



# TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com

12.11.25



**TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY** — Junior Miss Ontario Kenley Scott, Little Miss Ontario Sadie Myers and Miss Ontario Morgyn Beasley helped to celebrate the lighting of the tree at Marshall Park.

## City of Ontario hosts annual tree lighting celebration

Photos and Article By Traci Little

The City of Ontario kicked-off the holiday season with its special Annual Christmas Tree Lighting, bringing the community together for an evening filled with warmth, reflection, and celebration.

The night began with a special candlelight vigil at 5:45 pm, offering attendees a quiet moment to honor loved ones who have passed. Participants gathered at the pavilion, where symbolic candles were lit to remember the lasting light and cherished memories shared with family and friends. Candles were provided and the ceremony set a heartfelt tone for the evening.

Festivities continued at Marshall Park, featuring hot chocolate, cookies, musical performances, a visit from Santa Claus with Miss Ontario, and the official lighting of the Christmas tree by Mayor Knapp. Community groups, including Rhapsody in Blues, the Jazz Band, and the Golden Girls, highlighted the night with lively entertainment. The winner of the Lions Club Coloring Contest was also announced, adding to the fun atmosphere.

During the Annual Ontario Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, Mayor Kris Knapp took a moment to express his appreciation for the many individuals and groups who made the beloved community event possible. He recognized the work of event organizer Kenn Spencer, as well as the tremendous support from Ontario Schools' administration, staff, and students. The Mayor also thanked the Ontario Lions Club and the reigning Miss Ontario, Little Miss, and Junior Miss for their presence and contributions to the celebration. Students from both Pioneer and Madison were acknowledged for their hands-on work in helping rebuild the light display, adding a meaningful touch to this year's festivities.

Mayor Knapp extended his gratitude to the city's Parks Department — specifically Cory Cardwell and Daniel Thompson — for their efforts in preparing the grounds, along with Supervisor Jay Hrisiek and Jason Meligan for their assistance. He also recognized City Council and Service Director Adam Gongwer for their continued support. Above all, Knapp thanked the parents and community members who bundled up and braved the cold to take part in this cherished Ontario tradition, helping usher in the holiday season

(Continued on Page 10)

## 2025 is another successful year for Richland Gives

Richland Gives, an online giving event hosted by the Richland County Foundation, raised \$739,860 via 1,994 donors to benefit 88 Richland County nonprofit organizations. Since its inception in 2015, Richland Gives has raised \$4,535,191.

Richland Gives is designed to encourage people to contribute to local nonprofits they care about through a single giving website. The foundation hosted the day to build capacity, grow philanthropy, and make the community stronger. It allows local organizations to raise funds and awareness as well as cultivate new donors and reinvigorate lapsed donors.

The Foundation awarded \$80,000 in grants as prize incentives during the giving event. The nonprofit organizations with the most donors or those who raised the most dollars in the small, medium, and large nonprofit categories were awarded \$5,000 for first place, \$3,000 for second place, and \$1,000 for third place. Nonprofits could win only one leaderboard prize.

The winners in the small nonprofit category for achieving the most donors were first, Mansfield Noon Optimist Club; second, Mansfield Rotary Club; and third, Music Academy of Karate & Empowerment.

The winners in the small nonprofit category for achieving the most dollars were first, Taking Root Farms; second, Time for a Change Diaper Bank; and third, Furniture Bank of North Central Ohio.

The winners in the medium nonprofit category for achieving the most donors were first, Humane Society of Richland County; second, Visual Bucket List Foundation; and third, North Central State College Foundation.

The winners in the medium nonprofit category for achieving the most dollars were first, Lucas Community Center; second, Ohio Bird Sanctuary; and third, North Central Ohio Land Conservancy.

The winners in the large nonprofit category for achieving the most donors were first, St. Peter's School; second, Richland Pregnancy Services; and third Renaissance Performing Arts.

The winners in the large nonprofit category for achieving the most dollars were first, Discovery School; second, Kingwood Center Gardens; and third Friendly House.

Early Giving \$1,000 Golden Ticket Winners were Discovery School, Ohio Bird Sanctuary, Mansfield Noon Optimist Club, Kingwood Center Gardens, Domestic Violence Shelter, Richland Carousel Park, St. Peter's School, Ohio State University at Mansfield, Visual Bucket List Foundation and Friendly House.

The organizations awarded \$500 to \$1,000 grant prizes for raising either the most money or having the most donors during Golden Ticket hours were: Time for a Change Diaper Bank (two), Mansfield Rotary Club, Lucas Community Center (two), Visual Bucket List Foundation, Renaissance Performing Arts, Discovery School (two), Kingwood Center Gardens, St. Peter's School and Friendly House.

Nonprofits that raised at least \$2,000 between Nov. 17 and Dec. 1, during early giving, were entered into a random drawing for a chance to win a \$250 grant prize. The winners were Richland Carousel Park, Richland Pregnancy Services, Monsignor Dunn Foundation, Starfish Project, Mid-Ohio Guardianship and Forgotten Felines.

The Best Marketing Plan Award and \$1,000 was awarded to the Domestic Violence Shelter.

Two \$500 social media prizes were awarded to YMCA of North Central Ohio and Richland Academy of the Arts.

The Fab Freshman \$500 award went to Furniture Bank of North Central Ohio.

