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news@tribune-courier.com

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Photos By Traci Little

THE ONTARIO LIONS CLUB held its spring pancake breakfast at Ontario High School on April 18. Helping at the event was Girl Scout Troop 3598, Little Miss Ontario Sadie Myers and Junior Miss Ontario Kenley Scott.

(More Photos on Page 8)

Mifflin Elementary secures state title in Prodigy Math Challenge

By Traci Little

What started as a classroom tool has turned into a school-wide celebration of learning at Mifflin Elementary.

Students at the school have claimed the state title in the Prodigy Education Math State Challenge, a competitive academic initiative designed to engage students through interactive, standards-aligned learning.

The win places Mifflin among the top-per-

forming schools in Ohio, allowing them to advance to the upcoming national competition.

Introduced during the 2024-'25 school year, the State Challenge invites schools to compete monthly based on student engagement and academic persistence. For Mifflin, the journey to the top was anything but overnight.

The school's efforts culminated in March,

when students officially secured the Monthly State Championship — an achievement that has filled the building with excitement. The school gym now proudly displays a commemorative banner, while students celebrate with Prodigy-themed prizes including stickers, keychains and character plushies.

The school began the year ranked 115th in September. By October, students had climbed to 84th, then surged to 24th in November and 15th in December. The momentum carried into the new year, with Mifflin reaching 8th place in January and third in February — before ultimately securing the number one spot in March.

That steady rise reflects a school community fully invested in learning.

Students track their progress daily, eagerly checking classroom rankings and school-wide question totals. What might typically feel like routine practice quickly became something more — an engaging, shared goal that extended beyond the classroom.

By incorporating the adaptive learning platform into both school hours and at-home study, Mifflin created a culture where academic growth became a team effort. Even evenings at home turned into opportunities for students to strengthen their skills while contributing to the school's overall success.

(Continued on Page 9)

Prescription Take Back Day is Saturday

The METRICH Enforcement Unit will be partnering with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and local law enforcement to present another Prescription Take Back event for the community on Saturday, April 25.

This event is sponsored by the Mansfield Division of Police, Richland County Sheriff's Office, Shelby Police Department, Lexington Police Department, Plymouth Police Department, Richland County Solid Waste Authority, Richland Public Health, Community Action for Capable Youth (CACY) and the Richland County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board.

Pills and liquids in sealed containers or bags only, will be accepted (no sharps, bat-

teries, vape pens or inhalers).

This is only for household unused or expired medications — no pharmacies, businesses or pharmaceutical sales reps.

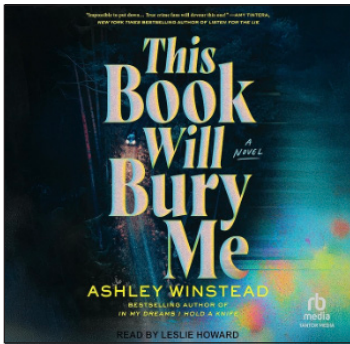
Richland County will have five locations open from 10 am to 2 pm. These include the Richland County Solid Waste Authority facility, 1125 National Pkwy., Mansfield; Richland County Sheriff's Office, 597 Park Avenue East, Mansfield; Shelby Police Department, 31 Mack Ave., Shelby; Plymouth Police Department, 48 W. Broadway St., Plymouth; and the Lexington Police Department, 44 W. Main St., Lexington.

For more information related to the take-back event call Lt. Steve Blust at 419-755-9677.

LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review
By Amanda Belczak



Wow, *This Book Will Bury Me* by Ashley Winstead had me hooked. It's true crime, meets fiction — a mystery full of red herrings that will keep you guessing.

A college student experiences her own family tragedy and unable to cope, she gets lost in the online forum world of true crime. When a murder case captures the attention of the whole country, she finds herself lost in finding the killer. In following this obsession, she just might lose herself in the process.

The way it's written, it starts at the end, so the reader knows the case went off the rails, but each flash back gives a little more detail about how it unfolded. I enjoyed it because it kept me guessing, but also put me into the minds of people who are so invested in true crime as arm-chair experts. If you like mysteries, this is one to pick!

My rating: ★★★★★

Follow at amandabelczak.com

ACCA accepting sale donations

The Ashland County Cancer Association is accepting gently used donations for its annual rummage sale. Donations will be accepted at the ACCA office, 1011 E. Main St., Ashland, Monday–Thursday, 9 am to 4 pm until May 7; and at the Ashland County Fairgrounds, 2042 Claremont Ave., May 11–22 and May 26–29, from 10 am to 5 pm.

Acceptable donations include clothing and shoes (infant–adult), furniture and home décor, household, kitchen, bed and bath, electronics, appliances, books, games, toys, jewelry, purses, kids and baby items, tools, sports and outdoor, pet, seasonal items and antiques.

The sale is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, from 2–8 pm; Thursday, June 4, from 9 am to 7 pm; and Friday, June 5, from 9 am to 3 pm, indoor at the fairgrounds.

For more information call 419-281-1863 or text 419-606-0549.

NECIC to host dumpster day

A community dumpster day will be held Saturday, April 25, from 9 am to 1 pm (or until the dumpster is full) at the North End Community Improvement Collaborative (NECIC), 486 Springmill St., Mansfield.

Prohibited items include liquid wastes, drums or tanks, tires, batteries, harmful chemicals, explosive/flammable materials, yard waste, large appliances, commercial building material and loose trash (must be in bags.)

If an item is not listed as prohibited, it is acceptable for disposal. All Richland County residents are welcome. Call 419-522-1611 with any questions regarding prohibited items.

THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER — By Ian Stumbo —

Pizza Movie is a Hulu original movie that is streaming now.

Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin on Netflix's *Stranger Things*) and Sean Giambrone (Adam from ABC's *The Goldbergs*) play college roommates and friends Jack and Montgomery.

After discovering a mysterious drug that falls from the ceiling of their dormroom, they take it and have quite a journey going two floors down to get their pizza. This drug has many different stages to it and they must get through them all to get their food.

This movie tries to be a raunchy college and stoner comedy rolled into one. Some of the phases are funny such as the exploding head scene and where

they switch bodies.

Other times, many scenes involving other characters feel unnecessary and slow the movie down. As long as the movie is staying with Jack and Montgomery it works pretty well.

This movie has quite a few different ideas and it feels like all of them were included when the movie works best staying with the two leads.

The concept of *Pizza Movie* is funny and intriguing.

The movie definitely has its moments but never quite achieves what could be a really funny comedy.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Richland County Residents:

I am voting no to the Ban on Property Rights on May 5.

I am a retired social studies teacher. My students and I read the United States Constitution word for word, cover to cover, annually for 40 years. We reviewed landmark Supreme Court cases and original historical documents.

The Founding Fathers understood that private property is the foundation of prosperity and freedom. They protected the rights of people to freely acquire, use and dispose of personal property. The issue on the Richland County May 5 ballot centers around the right of control.

Each landowner has the right to submit an application for land usage and have it evaluated on a case-by-case basis. When the government decides to ban applications for land use without a hearing, the citizens are denied the formal review process developed by the state.

In Ohio, large-scale energy facilities must apply for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need from the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB). This rigorous review includes public meetings, detailed impact studies, expert staff analysis, formal public hearings and a final decision to issue or deny the certificate.

This process is not quick, it is not easy, and it is not guaranteed success. But it should be a guaranteed option for property owners if they choose that path.

I have personally attended public information meetings, town halls and Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) hearings around the state to see this process in action.

Preserve the right to this process. Vote No Ban on Property Rights on May 5.

Jeff Strang, Mansfield

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News Briefs

A special meeting of the Ontario Board of Education will be held in the Ontario High School Library, 467 Shelby-Ontario Rd., Ontario, on Tuesday, May 5, at 6:30 pm.

The meeting will be to discuss the development of tax policy with Rockmill Financial.

★

U.S. 42 will have traffic signal upgrades at Hanley Road, the Kroger entrance near Stewart Road, and the Reiser Road/Eastview Drive intersections. Traffic will be maintained with shoulder work zones or daytime lane closures when necessary.

The estimated completion is May.

★

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, April 25 and 26. 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.

★

State Route 13 from the Knox County line through the Village of Bellville to Andrews Road will have single lane closures for a resurfacing project. Traffic will be maintained by flaggers. The estimated completion is October.

★

The National Day of Prayer will be celebrated on May 7 with a parade in Mansfield.

