



TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

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03.27.25



THE 18TH ANNUAL Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development Business Expo was held at the Richland County Fairgrounds on Thursday, March 20.

Expo “Unleashes the Pawsibilities” with strong community turnout

Photos and Article By Traci Little

The 2025 Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development Business Expo, themed “Unleash the Pawsibilities,” brought together businesses, nonprofits and community members for a day of networking, innovation and philanthropy.

Held on March 20 at the Richland County Fairgrounds, this 18th annual event transformed the venue into an exciting hub of opportunity.

Breckelle Miller kicked-off the event by singing the “The Star Spangled Banner.” At just 10 years old, she is already an acclaimed National Anthem singer, having performed on ESPN, CBS Sports, NBC and The Big Ten Network.

In December, she took first place in an international vocal competition at Carnegie Hall in New York City. She is also a talented ventriloquist who uses her platform to spread an anti-bullying message with her puppet, Barbie Q Chicken. She attends Storyside Church, sings on the worship team, and is a third-grade student at Stingel Elementary.

She was joined by the Richland County Sheriff’s Office Honor Guard and local officials. The ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the official start, followed by the upbeat tune of “Who Let the Dogs Out” playing throughout the building to get everyone excited for the activities of the day.

A special thank you goes out to Hamilton Insurance Group, Inc., the Presenting Sponsor, along with the event’s “Top Dog” sponsors: American Homestead Exteriors, Heartland Design Concepts, New Mercy Outreach, the YWCA, and the Ohio Department of Children and Youth. Medical Mutual also contributed generously to the event’s success.

With over 100 participating businesses and organizations, attendees had the chance to explore interactive exhibits, sample products, and connect with local entrepreneurs. The expo’s pet-friendly theme wasn’t just for show—it also supported a community cause.

A pet item donation drive, sponsored by Graham Automall, collected essential supplies for the Humane Society of Richland County and the Richland County Dog Warden & Adoption Center. Thanks to the generosity of visitors and exhibitors, the drive was once again a huge success.

Beyond business networking, the expo featured a special demonstration by the Mansfield Police Department’s K9 Unit, giving

(Continued on Page 8)

Lexington Board will obtain bid pricing to purchase new bus

The Lexington Board of Education met Wednesday, March 19. To start the meeting, Gracie Masi, student representative to the board, presented her report. Administrative Report - Scott Curtis also gave an administrative report.

A resolution was passed accepting amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor.

A transfer was approved from LFI Building Fund 004 to Classroom Facilities Construction Fund 010 in the amount of \$2,790,087.35, leaving a balance of \$3,183,543 for the local share within Fund 010 pursuant to the OFCC project package.

The board approved a resolution to authorize the treasurer and transportation department to obtain bid pricing through META Solutions Cooperative purchasing for a new bus.

The resignation of Jen Morris as a sixth grade intervention specialist, effective at the end of the 2024-’25 school year, was approved.

Salary adjustments were approved for Lindsay Musille, BS + 20 to MS; Reanna Sutherland, BS + 20 to MS; and Christine Elder, ME to ME + 10.

Retirements were approved, effective at the end of the 2024-’25 school year, for Larry Brightbill, transportation, bus driver; Cecil Potter, transportation, bus driver; and Eugene Davis, custodian, Western Elementary.

Lyndsey Murfield, Western secretary, and Katelynn Reis, educational aide at Western, resigned, effective at the end of the 2024-’25 school year.

The board approved the employment of Lyndsey Murfield as the board office secretary, effective with the 2025-’26 school year, per diem contract for June and July; Katie Craig, Western educational aide, effective March 31, 2025, with a contract for the remainder of the 2024-’25 school year and a one-year contract for 2025-’26; and Katelynn Reis, Western secretary, effective at the start of the 2025-’26 school year.

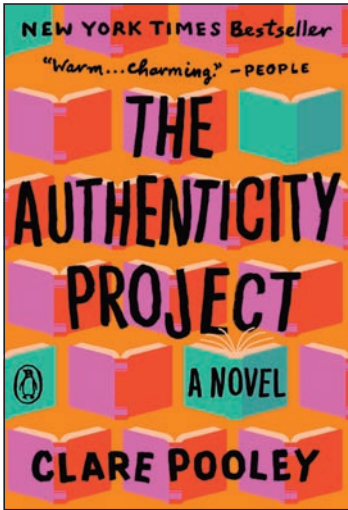
Dave Watters was named an assistant swim coach (2/3 contract). Melisa Watters was awarded a varsity swim coach position (2/3 contract) and Matthew Lautanen was named a junior high track coach. wHolly Rice will be a high school assistant cross country coach and Austin Javurek will be a volunteer assistant track and field coach. Kevin Morrow will be a girls varsity golf coach.

(Continued on Page 5)

LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review
By Mandy Belczak Gurney



I've been diving into Clare Pooley books lately and I can't seem to get enough. They are filled with eruptious humor, endearing characters and truths about life that just land better when you hear them from a character that starts to feel like a friend.

In many ways, Clare Pooley's writing reminds me of Fredrick Backman, but with her own unique voice.

In *The Authenticity Project*, strangers collide after finding truths shared in a notebook that was left and passed around. It's a space to write authentic feelings and possibly find your true self.

Of course, the cast of characters overlap bringing this brilliant London, with a hint of

Aussie, story to life.

My first Clare Pooley book was *Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting*, and I'm almost finished with *How to Age Disgracefully*. So far, those two titles are front runners, but I like all three so much, Clare Pooley is my newest "preorder the new release" author.

My rating: ★★★★★

Follow my blog at [Green Gurneys at GreenGurneys.com](http://GreenGurneys.com)

Ohio Chamber launches nonpartisan candidate training

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce has launched a new nonpartisan initiative, the Ohio Institute for Political Leadership, that will help to recruit and train pro-business candidates across the state who are interested in running for office at the local or state level.

This aims to provide individuals with the knowledge, tools and confidence to run for office, and to cultivate leaders committed to serving their communities.

"It's so important that people who are interested in holding office have access to the resources and support that they need," said Ohio Chamber President & CEO Steve Stivers. "

The first training will be in Columbus on May 16. The event will feature government leaders and political strategists who will discuss topics like legal requirements, fundraising, campaign messaging and voter contact. To register visit https://ohiochamber.com/ohio-institute-for-political-leadership/?_gl=1*_ghosol*_gcl_au*_M-jAwNjgwMzA2MS4xNzQxOTY3NzE1*_ga*MTkxODMyM-jAzMy4xNzQxOTY3NzE1*_ga_TYE06XBK6S*MTc0MTk2Nzcx-NC4xLjAuMTc0MTk2Nzcx-NC4wLjAuMA.

Senator Mark Romanchuk praises modern energy policy

The Ohio Senate overwhelmingly passed a new 21st Century power policy that is reliable, affordable, and accountable to Ohio.

Senate Bill 2, priority legislation for the Senate, energizes and maximizes Ohio's power industry by putting the focus on projects that generate baseload power, which is the demand needed to power homes, businesses, and industry across the state every day. The bill was supported by State Senator Mark Romanchuk (R-Ontario)

"Creating a modern energy policy is a significant step for the state of Ohio," said Senator Romanchuk. "The increase in power generation and repeal of riders imposed on Ohioans by utility companies puts our great state a step above our neighbors. I am confident that the future of energy is bright for Ohio."

The bill provides additional accountability to consumers by repealing Electric Security Plans (ESP's), also known as "riders." This has been a way to charge consumers more without necessarily making the case for why an energy company needed additional funds.

Additionally, the bill provides for a traditional rate case format, where the energy company would have to fully disclose its financials to the Public Utility Commission before a rate increase would be approved. Senate Bill 2 also establishes Priority Investment Areas (PIA's) for new power generation projects. This is key to revitalizing brownfields and decommissioned coal power plant sites for new generation projects.

Kingwood to present symposium

Kingwood Center Gardens will hold a half-day symposium on Saturday, April 12, from 9 am to 12:30 pm in the Garden Gateway King Ballroom. The 2025 symposium theme is "Connecting with Nature for Healthy Living." Attendees will learn of the beneficial effects of nature on health and wellness, therapeutic gardening methods and adaptive techniques for gardening as we age. The event is open to the public and advanced registration is required.

Featured presenters include Maureen Stine, Certified Forest Therapy Guide, Natureology; Joe Lansing, Franklin County Master Gardener, Chadwick Arboretum & Learning Center; and Laura Akgerman, MA, CRC, Disability Services Coordinator, Ohio AgrAbility/OSU Extension. The registration fee is \$50 for Kingwood members and \$65 for non-members. Registration includes morning refreshments. Register at kingwoodcenter.org or call 419-522-0211.

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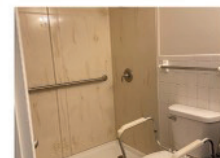
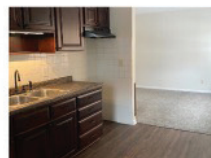
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No. 24

Tribune-Courier



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News Briefs

Trinity Grace Fellowship, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield, will hold its annual Madison Community Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 12 at 3 pm. This will be held rain or shine for children through sixth grade.