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Photo by Damon Callis

**Day Trippin' With Damon** – Red River Gorge is located in eastern Kentucky and is a 29,000-acre canyon within the Daniel Boone National Forest. The iconic natural bridge is a favorite for hikers and sightseers.

## THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —

Now streaming on Netflix is writer/director Noah Baumbach's latest film about an actor looking back at his life called *Jay Kelly*.

George Clooney gives another great performance in the title role. Baumbach gives viewers a chance to see Kelly's life from his own point of view including the relationship with his daughter and different times as a young actor that were essential to him.

Adam Sandler plays his long-time manager and goes toe to toe with Clooney in every scene they are in. Sandler is so subtle and understated as he is dealing with his own family across the world while he and Kelly are traveling through Europe that ends in a career tribute to Kelly.

Sandler is terrific in his movie and deserves awards recognition (this would make up for the huge oversight not nominating him for *Uncut Gems* a few years ago).

Clooney gives real charm to this role as Kelly has great joy

but also sadness as he wants to be part of his daughter's life. Baumbach and co-writer Emily Mortimer write a solid script.

The biggest drawbacks and what would probably make it miss a top 10 list would be the movie takes about a half hour to really get moving and there are times when big things happen and there is not much payoff.

Also, the movie has an almost two and a half hour run time which is quite excessive for a story like this and a tighter run time would have done this movie a great deal of good.

*Jay Kelly* is a fine film with a great performance by Clooney and especially Adam Sandler. Noah Baumbach makes an interesting film about an actor looking back though the troubling start and excessive run time are detractors from making this movie truly great.



## Holiday Pops tradition returns

The Renaissance Performing Arts Association will present the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra's Holiday Pops, on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 7:30 pm at the Renaissance Theatre.

Conducted by Octavio Más-Arocas, this festive concert brings the warmth and magic of the season to life with a vibrant blend of timeless carols, contemporary holiday tunes and new favorites.

Seating is limited. For tickets visit <https://www.eventticketscenter.com/holiday-pops-mansfield-tickets/1212338/e>

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**Tribune-Courier**

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# News Briefs

The Pioneer Career and Technology Center Board of Education will hold its regular December board of education meeting at 6 pm, Monday, Dec. 15, in the Pioneer Room Restaurant located in the west end of the building at the Pioneer Career and Technology Center, Shelby.

★  
The Herlihy Christmas Open House will be held Thursday through Sunday, Dec. 11-14, from 6-9 pm.

The open house is located at 170 W. Second St., Mansfield, with parking in the Herlihy Funeral Home parking lot

The Christmas house has been a holiday tradition for many years. The family's personal collection is on display and features over 30 Christmas trees, hundreds of Santas, Disney, villages and trains.

This is the 38th year for the display. A minimum \$2 donation is required per person and will be given to local animal shelters and the Miss Ohio Scholarship Program.

For more info or private tours for over 20 people call Terri Herlihy at 419-544-9863 or email [terri52270@gmail.com](mailto:terri52270@gmail.com)

★  
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 Dec. 17 and will be a Christmas luncheon. Image from Mansfield Christian School will perform and officers will be installed.

For information visit [www.lexasc.org](http://www.lexasc.org). Dues are \$10 per year.

★  
All Souls Unitarian Universalist of Bellville, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Wendy Bartlett on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 10:30 am. The subject will be "Rumi and the Joy of the Unknown." For information visit [www.allsoulsuuohio.org](http://www.allsoulsuuohio.org).

★  
Akron Children's Mansfield Behavioral Health Center will host a community coat distribution event on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 10 am to 1 pm, at 1027 S. Trimble Rd., Mansfield.

The donor-funded event is open to the public and will provide new coats (sizes 3T to adult XXL), hats and gloves at no cost for children and adults while supplies last.

All are welcome to come to the event, and receiving care at the center is not a requirement to obtain a coat and other winter items.

★  
First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Avenue West will be offering senior boxes of non perishable food provided by the Greater Cleveland Food Bank from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm or until supplies run out. This comes with a 15 lb. box of fresh produce and a two lb. box of cheese. These items are free to those who qualify by age (60+) and low income guidelines. Recipients must have at least one

person age 60 or older in the household.

These items are available on the fourth Tuesday of each month, year round. The distribution is held in the South Mulberry Street parking lot. Due to the Christmas holiday, the next distribution is Tuesday, Dec. 16.

★  
A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, Dec. 27 and 28. 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.

★  
To submit a news brief item send an email with information to [news@tribune-courier.com](mailto:news@tribune-courier.com). To advertise in the T-C, email Traci at [tribune.courier.traci@gmail.com](mailto:tribune.courier.traci@gmail.com).



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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  
10:30 am Sunday Worship  
Office Hours: Tu., W., Th. 9 am to 1 pm  
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

1689 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 Church of the Cross

236 Otterbein Dr., Lexington  
419-884-2150 • Churchofthecrosslex.com  
Pastor-Rev. Dr. Edna Stahl  
Sunday Worship 9:30 am  
Junior Church for 10 and under • Wesley Class 10:45  
5th Sunday of the month-Do Something Sunday AA, Girl Scouts,  
Yoga, Knotty Ladies  
and Bible Study.

