Your Stuff dancers. Those attending are asked to wear red.

On Feb. 5, the group will meet for lunch at 11 am at Olive Garden in Ontario.

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

★

The Feb. 12, Ontario Planning Commission meeting is cancelled due to no new agenda items.

★

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 at 419-774-5683 or andersont@cacyohio.com for details. If someone is thinking of harming themselves, call the local crisis helpline at 419-522-HELP (4357).

★

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Rev. Dr. Elaine Strawn to present "Weaving the Cross of Brigid" on Sunday, Feb. 2, at 10:30 am.

For information visit www.allsoulsuohio.org.

★

The Malabar Farm Maple Syrup Festival will be held March 1, 2, 8 and 9, from noon to 4 pm. There will be syrup making demonstrations, horse drawn wagon rides and food and maple products for sale. The festival is held at 4050 Bromfield Rd, Lucas.

★

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.

★

Madison Local Schools will host a 100 year staff reunion on Feb. 22, at the Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center. Doors open at 5 pm and dinner will be served at 6 pm. There will be a cash bar.

Staff members, past and present, can register at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScO6JgYI5npg-8vRhTl8GfOYXWf-BiUYnmYR0QGMyspjbN4kQ/viewform>

Cost of the reception is \$27.50 per person. Payment and registration can also be made at the Madison Board Of Education Office, 1379 Grace St., Mansfield.

Deadline for payment and registration is Feb. 1.

★

The Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (RSWCD) will host a clinic about ponds and all that goes into planning and maintaining them.

Those with questions about a new or existing pond can attend three free pond clinic on Tuesday, Feb. 25 from 5:30-7:30 pm at the Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Ave., in Mansfield.

Steve Fender of Fenders Fish Hatchery is the guest speaker and will be available to answer pond questions.

Register for the clinic at <https://richlandswcd.net/event/pond-clinic-5/>.

For more information contact wallace.matt@richlandswcd.net or call 419-747-8687.

Apartment FOR RENT

\$900/ Month

***2 bedroom/ 1 bath**

***All appliances included + W&D**

***One floor**

***ADA accessible**



Please Contact
Lexington Court
@ 419.884.2000
for an application






250 Delaware Ave., Lexington, OH 44904

We don't answer to Wall Street.
(Seriously, we blocked their number.)

As your local, independent bank, we're uniquely equipped to make choices that benefit this community and all the wonderful people in it. So whether you need banking advice or just a friendly chat, remember that we're one ring away.

mymechanics.com

Sincerely yours,



•Friend will lead Ontario School Board as president

(Continued from Front Page)

and Brian Bayes, boys tennis assistant coach, \$2,163.

The board approved revised and new board policies and the 2025-'26 and 2026-'27 school year calendars.

The board will provide coverage for Certified Occupational Therapist Rachel Knell's maternity leave. Employment of substitute Certified Occupational Therapist Assistants was approved for Ashley Hanuscin (not to exceed eight hours per week) at \$28 per hour beginning Jan. 6; and Callie Mullins (not to exceed 10 hours per week) at \$28 per hour beginning Jan. 6. Both Hanuscin and Mullins will take 1-1 1/2 days per week to cover Rachel Knell's maternity leave.

Membership with the Ohio School Boards Association was approved for 2025 as was the 2025-'26 membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

Donations were accepted from Ontario Estates Senior Living, \$50 for the Ontario High School Show Choir; Lifewise/Westside Baptist Church \$150 for Warrior Wishmakers; Ryan Sowards, \$40 for Warrior Wishmakers; Kevin and Amber Dawson, \$500 for Warrior Wishmakers; Steven and Melinda Miller, \$50 for Warrior Wishmakers; Brian Gates Insurance Agency Inc., \$250 for Warrior Wishmakers;

anonymous, \$281.05 for Warrior Wishmakers; Stingel Candy Sales, \$661.74 for Warrior Wishmakers; Mike and Brittany Ream, \$150 for Warrior Wishmakers; Brian and Heidi Zimmerman, \$100 for Warrior Wishmakers; Amy Hiner, \$375.55 for Warrior Wishmakers; Nathaniel Henderson, \$250 for Warrior Wishmakers; Laborer's International Union, \$200 for boys basketball; Charities Aid Foundation America through Greg Atkinson of Pepsi recommendation, \$1,500 for track; Charities Aid Foundation America through Greg Atkinson of Pepsi recommendation, \$750 for boys soccer; and Charities Aid Foundation America through Greg Atkinson of Pepsi recommendation, \$750 for football.

Facility requests were approved for the Ontario Lions Club pancake breakfast fundraisers at the high school, Ontario Swim dinners at the middle school, a middle school Academic Challenge meet at the middle school and Tim Mergel for use of the high school gym for youth basketball.

The board was updated by Strickler and Harvey on the 2024 Cupp Report, Ontario social media accounts, new softball field update and the OSFC remodel project update.

The next board of education meeting will be held on Feb. 11.

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

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 (nursery-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

Library's Black History Celebration returns Saturday

The Mansfield/Richland County Public Library invites the community to the annual Black History Celebration. This free, family-friendly event will offer activities, giveaways, live music by Conne and VaunDoom, additional live entertainment, free henna tattoos, and a free meal. This event will be held at the main library, 43 W. Third St., Mansfield, on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 10 am to 2 pm.

The event will begin at 10 am in the second floor lobby with the Mansfield Choir students singing "Lift Every Voice and Sing" followed by additional songs.

A free meal made by local caterer Glynis Haney will be served from 12-1 pm while supplies last.