★

Mansfield 1st Presbyterian Church, 399 S. Trimble Rd., will host a rummage sale Friday, April 11, from 9 am to 4 pm and Saturday, April 12, from 9 am to noon.

Items will include a selection of clothing for children and adults, shoes, books, toys, housewares and more. Proceeds are used for local missions

For information contact the church office at 419-756-7066 or office@mansfield1st.com.

★

Richland County EMA's monthly tornado siren test will be at 4 pm Wednesday, March 26. The RAlert system will also be tested at pm Wednesday. Sign-up for RAlerts can be completed at <https://www.richlandcountyoh.gov/rcalerts>.

★

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).

★

The Ashland Cancer Crusaders Relay for Life Team will host a Relay for Life Craft Extravaganza on Saturday, April 5, from 9 am to 3 pm at Ashland County Fairground's Mozell Hall.

Along with vendors, there will be food and a 50/50 drawing. All money raised from the rental fees and the 50/50 will go to the American Cancer Society Relay For Life.

★

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, March 29 and 30. Acceptable items include steel and aluminum cans, crushed milk jugs, detergent bottles, plastic bottles with number 1 or 2 on the bottom, broken down cardboard, all papers included with the newspaper but no other magazines or paper. Please remove caps from bottles and rinse all containers well.

★

The 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 April 16 with turkey and a visit from the 179th Cyberspace Wing. Those attending are asked to bring a non-perishable item, can opener, paper product or monetary donation for the Salvation Army.

The group will meet for lunch April 2, at 11 am at the Golden Corral in Ontario.

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

★

Kingwood Center Gardens, 50 N Trimble Rd., Mansfield, will host a Free First Monday on April 7 where everyone enjoys free admission. From 1-3 pm, there will be an educational drop-in program.

Those attending can take a garden stroll, explore Kingwood Hall and discover exotic plants in the display greenhouse.

The Gateway Café and Garden & Gift Shop will be open.

Kingwood will host the spring plant market May 2-4. Items include herbs and veggies including heirloom varieties, annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs.

★

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Rev. William Humphrey who will speak on "Love, Trust and Friendship—building beloved community as resistance to oppression" on Sunday, March 30 at 10:30 am. For information visit www.allsoulsuohio.org.

★

Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Ave W, Ontario, will host a Grace & Eggs breakfast on April 6, at 9 am, followed by church services at 10:15 am.

OSU-M to host Buckeye Preview Days

The Ohio State University at Mansfield admissions staff is holding two Buckeye Preview Days, March 26 and April 21, from 10 am to 12:30 pm. Both events are open to students of any age and are particularly helpful for high school juniors who will soon begin their college search process.

At the preview, students will learn more about scholarship and financial aid, campus housing, student clubs and organizations and much more. Faculty and current students will share their perspectives as well as their experiences on campus.

Each preview day will conclude with a campus tour and time for all guests to ask questions. All events will begin in Riedl Hall and students can register online at go.osu.edu/visitmansfield

While registration is encouraged, walk-in participants are welcome. For more information, contact the office of enrollment services at mansfield-askabuckeye@osu.edu or call 419-755-4317.

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Church Directory

Clay Memorial Lutheran Church

1601 Amoy East Rd., Mansfield
419-747-6882
Pastor Carol Kilgore
Sunday School 9:15 am • Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Clear Fork Alliance Church

1008 State Route 97, Bellville
419-886-4333 • www.clearforkalliance.org
Rev. Matt Merendino
Rev. Mike Stine, Associate Pastor
9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship
Sunday Evening 6 pm Home Groups
Monday Men's Group 7:30 pm
Wednesday evenings: 6:45 pm, Prayer Meeting
6:30-8 pm and 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.

Grace Episcopal Church

41 Bowman Street, Mansfield
419-524-2661
Rev. Christopher D. Hofer, Priest-in-Charge
Rev. Daniel Orr, Associate Priest
Worship: Sundays, 8 am and 10:15 am
Christian Formation for All Ages: Sundays, 9:15 am
Food Pantry: Thursdays, 9-11 am
2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 4-6 pm
gracemansfield.org • facebook.com/GraceChurchMansfield

G & M Body & Paint Shop

168g West Fourth St., Ontario • 419-529-2747

Wappner Funeral Home

Mansfield • Ontario • Ashland • 419-522-5211

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 Presbyterian Church

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 and 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

Agency accepting senior, community award nominations

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging Inc. has announced that the Outstanding Senior Award and the Community Service Award nominations are now open and will close April 5, at 5 pm.

Each year the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council and the Corporate Board selects older adults and one organization who have made a difference in their communities and present a positive image of aging.

There is one Outstanding Senior award recipient for each county in the Agency's service area (Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Richland, Seneca and Wyandot) and one organization selected for Community Service award across all of the nine counties.

Since 1976, 415 Outstanding Senior Citizen Awards and 45 Community Service Awards have been presented.

Awardees must first be nominated by an individual or organization who reside in one of the following counties (Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Richland, Seneca, and Wyandot) and are then selected by the Advisory Council and the Corporate Board based on the impact of their contributions and accomplishments within the community made after reaching age 60.

Applications can be found and submitted online at <https://www.aaa5ohio.org/events/awards/>

Awardees will be recognized at the annual Outstanding Senior and Community Service Award Ceremony in August.

For additional information contact Sue Montgomery at smontgomery@aaa5ohio.org or 567-247-6458.

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc., located at 2131 Park Avenue West in Ontario, provides leadership, collaboration, coordination and services to older adults, people with disabilities, their caregivers and resource networks that support individual choice, independence and dignity.

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Past Issues at**

www.tribune-courier.com



ONTARIO'S FIFTH GRADE KINDNESS CLUB went to Ontario Pointe Assisted Living on March 20 to complete crafts with residents. The club visits monthly to provide crafts and socialization. To join kindness club, students have to submit a short essay explaining why they want to be in the club. They also have to get three teacher recommendations. Students chosen sign a kindness pledge.

•**Lexington will obtain bid pricing**

(Continued from Front Page)

Philip Etzel was approved as a tuition student for the 2025-'26 school year. He is a continuing student entering his junior year.

Cindy Shasky was approved as a building volunteer for the remainder of the school year.

A resolution was approved to adopt special education model policies and procedures (with slight modifications as recommended by NEOLA).

Substitute lists were approved as provided by MOESC, dated Feb. 21-March 14, 2025.

Voter registration deadline for primary election is April 7

The deadline to register to vote or change an address or name for the May 6, primary/special election is Monday, April 7.

The Richland County Board of Elections office will be open that evening until 9 pm. This office is located at 1495 W. Longview Ave. Suite 101 in the Longview Center.

After 4 pm, those coming to vote must use the entrance at the lower-level back parking area at the southwest corner of the building.

Qualifications for registering to vote include being either a native U. S. citizen or a naturalized U.S citizen, being a resident of Richland County and Ohio 30 days before an election and being a minimum of 18 years of age on or before the date of the general election on Nov. 4, 2025.

Registered voters who have moved or changed their name must notify the board office in writing or in person.

Voters currently registered in Ohio may change their address online at VoteOhio.gov but must do so by the April 7 deadline.

Online registration is also now available at VoteOhio.gov.

In addition to the Richland County Board of Elections office, citizens may register or complete a change of address/name at Richland County locations including any library branch, all city and village hall offices, The Bureau of Motor Vehicles office, The Department of Human Services, The Richland County Courthouse (recorder or treasurer offices) and all area high school offices.

Registration forms may also be obtained at vote.richlandcountyoh.gov or requested by mail. To have a form sent by mail call 419-774-5530. Completed voter registration forms must be postmarked 30 days before election day.

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

- James Reinhold Elsasser, March 12
- James J Littleton, March 14
- Agnes Ette Lee Spencer, March 16
- John Larry Laux, March 17
- Erica Elizabeth Matz, March 17
- Brian Keith Morris, March 18
- Charles Lee Bowman, March 19
- Evelyn Jean Cook, March 19
- Marvin Gregory Holbrook, March 19
- Danny Eugene Hyatt, March 20

View Full Obituaries at www.dignitymemorial.com

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- Ashland • 308 Claremont Avenue • 419-289-1552

www.wappner.com

Construction projects announced for Richland County roads

Construction projects are anticipated to affect ODOT roadways in Richland County. All work is weather permitting.

SR 13 northbound and southbound, from Hanley Road to Chilton Avenue, will have daily single lane closures for a resurfacing project. Traffic will be maintained with barrels in 11' lanes. Estimated completion for the 2025 construction season is November

2025. Estimated completion of the entire project is May 2027.

I-71 northbound and southbound, between SR 39 and U.S. 30, will have single lane closures for a slope stabilization project. Two lanes of traffic will be maintained. Estimated completion is November 2025.