## Lexington Presbyterian Church

35 Church St. West, Lexington  
419-884-1330 • 10:30 am Sunday Worship  
Pastor Denny Nezrick  
https://www.facebook.com/Lexington-Presbyteri-  
an-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 & Children's Programming

## 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 Olivesburg 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  
Rev. J.P. Snyder  
9:30 am Grace & Eggs  
11 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 9 am to 1 pm  
AA Meetings M & F 10 am & noon;  
Wed. noon Brown Bag and Sat. 6 pm  
Clothing Ministry by appt: 419-512-9817

## 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 School • 11 am Sunday School  
Bible Study Mondays 2 pm

## Mansfield Area Knights of Columbus donates \$45,000 to purchase new ultrasound machine for RPS

Richland Pregnancy Services (RPS) has announced the generous support of the Mansfield Area Knights of Columbus, who raised \$45,000 to purchase a brand-new GE ultrasound machine for the center.

This gift replaces the nearly eight-year-old machine previously in use, ensuring that RPS can continue to provide high-quality, life-affirming medical services to women and families in the community.

A check presentation was held on Tuesday, Dec. 9, at Richland Pregnancy Services, 1560 W. Fourth St., Mansfield.

The new ultrasound machine will allow RPS to offer clearer, more detailed imaging for expectant mothers, enhancing the quality of care provided by the center's medical team. Ultrasound technology plays a critical role in early pregnancy services, providing valuable information for both clients and medical professionals.

"We are incredibly grateful for the Knights of Columbus and their unwavering commitment to protecting life," said Amy Kahl, Executive Director of Richland Pregnancy Services. "Their generosity makes it possible for us to serve our clients with excellence, offering the best technology available as we walk alongside women and families facing unplanned pregnancies."

The Mansfield Area Knights of Columbus worked diligently to raise the funds through various events and member contributions, demonstrating their dedication to supporting life-affirming organizations in the community.

Mansfield Area Knights of Columbus representative Dave Riggensbach said, "We are so grateful to fund an effort focusing on the least among us, the unborn child, and their parents! As Christians, we must serve and protect each other from conception to natural death. The strong support received from all local parishes, our worldwide organization, and individual and corporate donors has been amazing. Our prayers remain with the families that benefit from this endeavor"

The new ultrasound machine has been delivered and nurses have begun training on the new machine, allowing RPS to continue offering free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, and compassionate support to clients throughout the region.

Richland Pregnancy Services serves Richland County and surrounding areas by offering medical services, education, and support to individuals and families facing pregnancy decisions. All services are offered free of charge and confidential. A 24-hour help line is available at 419-522-8862.

Richland Pregnancy Services is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. RPS accepts no federal funding and relies on the generosity of individuals, churches and local businesses.

The center's hours are Monday 10-4, Tuesday 12-6, Wednesday 10-4, Thursday 12-6, Friday 10-4 (Fridays open first and third Fridays of the month), Saturday 10-1 (Saturdays open second and fourth Saturdays of the month).

For information about services call 419-522-8862 or visit [linktr.ee/richlandpregnancyservices](http://linktr.ee/richlandpregnancyservices) or <https://richlandpregnancy.com>.



Yoho National Park, BC • Photo By Mark Shutt

### Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

James Ellis Cushing, November 28  
 Roberta Darlene Hess, November 28  
 Carolyn Lee Hootman, November 28  
 Ambrose Milton Adams Jr., December 1  
 Richard K. Profit, December 1  
 Jennifer Beaire, December 2  
 Richard James Durkin, December 3  
 Robert Elman McDaniel, December 4

View Full Obituaries at [www.dignitymemorial.com](http://www.dignitymemorial.com)

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# Optimal Body & Health celebrates grand opening on Lexington Avenue

**Photos and Article By Traci Little**

Community leaders, family members, and supporters gathered last Thursday afternoon to celebrate the official grand opening of Optimal Body & Health, now open at 1183 Lexington Ave., in Mansfield.

Owner and provider Cindy Viers, who brings more than 25 years of experience as a nurse practitioner and holds a Doctorate in Nursing, is widely regarded as a leader in functional and restorative wellness. Known for her personalized, client-centered approach, she specializes in medical weight

loss, hormone optimization and male testosterone therapy.

Hosted by the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development, the ceremony marked a meaningful expansion for the functional-health clinic, which first opened in Mount Vernon and is now bringing its personalized wellness services to Mansfield residents.

Jennifer Wagner, with the Chamber, welcomed attendees and praised the clinic's commitment to bringing advanced, root-cause health care to the region.

"We're just so thankful for Cindy to offer this to our community," Wagner said. "Optimal Body & Health provides optimal health and optimal care for us, for our loved ones, and for the community. We're so glad you're here and wish you much success."

Representing the City of Mansfield, Finance Director Kelly Converse shared her excitement about seeing functional health services become more accessible locally.