Several local community organizations, including, Alzheimer's Association, NAACP Mansfield, North End Community Improvement Collaborative (NECIC), Richland County Children's Services, Richland Public Health, First Call 211, The Ohio State University-Mansfield and Third Street Family Health Services, will be participating and offering activities and valuable information.

Guests of all ages will have the opportunity to participate in various curated activities throughout the library. When guests arrive at the event, they will be offered an activity pass that, once completed, will serve as an entry to win one of four \$25 Walmart gift cards.

All entertainment and activities will be held on the second floor, with the exception of the lunch that will be served in the community room. The full schedule of events includes:

- 10 am, Official welcome and greeting, Chris May
- 10-10:15 am, Mansfield Choir performance
- 10:20 am, Josiah Kumai-Sanders, rap presentation
- 11:00-11:15 AM VaunDoom, live hip-hop concert

11:45 am to noon, Shiloh Baptist Church, Jesus Jewels performance

12-12:15 pm, Brandie Johnson, poetry
12-1 pm, Free lunch in the Community Room

1-1:20 pm, Conne, live music concert

10 am to 2 pm, Enchanted Luna Henna Studio, free henna tattoos

10 am to 2 pm, Mansfield Adult Cosmetology School, hair braiding demos

For more information and a full list of Black History Celebration activities and programs visit to mrcpl.org.

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Tammie Marie Bailey, January 10

Virginia Lee Duty, January 17

Rita Jean Kennedy, January 17

Marilyn Mae Schwall, January 17

Raymond Sasarak, January 18

Gay Marchant, January 19

Donald Peters, January 19

Glenn Howard Crabbe, January 21

Leotis Lawhorn, January 21

View Full Obituaries at www.dignitymemorial.com

The Domestic Violence Shelter urgently accepting donations

The Domestic Violence Shelter is faced with an urgent challenge. The shelter's van, which serves as a lifeline for transporting survivors to safety, counseling, medical care and essential services, requires immediate repairs.

As the shelter continues to provide care, it is also in need of items that bring comfort and dignity. These essentials help ensure that every individual who walks through the doors has access to what they need to feel safe and cared for.

Along with supporting the van repairs, the shelter is seeking donations for the following items to replenish supplies and meet the needs of clients: comforters, hats, mittens, sweat pants, t-shirts, sweatshirts, plus sized bras and underwear, electric blankets, weighted blankets, toilet paper, paper towels, liquid shower soap, hair conditioner, lotion, bath towels and wash cloths and slippers.

Visit <https://thedvshelter.app.neoncrm.com/forms/drive-change?campaignId=7> to donate or reach out directly to coordinate item donations. To arrange item donations, contact Kate at khenderson@thedvshelter.com or call 419-774-5843 ext. 100.

Our Family Serving Your Family for Five Generations Since 1872



WAPPNER
Funeral Directors & Crematory

Three Locations to Serve You

Mansfield • 98 South Diamond St. • 419-522-5211
Ontario • 100 S. Lexington-Springmill Rd. • 419-529-2323

Ashland • 308 Claremont Avenue • 419-289-1552

www.wappner.com

OPEN HOUSE - Sunday, February 2 (12:00-1:30 PM)

Now Enrolling

ST. MARY OF THE SNOWS
Catholic School

2025-26



Phone 419.589.2114

Website mansfieldstmaryschool.org

Address 1630 Ashland Road



Celebrating 75 Years



Shaping the Mind, Body, and Spirit of Tomorrow's Leaders



St. Mary School admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin





JANUARY IS SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH and Pioneer Career & Technology Center is celebrating its board members for their dedication and commitment to the district and its students. "The dedication, commitment and vision of our school board members shape the future of our schools and students," superintendent Greg Nickoli said. "Their focus is always on helping all our students be successful in their future endeavors. Celebrating School Board Recognition Month is one way to say thanks for all they do. School board members give the community a voice in education decision-making. Even though we make a special effort to show our appreciation in January, their contribution is a year-round commitment. Please thank our board members and let them know we support them and appreciate their service to our district." The Pioneer board supports students from 14 local school districts. Board members serving Pioneer are Robyn Almanson, Ben Blubaugh, Mike Grady, Bill Hope, Morgan Jones, vice president Dennis Long, Bill McFarland, Chris Rothhaar, Erin Stine, board president Douglas Theaker and Mary Jean Theaker.

Theaker, Long named Pioneer president, vice president

The Pioneer Career and Technology Center Board of Education held its organizational meeting on Jan. 22.

The oath of office was administered to new board member Chris Rothhaar of Willard City Schools; and re-appointed board members Robyn Almanson of Crestline Exempted Village School District, Dennis Long of Galion City Schools, Bill Hope of Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center and Douglas Theaker of Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center.

Douglas Theaker was elected as board president and Dennis Long was elected as board vice president.

The board established the date and time of the regular board of education meetings as the third Monday of the month at 6 pm in the Pioneer Board of Education Conference Room.

Mike Grady was appointed as the legislative liaison and Robyn Almanson was appointed as student achievement liaison.

Bill Hope, Dennis Long and Douglas Theaker were appointed to the Finance Audit Committee for 2025.

The board authorized the treasurer to pay outstanding bills and invest interim monies.

The board requested advance payment on current collection of taxes and authorized the treasurer to prepare blanket certificates and waive the notice period for tax abatement proposals.

Board of Education expenses (Service Fund) were approved and the board appointed the director of business affairs as purchasing agent for 2025.