The event, sponsored by Godsfild, will line-up at Penn Avenue beginning at 5 pm. The parade will start at 6 pm.

A service will be held in South Park, 100 Brinkerhoff Ave., at 7 pm. There will be a time of public worship and prayer and ministry. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/100-brinkerhoff-ave-mansfield-oh-44906-3238-united-states/national-day-of-prayer-parade/1677065993331490/> for more information on the event or to sign-up for parade participation.

Some churches will be bringing bagged meals and hygiene products to pass out to those at the park.

★

Ontario UMC, 3540 Park Ave West, Ontario, will host exercise/walking led by an instructor for various age groups every Thursday at 10 am. This is open to the community at no charge. This will include chair yoga, dance exercise, resistance bands and walking.

★

St. John's United Church of Christ will host a program on global warming featuring speakers Gregory Wiles, Ph.D. Professor of Earth Science, College of Wooster; Rev. Dr. Faith Proietti; and Paul Robinson, Ph.D., Emeritus Professor North Central State College. The event will be held Saturday, April 25, from 9:30-11:30 am in the Mansfield/Richland County Library Community Room.

★

Mechanics Bank will host the OhioHealth mobile mammography unit on Thursday, April 23, from 9 am to 2 pm at its location at 490

N. Trimble Rd., Mansfield.

Those receiving service should bring an insurance card and photo ID. The location should be mentioned when scheduling at 614-566-1111 or 1-877-566-1112. A prescription from a physician is required for mammograms for women under 40. Women 40 and older do not require a doctor's order.

★

The Lexington Area Senior Citizens Inc., invites those 55 and older to attend meetings the third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 am at Der Dutchman, Rt. 97, Bellville. Cost is \$17 for the meal, with an additional \$2 for pie.

The next meal will be May 20, and will include chicken. This is the LASC's 52nd anniversary. Jane Horton will be the guest.

The group will also meet for lunch on May 6 at 11 am at O'Charley's in Ontario.

For information visit the Facebook page at Lexington Area Senior Citizens (LASC). Dues are \$10 per year.

★

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. will host a free Senior Spring Extravaganza on Friday, May 29, from 10 am to 2 pm, at the Mid-Ohio Education Center, 890 W. 4th St., Mansfield.

The Mardi Gras-style event will be focused on healthy and positive aging. Guests will enjoy resources and information on aging-related topics, along with a free lunch, BINGO, an on-site classic car show, music by Randy Velez and a variety of community vendors.

Register for the car show by calling 567-247-6458. Registration is not required to attend the event. For more information call 419-524-4144 or follow www.facebook.com/aaa5ohio. Sponsorships are available by visiting www.aaa5ohio.org

★

SR 302, just east of U.S. 250 (S. Main St., Ashland), will close Monday, April 27 for bridge repairs. The detour route will be SR 302 north to SR 511 south to U.S. 250 west to SR 302 and reverse. Estimated completion is Wednesday, May 20.

★

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 am to 12 pm or until supplies run out.

This comes with a 30 lb. box of non-perishable food and a two lb. box of cheese. These items are free to those who qualify by age (60+) and low income guidelines. Recipients must have at least one person age 60 or older in the household.

The minimum income begins at \$1,995 per month for a one-person 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. The next distribution is Tuesday, April 28.

★

Due to bridge repairs, it is necessary to close sections of Oak Street from South Illinois Avenue to Davidson Street.

The road has been closed and detour signs will be posted at the work site. Traffic is advised to plan an alternate route to avoid possible delays. No traffic will be permitted to pass through. Any questions concerning this notice may be directed to the City Service Complex during normal business hours, Monday-Friday 7 am to 3 pm, at 419-755-9806.

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Ontario Board of Education approves list of contracts

The Ontario Board of Education met April 14 for the regular meeting. Student Aiden Ohl was recognized as a State Wrestling Champion. Lynda Ditty, Stingel first grade teacher, and first grade students presented their animal research writing pieces and performed songs about the animals they studied.

Brittany Farley was hired as a Stingel fourth grade teacher, \$72,495 and Emma Maguire was hired as a Stingel Intervention Specialist,

\$45,712, both for the 2026-'27 school year.

Jesse Hoffman was hired as a bus driver on a one-year contract for the remainder of the 2025-'26 school year, \$4,225.

One-year limited contracts approved for the 2026-'27 school year include Aaron Akers, third grade; Emily Gerak, music; Emma Ruhe, intervention specialist; Ashley Scott, kindergarten; Kennedie Spencer, preschool intervention specialist; Mackenzie Stoner, first grade

Carissa Whitmer, K-2 cross-categorical; Alex Hertensteiner, eighth grade science; Camryn Hoffman, intervention specialist; Matt Lautanen, seventh grade language arts; Kelsea Noblet, intervention specialist; Lily Rockwell, sixth grade literature; Melinda Saltzgeber, sixth grade math; Sarah Sherk, sixth grade language arts; Mallorey Guillereault, music; Carther Keinath, physical education/health; Susan McBride, Intervention Specialist-MD; Rosa Minnear, Spanish; Grace Reven, instrumental music; and Addison Sandru, physical education/health.

Three-year contracts, beginning during the 2026-'27 school year, were awarded to Bayleigh Allen, third grade; Ashley Baker, kindergarten; Holly Hale, third grade; Megan Hefner, intervention specialist-MD; Caitlyn Horst, second grade; Michelle Smith, second grade; James Watkins, fifth grade; Justin Weber, fifth grade; James Willis, fifth grade; Aubrey Cardwell, eighth grade literature; Karen Kaufman, physical education/health; Robin Owen family and consumer science; Lauren Reichenbach, intervention specialist-MD; Janey Ride-nour, sixth grade science; Jamee Burke, math; Kelly Conn, guidance counselor and Adam Kime, English.

Two-year contracts were awarded to Mark Hairston, bus driver; Jesse Hoffman, bus driver; Steve Perry, bus driver; Lavon Danals, cook; Stephanie Hoffer, cook; Emma Mullins, cook; Brandy Vail, cook; Vicki Walters, Stingel Secretary; Katie Hiser, playground aide; Mark Ward, playground aide; Courtney Stauffer, custodian; Mike Kehl, custodian; Cassandra Amick, high school secretary; Kayla Cain, high school guidance secretary.

One-year extended time contracts went to Jim Buker, 10 days; and John Boyd, 15 days.

Three-year extended time contracts for the 2026-'27, 2027-'28, and 2028-'29 school years were awarded to Kelly Conn, 15 days; and Robyn Owen, 5 days.

Brittany Rhodes resigned as the FCCLA advisor and Charlie Brinegar resigned as Stingel custodian for retirement purposes, effective at the end of his 2025-'26 contract. Teddy Vail, bus driver, also resigned.

Tracy Byrd was employed as the varsity cheer coach for the 2026-'27 school year, \$1,783 and Carter Keinath was hired as the JV baseball head coach for the current season, \$3,401.

The 2026-'27 English Department reading material for the summer and the school year was approved.

Payments were approved for board members attending the March 25 Pioneer All Board Member Dinner Meeting.

John Boyd was hired as Ontario Middle School's online summer school supervisor at \$30 per hour, not to exceed eighty hours).

(Continued on Page 5)

Church Directory

All Souls Unitarian Universalist

25 Church St., Bellville
419-886-3497 • www.allsoulsuohio.org
10:30 am Service and Sunday School
Adult RE Book Club (quarterly)

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 am Monday Morning Bible Study

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.

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

2010 Park Avenue West, Mansfield
(At Hope Lutheran Next to Drug Mart)
419-522-2813 • www.stjohnsmansfield.org
contact@stjohnsmansfield.org
Pastor Faith Proietti • 11 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

Trinity Grace Fellowship

1592 Grace St., Mansfield
419-589-5890 • trinitygracefellowship.org
Pastor Larry Carnes
9:30 am Sunday Worship • 11 am Sunday School
Bible Study Mondays 2 pm

G & M Body & Paint Shop

1689 West Fourth St., Ontario • 419-529-2747

Wappner Funeral Home

Mansfield • Ontario • Ashland • 419-522-5211

Jesus OUTREACH

Healing Service last Saturday evening of the month at 6:30 PM
12 North Diamond St. (corner of Park Ave West)

Ontario Board of Education approves list of contracts

(Continued from Page 4)

Temporary substitute teacher assignments for the 2025-'26 school year include Makayla Boucher, Stingel/middle school/high school; and Rebekah Kapustar, Stingel/middle school/high school.