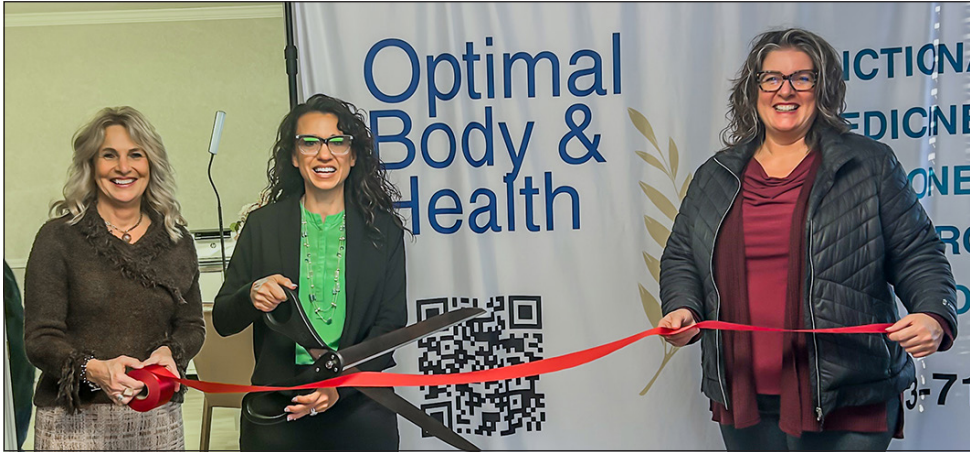
"I know that there is an increasing demand for functional health and being a fully perimenopausal woman who was brushed aside by my primary care doctor, this is exactly the kind of treatment Gen Xers have been demanding," Converse said. "I'm so thankful you brought this locally to us and are giving us more options for our healthcare."

Viers also spoke about the personal journey that inspired her to create Optimal Body & Health.

"Like Kelly, I was perimenopausal and brushed to the side," Viers said. "I took care of so many female patients—and men, too—who were going through midlife changes, gaining weight, losing energy, and not getting answers. Optimal Body & Health was born from wanting to truly help people feel their best."

The practice specializes in functional medicine, offering advanced diagnostic testing, customized treatment plans, and comprehensive support aimed at identifying and

*(Continued on Page 7)*



**RICHLAND AREA CHAMBER'S** Jennifer Wagner celebrates the ribbon cutting of Optimal Body & Health with owner and provider Cindy Viers and City of Mansfield Finance Director Kelly Converse.

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[optimalbodyandhealth.com](https://optimalbodyandhealth.com)





## •Optimal Body & Health celebrates grand opening on Lexington Avenue

(Continued from Page 6)

treating the root causes of health concerns. The focus is on long-term wellness rather than temporary relief, giving patients a deeper understanding of their bodies and health.

Viers introduced her family — her husband, children, granddaughter, and several relatives — who attended in support of her new venture.

“Always a team effort,” she said with a smile.

During the ceremony, Wagner presented Viers with an official proclamation from Ohio Senator Mark Romanchuk in honor of the opening.

Guests were invited to tour the new space and enjoy light beverages and desserts while learning more about the clinic’s services.

Optimal Body & Health can be reached online at [optimalbodyandhealth.com](http://optimalbodyandhealth.com), and by phone, text, or on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok.



**OPTIMAL BODY & HEALTH** Owner and provider Cindy Viers holds a proclamation from Ohio Senator Mark Romanchuk.

## Rep. John votes in support of legislation to enhance protection of correctional facility employees

State Representative Marilyn John (R-Richland County) recently voted in support of House Bill 338 – also known as Andy’s Law – legislation that expands the offense of aggravated murder or assault of correctional facility employees and instills new measures to reduce inmate drug possession.

This legislation was developed following the death of correctional officer Andrew Lansing, who was brutally murdered while on duty by an inmate at the Ross Correctional Institution on Christmas Day last year.

“The dangers for correctional officers in our communities became tragically clear last Christmas with the death of Officer Lansing,” said Rep. John. “While there is more work to be done, I am proud to support this legislation and am grateful for the work of Representative Mark Johnson who represents Ross County.”

House Bill 338 works to expand the offense to a sentence of life in prison without parole if an inmate murders a ODRC or DYS employee. It will work to create a mandatory seven-year consecutive sentence for inmates who commit a felonious assault against an ODRC or DYS employee and create a mandatory three-year sentence for the assault of throwing bodily fluids at an ODRC or DYS employee.

It will allow supervisors and higher-ranking staff members of prisons to detain individuals who are found to be attempting to bring illegal substances into prisons or to give to inmates and will ensure all Level 3 and 4 prisons have drug-sniffing dogs at their institution within two years and that all lower-level prisons have K9 units within five years. It will instill no-contact visitations at all Level 3 and 4 prisons.

House Bill 338 now heads to the Ohio Senate for further consideration.

## The good neighbor for small business

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Michelle Gates, Agent

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State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL

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CITY OF MANSFIELD Mayor Jodie Perry presents a proclamation for 2025 Community Health Worker Day earlier this year.

## CHAP: Strengthening NCO by Closing Gaps in Health and Hope

By Traci Little

For 25 years, the Community Health Access Project (CHAP) has been a powerful force in north-central Ohio. Based in Mansfield and serving counties including Richland, Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Knox and Morrow, CHAP exists for one purpose: to eliminate health and social disparities so individuals and families can thrive.

In a world where access to care is often uneven, CHAP steps into the gaps — not with temporary fixes, but with long-term, measurable solutions that change lives.

CHAP's mission is ambitiously unique: find people who are at risk, connect them to the care they need, and follow outcomes until real change happens.

Unlike many programs that provide resources and hope for the best, CHAP follows a nationally recognized model called the Pathways Community HUB, which ensures:

- People are not just supported — they are seen, understood, and guided, step by step.

- Barriers such as housing insecurity, lack of transportation, food shortages, medical gaps, and social needs are identified early and addressed intentionally.

- Success is measured, ensuring every person receives coordinated, comprehensive support.

CHAP believes every person deserves an equal shot at a healthy, stable life — and they work tirelessly to make that a reality.

At the heart of CHAP are its Community Health Workers (CHWs) — trained professionals who walk alongside individuals and families facing overwhelming challenges.