The board authorized the superintendent to employ personnel as needed and to accept resignations. The superintendent can also apply for federal and state grants.

Board member training reimbursements were approved.

The regular meeting of the Pioneer Board of Education was held immediately following the organizational meeting.

The board approved minutes of the December board meeting and memberships in professional related organizations.

A resolution was adopted to approve the purchase of meals/amenities to further the interests of the district.

Donations to the Art Barr Scholarship Fund will be used for annual student scholarships. Donations were accepted from Mary Lee Barr, Shelby, \$300; Pamela Blankenhorn, Shelby, \$200; and Deborah Harwood, Shelby, \$100.

Donations also came from Carey Ransom, Mt. Vernon, donation of

various cosmetology items valued at approximately \$425 to be used in the cosmetology programs; Chief Thompson, Shelby Fire Department, donation of three traffic wands valued at approximately \$50 for Pioneer's new Public Safety Program.

The board approved an unpaid leave request for certificated personnel.

Chaperone stipends were approved for Meghan Haney, \$50; and Melissa Myers, \$50.

Non-Trad career exploration stipends for \$65 each went to Caleb Alt, Carey Ransom, Matt Hanning, Kip Stevens, Melinda Meisse and Justin Tuttle.

Curriculum development extended time was approved for Robin Hager and Adam Galley.

Employment of adult education personnel included Alison Lykins, Adult Ed LPN instructor; and Sandra Reed, Adult Ed LPN instructor.

Student workers hired are Sara Cook, ECE student worker; and Jayda Sterling, ECE student worker.

The board approved an agreement with Crestline Exempted Village Schools and new and revised courses for the 2025-'26 school year.



**Recycling Today
to Improve Tomorrow**

Formerly Milliron Recycling

BUYERS OF:

aluminum . stainless steel . brass . all scrap iron

commercial & industrial pick-up

2384 St. Rt. 39 | Monday - Friday 8 - 5 | Sat. 8 - 12

419 - 747 - 6522 | 800 - 921 - 0054

First Congregational Church raises money for local food bank

First Congregational Church, 640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield, has announced the results of its recent fundraising event to help local food bank.

The church's first chili cook-off on Jan. 25 had 140 attendees and raised over \$1,700. These funds will be directed to the local food bank at Grace Episcopal Church which is specifically in need of a new commercial freezer to help serve the over 1,000 people who rely on the food bank.

"We are thrilled with the outcome of this event and so thankful the community came to support this important initiative," said Rev. Brad Bunn. "It is very important to FCC to support the neighboring churches and the greater community."

Several committees were recognized for their delicious chili recipes and table decorations.



Photos By Jeff Hoffer





Venice, Italy • Photo By Mark Shutt

Renaissance will present RYOT Workshop Showcase

Under the direction of Lori Turner, the Renaissance Theatre will present the Renaissance Youth Opera Theatre (RYOT) Workshop Showcase on Friday, Feb. 21, at 7 pm.

The showcase will be performed in the Ren's Theatre 166 space, and is a part of the Mechanics Bank Education Series. General admission tickets are free for adults and students and are on sale now at the Renaissance Box Office, by phone and at rentickets.org.

Designed to focus on the individual performer, the RYOT Workshop Showcase offers opportunities for young actors to work one on one and in small ensembles with director Lori Turner and other guest professionals to develop and grow vocal skills, hone their acting chops and perform in a smaller cast setting.

RYOT Director, Lori Turner, states, "This year's RYOT Showcase performers will stretch their acting/singing chops with a variety of classic Broadway comedy scenes ranging from Gilbert and Sullivan to Stephen Sondheim. Students will present short scenes and musical numbers from a range of productions, including: *Guys and Dolls*, *Mikado*, *1001 Arabian Nights*, *Bye Bye Birdie* and *My Fair Lady*."

Offered as an opportunity for participation by students in second through twelfth grade, the workshop features performers in two age groups (second–sixth grade; and seventh–twelfth grade).

This year's showcase features the talents of more than twenty students, including: Gabriel Anderson, Amy Bradley, Olivia Brumagin, Darius Darmody, Piper Donahue, Jackson Horn, Audrey King, McKinnley King, Skyler Marhenke, Marilena Kruer, Steliana Kruer, Rosie Lawhorn, Briner McCready, Eliana Nelson, Alyssia Pickett, Jace Painley, Saige Painley, Maddie Rice, Caroline Secrist, Alex Trolian, Sloane Walter and Halle Williams.

For information contact Lori Turner at lori@mansfieldtickets.com. The RYOT Program is a part of the Mechanics Bank Education Series.

Lexington Council names Wynn Kearns as president

Lexington Village Council held a meeting Jan. 6 with Mayor Bob Jarvis presiding. Attending were Wynn Kearns, Keith Bacin, Michael Benson, Rodney Earick, Kim Little, Jeff O'Brien and Todd Wise.

Also present were law director John Studenmund, administrator Peter Them and Chief Troy Weaver.

Wynn Kearns was named council president/pro tempore and Keith Bacin was chosen as council parliamentarian

Bills for December have been checked and approved.

Peter Them reported that at the next council meeting the board will select dates for the operating budget. The water/sewer department hired a fifth employee. A previous new hire will be studying for his waste water license.

Councilman Bacin asked who is responsible for village's website updates. Bacin emphasized this is a valuable communication tool and frequent updates are needed. Them and Barton will be tackling that next month and on-going.

Mayor Bob Jarvis said he received many positive reports regarding the village's Christmas light displays.