Beginning Monday, March 31, SR 181 will have single lane closures from just south

of Main Street in Crestline, OH to SR 309. Project work includes pavement repairs and bridge maintenance work. Traffic will be maintained by flaggers. Estimated completion is September 2025.

SR 96, just east of Township Road 1193, will close Monday, March 31 for a culvert replacement. The estimated reopening is Wednesday, April 2.

ONTARIO LIONS PANCAKE DAY

Saturday, April 5, 2025 • 6:30 am to Noon at Ontario High School



Tickets: \$7 • Age 6 & Under Free

Door Prizes donated by local businesses
(Winners need not be present to win)

Proceeds support local and world-wide Lions projects

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Milliron Foundation donates \$200,000 towards turf project

Madison Local School District held a meeting March 19 in the Madison Middle School Auditoria. Madison South Elementary Principal Nikki Cox gave a presentation.

A \$200,000 donation was accepted from the Milliron Foundation to be used for the turf replacement project at the football field. A \$100 donation was accepted towards negative lunch balances from Lisa Turner, in memory of Raymond Sasarak who was a teacher at Madison for 32 years. A \$500 donation was given by Ben Connelly to be used by Madison Adult Career Center for the Job Readiness Fund.

A donation of \$2,000 was accepted from VFW Post 9943, to be used for student supplies at the high school.

A resolution was approved accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission for FY 2026 and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor.

The February 2025 Financial Report was approved as were the appropriation modifications and certificate of estimated resources for FY25 as submitted.

Resignations were accepted from Eric Turlo, student services director, effective July 31; Ariel Gough, teacher, leave of absence, effective Aug. 1; and Rachael Leibolt, teacher, effective May 29.

Non-renewal of non-M.L.E.A. pupil activity/supplemental contracts included Travis Stantz, Boys' eighth grade basketball head coach; Geoff Eckenwiler, boys' varsity basketball assistant coach; Colton Foley, boys' varsity basketball assistant coach; Davey Hipp, boys' varsity basketball head coach; Julia Litt, girls' seventh grade basketball head coach; Doug Rickert, girls' varsity basketball assistant coach; Phil Schmook, girls' varsity basketball head coach; Amy Daniels, assistant varsity cheer advisor; Michelle Byus, head varsity cheer advisor; Zack Brandt, seventh grade football assistant coach ½; Matt Stancombe, seventh grade football assistant coach ½; Tim Deel, seventh grade football head coach; Brian Lowe, ninth grade football assistant coach; Justin Hunt, ninth grade football head coach; Calvin Gordon, varsity football assistant coach ½; Cayleb Cox, varsity football assistant coach; Brent Besancon, varsity football head coach; Dominic Castelveter, boys' golf assistant (JV) coach; MaShala Poland, music assistant (Ramettes); Dustin Moysi, boys' varsity soccer assistant coach; Kelly O'Brien, girls' varsity soccer assistant coach; Zac Huff, girls' varsity soccer head coach; Sarah Wiggins, seventh grade volleyball head coach; Ema Pritchard, eighth grade volleyball head coach; Tricia Bernhard, varsity volleyball head coach; David Gilbert, 7th/8th grade wrestling head coach; Justin Hunt, 7th/8th grade wrestling assistant coach; Bryan Mosier, varsity wrestling head coach; Ian Pasqualini, varsity wrestling assistant coach; Chad Hutcheson, varsity wrestling assistant coach ½; and Kyle Conkle, varsity wrestling assistant coach ½.

Contracts were also not renewed for Kate Darnell and Kim Miller, senior class advisors.

The board approved employment for the current school year for Preston See, spring fitness coordinator; Julia Litt, assistant varsity softball coach; Zac Huff, assistant varsity baseball coach ½; Alec Keen, assistant varsity baseball coach ½; Kobi Johnson, head varsity football coach.

Bryan Mosier was approved as head girls' wrestling coach, \$1,950. Morris Hill was approved as a varsity track volunteer for this season.

Madison Adult Career Center employments included Tonya Barcroft, State Tested Nurse Aide (STNA); Kristin Rowlett, Customer & Office Support Technology; and Nicole Young, Customer & Office Support Technology/Microsoft Applications.

Substitute teachers hired on an "on call" basis, as needed for the 2024-'25 school year include Lukas Mann, long-term sub for 7/8 grade music; Ariel Estep and Chris Grove.

The use of a sick bank for 38 days for Jenny Phillips, preschool teacher at Madison South, was approved for medical reasons.

Lois Brammer resigned as a bus aide, effective Feb. 24.

Employment was approved for Najee Rawls, assistant teacher-ME-CLC; Alyse Huggins, assistant teacher-MECLC; Partena Tesca, bus aide; Tammy Paramore, preschool bus aide; James Adams, summer mower; William Chinn, summer mower; Jim Miller, summer mower; Bobby Neal, summer mower; Martha Urig, temporary summer help - bus garage.

An overnight trip for the Madison choir to perform at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, IL, May 16, through May 19, 2025, was approved at no cost to the board.

The Madison Adult Career Center Online Training Tuition Reimbursement Policy was approved.

A payment of \$819.23 in salary will be paid to Chad Metzger for providing College Credit Plus instruction remotely during the first semester of the 2024-'25 school year to students from South Central Local Schools and to students from Monroeville Local Schools at no cost to the Madison Local School District Board of Education.

The board approved an amendment to the Non-Certified Administrative and Confidential Employee Salary Schedule to reflect an adjustment in salary in accordance with a reduction in work days from 208 to 198 for the food service supervisor position.

(Continued on Page 10)

Pond Fish Sale
 Order By Thursday, April 17
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ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

•Expo “Unleashes the Pawsibilities”

(Continued from Front Page)

attendees a firsthand look at the skills and dedication of local working dogs. Food trucks, including Bytchn Kitchen and Truckin’ Trav Street Food, provided a variety of options to fuel the day’s activities.

Exhibitors also had the chance to showcase their creativity in a friendly competition, with awards given in several categories:

- Most Creative Booth: Chicago Title Agency of North Central Ohio
- Best Use of Theme: Pinnacle Building Services
- People’s Choice: Hudson and Essex
- Service Club Challenge: Altrusa International of Mansfield

This year’s Business Expo proved once again to be a valuable opportunity for businesses to gain exposure while strengthening community connections. Through a blend of innovation, philanthropy, and collaboration, this year’s event truly embodied the spirit of Pawsibilities.



Photos By Traci Little



Breckelle Miller sings *The Star Spangled Banner*



Eric Gilbert with his Black Mouth Cur, Bantam



Photos By Traci Little

newmercyoutreach.com 567.560.9021

Every Child Deserves Love and Support | Get Involved - Foster, Volunteer, Donate

•Milliron Foundation donates \$200,000 towards turf project

(Continued from Page 7)

The board approved the amendment to the administrative salary schedule to reflect an adjustment in salary in accordance with a reduction in work days from 260 to 224 for the Student Services Director/504 Coordinator position.

The board of education and administration will not attend the 2025 OSBA Capital Conference and will no longer have a contract with OSBA for services, effective with the 2026 calendar year.

A contract between Rockmill Financial Consulting (David Conley) and Madison Local Schools for taxation policy services during the 2025 calendar year in the amount of \$3,000 per month, not to exceed six months' service, was approved.

A five-year agreement was reached with NEO net for fiber connectivity services to begin July 1, 2025 and end June 30, 2030.

An agreement was reached with Ahead in the Cloud for uninterruptible power supplies to be purchased after July 1, 2025:

The board approved an agreement with Ahead in the Cloud to purchase managed internal broadband services equipment and/or services to begin July 1, 2025 and end June 30, 2030.

A resolution was approved for Ohio Revised Code 3323.08 which requires each school district to provide assurances to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce ("DEW") that the district will provide for the education of children with disabilities within its jurisdiction and has in effect policies, procedures and programs that are consistent with the policies and procedures adopted by DEW. This rescinds Board Resolution M-6 and adopts DEW's 2024 Model Policies with a few exceptions.

Stipends were approved for additional duties related to coaches' contracts previously issued for the 2024-'25 school year including Chad Hutcheson, 1/2 assistant varsity wrestling coach, \$1,200; and David Gilbert, head 7/8 grade wrestling coach, \$1,200.

A stipend was approved for additional duties related to coach's contracts previously issued for the 2024-'25 school year including Bryan Mosier, head varsity wrestling coach, \$1,950.



Richland County Foundation Board of Trustees Chair Chris Hiner and President and CEO Allie Watson

Richland County Foundation will host annual meeting on May 9

The Richland County Foundation will conduct its annual meeting Friday, May 9 at 11:30 am at Kingwood Center Gardens, 50 Trimble Rd., Mansfield.

The Foundation invites anyone in the community who is interested to the lunch. Registration is online at richlandcountyfoundation.org, click the donate tab and then events. The cost is \$30 per person. You can also pay for the meeting by mailing a check to 181 S. Main St., Mansfield, OH 44902 or call 419-525-3020 for additional information.