CHWs help with essentials such as accessing healthcare, navigating pregnancy and early childhood support, securing stable housing, finding transportation, connecting to food and nutrition resources, managing chronic health needs, linking families to early

childhood or disability services and understanding insurance, benefits and local supports

Beyond the logistics, CHWs provide something even more important: trust, encouragement, and dignified support during life's hardest seasons.

It's not just another nonprofit. It is a pioneer right here in our backyard!

It was the first organization in the United States to implement the Pathways Community HUB model — a coordinated, data-driven approach now used nationwide to reduce disparities and improve community health.

Over the past 25 years, CHAP has created regional systems that link hospitals, agencies, schools and social-service organizations and helped thousands of families overcome obstacles that once seemed impossible. It earned recognition from local and national health partners and built a reputation as a trusted, outcomes-based organization committed to equity.

CHAP's focus isn't charity — it's systemic change. Serving local families with compassionate care is its heartbeat.

CHAP's work goes far beyond appointments and paperwork. The organization hosts events like Community Baby Showers, where expecting and new parents receive supplies, education, and connections to community partners. They participate in local giving events such as Richland Gives, allowing the community to rally behind families who need support.

(Continued on Page 9)

A caring hand for moms.  
A stronger start for babies.

Call or Text Today:  
(419) 574-4244

CHAP Commission on Minority Health



LOOKING BACK — Community Health Worker Kimberly Miller speaks with the late Dr. Mark Redding and Dr. Sarah Redding.



**COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS** receive diapers in 2024 for CHAP participants.

## •CHAP: Strengthening NCO by Closing Gaps in Health and Hope

(Continued from Page 8)

Testimonies from participants consistently highlight the same themes:

“I didn’t feel alone anymore.”

“They helped me when no one else could.”

“My CHW believed in me and helped me believe in myself.”

CHAP’s approach honors dignity, empowers families, and strengthens entire communities.

In 2025, CHAP celebrated its 25th anniversary. As part of this milestone, the organization announced a transition in leadership, welcoming Brice Eyerly as its new leader. This shift marks a new season of growth as CHAP seeks to deepen its impact and expand its reach across additional counties and underserved populations.

“CHAP was built on the simple belief of neighbors connecting neighbors,” says Executive Director Brice Eyerly. “When people feel seen and supported, possibility opens up. A single connection can spark hope, rebuild stability, and change the direction of a family’s life. That kind of momentum strengthens entire communities — and it’s why this work matters.”

The vision remains unchanged: a community where every person has access to the care, resources, and support they need — without barriers.

CHAP Matters today more than ever as families across Ohio continue to face challenges like, rising healthcare costs, behavioral health needs, housing instability, transportation barriers, lack of access to prenatal and infant care, food insecurity and systemic inequalities.

CHAP’s work ensures that the people who are often overlooked receive coordinated, compassionate care that restores stability, health, and hope. They don’t just connect people to resources — they help rebuild lives.

At its core, CHAP represents what community should look like as they seek to collaborate instead of isolate, support while removing barriers, continuing to meet others with dignity instead of stigma, and providing long-term change instead of quick fixes!

CHAP provides the steady, reliable guidance they need — and the belief that their story isn’t finished.

## •Richland Gives is a success

(Continued from Front Page)

Academy of Karate & Empowerment, Hope Food Pantry of Catholic Charities and Ohio Bird Sanctuary.

Education attendance \$500 award went to : Kaleigh Hall of the 179th Friends and Family

Peer-to-peer fundraiser prize of \$480 was awarded to: Lottie’s Wolfpack Read-A-Thon a peer-to-peer fundraiser that benefited the Discovery School.

About the Richland County Foundation

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.



**PAM MADORE** of the Richland Academy of the Arts accepts an award for the best social media post during the Richland Gives Leaderboard Watch Party. She is pictured with Maura Teynor, Richland County Foundation Chief Advancement Officer.

## Jingle & Mingle in the Prospect Park Neighborhood event is Saturday

Kingdom Grace Fellowship Church, in partnership with Richland County Children Services (RCCS) and First English Lutheran Church, is hosting a holiday celebration. “Jingle & Mingle in the Prospect Park Neighborhood,” will be held on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 11 am to 1 pm at Kingdom Grace Fellowship Church, 105 Reba Ave., Mansfield.

There will be free food, music, games, gifts and holiday cheer! Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there with their reindeer, plus The Grinch and the spirited St. Peter’s High School Cheerleaders.

At the holiday celebration, organizations and businesses will be giving away special gifts to spread cheer. Participating groups include the Mansfield Richland County Public Library, Angel’s Creations LLC, Rominus James Productions, Western Southern Life Insurance, and Zoe’s Learning Center.

Mansfield Senior High School Football Coach Antonio Fletcher and members of the team will be in attendance.

The event is made possible through the support of sponsors, Deschner’s Pizza, Domino’s Pizza, Donato’s Pizza, Fat Joe’s Barbershop, Friendship Kitchen, Jones Potato Chips, Marco’s Pizza, Romeo’s Pizza, The C.O.R. Scholarship Program and The Man Behind the Tint.

For more information contact Beth Ferguson, Kingdom Grace Fellowship Church at 419-522-0908.

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IC: H6YR08

## •Ontario hosts annual tree lighting

*(Continued from Front Page)*

with warmth and unity.