Chief Weaver reported that Andon Wade has begun working, making the department fully staffed. The department is looking at hiring part-time dispatchers. A new cruiser is on board and the other new cruiser is waiting for radio installation.

A resolution was passed declaring the intent of the Village of Lexington to sell property no longer needed for municipal purposes through an internet auction during calendar year 2025.

A resolution was passed authorizing the mayor and administrative director to execute the deed transferring real property to the Lexington community improvement corporation.

A discussion was held about 10 Plymouth St. More opportunities are available with CIC holding ownership. Mayor Jarvis reported the CIC currently owns the NEER building.

As reported by council president Kearns, the sexton for the cemetery, Jeff Worley, will be retiring in April 2025. Jeff Myers will take over at that time. The cemetery board is in good financial standing.

Them reported that Consolidated Electric donated \$3,000 to Lexington Depot Senior Center.

Need increases as winter storms, wildfires cancel blood drives

The American Red Cross encourages donors to give blood or platelets now to help protect the blood supply from the ongoing impact of severe winter weather and wildfires. Donors of all blood types — particularly type O negative blood donors and those giving platelets — are needed to help save lives this month.

Cancellations have resulted in more than 10,000 uncollected blood and platelet donations in January.

Donors are asked to book a time to give blood or platelets by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

All who come to give now through Feb. 28 will get a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of choice.

Thursday, Jan. 30, 1–6 pm, Madison Adult Career Center, 600 Esley Ln., Mansfield

Friday, Jan. 31, 11 am to 5 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

Tuesday, Feb. 4, 12–5 pm, Berean Baptist Church, 2145 Middle Bellville Rd., Mansfield

Friday, Feb. 7, 11 am to 5 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

Tuesday, Feb. 11, noon to 6 pm, Saint Paul Lutheran Church, 48 Church St., Bellville; and 12–6 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

Wednesday, Feb. 12 1–6 pm, Lucas Community Center, 252 W. Main St., Lucas; and 12–6 pm, Planktown Country Market, 1921 Free Rd., Shiloh

Thursday, Feb. 13, 8:30 am to 2:30 pm, St. Peter's High School, 111 W. First St., Mansfield

Friday, Feb. 14, 11 am to 5 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

Saturday, Feb. 15, 9 am to 2 pm, Richland Mall, Ontario

Valentine's Day cards being collected for children and teens

Richland County Children Services (RCCS), the Mansfield United Lions Club and the City of Mansfield Parks & Recreation Department are making Valentine's Day special for youths in foster care with Valentine's Day cards.

The Mansfield United Lions Club, RCCS and the City of Mansfield Parks & Recreation Department will be collecting Valentine's cards for children in foster care ages 0-6, 7-12 and 13-18.

Cards can be handmade, or store brought, no sealed valentines and cards may be signed. Cards will be accepted through Feb. 7.

The community is invited to drop off or mail the unsealed Valentine's Day cards to Richland County Children Services, 731 Scholl Rd., Mansfield, OH, 44906 or the Mansfield Parks & Recreation Department, 100 Brinkerhoff Ave., Mansfield, OH, 44906, C/O Valentine's Day Cards.

The Valentine's Day Card Project gives the community an opportunity to show children in foster care that they are loved, appreciated and not alone.

RCCS mission is to lead our community in assuring the safety, well-being, and permanency of children at risk of abuse and neglect.

Those interested in becoming a foster parent can contact Richland County Children Services at 419-774-4100 or go to richlandcounty-childrenservices.org. For information about the project contact Brigitte Coles at 419-774-4168 or brigitte.coles@jfs.ohio.gov.

Free interactive open house about soil coming February 19

Healthy soil is necessary for healthy humans, wildlife, crops, flora and fauna to thrive. It can't be taken for granted because it isn't an endless natural resource. It can take over 100 years to create one inch of topsoil. That's longer than the average person's lifespan.

To raise awareness of the importance of soil in a fun environment, Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (RSWCD) in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) and Pheasants Forever is hosting "Get the Dirt on Soil Open House" Feb. 19 from 4-6 pm at the Longview Center in Mansfield, 1495 W. Longview Ave. The open house is free, family-oriented and open to all ages.

Richland County has 123 different soil types which is why soil testing is important. Participants will learn more about soil testing, conduct a soil erosion experiment, play Soil Hole (RSWCD version of corn hole), and make and enjoy a crowd favorite, dirt pudding. Additional activities are also planned.

Learn more about the Get the Dirt on Soil Open House at <https://richlandswcd.net/event/stupendous-soils-open-house/>. You may also contact sutter.theresa@richlandswcd.net or 419-747-8685.

Area Agency on Aging scholarship applications now being accepted

The Area Agency on Aging announces the start of its 2025 scholarship program, aimed at supporting individuals pursuing higher education or certification in the field of aging or disability services.

The Foundation Board will award three scholarships to individuals who demonstrate a commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of older adults and those with disabilities through their educational pursuits.

The scholarship program will award one \$2,000 scholarship for a student attending a 4-year university; one \$1,000 scholarship for a student attending a 2-year college, technical school, center of education or pursuing a certification; and one \$1,000 scholarship for a student attending any type of higher institute of learning or certification and a retiree or staff member of the Area Agency on Aging or is a child (step), or grandchild (step) of an actively employed (full-time or part-time) Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. staff member.

The application deadline is March 15, 2025. Visit aaa5ohio.org for detailed eligibility criteria and application instructions.