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

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

RPH asking for donations for Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Richland Public Health (RPH) is in need of help to keep the Dolly Parton Imagination Library running in Richland County.

Over the past year, this program has provided over 4,100 Richland County children between the ages of birth to five years a free book in the mail every single month.

It costs \$130,000 a year to keep this program operational and enrollment in the program continues to increase.

The State of Ohio helps pay for half of the total amount (state contribution, \$65,000), which leaves Richland County

with the responsibility to pay for the remaining \$65,000.

Any contribution can help provide books to local children.

Business and organization contributions will be recognized in all marketing and programming efforts with a logo on book mailings/communications.

To learn more or to make a financial contribution visit <https://richlandhealth.org/imagination-library/> or contact Leslie DeShane at 419-774-4726 or sdeshane@richlandhealth.org. Checks should be made to the Richland County Imagination Library.



MCS ALUMNI Leah (Sites) White and Ethan Byrom were inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. The ceremony was held in the chapel at Mount Vernon Nazarene University. Inductees are chosen for academic excellence in nursing and are in the top 35% of their class.

Lexington considering bringing concerts back to village

Lexington Village Council met March 3 with Mayor Bob Jarvis presiding. In attendance were council president Wynn Kearns and council members Keith Bacin, Michael Benson, Kim Little, Jeff O'Brien and Todd Wise. Also attending were law director John Stuenmund, administrator Peter Them and Police Chief Troy Weaver.

Steve Brown of Foxcroft asked council to consider allowing live band concerts at the newly acquired square extension.

Brown, a retired band teacher and a current member of the Mansfield Federation Musician, would like to have Lexington return to their days of live concerts and the acquisition of property near the square would be an ideal location. The band currently performs in Galion, Shelby, Bellville, Crestline and other locations. The musicians once held concerts in Lexington.

The costs are \$2,500 but the Local 159 would pay half of that amount using Federal grant money and the village would pay \$1,200 to \$1,300.

The band performs on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. It has four concerts already scheduled for 2025.

Councilman Kearns noted all officials agreed to the premise of having the concerts offered. Councilman Bacin invited Brown to attend the park board meeting in chambers April 8 at 6 pm.

Charles Comstock of Essex Circle noted his dismay at the village's decision to remove three trees from the village square. Comstock stated all the trees look good to him and added that Lexington is Tree City USA. Comstock also noted that the village has a wonderful reputation for having great trees.

Mayor Jarvis said that the village has been and still is a Tree City USA for the past 40 years, but the three trees are diseased and need to be removed for safety purposes.

As reported by administrator Peter Them "All ten bank accounts have been reconciled for the month of February. We are seeing an inflation with costs of utilities."

Council President Kearns noted that with all the recent inflation costs, maybe it is time to review the police levy expenditures. Them noted that the salary lines will be hard hit for the next couple of months.

Columbia Gas has a main replacement project on North Mill Street. The project was to be completed by March 4.

Main Street water leaks in front of Nickel & Bean have been repaired. Also, a water leak on Sherwood was repaired in just a few hours.

Property at the square has been leveled with topsoil, seeded and strawed. Trash was picked up after a vigorous rake.

"We removed the fence and returned it to Mr. Meade," said Them. The meter pit was removed and two valve boxes were installed.

Sweeping Corp of America will be doing three street sweeps for \$21,440. Mayor Jarvis noted that this is part of Phase #1 for the Main Street Corridor.

"Thank you to Troy Township for donations of used equipment," said Mayor Bob Jarvis. "They donated a pull behind weed eater and a walk behind weed eater."

"Peter Them and I attended a meeting with Lexington Schools at village hall with KEM on Feb. 21, regarding moving forward with the elementary schools. Central Elementary will be the site for the location of the new school."

"Them and I had a Zoom meeting with the Edge Group about the depot trailhead project. It was a very good meeting and when this is completed, we will have a real jewel in the village for people to enjoy."

The following day the mayor and Peter Them performed a walk-through with ODOT about the Plymouth Street Sidewalk Project.

The village had an ordinance about the feasibility study of the connector road. Councilman Bacin asked if all adjoining landowners have been contacted. Mayor Jarvis said he will be talking to the property owners.

A resolution was approved to enter into a 2025 contract for emergency protection with the board of township trustees of Troy Township, and declaring an emergency.

A resolution authorized the execution of an agreement with the Lexington soccer fields at Lexington Patriot Park.

A resolution was made authorizing the execution of an agreement

with The Lexington Baseball/Softball Association, Inc. for use of the ball fields at the Lexington Community Park.

Another resolution authorizes the administrative director to enter into a services agreement with Davey Resource Group, Inc., for the RIC-SR97 connector road planning study.

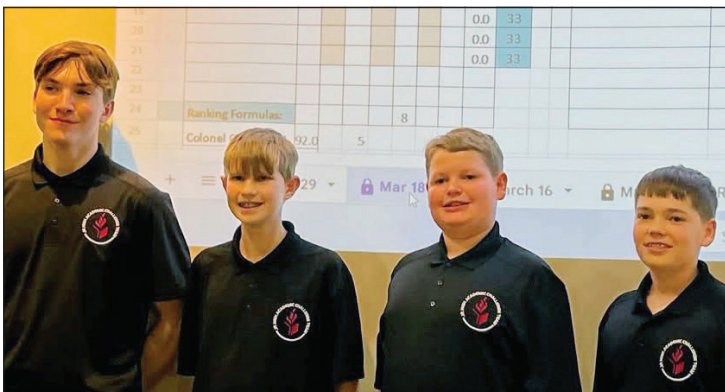
Council agreed that it was necessary to do a feasibility study. Grant monies will be used. Areas connecting are the US 42 and SR 97 intersection, Hanley Road and Lexington-Springmill Road. Some areas are currently landlocked. There will be a meeting with ODOT in the near future. KEM is reviewing for a possible project design grant also. The feasibility study will be step one for the project. Monies paid by the village will be approximately \$21,000.



LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL'S Academic Challenge Varsity Team of Alex T. (captain), Ari C., Natalie L., Addie S. and Ben W. placed first out of 12 teams! They finished 28 points ahead of second place, won the final match-up by nine points and set a new record with 67 points in one round. The JV team Gianna B. (captain), Chidalu E., Tiffany P., Asher P. and Maddie W. earned second place.



LEXINGTON'S SIXTH GRADE Academic Challenge teams had an outstanding performance at the March competition at Mid-Oho Conference Center. The team of Ben M., Quinn G., Ina G. and Gracie C. placed first and the team of Monte C., Emily S., and Ben D. placed third.



MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN'S varsity, JV and junior high Academic Challenge teams competed at the MOESC Winter Academic Challenge Tournament. All teams did well with the Varsity A Team winning Bracket A and competing in the finals against Lexington taking second place and bringing home a trophy. Junior high placed second out of 32 teams.

The U.S. Army Field Band & Soldiers' Chorus will perform at Renaissance

The Renaissance Performing Arts Association invites the community to a free musical experience with the United States Army Field Band, Concert Band and Soldiers' Chorus on Sunday, April 13, at 3 pm on the Renaissance Theatre's Main Stage.

The U.S. Army Field Band is the official musical ambassador of the U.S. Army, and this special performance will showcase both the Concert Band and the Soldiers' Chorus. Together, they will present "This We'll Defend," a multimedia concert celebrating the U.S. Army's 250th birthday and honoring the brave men and women who have served our nation.

The Concert Band, founded in 1946, is the oldest and largest of the Army Field Band's components. This 65-member ensemble has performed for more than 100 million people across all 50 states and 25 foreign countries.

The Soldiers' Chorus, founded in 1957, adds a vocal touch to the Field Band's performances. This 24-member ensemble has also traveled the world, performing in diverse settings and genres. From Broadway and opera to pop, rock, and R&B, the Soldiers' Chorus' versatile vocal range brings an extra layer of patriotism and pride to every concert. Performances have included prestigious events like the Kennedy Center Honors and the National Memorial Day Concert.

Tickets for this special event are free, but reservations are required. Tickets can be reserved online at [Rentickets.org](https://www.rentickets.org), or by calling or visiting the Renaissance Box Office at 419-522-2726, 138 Park Avenue West in Mansfield.

Richland County students will showcase skills at reverse job fair

Richland County high school students will showcase their skills and interests with the hopes of getting employed at a reverse job fair called EmployMEpalooza.

This collaborative effort, spearheaded by the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development and Ohio Means Jobs (OMJ) Richland County, invites local employers to meet high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are seeking internships, seasonal work, part-time and full-time work after graduating.

Students will have booths and the employers will come to meet them. Faculty members and mentors are currently working with students who are preparing to tell local businesses about their interests, skills, and aspirations. These students are crafting resumes and gathering items to display on their tables so employers can get an idea of what they would be like as employees.