Substitute classified staff personnel hired for the current school



Bellville • Photo By Mark Shutt

Mifflin Elementary to host farewell

Mifflin Elementary in the Madison School District will hold a farewell on Saturday, April 25, from 10 am to 2 pm.

The community is invited to the event to celebrate the elementary's history which began in 1949.

It was decided that 2026 would be the final year for the building as Madison works to balance their budget. Starting with the next school year, the Madison South building will be known as Madison Primary School and Eastview Elementary will become Madison Intermediate School.

On April 25, the buildings and grounds will be open for former staff and students, as well as community members to take self-guided tours. Mifflin memorabilia will be available to view in the cafeteria so visitors can look through yearbooks and pictures that have been accumulated throughout the years.

All of the Madison elementary buildings have been neighborhood schools and an event like this brings together current students, alumni, staff (past and present) and families, but most importantly neighbors. It becomes a reunion of sorts — people can share stories, reconnect and celebrate what they experienced together.

In 1999, celebrating 50 years at Mifflin Elementary, a time capsule was buried by the sixth grade class. Members of that class will be digging that time capsule up and sharing it with current Mifflin students on Friday, April 24, at 2:30 pm. The time capsule and its contents will be available to view at the open house and farewell.

year include Makayla Boucher, secretary; Rebecca Gregg, custodian; Ashley Hall, cook; and Tyler Potts, custodian.

Rachel Knell was hired as a certified occupational therapy assistant for next school year.

The FCCLA State Leadership Conference Field Trip for April 16-17, was approved.

Approve the following teacher to teach an eight (8) period per day schedule for the 2026-2027 school year:

Julie Buker was awarded a position to teach an eight-period day next year, \$8,379

Madison Mabry was hired for a technology internship for the current school year at an hourly rate of \$13.

Non-renewals were decided for tutoring staff, effective June 30, for Doreen Givens, Susan Kurtzman, Jennifer Jarvis and Paulette Huber.

OhioHealth Mansfield was chosen as the agency to provide physicals for bus drivers for the 2026-'27 school year.

The board approved changes to Michele Hasten's previously approved retirement of May 31 to July 31, 2026.

Donations were accepted from Cori Kreger Agency, \$200, softball and \$35 for Teacher Appreciation Week; Five Below, recess equipment; John and Kim Bell, \$100, Adaptive Track and Field Day; Breiting Company, \$500, Adaptive Track and Field Day; Hedstrom Entertainment, four basketballs, 10 footballs, seven soccer balls, 10 playground balls and nine mini-balls; Park National Bank, \$100, Teacher Appreciation Week; Stifel, Nicolaus & Company Incorporated/Andrea Sneeringer, \$1,000, Marcia Baer Scholarship; Brian and Heidi Zimmerman, \$100, OHS Teacher Appreciation; Delaney Moritz, \$50, OHS Teacher Appreciation; and Kim Bell, \$50, OHS Teacher Appreciation.

Facility requests were granted.

The OSBA honored Ontario Local Schools for being recognized by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce with the Purple Star Award

Mrs. Hiner gave a legislative report. Mr. Baxter and Mr. Strickler gave a Career Tech Educator Report.

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Clara Alice Pryor, April 12

Dalton Derr, April 14

Andrew A Miller, April 14

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Foundation supports children's summer activities

The Richland County Foundation is supporting summertime programs focused on children. The Summertime Kids Committee chaired by Foundation Board of Trustees member Karen Bierly along with members from the community approved \$68,226.72 in Summertime Kids grants to 29 organizations. The grants of up to \$2,500 support creative, educational, and fun-filled activities for hundreds of Richland County children.

STK grants were approved for ABC Learning Center, ABC Summer of Fun; Buckeye Imagination Museum, Summer Camp; College Now, Summer Xplore; Flying Horse Farm, Summer Camp for Kids with Serious Illnesses; Friendly House, Staycation & Field Trips; Friends of the 179CW/200RHS, Military Kids Camp/Kelleys Island Adventure; Independent Living Center NCO, Community Explorers; K-City Childcare & Pre-

school, Camp Curiosity; Kingwood Center Gardens, Summer Camp; Lifecare Alliance, Camp Hamwi; Love On A Mission, The Giving Circle; Mansfield Playhouse, Seussical Jr.; Mansfield Parks and Recreation, Summer Fun in the Parks; Mansfield-Richland Educational Foundation, High School Arduino Camps; Music Academy of Karate & Empowerment, Karate Summer Camp; NAMI of Richland County, Richland County Sun Sprouts; NECIC, Youth Agriculture Workshop; Ohio Bird Sanctuary, Learning Together About Birds Day Camp; Ontario Community Events, Summer Recreation; Pioneer Career & Technology Center, Summer Camp; Recreation Unlimited Foundation, Residential Summer Camp; Renaissance Performing Arts, Broadway Camp; Richland Academy of the Arts, Youth Choir; Richland Newhope, Campership Program; Shelby City Schools,

Camp Invention; Salvation Army, Summer Zone; Third Street Family Health Services, Summer Mobile Unit Tour; YMCA of North Central Ohio, Summer Field Trips; and Zoe's Learning Center, Summer Field Trips.

The 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.

City of Mansfield named Tree City USA

Superintendent Mike Woogerd has announced that the City of Mansfield will host its Annual Arbor Day Celebration, which will also commemorate the city's recognition as a "Tree City USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation for the 31st consecutive year.

The City of Mansfield Shade Tree Commission will celebrate this milestone with a special Arbor Day ceremony on Thursday, April 24, at 10 am at Liberty Park.

Liberty Park represents an important green space within the city and serves as a place for community gathering, recreation and neighborhood engagement. Maintaining a balance of history and future within our park ensures that it continues to be a welcoming and environmentally beneficial space for residents and visitors alike.

During the ceremony, the Shade Tree Commission will plant an Oak Tree in the park. The tree has been donated by Alta Florist & Greenhouse in support of the city's ongoing urban forestry efforts.

Oak trees are renowned for their immense strength, remarkable longevity (often living over 300 years), and their role as ecological "superheroes," supporting more life forms, including thousands of insect and bird species.

The community is invited to join the Commission by celebrating Arbor Day 2026.



STUDENTS ATTENDED Shelby's Camp Invention filled with hands-on STEM projects led by local educators last summer.

Native plant sale and workshop planned

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD) will host the annual Native Plant Workshop plus Sale Tuesday, May 12. The evening begins at 5 pm at the Longview Center Meeting Room, 1495 W. Longview Avenue, Mansfield.

Natives in Harmony will have native plants for sale at 5 pm. At 6 pm, Rachel Coy-Mecurio, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist, will discuss pollinator habitat establishment and management. During the workshop, sales are paused and will resume briefly afterward.

The Native Yard Project and Wild Acre will be present for this educational evening.

The workshop is free, but registration is required for seating purposes. Register at <https://richlandswcd.net/event/native-plant-program-plus-sale/> or contact the Richland SWCD office at 419-747-8685.



**Re-Elect
Cliff Mears
RICHLAND COUNTY
COMMISSIONER**

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126 East Main Street,
W 2nd St Rear, Ashland

4th Street Coffee House
1996 W 4th St, Ontario

Pump and Grind
586 Park Avenue East,
OH-430, Mansfield

How Ya Brewin'?
Mobile Coffee Trailer
Bellville | 419-210-3737

Fresh Grounds Coffee House
1621 W 4th St, Ontario

Brew'd Coffee & Donuts
7 Main St, Hayesville

Bubble Bean And Sweets
44 East Main St., Shelby

The Pickwick Place Cafe and Market
1875 North Sandusky Avenue, Bucyrus

Revive Coffee Bar
1201 Mill Rd, Bellville
revivecoffeebar.com

Marando's Cafe
marandoscafe.com
@marandoscafe
330-347-7058

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ONTARIO LIONS PANCAKE DAY



Photos By Traci Little



Mifflin Elementary secures state title in Prodigy Math Challenge

(Continued from Front Page)

School leaders say the achievement reflects a broader culture of high expectations and student commitment.

"We are ending the year strongly by setting high expectations for our students — something they continue to exceed year after year," remarked Mifflin Principal Nathan Stump.