THIS PAST JUNE, Breckelle Miller, a third grade student at Stingel Elementary, won first place in the American Protégé International Vocal Competition, 2024 in the Young Performers category. As a result, she had the honor of singing "O Holy Night" in the category of Classical Repertoire at the Winners Recital at Carnegie Hall, one of the world's grandest performance venues in New York City, on Dec. 14. The competition was open to solo vocalists and vocal groups, pianists and violinists of all ages, and nationalities. This year the event had its largest number of competitive applicants on record from 73 countries. Following the winners recital of 42 exceptional performers at Carnegie Hall, the judges awarded Breckelle the highest honor of first place of all the young performers. Breckelle was accompanied on piano by her vocal instructor, Dan Fleming of Mansfield. Learn more about Breckelle at YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@breckellemiller4659>, <https://breckellemiller.com/> and on Facebook at BreckelleSings.



BELLVILLE LIONS CLUB is sponsoring a new "Sled Shed" at Amvets Park in Bellville. This shed was handcrafted by Lion Aimee and Lion Teri with the assistance of their handymen Alex and Larry B. You can find this shed up by the skate park near the double hill for sledding. Longer sleds should be in by the end of the week. The park is monitored by cameras 24/7.

Honor and Merit Rolls

Clear Fork High School Second Grading Period

ALL A

Senior — Melodie Blubaugh, Noel Ciine, Carter King, Emily Montgomery, Reina Rehberg, Peyton Salisbury and Kaybria Sims

Juniors — Piper Black, Milee Carillon, Xander Cyphers, Kaiden Dettmer, Lucas Goodman, Madelyn Hite, Addison Johnson, Jasmine Johnson, Zoe Lamp, Zoie Lloyd, Savannah Mazzola, Austin McFerrer, Kenadee Muntain, Lucy Myer, Bryar Ousley, Hunter Rahall, Selena Ross, Clinton Stallard, Audrey Vanausdle, Gavin Walker, Sophia Wilson and Ashtyn Wine

Sophomores — Asia Bechtel, Taylor Bly, Jadalyn Brokaw, Grace Burgholder, Mackenzie Daniels, Layla Daugherty, Aiden Demoss, Gavin Domka, Benjamin Dudley, Jonathan Evans, Charles Granholm, Mariah Hatfield, Alaina Hawkins, Davis Hoeflich, Marcus Hoeflich, Caleb Mack, Brody McGregor, Samuel Robinson, Ella Schmidt, Kabuto Setser, Hailly Thrush, Arianna Vanhoose, Austin VanHouten, Owen Weiser and Adalyn Wise

Freshmen — Matthew Anders, Gunnar Dill, Alyson Geary, Audrey Haring, Alyssa Johnson, Luke Keever, Maria Knight, Mckenley Knuckles, Jyllian Langer, Kylie Ludwig, Karlynn Mortimer, Aubryn Nickoli, Braylen Peteri, Paige Raike, Quentin Rinehart, Emma Shultz, Ashley Smith, Adelyn Snyder, Quinn Stover, Marley Strouse, Addison Thrush, Alina Van Horn, Allison Walker and Malia Walker

HONOR ROLL

Senior — Segno Ault, Lexie Colegrove, Venessa Eicher, Christopher Fenton, Bobbie Jo Fliger, Brooklynn Lutzmann, Fisher McLaughlin, Chloe Mowry, Arianna Reid, Dawson Staley, Lola Stillion, Mason Wade and Christian Walker

Juniors — Tobin Amos, Brinley Barnett, Ethan Beck, Alyssa Burger, Ben Campbell, Mattie Colegrove, Aidan Haring, Gwyneth Jones, Marissa (Charlie) Kenison, Bailee Riddle, Hadley Slaughter and Liliana Trunzo

Sophomores — Arianna Bostic, Addison Brown, Wesley Bunnell, Wade Davis, Kane Delancy, Tiegan Franta, Noah Goodman, Erika Hollar, Kelsea Hunter, Brynley Kirkpatrick, Joseph Lykins, Katrina Neal, Alekai Price, Kendyll Renz, Ashtyn Salisbury, Hudson Schag, Nicholas Skaggs and Wade Traxler

Freshmen — Elyza Baumgardner, Ian Black, Nathaniel Buck, Broghan Gattton, Ashlyn Inman, Brooklynn Kriedman, Keegan Lorentz, Katelyn Lucci, Ethan McFerrer, Addy New, Kendall Oswald, Madilynn Peters, Ashley Peterson, Jasper Picchioni, Sophia Schag, Victoriya Vaughn and Barrett Walters

MERIT ROLL

Senior — Kaiden Bloomfield, Owen Born, Sarah Brook, Emily Conrad, Hayden Harriman, Logan Krzeminski, Hunter Martin, Kylie McGinty, Alexander Ray Ousley, Peyton Rader and Dillion Wheeler

Juniors — McKinlie Carpenter, Ava Carr, Reece Cook, Xander Frederick, Kaleb Martin, Nicholas Martin, Porter Schmidt, Faith Smith, Mason Walls, Sophia Wharton, Nathaniel Wine, Makenna Wuertz and Jacob Zack

Sophomores — Morgan Armstrong, Zane Atkinson, Aubree Barnes, Adelaine Bash, Landon Berry, Mary (Max) Betts, Audrey Bowman, Cooper Brokaw, Khristopher Bush, Carter Coole, Madison Demoss, Allie Emerson, Colin Hull, Christian Kinnamon, Hannah Kinnard, Broegan Lyon, Avery McWilliams, Hayden Northrup, Mya Perry, Alexis Radcliffe, Taylor Richmond, Ava Roberts, Isaac Ross, Bryn Sansom, Addison Schlosser, Peyton Sickles, Deacon Sims, Grace Stallard, Chloe Steward, Kaiden Thomas, Addison Weikle and Owen Weikle