The event will be held on April 2, from 10 am to noon at the Mid Ohio Educational Service Center, 890 W. 4th St., Mansfield.

There is no cost to employers or students, but both must register for the event before attending. Employers can register at <https://portal.richlandareachamber.com/events/details/employmepalooza-2025-employer-registration-6196>

For more information contact Clint Knight, director of workforce development, at cknight@chooserichland.com.



MRS. HORST'S SECOND GRADE students at Ontario became wind experts. They made pinwheels in order to discover how the heating and cooling of the air work together to create wind.

Kindergarten registration begins April 1 at Madison Schools

Kindergarten registration for Madison Local Schools will be held April 1–30. Children are eligible to attend kindergarten during the 2025–’26 school year if they are five years of age on or before Aug. 1, 2025.

The first step in the registration process is to complete the online registration through FinalForms. The registration link can be found at www.mlssd.net under Madison FinalForms or use the link under Kindergarten Registration.

Those who do not have internet access or need help can schedule an appointment to complete the online forms with their child’s assigned building. Students must register with their assigned building. Be sure to select the 2025–’26 school year in FinalForms when registering a child. Registration will open April 1 to complete the child’s FinalForms.

Open enrollment for the 2025–’26 school year will open May 1 and close May 30. Those who are not a Madison resident will need to register with their home district until they have been accepted for open enrollment. If applying for Intra-District open enrollment, parents or guardians must register with their assigned elementary school building.

Current Madison South Preschool students moving into kindergarten will need to log into FinalForms and complete the 2025–’26 forms. They should also reach out to their assigned elementary building.

Once all online forms are completed, those registering should drop off the required documents with the elementary school in which the student resides between 9 am and 3 pm, Monday through Friday. The district is on spring break from April 18–25, and elementary Schools will be closed during this time. School contact numbers are Madison South Elementary, 419-522-4319; Mifflin Elementary, 419-589-6517; and Eastview Elementary, 419-589-7335.

Required documents include student birth certificate, parent/guardian driver’s license, custody papers (if applicable) which must be date stamped and signed by the court, parent/guardian proof of residency (see FinalForms for approved list) and immunization records.

Required immunizations for school attendance are four doses of DPT (five doses if four were given before fourth birthday); three or more doses of Polio with final dose after fourth birthday; three doses of Hepatitis B, two MMRs and two Varivax (Chicken Pox) or history of having disease.

Free produce available April 8

First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Ave. West, Mansfield, offers a free produce distribution the second Tuesday of each month, April through November in the west parking lot.

The next free produce distribution will be Tuesday, April 8, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. The church receives over 8,000 lbs. of fresh produce. This is open to everyone, please bring a state ID, driver’s license or proof of residence. This is a drive through distribution. Volunteers will load the produce into trunks or the back of vehicles. Please have vehicle empty and ready for loading. For information call the church at 419-522-0662.



Kenton Cordrey, Doug Theaker, Debby Henry and Brooke Trumpower

Warrior swimmers recognized

The Warrior swim team recently held its swim awards ceremony. The special guest was Doug Theaker, the school’s first swim coach in 1960.

He shared his years at the helm and congratulated all the present swimmers. After a team recap which included an undefeated season, MOAC championships, first and second at districts, sixth and eighth at state, ten new school records and 26 Scholar Athletes,

The coaches recognized the team with athletic awards including:

4th year varsity: Logan Bernat and Evan Ruhe
3rd year varsity: Grantham Trumpower, Kaylee Lynch, Rowan McManes, Lily Secrist, Joie Simmering and Alexia Sesco
2nd year varsity: Carson Smith, Jackson Swietak, Owen Walter, David Yan, Sasha Bulakovski, Tessa Crum, Maddie Hedrick, Tatum Mottayaw, Angel Tan and Mirie Trumpower

1st year varsity: Alex Bilyj, Colten Montgomery, Jack Rietschlin, Kaitly Barnett, Addie Smith, Lauren Uhde and Ava Zehe

2nd year Jr. varsity: Olivia Brinker
1st year Jr. varsity: Bryant Born, Myles Born, Alex Hohman, Connor Dawson, Izzi Boroom, Lily Chitwood, Adelina Hines and Emily Vermillion

Special awards went to:
Boy’s Most Valuable: Evan Ruhe
Boy’s Most Improved: Connor Dawson
Coaches Award: Carson Smith
Girl’s Most Valuable: Mirie Trumpower and Ava Zehe
Girl’s Most Improved: Lily Chitwood
Girl’s Coaches Award: Alexia Sesco
Academic All-Ohio (3.5) and Academic All American (3.75): Rowan McManes and Evan Ruhe
All American Scholar Team Gold: (for having at least 12 varsity members and an average 3.75 GPA)
MOAC Male Swimmer of the Year: Grantham Trumpower
MOAC Female of the Year: Mirie Trumpower
MOAC Coaches of the Year: Brooke Trumpower and Debby Henry
N.W. District Boy’s Coach of the Year: Brooke Trumpower
State Boy’s Coach of the Year: Brooke Trumpower

Bryan Bielanski coming to Mansfield

Bryan Bielanski, a singer-songwriter based in Charlotte, North Carolina, will perform April 26, at The Mothership, 327 Park Avenue W., Mansfield. Doors open at 6 pm and the show begins at 7 pm. Born in Parma, OH, Bielanski specializes in acoustic rock & roll. Tickets are \$10 and available at the door. For information visit <https://bryanssuperhappyfuntime.bandcamp.com>.

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Pioneer approves three-year contracts for various positions

At the March 17, meeting the Pioneer Board of Education held a public hearing to consider the re-employment of recently retired staff and adopted a resolution accepting tax amounts and rates and authorizing necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor.

The board adopted the 2025-'26 Pioneer CTC High School, Adult Ed and Preschool calendars and preschool fees and approved an amendment to the AAMC agreement with University Hospitals Health System, Inc.

The board approved a job title change from assistant director of adult education to director of adult education.

An amendment to MOU with The Ohio Department of Higher Education was approved.

Three-year contracts, effective Aug. 1, 2025 through July 31, 2028, were approved for Clay Frye, director of operations; Jolene Young, assistant director of operations, high school; Don Paulin, director of adult education; Jeremiah Howe, career tech supervisor; Matthew Parr, satellite programs supervisor; and Dan Slaughter, career tech supervisor.

Donations were accepted from Mary Lee Barr, Shelby; \$500 for the Art Barr Scholarship fund used for annual student scholarships; Steve Johnson, Tavens, Mansfield, donation of cardboard sheets valued at approximately \$5,000 to be used for the Cardboard Boat Regatta on March 19, at Col. Crawford High School; and Payton Sturts Foundation, Mansfield, \$4,000 to be deposited into the Payton Sturts Scholarship fund and used for annual student scholarships.

The board approved student participation in competitive events including State SkillsUSA Competition, Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, March 18-19; the HOSA State Leadership Conference, Glass City Center, Toledo, April 9-10; the FCCLA State Leadership Conference, Ohio Expo Center, Columbus, April 24-25; and the National Soil Judging Contest, El Reno Convention Center, Oklahoma; April 28 to May 2.

Resignations were accepted from Christopher Scott Spitler, engineering foundations instructor, Lucas satellite, effective at the end of the contractual school year; and David Such, auto tech instructor, effective at the end of the contractual school year.

Chaperone stipends were approved for FCCLA Regional Competition, Kelly Jung, \$200; and Kris Bruce, \$100. Summer camp stipends were approved for Kevin Burke, \$1,000; Terri Crain, \$1,000; Bill Dichtl, \$1,000; Jeffrey Evans, \$1,000; Fritz Fagan, \$1,000; Mandy Glessner, \$1,000; Sandy Grau, \$1,000; Beth Heinlen, \$1,000; Lindi Meisse, \$1,000; Mike Millward, \$1,000; Tina Parr, \$1,000; Carey Ransom, \$1,000; Caitlyn Roub, \$1,000; Justin Tuttle, \$1,000; Jennifer Verspoor, \$1,000; Colton Penwell, \$500; and Lynette Moritz, \$500.

Substitute instructors hired were Brenna Schartiger, Galion; and Heather Witry, Lexington. Substitute instructor Lisa Sleekx, Crestline, resigned.

Employments also included Ellie Beach, Shelby, Education Aide; Robert Dillman, Crestline, summer custodian; and Tanna Goebel, New London, Adult Education LPN Instructor.

The board approved a MOU with Habitat for Humanity of Richland and Crawford Counties and with Buckeye Central Local Schools for the Middle School Career Exploration Program

Revisions were made to the job descriptions of field technician and support secretary - student services - EMIS.

Revisions were made to existing policy and a new policy was adopted as well as resolutions to revise the special education model policies and procedures and for an Appreciation of Donation to Arce-Mittal Tubular Products, Shelby.