"We are so proud of our students, staff and community for their commitment to working hard and finishing the year on such a high note," Stump continued.

Now, the focus shifts to the national stage.

From May 1 through May 15, Mifflin will compete against approximately 2,000 schools across the country.

In addition to a \$25,000 technology grant and na-



tional recognition, top finishers may also receive funding for a school-wide celebration and additional prizes.

Preparation is already underway.

"Goals have been set, staff has been trained, and students are getting excited for our final month with this national challenge," Stump said.

With their state title secured, Mifflin students are now looking to carry that momentum onto the national stage.



MIFFLIN ELEMENTARY students are champions in the Prodigy Education Math State Challenge and will compete on a national level next month.

Malabar Intermediate fourth graders join in tree education

The City of Mansfield Shade Tree Commission, as part of its ongoing education program, will once again have the opportunity to present to the fourth-grade students at Malabar Intermediate School.

This year's program will include participation from Mayor Jodie Perry, director Louis Andres and parks superintendent Mike Woogerd, who will join Shade Tree Commission members in engaging with students.

Together, they will present information on the importance of trees, environmental stewardship, and urban forestry. Shade Tree Commission members will also provide tree saplings and will share hands-on guidance with students on how to properly plant and care for them.

Each fourth-grade student will receive a tree seedling, complete with planting instructions for outdoor planting or container growth. The seedlings will be made possible through the generous donation of the Richland Soil & Water Conservation District, whose continued support will help grow environmental awareness in our community.

The City of Mansfield Shade Tree Commission will support environmental education and will look forward to continuing its partnership with Malabar Intermediate School for years to come. The commission will extend its sincere thanks to Mr. Hager, principal of Malabar Intermediate, for continuing this long-standing partnership, and to the outstanding students at Malabar.



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UH Ashland introduces new technology to enhance patient care

Photos and Article By Traci Little

ASHLAND — Patients at University Hospitals Ashland are experiencing a new level of care thanks to the implementation of advanced technologies designed to improve safety, efficiency and the overall patient experience.

From smarter monitoring systems to tools that allow caregivers to spend more time at the bedside, hospital leaders say these innovations are helping transform how care is delivered locally.

Among the newest additions are Rover mobile devices, which allow nurses and care teams to communicate in real time, access patient information instantly, and respond more quickly to patient needs.

“These tools help streamline communication and reduce delays,” a hospital representative shared. “When our teams are connected and have immediate access to information, it directly benefits the patient.”

Another key advancement is Masimo monitoring technology, which provides continuous, non-invasive tracking of vital signs. This allows clinicians to detect subtle changes in a patient’s condition earlier, helping prevent complications and improve outcomes.

For patients requiring additional support with mobility, UH Ashland has also introduced Hercules beds—specialized hospital beds designed to assist staff in safely repositioning patients. The technology helps reduce strain on caregivers while improving comfort and safety for patients.

In addition, the hospital has implemented enhancements within its

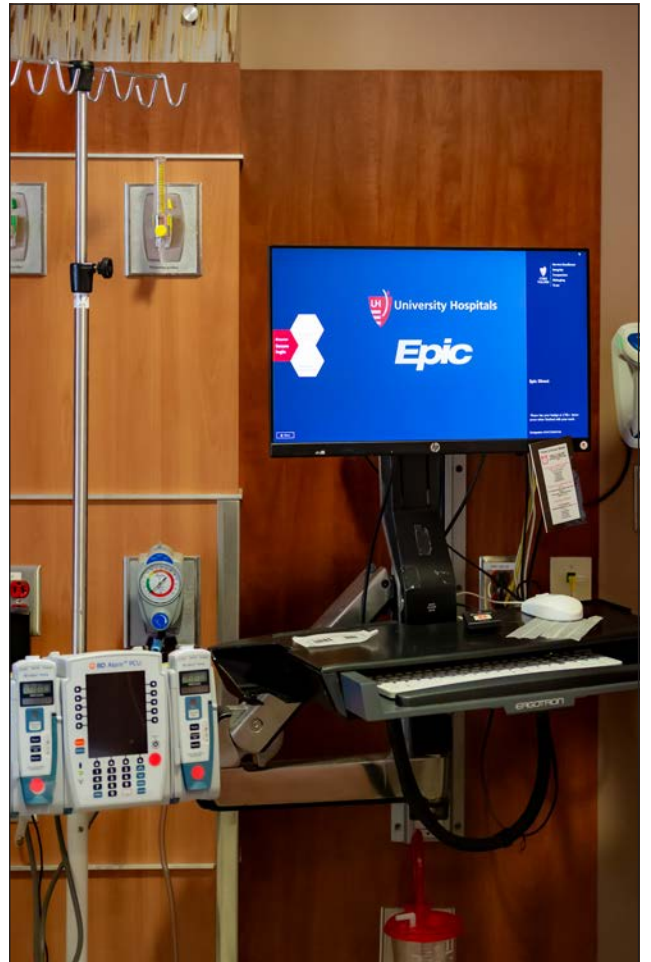
electronic medical record system, including EPIC transfusion technology, which adds an extra layer of accuracy and safety during blood transfusions through barcode verification and real-time tracking.

One of the most forward-thinking tools now being used is ambient listening technology. This system securely captures and organizes clinical conversations during patient visits, allowing providers to spend less time documenting and more time focused on direct patient interaction.

“As technology and AI continue to evolve and become part of healthcare operations, they serve as an adjunct to the caregiver. They may provide a more efficient process, improve outcomes, and add value, but they cannot—and should not—replace the human connection, the smile, and the human touch that make our Samaritan teams the incredible care teams of today and tomorrow,” said Lisa Bushong, CNO, MSN, RN, NE-BC.

Together, these advancements reflect UH Ashland’s ongoing commitment to delivering high-quality, patient-centered care while supporting the well-being of its medical staff.

As healthcare continues to be ever changing, innovative tools like these ensure that patients in Ashland and surrounding communities can receive advanced care close to home. UH Ashland’s investment in technology exemplifies a continued commitment to innovation, safety and patient-centered care. By equipping its teams with tools that enhance—not replace—the human connection, the hospital is helping shape the future of healthcare right here in Ashland.



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Gorman Nature Center re-implements prescribed fires

By Rachael Glover

Natural Resources Manager, Richland County Park District

If you've visited Gorman Nature Center within the past week, you may have noticed a striking change in the landscape. What looks like the charred remains of the prairie is actually the successful re-implementation of one of nature's most vital management tools: prescribed fire.

It is important to note that a prescribed fire is very different from a wildfire. Prescribed burns are less destructive because they are highly controlled, slow-moving and lower intensity fires. Controlled fire is a common tool used in forestry and grassland management to prevent uncontrolled wildfires. By carefully removing dry "kindling" from the forest and prairie floor, the risk of dangerous wildfires is reduced.

While it may seem counterintuitive, fire is a natural part of the prairie's life cycle. Think of it as a biological reset button. While regular mowing removes last year's growth and keeps woody trees at bay, fire provides a little extra management and ecological value by reducing woody and invasive species. Fire removes existing vegetation, including the layers of old plant mulch that forms a dense mat and reduces the growth of other species.

Ash deposition recycles nutrients in the ecosystem, supporting the germination and growth of new species.

Without fire, even native grasses and forbs can get too aggressive and crowd out delicate native prairie wildflowers. Fire creates a level playing field, ensuring no single species dominates the landscape. By removing the dead matted vegetation, fire opens up the soil to sunlight, allowing under-represented native species to germinate.

Without plant diversity, it is difficult for a prairie to support wildlife. Fire ensures that the entire ecosystem can thrive.

The recovery process has been remarkably quick. Within hours of the smoke clearing, local birds returned to the site, foraging for insects revealed by the cleared vegetation. Within a few days, the first signs of green, specifically Big Bluestem and Rattlesnake Master, began poking through the blackened earth.

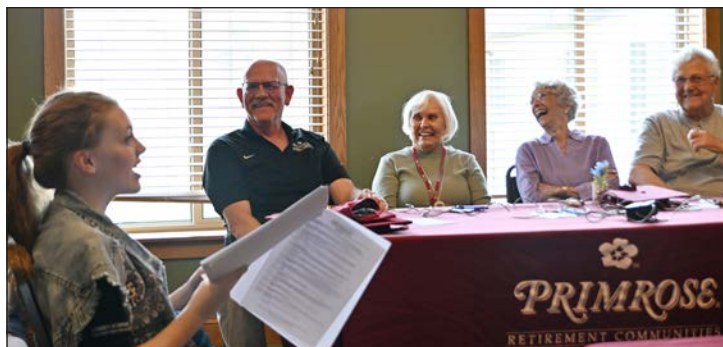
To celebrate this new stage of prairie regeneration, our Oaks and Acorns preschool group joined the restoration this week. These young stewards helped re-introduce plant diversity by creating and launching seed bombs into the open prairie.