The event once again showcased the strong sense of community and tradition that Ontario holds close. It was a joyful and meaningful way to begin the Christmas season, filled with reflection, togetherness and holiday spirit.



Photos By Traci Little



## Annual craft show draws large crowd to fairgrounds

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Doors opened at 8:30 am on Saturday, Dec. 6, as Richland County welcomed its largest craft show of the year. Crafters arrived early to set-up their spaces and prepare for the big day.

The event, sponsored by Ontario Community Events, was completely sold out and was one of the largest and most well-attended in the show's history. It featured 127 vendors offering a wide array of homemade items, attracting crafters and artisans from across the Mid-Ohio area.

Held from 8:30 am to 3 pm, the large turnout made the event a significant success for both those attending and the participating small businesses.

Entry was \$2 or a new toy with proceeds benefiting the Ontario Lions Club and Ontario Community Events and toys going to the Ontario Police Department's annual toy drive.

It was a fantastic day of shopping, creativity and community spirit.



# Rose Circle Rare Books opens in Downtown Mansfield

Photos and Article By Traci Little

A crowd gathered Friday afternoon at 46 W. Fourth St., Mansfield, to celebrate the grand opening of Rose Circle Rare Books, an enchanting new bookstore now adjacent to Tara's Floral Expressions in downtown Mansfield. This will likely be a creative haven for readers, collectors and dreamers alike!

Hosted by the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development, the ceremony marked the official debut of a shop unlike any other in the city — a haven for book lovers, fantasy fans, and collectors of all things curious and magical.

"This is such a delightful gem in our community," shared Jennifer Wagner of the Chamber. "I can't wait to explore all the nooks and corners and see all the wonderful things inside. We are so thrilled you're here and wish you great success in the years to come."

Rose Circle Rare Books is the creation of Chase Beaire, a young local entrepreneur known for his ties to Mansfield's creative scene. Beaire previously participated in the Young Entrepreneurs Academy, mentioned by Mayor Jodie Perry.

Mansfield Mayor Perry offered heartfelt congratulations and a personal note of excitement for the city's newest downtown addition.

"When you announced you were bringing a bookstore, I was like — finally someone is doing this!" Perry said with a laugh. "I'm a book nerd, and we've been missing that since COVID. I know you'll be creative and bring your own spin to it."

The shop features an eclectic mix of new, used, vintage, and rare books, along with crystals, incense, magic wands, literary curiosities, and nostalgic touches reminiscent of fantastical storytelling. Visitors were treated to butterbeer and other Harry-Potter-themed snacks during the celebration.

City officials including Finance Director Kelly Converse, Councilman David Falquette, and Councilman Aurelio Diaz praised the store's opening as a welcome beacon of creativity and youthful leadership.

Diaz delivered an emotional tribute, reflecting on the void left after the closing of Mansfield's Main Street Books.

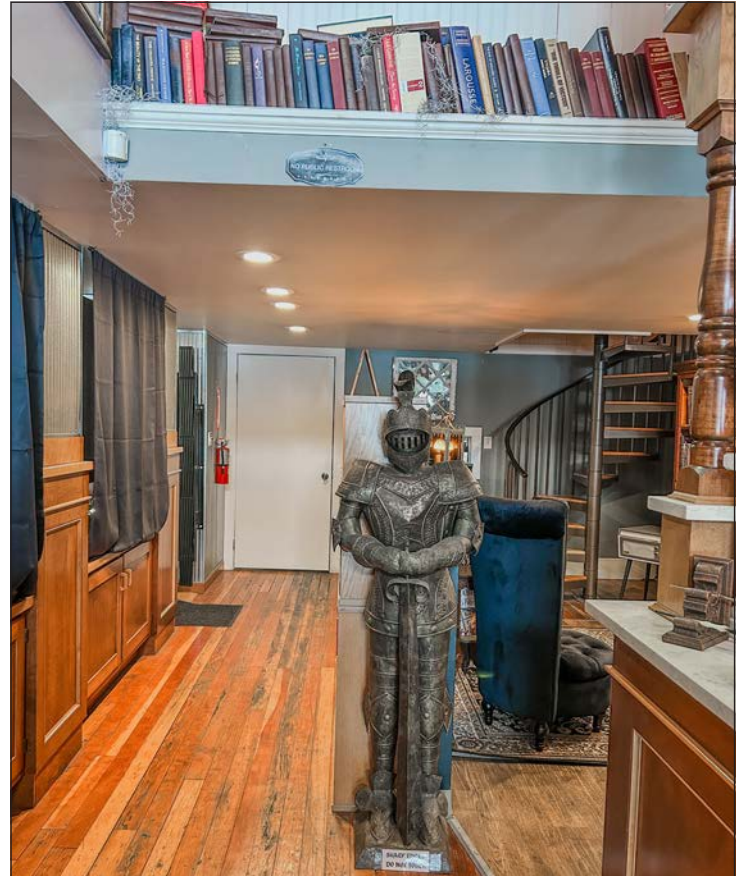
"With Main Street Books gone, that was such a huge hub for musicians, poets, and creatives," he said. "You guys have carried that torch. You're proving to the community how young people and creatives are true leaders. We needed this so badly. Welcome, and you are loved."

Beaire thanked the community for its overwhelming support and credited his mother and Tara's Floral Expressions as foundational parts of his journey.

"It wouldn't be possible without my mom, and with Tara's Floral being such a staple downtown," he said. "We're glad to open this little bookstore and hopefully inspire people to get excited about reading and all the wonders of the imagination."