Puffin in Iceland • Photo By Mark Shutt

Romanchuk approves \$11 billion transportation budget for Ohio

The Ohio Senate approved Amended Substitute House Bill 54, Ohio's \$11 billion two-year transportation budget. State Senator Mark Romanchuk (R-Ontario) supported the bill.

"This transportation budget gives us the best opportunities to develop the best infrastructure possible for the Buckeye state," Senator Romanchuk said. "I'm pleased that this repeals the requirement to build interchanges off Boston Rd. in Medina County. This is a win for 22nd district and I look forward to the release of the congestion study by the Department of Transportation."

Included in the budget is assistance for smaller communities to keep their roads clear and maintained through the help of ODOT. Villages can be snowed under during intense storms and can use some help from the Department of Transportation for clearing snow or debris from storm damage. HB 54 provides those funds at no cost to a village.

The budget includes language that protects rental car drivers from tickets if they are pulled over and the rental car's registration is expired. It also keeps the ramps to closed rest areas open for truckers who need to stop for their required rest periods.

The budget is funded by the state's Motor Fuel Tax (MFT), more commonly called the gas tax. The 2026-'27 Transportation Budget is free from any gas or diesel tax increases.

\$500 scholarships available

The French Broad Vignerons of Western North Carolina is a non-profit organization focused on the viticulture and enology education of its members.

Knowledge of vineyard management and winemaking requires dedicated study and real time experience. From careers in winemaking to distribution sales to sommelier positions at fine restaurants, there are many career opportunities for students passionate in the field. This scholarship aims to support the next generation of wine professionals as they pursue their collegiate studies in the field.

Any undergraduate or graduate student who is studying viticulture or enology may apply for this scholarship if they're planning to work in the wine industry. Selection criteria includes ambition, drive and passion for the field of grape growing.

The application deadline is June 10, and the winner will be announced July 10. For information call 828-606-3130 or email Chuck@FrenchBroadVignerons.org.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame announces local inductees

Local coaches Jerry Hallabrin, Ellen Lawrence and Joe Balogh will be inducted into the Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame.

The 18th Annual Induction Ceremony/Class of 2025 will be held at the Columbus Hilton Polaris on Saturday, April 12, at 4 pm.

Founded in 2005, the Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame recognizes the achievements of both male and female athletes across high school, college and professional basketball—along with coaches and individuals who've impacted the game along the way.

The Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony brings together over 600 current and former basketball players, coaches, officials and fans of the game.

Joe Balogh stands as one of Ohio's most distinguished high school basketball coaches, whose remarkable 40-year career has left an indelible mark on the sport. After graduating from Edgerton High School in 1976, Balogh attended Ohio Northern University, where he began his coaching journey as a student assistant coach from 1979 to 1980.

Following his graduation in 1980, Balogh started his professional coaching career at Fort Loramie High School, serving as both JV and varsity assistant coach until 1984. His path then led him to Ontario High School in 1985, where he would build an extraordinary legacy spanning over three decades.

At Ontario, Balogh amassed an impressive career record of 598-227, boasting a 72.5 winning percentage. His teams consistently demonstrated excellence, achieving twelve 20-win seasons, with particularly outstanding years including a 24-1 record in 1990 and 24-2 marks in both 1997 and 2015.

Under Balogh's leadership, Ontario dominated their conferences, securing 21 league championships across the Northern Ohio League (NOL) and North Central Conference (NCC). His teams were particularly dominant in conference play, with several undefeated seasons. The program's success extended beyond regular season play, with 21 sectional championships and seven district titles. The 1995 season marked a high point as Ontario advanced to the Division III Final Four after claiming the regional championship.

Balogh's coaching excellence has been widely recognized through numerous awards. He has been named District 6 Coach of the Year multiple times in both Division III and II, and earned Associated Press Coach of the Year honors in Division III (1997) and Division II (2014). His influence extended beyond individual games, as he coached in prestigious all-star games and served as President of the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association from 2004 to 2006 and is the current Executive Director.

His dedication to the sport earned him national recognition in 2015 as the National Federation of High School Coaches Association Coach of the Year for Ohio.

Jerry Hallabrin was a basketball standout in the late 1950s, playing for Mansfield Senior High School. Despite standing just 5 feet 6 inches tall, Hallabrin's outsized talent and determination made him a force to be reckoned with on the court.

In 1958, he participated in the first statewide North/South all-star game, taking the floor alongside future NBA legends like Jerry Lucas, John Havlicek, Mel Nowell, Gus Johnson and Bud Olson.

That season, Hallabrin led Mansfield to a deep playoff run, ultimately falling in the Regional finals to Columbus North by just 3 points.

Hallabrin's individual accomplishments that season were nothing short of remarkable. He set the Mansfield Senior High School single-season scoring record, pouring in 644 points and averaging an astounding 26.9 points per game. For his efforts, he was named a unanimous first-team All-Ohio selection by the Associated Press, United Press International, and the INS (International News Service). Hallabrin's All-Ohio team included several of his all-star game teammates who would go on to professional basketball careers.

Though he was runner-up as Ohio Player of the Year to Jerry Lucas, Hallabrin's legacy as one of the state's all-time great high school players was cemented.

After his standout playing days, Hallabrin settled down, marrying his bride of 63 years. Now 84 years old, he still maintains an active lifestyle, typically scoring less than his age on the golf course.

Jerry Hallabrin's combination of individual brilliance and team success have made him a revered figure in Mansfield Senior High School basketball history. His stellar play did not go unnoticed, as he was inducted into the Mansfield Senior High School Hall of Fame in 1994. His name will be remembered alongside the other legends who shared the court with him in that fateful 1958 all-star game, and his story serves as an inspiration to athletes of all sizes.

Ellen Lawrence established herself as a pioneering figure in Ohio girls' high school athletics, dedicating over two decades to developing and advancing girls' sports programs at Shelby High School. In 1973, she founded the school's first girls' sports teams, introducing volleyball, basketball, tennis, and track programs.

For the first three years, Lawrence handled scheduling, official coordination, and facility management without compensation, and continued with minimal pay for several more years. She successfully advocated for later game times to accommodate working parents and established regular Tuesday and Saturday game schedules, helping to normalize girls' sports in the school calendar.

As head basketball coach from 1973 to 1996, Lawrence compiled an impressive 338-147 record (.697 winning percentage). Her teams achieved consistent success, highlighted by winning the 1983 OHSAA State Championship and finishing as state runner-up in 1992. Her coaching excellence was recognized with the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association (OHSBCA) Coach of the Year award in 1992.

Beyond coaching, Lawrence served as Shelby's girls' athletic director for 12 years, working to build and strengthen the overall girls' athletic program. Her leadership extended beyond basketball, as she worked to ensure equal opportunities and resources for female athletes across all sports.

Lawrence's impact on Ohio girls' basketball is particularly noteworthy as she helped establish competitive standards during the early years following Title IX's implementation. Her 1983 state championship team, which included future Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame inductee Jodi Roth, demonstrated the high level of play that could be achieved through dedicated program building and coaching.

The success of Shelby's girls' basketball program under Lawrence's leadership helped pave the way for expanded opportunities in girls' sports throughout north central Ohio. Her legacy continues to influence the program today, with subsequent coaches building upon the foundation she established during her 23-year tenure as head coach.

For tickets to the ceremony visit <https://www.eventleaf.com/e/OBHOF2025>.