Moving forward, park staff and volunteers will continue to manage the health of the prairie through regular hand-weeding, supplemental seeding, strategic mowing, and periodic fire. We invite you to visit often this spring and summer to witness the exciting, colorful changes that follow a prescribed fire.

We are so grateful for our partners at ONAPA, Ashland County Park District, Crawford Park District, and the City of Gahanna for their assistance with the fires. We appreciate the data and photography provided by Sydney George, Jeff Hoffer, Steve Upperman, and OSU students.



Photo By Jeff Hoffer



THE ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL Academic Challenge team traveled to Primrose Retirement Home for the annual Dan "The Trivia Man" Memorial academic challenge tournament on Tuesday, April 14. The students and residents had a great time meeting each other in a friendly trivia match with lots of fun and prizes in the spirit of Dan Henige. This year, Ontario redeemed itself by winning three matches and the residents won one.

Auditions announced for "Hamlet"

The Mansfield Shakespeare Company is excited to announce auditions for its upcoming Shakespeare in the Park production of *Hamlet*. Directed by Joseph Fahey, this iconic tragedy explores revenge, morality, grief and the search for truth in one of Shakespeare's most powerful and enduring works.

Auditions will be held Sunday, May 3 and Monday, May 4, from 6-9 pm, in Founders Auditorium at the OSU Mansfield Campus (Park in Lot 2).

This production of *Hamlet* will bring Shakespeare's legendary tragedy to life for Mansfield audiences in a bold and engaging outdoor setting. The play follows Prince Hamlet as he grapples with betrayal, revenge, and the mysteries of life and death after the ghost of his father reveals a terrible secret.

The production is seeking actors aged 13 and above, with some exceptions made for younger actors when appropriate. Whether you are a seasoned performer or trying Shakespeare for the first time, all are encouraged to audition.

Auditioners will perform readings from the script. It is recommended that actors read or re-read the script in advance of their audition. Prepared monologues from any of Shakespeare's plays are welcome but are not required.

For character descriptions, visit <https://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/hamlet/characters/>

For synopses and analysis, visit <https://www.folger.edu/explore/shakespeares-works/hamlet/>

Rehearsals begin the week of May 3 and performance dates are June 19, 20 and 21 in Mansfield's South Park.

This is a non-union, non-compensated opportunity to participate in a dynamic community production of one of the greatest plays ever written. Those unable to attend in-person auditions can email mansfieldshakespearecompany@gmail.com to request specifications for a video audition.



THE ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL 2026 Prom Royal Court members are Emma Henderson, Payne Schwartz, Mackenzie Goodlin, Brady Baumgard, Tessa Crum, Jace Young, Sasha Bulakovski, Julian McGinty, Addisyn Pittman, Grantham Trumpower, Morgan Pearson, Anson Yan, Emma Fagan, Ashton Drozda, Brinlee Kreger, Braden Rowe, Hattie Yugovich, Rylan Baker, Gracy Miller and Aiden Ohl. Students will attend prom on May 2.

MCS teacher earns prestigious National Fellowship

By Traci Little

MANSFIELD — A Mansfield Christian School educator is receiving national recognition for her dedication to teaching American history and government.

Sophie Mowry, a secondary history teacher at Mansfield Christian School, has been selected as an Ohio recipient of the prestigious James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation Fellowship — widely considered the nation’s highest honor in constitutional history and government for secondary educators.

The highly competitive fellowship is awarded to just one educator per state or territory each year. It supports teachers pursuing a master’s degree focused on the U.S. Constitution while providing immersive, graduate-level experiences centered on America’s founding principles.

“I am absolutely thrilled to join this community,” Mowry shared. “This has been a goal of mine for a long time. I am so blessed to experience this opportunity and bring what I learn back to the classroom.”

As part of the fellowship, Mowry will attend a four-week Summer Institute in Washington, D.C., in 2027, where she will earn graduate credit through Georgetown University.

The program includes in-depth study of the Constitution and founding documents, along with educational excursions to historic sites such as Mount Vernon, Philadelphia, and museums throughout the nation’s capital.

Mowry is currently completing her Master’s degree in American History and Government through Ashland University, where she also earned her undergraduate degree in Secondary Social Studies Education in 2022.

During her time as a student, she participated in the university’s Ashbrook Scholar Program and even worked within the Master of Arts in American History and Government (MAHG) program — an experience that first introduced her to the fellowship.

“Ironically enough, I actually worked for the MAHG program as an undergraduate, and that is where I first learned about the Madison Fellowship and knew I would apply later when I went back for my master’s,” she said.

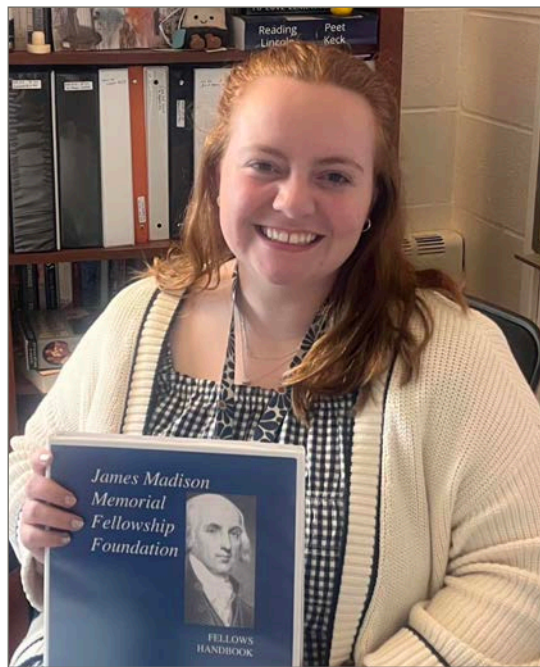
Now nearing completion of her graduate studies, Mowry said she is already considering continuing her education with a second master’s degree in political science.

Her connection to Mansfield Christian runs even deeper. A graduate of the school herself, Mowry returned to teach and is now finishing her fourth year in education and third year at Mansfield Christian, where she also coaches softball and serves as a class advisor.

“I am so grateful to have been given the opportunity to come back and teach,” she said. “I am so excited for this opportunity and the experiences I will have next summer that I will be able to bring back to the classroom.”

School officials say the honor reflects both Mowry’s commitment to academic excellence and her passion for investing in her students.

The fellowship not only recognizes outstanding educators but also aims to strengthen the teaching of the Constitution across the country — something Mowry is eager to carry forward in her classroom for years to come.



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Local Investors advance approximately \$10M plan to transform hotel into boutique

A locally led investment group has advanced plans to redevelop the former Holiday Inn in downtown Mansfield into an upscale boutique hotel, with a proposed Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) agreement and development partnership set for consideration by Mansfield City Council. The project represents a significant step toward revitalizing a long-standing community asset through a combination of private investment and public partnership.

The project, led by Jay Goyal, Snehal Patel, and local partners, represents a planned investment of close to \$10 million and aims to transform the property into an upscale boutique hotel designed to serve both business and leisure travelers as well as the local population.

The redevelopment, currently planned under the working name The Hearth & Forge Hotel, will include a comprehensive renovation of the entire property, with improvements to both the interior and exterior. Plans include the reopening of the banquet and event center, along with upgrades to guest rooms, conference spaces, pool area, bar, and restaurant, positioning the hotel as a high-quality destination in downtown Mansfield. Initial design and pre-construction work are already underway.

“We see this as more than a hotel project,” said Jay Goyal. “It’s an opportunity to contribute to the continued momentum of downtown Mansfield and create a place that reflects the strength and potential of our community. This property was once a vibrant community hub, and we intend to bring that back. For me personally, this hotel was a big part of one of the most important moments in my life - my wedding. Today, it no longer serves that role. Our goal is to restore it to that standard and beyond — to create a true gathering place for Mansfield, an indoor town square.”