Rose Circle Rare Books will be open Tuesday–Friday 10 am to 7 pm and Saturday 10 am to 3 pm.

As the ribbon was cut, applause filled West Fourth Street speaking to the revival of a creative gathering place in the heart of Mansfield.



## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

## Shelby finishes with a great season as state finalist

By Kris Leiter

Hats off to the Shelby Whippets for finishing as a state finalist last Friday at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton!

The Whippets did all they could do against the Cleveland Glenville Tarblooders as they fell to defeat 45-7 in the OHSAA Division IV State Final game.

Cleveland Glenville is no stranger to OHSAA post-season play, as they claimed state titles in 2022 and 2023.

The Whippets made school history for the first time in 131 years by advancing to the finals!

The game was scoreless until late in the first quarter, when Glenville's Jaquan Gibson returned a Shelby punt 92 yards for the game's first touchdown. Gibson's punt return was the longest for a score in state championship game history regardless of division.

Shelby drew even on the next possession. Luke Blevins' 17-yard run on a misdirection play moved the ball inside the 1-yard line, and Michael Shepherd scored from there on a quarterback sneak to cap a five-play 58-yard scoring drive just two plays into the second quarter.

Glenville broke the game open over the final 10 minutes of the first half, scoring 17 straight points while holding Shelby's offense to a pair of three-and-outs and building a 24-7 halftime lead.

Eniere Lemon kicked a 34-yard field goal and Chris Newell scored twice on runs of 14 and 6 yards for Glenville as the Tarblooders out-gained Shelby 184-25 in the second period.

While Newell scored twice, Romell Phillips led Glenville with 119 rushing yards on 10 carries in the first half. Glenville rushed for 177 yards before halftime and held a 199-41 edge in total yards in the first half.

Arvell Nelson completed just 6 of 17 passes for 90 yards, but he connected with Lemon (5 yards) and Joseph Saffold (31 yards) on touchdown throws in the second half. Jaylen Edwards' 65-yard punt return in the fourth quarter set up Glenville's final touchdown, a 14-yard run by Uriah Webber.

Phillips finished with 133 yards on 14 carries for Glenville. Newell ran for 81 yards on nine carries.

Defensively, Glenville limited Shelby to 27 total yards—the fewest in state championship game history, regardless of division—and posted 10 tackles for a loss of yardage, including five sacks. Kaylon Bailey posted five total tackles, including three sacks. Seven different Glenville players were in on a tackle for a loss of yardage.

In case you didn't know, Shelby fans are loyal to a fault as they made the road trip to Canton with excitement. School was cancelled Friday so that teachers, students and fans could attend the game.

Dan Patrick, whose roots started in Shelby years ago as a graduate, was impressed by the venue — Tom Benson — which is the largest high school stadium in Ohio.

"I've never been to Canton (stadium)," said Patrick. "I thought it was nice. I was really impressed."

"Shelby had a great game plan. We had a fantastic season and its an honor just to get to play in the state finals. That's what I hoped for."

"The people that were there supporting the Shelby football team were amazing. They always have a good following. I saw people there from the surrounding communities as well. The school spirit was fantastic."

"They announced that there was 6,000 total fans (combined for Glenville and Shelby) in attendance."

Another longtime Whippet fan, Todd Baird commented about the chilly morning, "It was about 21 degrees and sunny, No wind."

Baird mentioned the crowd for Shelby, "We had a good following of about 3,000 people from what I could tell."

Baird was impressed with Glenville's talent and the speed.

*Editor's note: Game excerpts provided by OHSAA.com*



Photos By Traci Little

## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights



Photos By Traci Little

## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights



Photos By Traci Little

## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

### CLEAR FORK VS MADISON VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL · DEC. 8 PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**CLEAR FORK VS MADISON JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL · DEC. 8**  
**PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER**



## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

### Lexington seniors Caudill, Fogle sign letters of intent

By Kris Leiter

Richland County has been a hotbed for athletes over the years. Two Lexington seniors are taking their athletic career to the next level by moving into the college ranks.

Joe Caudill and Brayden Fogle signed letters of intent recently.

Joe Caudill has graced us with his amazing athletic feats for the past four years at Lexington. He has decided to embark on his future football endeavors for the Michigan State Spartans as a tight-end.

His accolade include being a three-year letterman with two Ohio Cardinal Conference team championships in track.

In basketball, he is a three-year letterman and earned special mention All-Ohio honors his junior season. He helped his team win three OCC Basketball titles.

Be is a four-year letterman for football and was named OCC Defensive Player of the Year and the Northwest District Offensive Player of the Year.

He is first team All-OCC and Northwest District and was the North Central Ohio Football Coaches Association Defensive Lineman of the Year. He helped lead his team to the first outright OCC title since 2008 and the first since sharing it in 2012.

He owns nine school records and during his senior year he passed 112 for 189 for 1,730 yards and had 25 touchdowns. For rushing he had 126 carries for 671 with eight touchdowns and he led the Minutemen with 2,412 total yards.

He was one of those rare breeds of athletes who can multi-task on both sides of the line-of-scrimmage.

On defense he had 59.5 tackles, 0.5 sacks, 13 tackles for loss, two forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries and two interceptions.

Brayden Fogle also signed his letter of intent recently and will be joining the Georgia Bulldogs as a tight-end as well.