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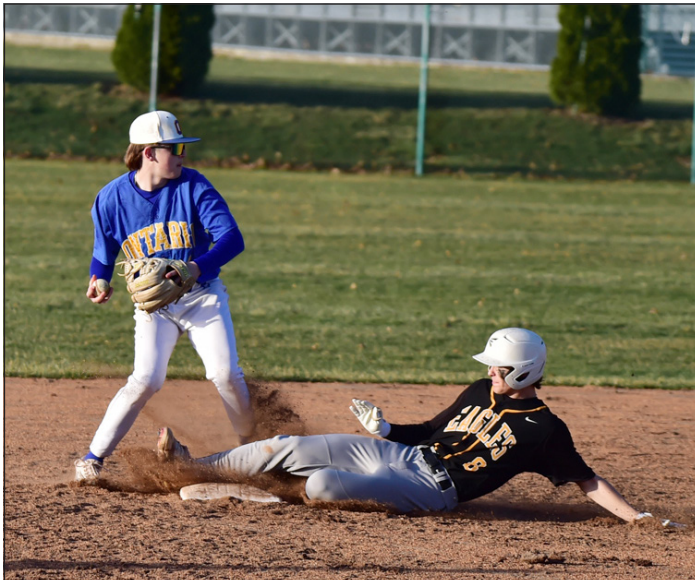
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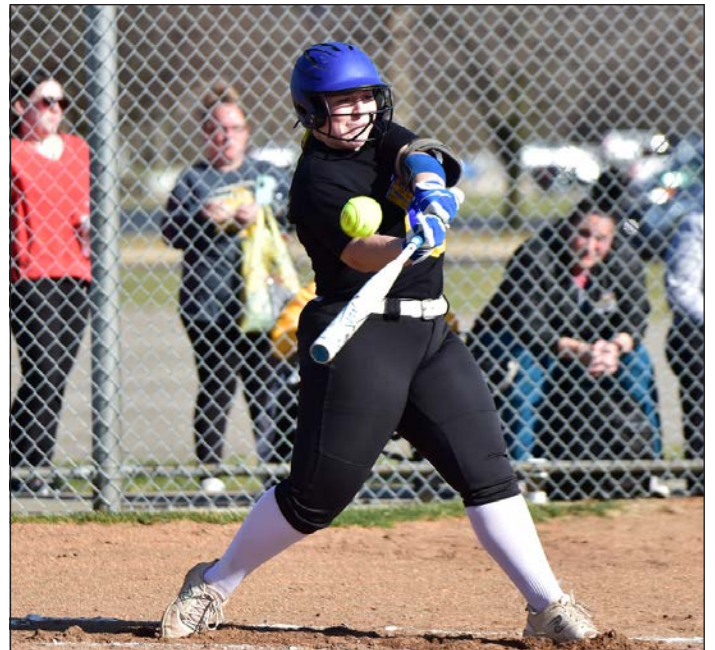
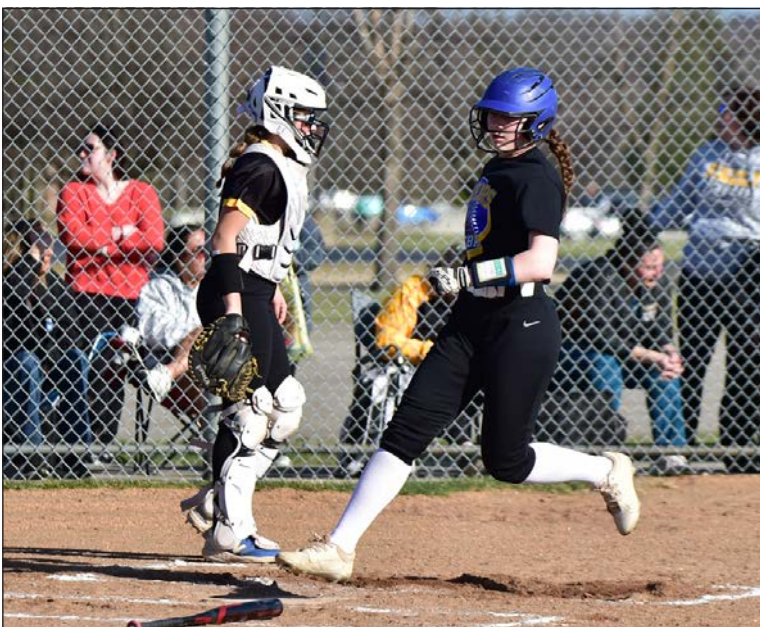
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS COLONEL CRAWFORD BASEBALL SCRIMMAGE · MARCH 18 PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS COLONEL CRAWFORD SOFTBALL SCRIMMAGE · MARCH 18 PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



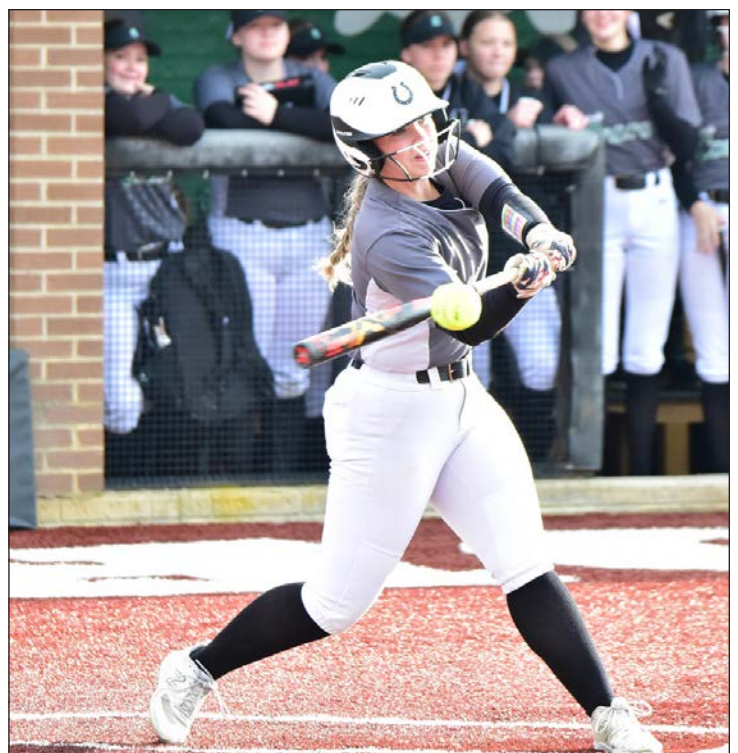
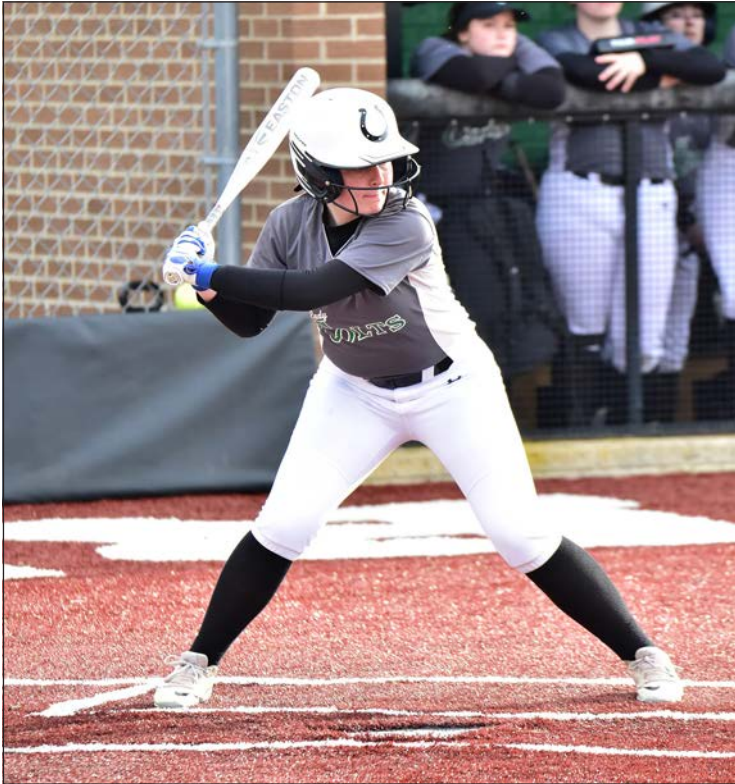
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS DANVILLE SOFTBALL SCRIMMAGE · MARCH 13 PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



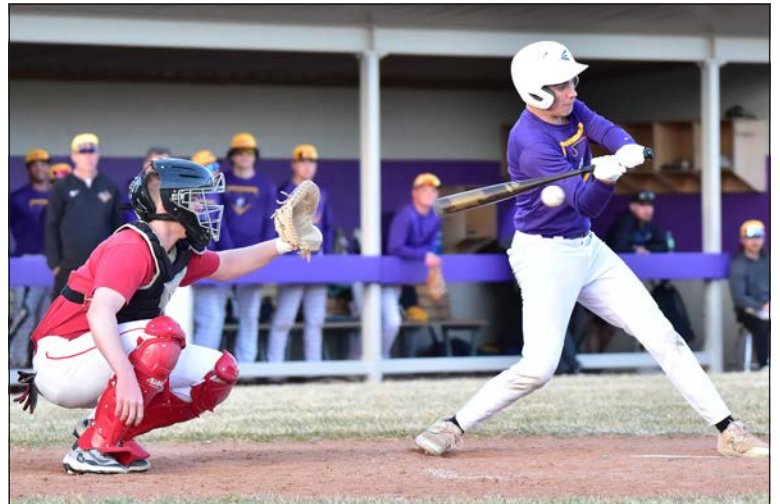
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS COLONEL CRAWFORD SOFTBALL SCRIMMAGE · MARCH 21 PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