Freshmen — Aiden Armstrong, Kendall Baughman, Payton Dewey, Chesnei Flynn, Madelynn Frontz, Kenneth Graves, Ava Hanson, Brayden Hayes, Zayden Haynes, Braeden Hill, Gage Hoffman, Areanna Hood, Presley Lilly, Jaxon Oswald, Cole Sellers, Caitlin Seward, Payton Snyder, Zhoie Steagall and Collin Thompson



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL'S FCCLA attended the FCCLA Career Day with the Columbus Blue Jackets last month. The event offered a great experience for students to engage with their speaker panel, win door prizes, tour the NHL arena, skate on the ice, attend a safe driving workshop and watch the Blue Jackets play against the Washington Capitals.

News Briefs in Education



Micayla Delamater of Lexington has been named to the fall 2024 dean's list at Muskingum University in New Concord, OH.

To be named to the list, students must earn a term GPA of 3.60 or above on a minimum load of 12 completed semester hours of A-F graded coursework.



Local students have been named to the dean's list for the fall 2024 semester at Baldwin Wallace University, according to Provost Thomas C. Sutton. The list recognizes students who earn a grade point average of 3.8 or higher while enrolled in 12 or more graded hours during the semester.

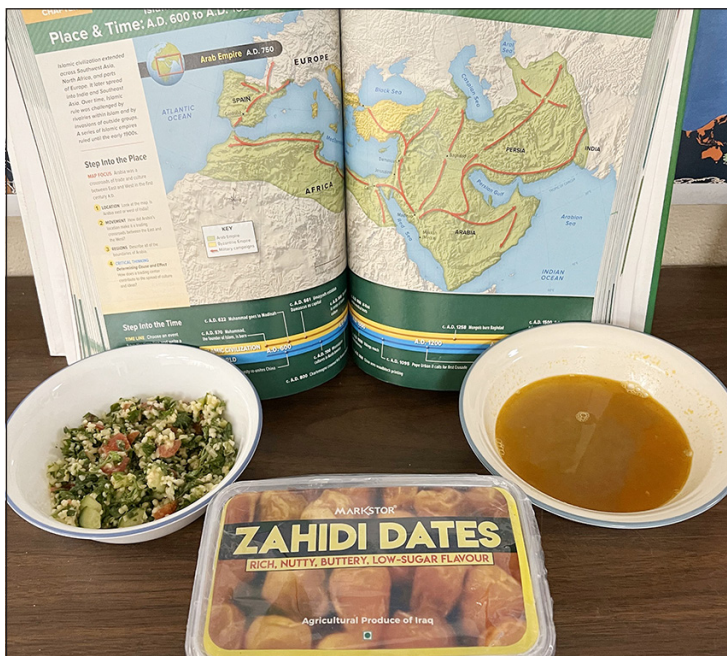
On the list are Marisah Atterholt, a graduate of Hillsdale High School majoring in nursing; Kesley Crider, a graduate of Mansfield Senior High School majoring in music industry; Austin Fisher, a graduate of Lexington High School majoring in sport management; and Jack Hiebel, a graduate of Lexington High School majoring in marketing.



Ashley McLaughlin of Mansfield was named to the dean's list for the fall 2024 term at University of Maryland Global Campus. To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earned a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC.



Chris Weilbacker was named to The University of Alabama Presidents List for fall semester 2024. The list requires an academic record of 4.0 (all A's).



SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS at Ontario were able to taste some foods from their Islam chapter study in social studies. The menu included Tabbouleh, Arabic lentil soup and dates. Overall, the foods were found to be delicious.

Safe boating classes offered

The Mansfield Power Squadron is hosting two safe boating classes this winter. Classes will be held Tuesdays from Feb. 18 through March 18 at Madison Adult Career Center, 600 Esley Lane, Mansfield. Classes are held from 7-9 pm Thursdays from Feb. 20 through March 20 at the Shelby Marvin Memorial Library, 29 W. Whitney Ave., Shelby. Classes are from 6-8 pm.

The cost for the class is \$40 and includes a comprehensive safe boating book. Families taking the course can share a book (\$28).

The goal of the courses is to reduce boating accidents. Statistics show that 85 percent of fatal boating accidents involve untrained or internet trained operators. Therefore, Mansfield Power Squadron holds in-person classes to provide information and discussion about how to safely operate a boat — regardless if that is a canoe, kayak, pontoon boat or bigger power boat.

Those interested can contact 1mansfieldpowersquadron@gmail.com or visit usps.org/mansfield/.

The Mansfield Power Squadron is a 501.3(c) organization dedicated to promoting safe, fun boating. The class is approved by the State of Ohio to fulfill the training requirement for those operating a boat with a 10 horsepower (or greater) motor and personal watercraft (jetski).

ASSE looking for families to host foreign exchange students

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs (ASSE), a non-profit, public benefit organization, is inviting local families to discover the many rewards of hosting a foreign exchange student.

ASSE students come from more than 50 countries worldwide: France, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Ukraine, Japan, Australia, to name a few.

Students are between the ages of 15 and 18 years, and they are enthusiastic and excited to experience American culture, family life, school, sports, etc.

They also love to share their own culture and language with their host families, who welcome the students into their home, not as a guest, but as a family member, giving everyone involved a rich cultural experience.