“This is a rare opportunity to take an underutilized asset and reposition it in a way that meets the needs of today’s market while still serving the local community,” said Snehal Patel. “We’re approaching this with a long-term mindset — focused on quality, execution, and creating something that the community can take pride in.”

The development team is working in close collaboration with The Renaissance Theatre, with plans to create a complementary relationship between the hotel and the Renaissance’s programming and events. The partnership is intended to enhance the visitor experience while strengthening downtown’s role as a regional destination for arts, culture, and gatherings.

The project is backed by a coalition of local investors including Mark and Beth DeLaney; David and Leslie Eichinger; the Gorman Family; Rich and Gayle Gorman Green; Chuck Hahn; John and Maura Siegenthaler; and Rick and Carol Taylor, reflecting strong community support and alignment around the vision for downtown revitalization.

“This is the kind of project that brings people together,” said Gayle Gorman Green. “It’s more than a building — it’s creating a place for connection, events, and community life in downtown Mansfield.”

“We’ve all seen what this property once meant to Mansfield,” said David Eichinger. “There’s a real sense of excitement around bringing it back in a way that reflects where the community is today and where it’s going, while also addressing the need for a high-quality hotel in the downtown core.”

In addition, the team is in discussions with respected local restaurateur Dan Lew regarding a potential food and beverage concept within the property.

“Mansfield has a strong and growing dining scene, and we want to be additive to that,” said Dan Lew. “The goal is to create a concept that complements the hotel and supports the broader downtown ecosystem — something that works alongside existing restaurants and gives people another reason to spend time in the district. I’m especially excited about the opportunity to create jobs, partner with local vendors, support culinary incubation, and help attract additional visitors through events, conventions, and conferences.”

The proposed development agreement outlines a public-private partnership structure. The property remains under contract, and the transaction has not yet closed.

The development is contingent upon final approvals, including action by Mansfield City Council.



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL held a clap-out for students competing in the FCCLA State Competition in Columbus at the fairgrounds last week. Kennedy Sapp competed in Event Management, earning first place and Aadi Kightlinger competed in Interpersonal Communication, earning third place. OMS student Rachelle Rehberg earned third place in Interview. The Chapter Award was also earned for service learning hours. FCCLA stands for Family, Career and Community Leaders of America.

Lexington Farmers Market announces 2026 season launch

The Lexington Farmers Market has announced its 2026 season beginning Wednesday, May 20, and running weekly through Oct. 14. The market will be held every Wednesday from 4–7 pm in the Lexington–Shelby Elks Lodge #2554 and Common Ground Training parking lots, 320 E. Main St., Lexington.

The 2026 season will feature a mix of local farmers, growers, bakers, makers and artisans offering fresh produce, cottage foods, handmade goods and unique small-business products. The market’s mission is to support local agriculture, strengthen community connections and provide residents with access to fresh, locally sourced options.

“We’re thrilled to launch the farmers market this year,” said organizers Caitlin Duncan, owner of Wild Acre in Lexington and Erin Slusher, owner of Petal & Stem Greenhouse and Nursery in Mansfield. “We hope to create an atmosphere that feels like the best of Lexington — friendly, welcoming, and full of local pride. We are curating vendors that showcase local food producers and growers, and expanding access to locally sourced foods, products, and services from in and around the community.”

The Lexington–Shelby Elks Lodge #2554 and Common Ground Training are sponsoring the market by providing parking lot space for vendors and shoppers, as well as access to porta potties during market hours.

For information contact lexohiofarmersmarket@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/lexingtonohiofarmersmarket or Instagram at [lexingtonohiofarmersmarket](https://www.instagram.com/lexingtonohiofarmersmarket).

Foundation's new scholarship fund celebrates Judge Jeff Payton

A scholarship fund has been established through the Richland County Foundation to honor and preserve the legacy of Judge Jeff Payton — a man who dedicated his life to fairness and integrity, in the city he proudly called home.

The Judge Jeff Payton Scholarship Fund serves as a lasting tribute to his unwavering commitment to justice, community and expanding opportunities for others.

This fund is dedicated to supporting minority students as they pursue higher education, whether through a traditional four-year college or a career technical education center. It is a fitting tribute to a leader who believed in the potential of every person he met.

Affectionately known as "Mansfield's Son," the judge's roots were here. He graduated from Malabar High School and returned home following college. He wore many hats during his legal career, from earning an internship with the United States Department of Justice to serving as the first director of the Richland County Legal Services Association. His tenure as a juvenile court magistrate further highlighted his dedication to the community's youth.

His journey was marked by a series of historic milestones including when he began his legal career in 1975 after earning his law degree from John Marshall College of Law at Cleveland State University. In 1987, he made history as the first black elected official in Richland County and he retired in 2009 following a distinguished tenure as a municipal court judge.

Beyond the bench, the judge was a man of the people. He was a staunch ally of local unions, whose support was instrumental in his elections. He was famous for his ability to connect with residents from every neighborhood, possessed a legendary memory for names, and made it his mission to learn the "story" of everyone who crossed his path.

"He saw everybody as a person. He lived a powerful life and remained one of Mansfield's brightest stars," said his wife, Carol Payton.

The Foundation invites everyone to donate to this fund. By contributing to this fund, you are directly investing in the next generation of local leaders, ensuring that the judge's commitment to fairness and opportunity lives on.

To donate visit the Richland County Foundation website, click donate, and use the search function for the Judge Jeff Payton Scholarship Fund. Checks can be made out to the Richland County Foundation with the judge's name in the memo line. Appreciated stock or an IRA can be used to make a gift. For more information call 419-525-3020.



RICHLAND PUBLIC HEALTH, in partnership with Mansfield City Parks, held a grand opening of King Street Park during a special ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday, April 21, at 778 King St., Mansfield. The park improvements project reflects a collaborative effort between Mansfield City Parks and Richland Public Health to create safe, inclusive and health-promoting outdoor spaces.



MRCPL hosting National Library Week bestseller book bundle giveaway

The Mansfield Richland County Public Library (MRCPL) is celebrating National Library Week (NLW), April 19–25. NLW is a time to celebrate the many ways libraries bring people together, spark imagination, and support lifelong learning.

In celebration of NLW, the library invites the community to stop in any of its locations or a Bookmobile stop and check out at least one physical item. For each item checked out, customers will be entered to win a MRCPL Bestseller Book Bundle. Three random winners will be drawn on Monday, April 27 and notified via phone.

Whether you're a longtime patron, a new neighbor or haven't visited in a while, now is the perfect time to explore all the Library has to offer. The Library's eight branch locations are spaces to create, play, improve, grow, explore, connect, and find belonging.

First celebrated in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries of all types across the country each April.

For branch hours, locations and Bookmobile stops visit mrcpl.org.

27th Annual Minority Health Fair returns to Mansfield

The NAACP #3190 will present the 27th Annual Minority Health Fair Saturday, April 25, from 10:30 am to 2 pm at Providence Baptist Church, 112 W. 6th St., Mansfield.

This year's event is chaired by Danielle Saffold, a community leader, mother of three, CASA volunteer and member of the Order of the Eastern Star. Danielle holds a degree in Bioscience and has worked at The Timken Company for 27 years. She has also been an active member of the NAACP for the past four years.

Driven by her belief that "health is wealth," Saffold brings a holistic vision to this year's fair. Recognizing the growing impact of stress on individuals and families, she has worked to ensure the event addresses all aspects of well-being: physical, mental, financial and emotional.

"This health fair is about more than checkups, it's about empowering people with the knowledge and resources they need to live healthier, more balanced lives," said Saffold.