There must be something in the water in Lexington, as Fogle's career is similar to Caudill's.

He is nationally ranked as #10 tight-end in the country and is the #10 ranked prospect in Ohio. He is the nation's #209 overall prospect and ESPN.com four-star prospect and #149 nationally.

His senior year, he helped Lexington to a 9-2 record on the gridiron and post-season accolades. He is an OHSAA quarter-finalist, Region 10 and had 23 catches for 449 yards and seven touchdowns.

His junior year, he had 59 receptions for 792 yards and five touchdowns. he is All-Ohio first-team and All-Northwest District, earned All-Ohio Cardinal conference honors and was a basketball prep prospect as a sophomore and first team All-Ohio.

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## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS LEXINGTON VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL · DEC. 3  
RAMS WIN 47-30 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

### MADISON GIRLS & BOYS BASKETBALL PRE-SEASON SCRIMMAGES PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



## Representative John supports concurrence vote on four property tax initiatives

State Representative Marilyn John (R-Richland County) recently supported House concurrence on Senate amendments to House Bills 129, 309, 186, and 335, four initiatives that make systematic reforms and provide direct property tax relief to Ohioans, delivering the measures to the Governor's desk for a signature.

### House Bill 129

House Bill 129 implements a check on tax hikes by counting emergency, substitute, incremental growth, conversion levies and the property tax portion of combined levies toward the 20-mill floor – closing loopholes and slowing tax spikes. This measure ultimately lifts 237 districts off the 20-mill floor.

### House Bill 186

House Bill 186 saves Ohio property owners nearly \$1.7 billion over the next three years by establishing a new Inflation Cap Credit that prevents increases in school district taxes from exceeding the rate of inflation. The initiative also includes an appropriation that holds Ohio school districts harmless for actual losses over this appraisal period compared to current collections by including an appropriation to help schools that are not up for reappraisal or reevaluation this year.

This legislation will protect homeowners from surprise hikes in their property tax bills when they live in a district that is on the 20-mill floor.

### House Bill 309

House Bill 309 slashes unnecessary collections by expanding the County Budget Commission's authority to modify levies and trim unnecessarily high millage rates, shielding Ohioans from overly excessive tax bills.

### House Bill 335

House Bill 335 caps increases in inside millage collections to the rate of inflation. The bill requires county budget commissions to adjust the rate of each inside millage levy so that it does not grow by more than the sum of the three previous years of inflation. This happens during the county's sexennial reappraisal or triennial update. The net effect of this provision totals between \$621 million and \$763 million in property tax relief over the next three years.

This package builds on the legislative work already accomplished by the House Republican Caucus through a slate of provisions, including:

### Property Tax Provisions In Final, Approved Budget Plan

Direct Relief to Seniors, Disabled Veterans & Families of First Responders through homestead exemptions and up to 2.5% owner-occupancy tax credits.

Levy reform to simplify levies, prevent hidden tax hikes, and stop excessive general fund carryovers.

Prevent Fraud through a new statewide property tax reduction screening system – discouraging abuse and protecting taxpayer dollars.

Promoting Transparency by updating and reviewing property tax ballot language.

Enhances Checks and Balances for Property Tax Rates at the Local Level by requiring reports to the County Budget Commission and requiring local governments to take ownership of unvoted tax increases.

### House Bill 124 (passed the House on 6/4):

Empowers county auditors to have greater oversight over determining property tax sales information used for determining property valuations.

All four pieces of legislation will now go to Ohio Governor Mike DeWine for a signature, the final step before becoming law.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO SELL

Notice of Intent for the Village of Lexington to sell certain designated skate park equipment through GovDeals. See GovDeals for further details of future sale of said equipment.

Brenda Barton  
Clerk of Council  
Village of Lexington, OH  
(T-C 12-11, 18 '25) 9L

## PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids for Real Estate Auctioneering services will be received at the office of the Treasurer, Madison Local School District, 1379 Grace Street, Mansfield, Ohio 44905 until 9:00 a.m. on Monday, December 15, 2025, and will be publicly opened and read aloud immediately thereafter for the furnishing of all materials and performing all labor necessary for the **Madison Local Schools Real Property Disposal Auction**, in accordance with the specifications prepared and included on the following pages.

Specifications, bid instructions and documents may be obtained from the Madison Local Schools website at <https://www.mlscd.net/page/bids> and clicking on Real Property Disposal Auction Link.

Questions regarding the Sale or Bid Documents are to be submitted to the School District, attention Bradd Stevens, Treasurer. Phone: 419-589-2600 extension 765009, Email: [bsteven@madisonrams.net](mailto:bsteven@madisonrams.net).

Bids are to be sealed and addressed to Bradd Stevens, Treasurer, Madison Local School District – Board of Education, 1379 Grace Street, Mansfield, Ohio 44905, and plainly marked on the outside "Bid" for the work involved. No bidder shall change or withdraw their bid for 60 days after the date of the bid opening.

Each bidder shall ensure that all employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of age, sex, race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, or handicap. All bidding shall be in strict accordance with the Revised Code of Ohio. The Board of Education of the Madison Local School District reserves the right to accept or reject any, or part of any, or all said bids and waive any informalities.

By order of the Board of Education of the Madison Local School District.

Bradd Stevens, Treasurer  
Board of Education of the  
Madison Local School District  
(T-C 12-4, 11 '25) 53L



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL students dressed in OSU colors before the big game.

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