Host families may be single parents, couples and single persons. The exchange students have pocket money for personal expenses and full health, accident and liability insurance.

ASSE students are carefully selected based upon academics and personality, and host families choose their student from a wide variety of backgrounds, countries and personal interests.

ASSE also offers qualified American students the opportunity to learn another language and culture by spending a school year, semester or a summer with a host family in another country.

Those interested in hosting an exchange student or becoming an exchange student abroad, should call Saphia at 1-800-736-1760, visit www.asse.com or send an email to asseusamidwest@asse.com to request more information or start the application process.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS NORWALK BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL · JAN. 14
TRUCKERS WIN 58-45 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**MADISON VS NORWALK BOYS JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL · JAN. 14
TRUCKERS WIN 45-44 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN**



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**MADISON VS NORWALK BOYS FRESHMAN BASKETBALL · JAN. 14
TRUCKERS WIN 50-38 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN**



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MANSFIELD SENIOR VS ASHLAND VARSITY BASKETBALL · JAN. 24
TYGERS WIN 72-71 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS MANSFIELD SENIOR BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL · JAN. 17
TYGERS WIN 68-42 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS MANSFIELD SENIOR BOYS JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL · JAN. 17
RAMS WIN 66-32 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



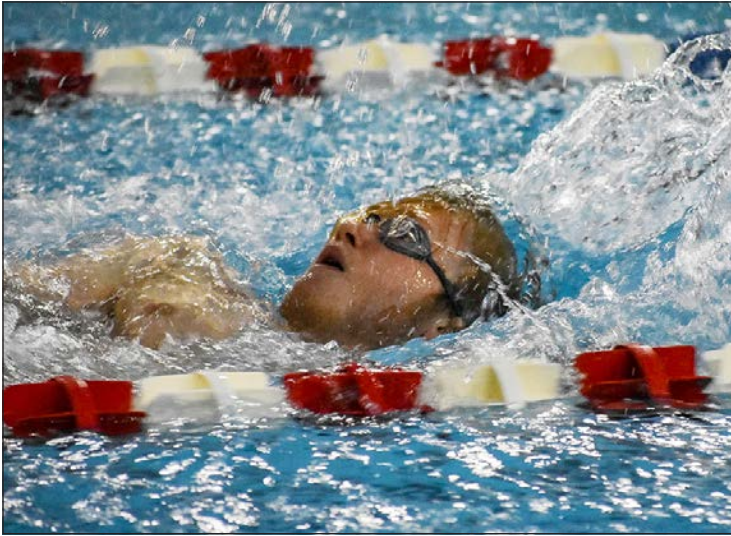
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS MANSFIELD SENIOR BOYS FRESHMAN BASKETBALL · JAN. 17
TYGERS WIN 38-31 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON & ONTARIO SWIM MEET · JAN. 22 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS MANSFIELD SENIOR GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL · JAN. 23
RAMS WIN 43-33 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**MADISON VS NORTHMOR GIRLS JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL
JAN. 23 · RAMS WIN 43-39 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN**



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS WEST HOLMES BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL · JAN. 24
KNIGHTS WIN 57-37 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS WEST HOLMES BOYS JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL · JAN. 24
RAMS WIN 58-33 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Local fighter Chaise Nelson takes win in Albuquerque

By Kris Leiter

Chaise Nelson's name often coincides with MMA, UCF, ICF, WBA and BKFC. Some may not understand what those acronyms stand for but they are all related to the sports of Mixed Martial Arts, United Cage Fighting, International Cage Fighting, World Boxing Association and Bare Knuckle Fighting Championship.

If you haven't heard much about the sport of Bare Knuckle Fighting Championship, don't feel too bad, as BKFC is the new kid on the block in the boxing world. The sport originated in 2018 in Philadelphia, just a seven short years ago.

If you could break it down to it's simplest form, its resembles what you may remember from your childhood when a school yard fight would draw a crowd. Bare-knuckle fists, no gloves. Add a few safety rules and a boxing ring and that pretty well wraps-up BKFC.

This boxing ring is unique as it is a trigon ring — triangular.

Chaise Nelson, 27, is a Mansfield Police Officer and a bare knuckle brawler. He specializes in this off-shoot of the sport of boxing and can answer some of our questions about BKFC.

"The trigon promotes aggressiveness between fighters. It doesn't give much room to evade your opponent. You really can't retreat to a corner as you can in a square ring. It basically promotes action," said Nelson.

Nelson just had his first BKFC fight in Albuquerque, New Mexico on Jan. 11. To say it was eventful would be an understatement. During the fight he broke both of his hands early in the fight.

He realized his predicament in the second round and this was a five-round fight.

The ring doctor stopped the fight to observe the degree of pain. This could merit Chaise's exit, allowing him to escape more pain. The fight would be over. But Chaise, with his tough fighter mentality, wasn't about to pack his bags after two rounds.

He fibbed to the doctor, hid his pain and told the doctor he was ok.

"If the doctor knew I was in pain, the fight would be over. When the doctor pressed my hand, I knew they were both broken. He said, 'Are you okay?' and I said, 'I'm fine.'"

So he fought the remaining rounds with his broken hands.

You might think that in his condition he would be at a disadvan-

tage and possibly lose the fight. No way!

At the end of the final bell, the referee would raise Chaise's hand, indicating that he had won the fight!

"This was a five-round bare-knuckle fight, my debut, and it was also my opponent's debut. I signed a four-fight deal with BYB out of Miami, Florida."