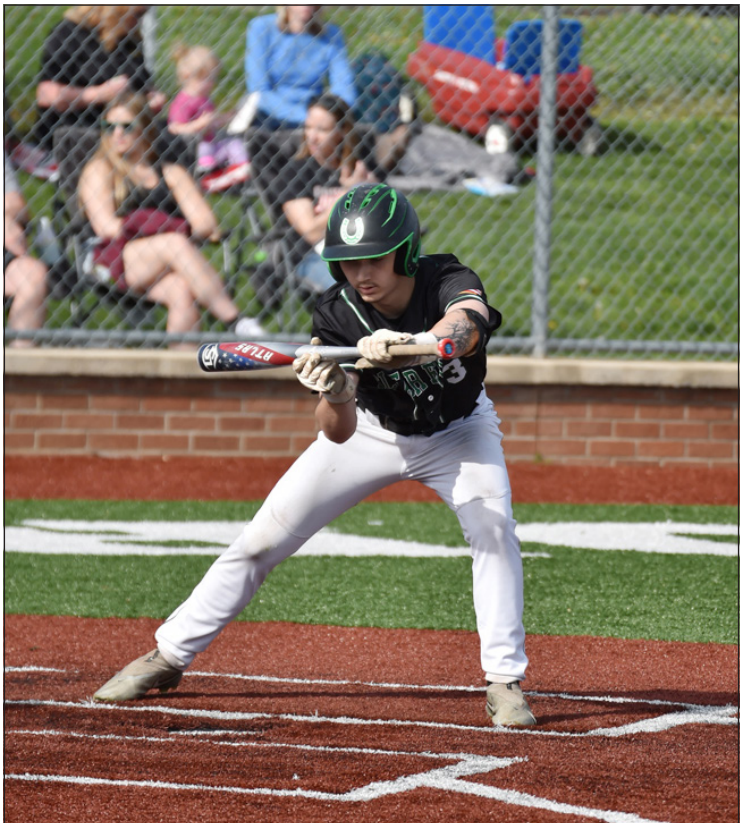
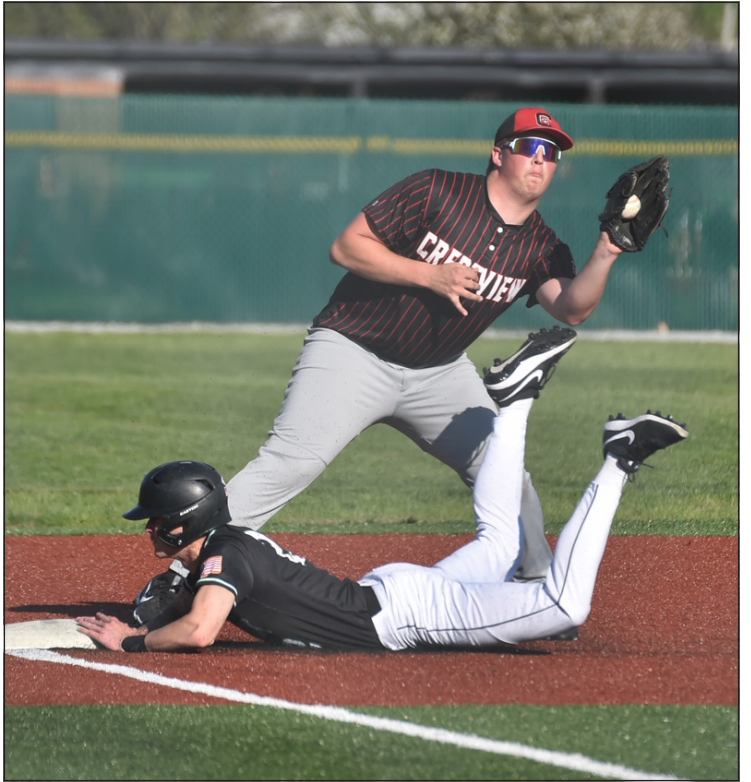
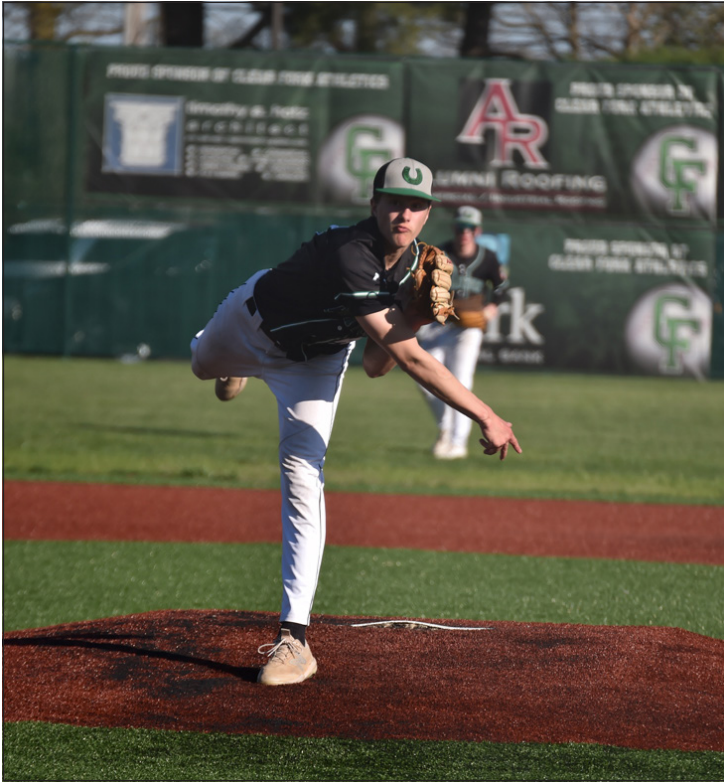
The event will feature 25 vendors providing health information, screenings and community resources. Featured speakers are Jennifer Miller of the Alzheimer's Association, speaking on brain health; Joy Miller of Living and Leaving with Joy, discussing the role of a doula; and Judge Steve McKinley, presenting on the Family Stability Initiative.

Guests will be served a light lunch and have the opportunity to participate in a gift card drawing.

For more information contact NAACP #3190.

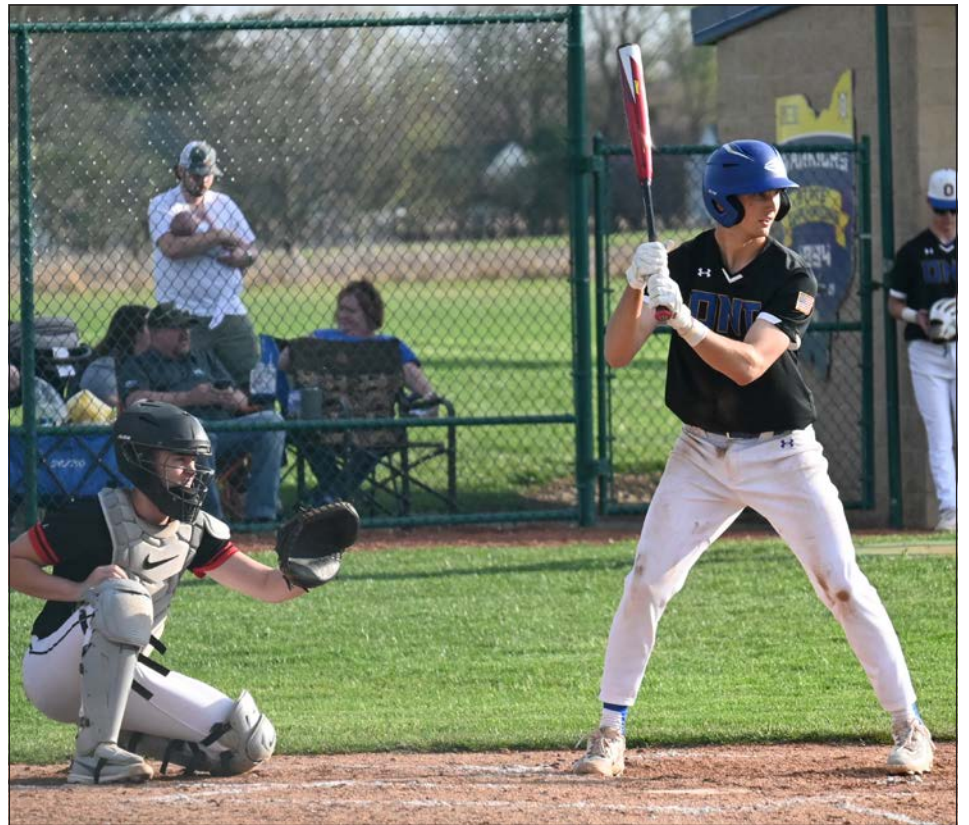
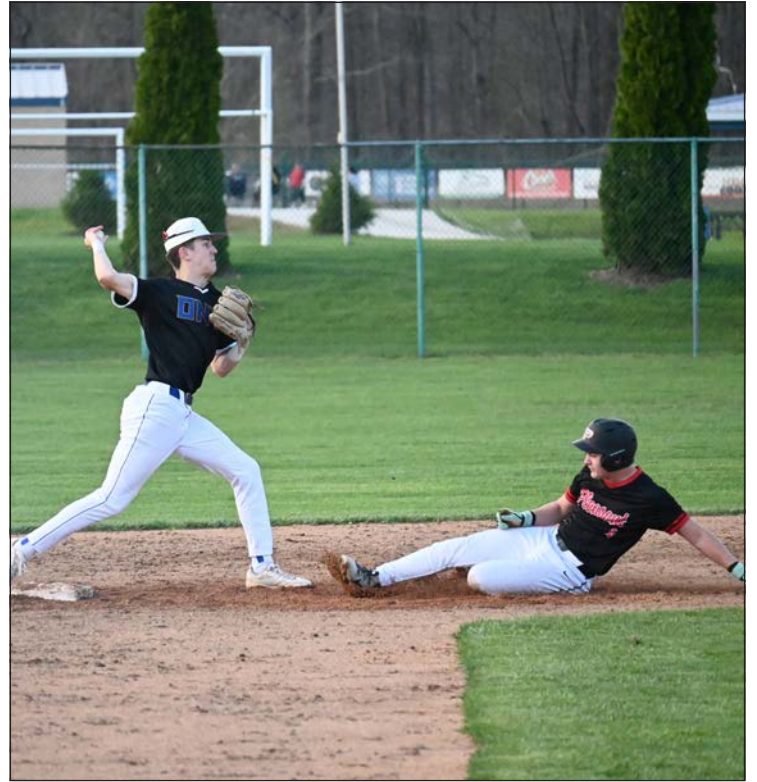
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS CRESTVIEW VARSITY BASEBALL · APRIL 17
COLTS WIN 12-5 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS PLEASANT VARSITY BASEBALL · APRIL 14
WARRIORS WIN 15-3