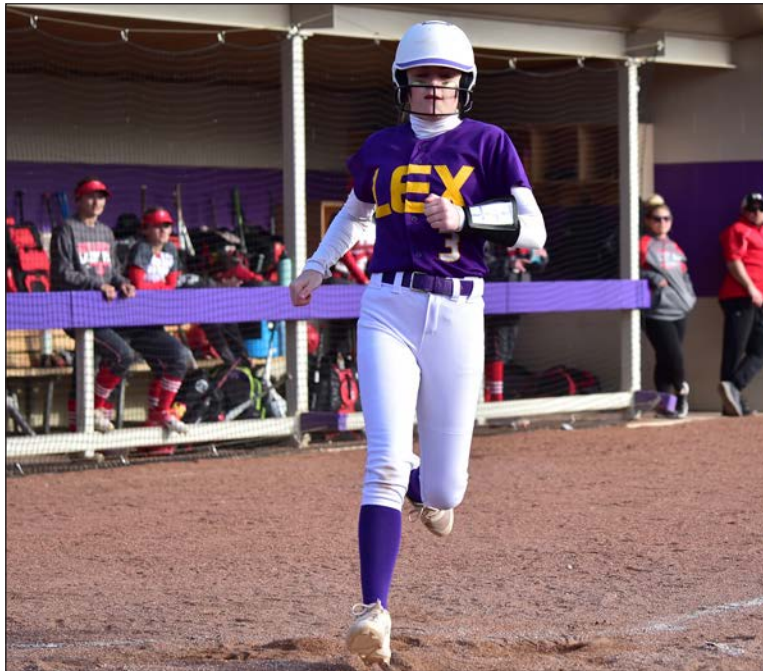
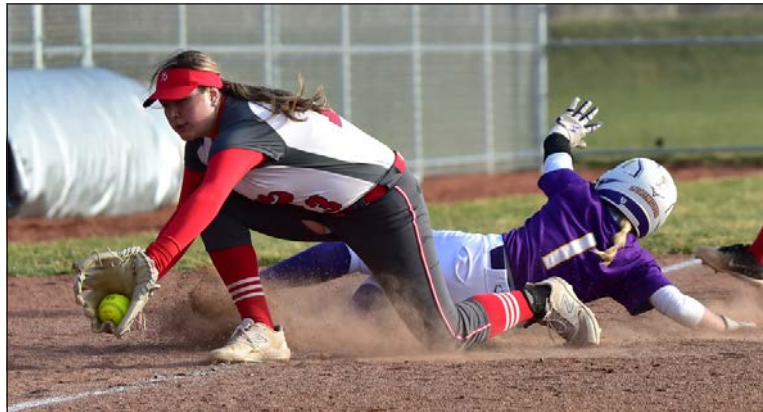
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS BELLEVUE BASEBALL SCRIMMAGE · MARCH 19
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS BELLEVUE SOFTBALL SCRIMMAGE · MARCH 19
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE RICHLAND COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PROBATE DIVISION

22-1628 B DENNIS C. BOTTORF, Administrator of the Estate of Christopher Ramshaw, Plaintiff v. JOHN DOE(S), Potential Next of Kin of Christopher Ramshaw and BART HAMILTON, Richland County Treasurer, Defendants

To the Defendants, the unknown spouse, creditors, executors, administrators, heirs at law, next of kin, devisees, legatees, and/or assigns of Christopher Ramshaw, whose present location is unknown and cannot with reasonable diligence be ascertained:

Plaintiff has brought this action naming you as a defendant in the Richland County Common Pleas Court, 50 Park Ave. East, Mansfield, Ohio 44902, by filing its Complaint on the 12th day of March, 2025.

The object of the complaint is to obtain authority to sell real estate of Christopher Ramshaw, deceased, said real estate located at 523 Heineman Blvd, Mansfield, Ohio 44903.

The relief demanded by Plaintiff is authorization by the Richland County Probate Court to sell the real estate owned by Christopher M. Ramshaw and to determine any next of kin and such other legal and equitable relief to which it may be entitled.

You are required to answer the Complaint within twenty-eight (28) days after the last publication of this notice setting forth whatever right, title or interest you have or may claim to have in the aforementioned premises or be forever barred from claiming or asserting same. The publication will be published one a week for six (6) consecutive weeks, with the last publication to be made on/about April 21, 2025.

In case of your failure to answer or otherwise respond as permitted by the Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure within the time stated, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dennis C. Bottorf, Administrator of the Estate of Christopher M. Ramshaw

By **Cassandra JM Mayer, Attorney for Estate of Christopher M. Ramshaw, 452 Park Ave West, Mansfield, Ohio 44906, Phone: 419-524-2444; Fax: 419-524-2300.**

(T-C 3-20, 27, 4-3, 10, 17, 24 '25) 60 L

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 March 19, 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-05 – AN OR-

DINANCE ESTABLISHING PERMANENT 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.

Cathy VanAuer
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, OH
(T-C 3-27, 4-3 '25) 23L

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Separate sealed bids for the 2025 Resurfacing Program, Village of Lexington, Ohio will be received by the Village of Lexington, Ohio at the office of the Administrative Director at 44 West Main Street, Lexington, Ohio 44904 until 10:00am, local time Thursday April 17, 2025, and then, at said office, publicly opened and read aloud.

Contractors will be required to purchase and download an electronic set of plans and bid documents via the KEM Web Site by visiting <https://kemccartney.com/project-bids/>. If you would prefer a hard copy be mailed, we will do so upon receipt of payment in the amount of \$50.00 per set, along with your UPS or FedEx account number so that shipping charges can be applied to your account. Checks shall be made payable to K.E. McCartney & Associates and all documents become the property of the prospective bidder, with no portion of the payment being refunded. Should you have any questions during the bidding process please contact jburchholder@kemccartney.com.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities. Contract will be awarded based on the lowest and best bid. The Village of Lexington may reject any or all bids on any basis and without disclosure of reason. The failure to make such disclosure shall not result in accrual of any right, claim or cause of action by any unsuccessful bidder against the Village of Lexington. Each bid must be accompanied by either an Ohio Revised Code Section 153.571 Bid and Performance Payment Bond in an amount equal to 100% of the bid; or, a cashier's check, bid bond, letter of credit to be duly executed by the bidder as principal and having as surety thereon, a surety company approved by the Owner in the amount of 10% of the bid.

Each bid must contain the full name of the party or parties submitting the proposal and all persons interested therein. The Owner intends and requires that this project be completed by August 16, 2025.

Bidders must comply with the prevailing wage rates on Public Improvements in Richland County and Village of Lexington, Ohio as determined by the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, Wage and Hour Division, 614-644-2239.

Peter L. Them
Administrative Director
Village of Lexington, OH
(T-C 3-27, 4-3 '25) 65L

Mansfield Youth Theatre to perform 'Mary Poppins' in April

The Mansfield Youth Theatre ("MY Theatre") will present Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's *Mary Poppins* on the stage of the Renaissance Theatre on April 25, 26 and 27 as a part of the Mechanics Bank Education Series. Performances will take place at 7 pm on Friday and Saturday, and 2:30 pm on Sunday. Dauphne Maloney directs the show with musical direction by Brian K. Nabors. Tickets are \$15, general admission, and are on sale now at the Renaissance Box Office, via phone, and online at www.rentickets.org.

A free sensory-friendly performance of *Mary Poppins* will be offered on Saturday, April 26 at 1 pm for families of individuals on the autism spectrum and with other sensory processing needs. Interested individuals must register for free tickets by visiting or calling the Renaissance Education Department at (419) 522-2726, extension 212. A limited number of tickets is available for the sensory-friendly performance and no walk-ups will be accommodated.

"This production of *Mary Poppins* showcases not only the beloved story and timeless music but also the dedication, creativity, and growth of our cast, ranging from ages 9 to 18. It's been very gratifying to see them, as they've embraced the heart of this story, find joy, imagination, and the power of believing in the impossible," shares Daphne Maloney. "We can't wait for audiences to experience the wonder and all the heartwarming moments that make *Mary Poppins* such a cherished classic."

The cast is composed of nearly 50 students ages 9-18 from the following schools: Ashland, Clearfork, Crestview, Discovery – Mansfield, Foundation Academy, Homeschool, Lexington, Lucas, Madison, Mansfield, Mansfield Christian, Mansfield Classical Academy, Mansfield St. Peter's, Mapleton, Nor-Wayne, Ohio Connections Academy, Ontario, Richland School of Academic Arts, and Shelby..

The cast is led by Carter King performing in the role of Bert, as well as Taylor Beasley as *Mary Poppins*.

The role of the Banks family will be played by Gage Workman as George, Callina Francis as Winifred, and Alyssa Racer and Marco Armstrong as Jane and Michael, respectively.

The cast also includes Gabriel Anderson, Lilly Bailey, Brynleigh Ball, Kiptin Ball, Jordyn Beasley, Morgyn Beasley, Sawyer Beasley, Wyatt Bechstein, Breah Boyd, Loren Carmel, Aubree DeLand, Isla Donley, Josephine Foster, Elina Gilland, Alese Graves, Hudson Hamelink, Emersyn Henderson, Lyra Howell, Bethany Johnson, Nakiyah Johnson, Marilena Krueer, Steliana Krueer, Rosie Lawhorn, MaKayla Lawrence, Toby Lux, Briner McCready, Evie McCready, Lilly McCready, Milo McDonald, Jackalyn Metz, Saige Painley, Chelanta Phillips, Alyssia Pickett, Drake Remy, Maddie Rice, Caroline Sechrist, Elise Smith, Graycen Stevens, Abby Thompson, Alex Trolian, Sloane Walter and Makenzie Wynn.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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