"I have fought in 25 professional fights and I signed my first pro boxing contract at 18 years old while I was still in high school."

"The guy that I was fighting (Nate Williams) has had 60 professional MMA fights. The first two rounds went great, I dropped him both rounds. At the end of the second round, I broke both hands on the side of his head.

"He was a good first opponent, he was a tough guy."

Chasie has had many people help him along the way and wanted to recognize just a few.

"Tim Carper built a gym in his home improvement business and if it wasn't for he and coach Billy Salser I wouldn't be here. They both have really helped me out as far as training locally. They have given me the best chance I have of winning. I only had about three and a half weeks to train for this fight."

Just last week Chaise had hand surgery and is recovering. The doctor said his hand was shattered and had to place an extra pin in his hand. We know with his fighter's determination he will be back in the ring before long.



Scan to Subscribe
to the FREE
Weekly Issue

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

CLASSIFIEDS Enrollment will begin at Ontario

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 January 22, 2025.

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.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-01 – A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENT OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO TO SELL PROPERTY NO LONGER NEEDED FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES THROUGH AN INTERNET AUCTIONSALE DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2025.

Cathy VanAuker
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, OH
(T-C 1-30, 2-6 '25) (22L)

NOTICE OF INTENT TO SELL UNNEEDED, OBSOLETE OR UNFIT MUNICIPAL PERSONAL PROPERTY BY INTERNET SALE/AUCTION DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2025

The following is a succinct summary of the legislation adopted by the Council of the City of Ontario, at their regular meeting held on January 22, 2025.

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.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-01 – A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENT OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO TO SELL PROPERTY NO LONGER NEEDED FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES THROUGH AN INTERNET AUCTIONSALE DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2025.

Cathy VanAuker
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, OH
(T-C 1-30, 2-13 '25) (26L)

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Annual Financial Report for Springfield Township, Richland County, Ohio, for the Year 2024 is available upon inspection upon request at the office of the fiscal officer, Springfield Township Hall, 3700 Park Avenue West, Ontario, Ohio.

Anita Kochheiser
Springfield Twp. Fiscal Officer
City of Ontario, OH
(T-C 1-30 '25) (11L)

Ontario Preschool will be accepting applications of interest for the 2025-'26 school year beginning Monday, Feb. 3 for Ontario residents.

Those interested should fill out final forms completely (all forms should turn green) and the school will contact with a screening appointment. (Those enrolled for preschool last year, but withdrew, should send an email to Mrs. Crawford to reactivate the final form account). (Select the 25-'26 school year).

Open enrollment applications can be filled out and turned in to the board office beginning March 1. Open enrollment gets the last priority for placement, but will be considered if there is program availability. All potential students will be scheduled

for a developmental screening in March or April and acceptance into the program will be mailed by the end of May.

Classes are filled by what is available, teacher requests are not accepted. AM or PM preference can be requested, but they can not be guaranteed. Visit <http://www.ontarioschools.org/PreSchool.aspx> for more information on enrollment and the program or email the director at crawford.stacy@olsohio.org.

Kindergarten enrollment begins Monday, Feb. 3, 2025.

Students must be five on or before Aug. 1, 2025 to enroll for kindergarten. Enrollment begins by filling out final forms completely on the Ontario School District website (choose the 25-'26 school year).

Once final forms are completed (all forms are green) applicants can come into the Stingel Elementary office and complete the application process beginning Feb. 3 anytime between 8-3. At this appointment bring birth certificate, immunization record, proof of Ontario residency (utility bill, lease/mortgage agreement) and custody papers (if applicable).

Two night office hours are open from 4:30-7:30 pm on Feb. 6 and 13 for those working during the day. A kindergarten screening will be scheduled in August to turn in all of these documents.

Open enrollment begins March 1. All applications need to be turned into the board office, once accepted, by June 12.

Applications being accepted for scholarships

Undergraduate and graduate students studying music can apply for the DAR Marian Anderson Legacy Scholarship through Jan. 31, 2025. Sponsored by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the scholarship provides a one-time \$5,000 award to one student annually who is pursuing undergraduate or graduate study in music.

Applicants should be accepted or currently enrolled in an accredited university or college in the United States and have a concentration in music in their course of study. Music performance, composition, theory, or education are all areas that students may be specialized in to qualify for the scholarship. They should have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or the equivalent GPA on the scale used by the institution.

Applications require references sent through the application system, so students need to re-

quest their references ahead of the Jan. 31 application deadline.

In honor of Ms. Anderson's commitment to the community throughout her life and her willingness to share her incredible talent with the world, applicants are asked to write a personal statement describing their humanitarian or volunteer contributions on behalf of their community and/or country.

To recognize the city Marian Anderson called home, preference will be given to students from the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania metropolitan area, even if they are not pursuing music

studies in the Philadelphia area.

This scholarship is not automatically renewed. However, recipients may reapply for consideration each year for up to four consecutive years.

The scholarship is supported by the Daughters of the American Revolution's Marian Anderson Legacy Fund. Learn more about the relationship between Marian Anderson and the DAR, and the organization's on-going efforts to honor her memory at www.dar.org/MarianAnderson

For additional information about DAR and its relevant mission visit www.dar.org.





**First Federal
Bank of Ohio**

THE RIGHT LOAN. THE RIGHT BANK.

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



Lisa Anderson
NMLS 618735
Branch Manager - Loan Officer



**Scan to Subscribe
to the FREE
Weekly Issue**

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