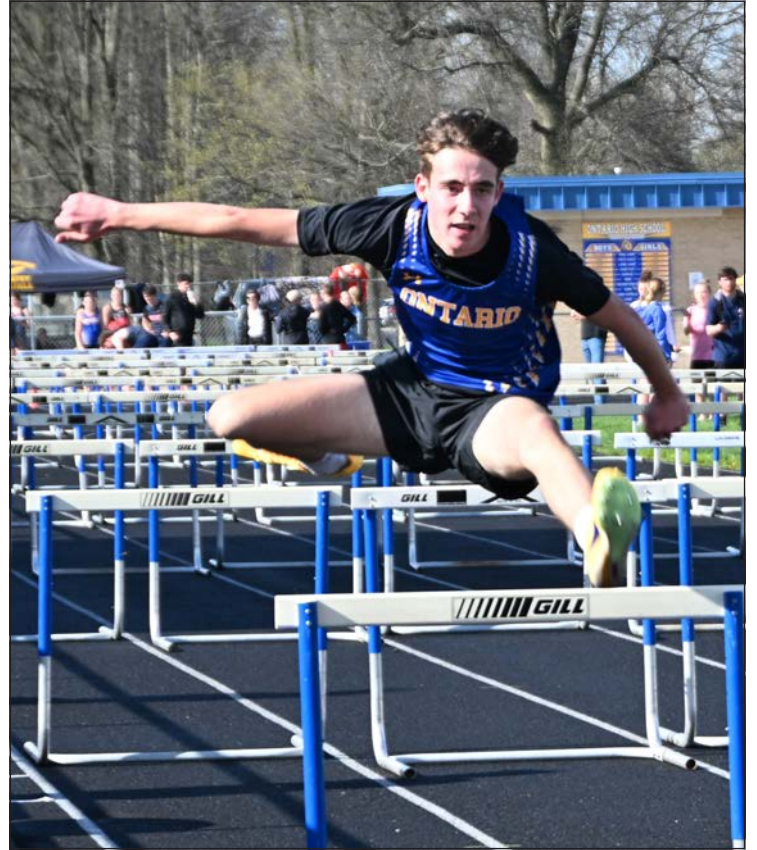
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO TRACK AND FIELD AT CRESTLINE · APRIL 12



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD • APRIL 16



Red Cross offers safety tips amid stretch of fatal home fires

Since January, Red Cross volunteers and staff in the central and southern Ohio region have responded to 33 individual incidents of fire involving 47 fatalities. What's particularly concerning is that a disturbing number of fatal fires continues into springtime, beyond the usual peak fire season of autumn/winter.

The Red Cross offers Integrated Condolence Care (ICC) services to those suffering from the unthinkable loss of a loved one as a result of a disaster. Our (ICC) teams consist of trained volunteers who provide casework and recovery planning, disaster spiritual care, disaster mental health and disaster health services. These contacts are offered concurrently as needed to minimize intrusion and maximize care, comfort and support. Additional financial assistance may be offered to help offset the costs related to the death for which they likely had not budgeted.

Residents can protect against home fatalities fires by installing and testing smoke alarms and by practicing a fire escape plan.

The Red Cross responds to about 65,000 disasters a year, the majority of which are home fires. Home fires claim seven lives a day in the United States. Working smoke alarms can cut the risk of dying in a home fire by half, because the sooner an alarm alerts you to a fire, the sooner you can get out.

Smoke alarms should be tested monthly. During testing, teach children what a smoke alarm sounds like and talk about fire safety and what to do in an emergency. Smoke alarms should be less than ten years old because the sensor becomes less sensitive over time. Check the manufacturer's date on the smoke alarm to determine its age. Smoke alarms should be mounted on each level of your home and placed in all bedrooms and sleeping areas.

Those who don't have working smoke alarms, or have old alarms that need to be replaced, call the smoke alarm installation hotline at 1-844-207-4509 to schedule an installation appointment.

Partnering with local fire departments around the region, the Red Cross, through our Home Fire Campaign, provides free state-of-the-art smoke alarms and installation, develops home fire escape plans and provides other disaster preparedness information.

Since the inception of the Red Cross Home Fire Campaign, more than 105,000 FREE smoke alarms have been installed in over 44,000 homes in the central and southern Ohio region. There are more than 100 documented cases of lives saved here in 47 counties because residents, experiencing a home fire, were alerted by a Red Cross installed smoke alarm, or because they received and followed home fire escape plans developed by Red Cross volunteers.

When making an escape plan it should include at least two ways to exit every room of the home and an agreed upon meeting spot at a safe distance away from the home.

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE

The following is a succinct summary of the legislation adopted by the Council of the City of Ontario, at their regular meeting held on April 15, 2026.

The complete text of this Ordinance may be viewed and copies obtained at the Office of the Clerk of Council, Ontario Municipal Building, 555 Stumbo Road, Ontario, Ohio, during regular business hours.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-05 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PERFORM SPOT LOCATIONS OF PAVEMENT REPAIR ON SR 314 IN THE CITY OF ONTARIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-09 – AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PUBLIC ALLEY BETWEEN PARCELS 0386018105000, 038601810800, AND 0386025604000 TO ALEC SCHMITZ AKA ALEC J. SCHMITZ, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, AS AMENDED.

Abbey Beaver
Asst. Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 4-23, 30, '26) 31L

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Separate sealed bids for the 2026 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 10:00 am, local time Friday, May 8, 2026, 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 ex-

ecuted 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 14, 2026.

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 4-23, 30, 2026) 65L

Railroad will honor armed forces in May

The historic East Broad Top Railroad in Pennsylvania will honor the men and women of the armed forces and the role of American railroads during war.

Guests will travel back in time through three eras of America's war history via displays and reenactments showcasing camps from the Civil War, WWI and WWII, equipment, tank, trucks and jeeps. All displays are free while steam train and/shop tour tickets must be purchased.

The "EBT Goes to War" experience will feature an operating WWII-era M3A1 Stuart tank named "Lady Lois," built at AC&F in Berwick, PA. The tank will be displayed and operate at Colgate Grove, the private destination of the steam train ride.

Dates for the event are May 16 and 17 with train rides at 10:30 am/12 pm/1:30 pm/3 pm* and 5:30pm* (*Saturday only). The steam engine train ride lasts one hour while the 5:30 dinner train lasts three hours. The train is wheelchair accessible. Reservations are strongly recommended.

Guests can ride in enclosed coach railroad cars, open-air cars with a sunshade roof, a "cinder car" with outward-facing bench seats positioned directly behind the locomotive or even a caboose. Prices start at \$25 for adults and \$15 for children. The dinner train tickets are \$50.

For information and reservation access visit info@eastbroadtop.com or call 814-447-3285.

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