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Community gathers for Memorial Day

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Despite early morning misty skies, residents gathered Monday morning for the 2026 Mansfield Memorial Day Parade to honor the men and women who gave their lives in service to the nation.

The annual parade stepped off at 10 am from Reba Avenue and made its way through Mansfield before concluding at the Veterans Honor Grounds at Mansfield Cemetery, where a Memorial Day service followed. Families, veterans, and community members lined the parade route waving American flags and showing support for those who served.

Veterans organizations, first responders, marching bands, civic groups and local leaders participated in the procession, helping create a patriotic atmosphere focused on remembrance and gratitude. The parade traveled north on Main Street and east on Chestnut Street before entering the cemetery grounds.

Memorial Day weekend observances also included the placing of flags on veterans' graves at Mansfield Cemetery and the Avenue of Flags Ceremony at Mansfield Memorial Park. Both events were coordinated by the Richland County Veterans Service Commission and supported by volunteers from across the community.

Throughout the weekend, volunteers and attendees reflected on the meaning of Memorial Day and the importance of remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

(More Photos on Page 8)

Ontario recognizes theater department program seniors

The Ontario Local School Board of Education began their May 12 meeting with three presentations.

Condrea Mason provided an informative update on the food service department and the work being done there. She went over meal participation and student trends, USDA/ODE compliance updates and future plans for farm-to-table.

Several seniors were recognized with Ontario Challenge Coins for their important role in relaunching the theater department. These included Payne Schwartz, Emma Henderson, Rylan Baker, Mason Egner, Alexis Swank and Maddie Saltzgeber.

"I wanted to make sure these students were recognized before they leave us after graduation," said Ontario Superintendent Keith Strickler. "I am extremely appreciative of the dedication and talent of these students, as well as the leadership of Mr. King, Mrs. Mason and our entire music department for bringing such excellence back to this important program."

Mr. Sager showcased several end-of-the-year engineering projects completed by Ontario High School students.

Anthony Harkness was hired as a middle school intervention specialist for next year. He recently completed his student teaching experience at Stingel and his salary will be \$45,712.

Jillian Shaffer was hired as a Stingel secretary at \$39,175.

Extracurricular/supplemental staff personnel hired for the 2026-'27 school year. Academic Challenge advisors include Roger Nikiforow, high school, \$1,290; James Willis, middle school, \$1,032; and Tonya Winningham, Stingel, \$1,290.

Choir directors include Emily Gerak, Stingel Elementary, \$938; Mallorey Guillereault, middle school, \$1,173; and Mallorey Guillereault, high school, \$3,401.

Class advisors are Melissa Fittante, senior, \$1,290; Kayla Cain, senior, \$1,032; Jodi Cooper-Wentz, junior, \$1,290; Matt Wentz, junior, \$1,032; Megan Whisler, sophomore, \$704; and Megan Whisler, freshman, \$704.

Other extracurricular/supplemental staff personnel include Lisa Secrist, Stingel Spelling Bee, \$1,615; Michelle Laymon, middle school, \$1,173; Kelly Ritchey, Middle School Power of the Pen, \$1,615; district newsletter, Jodi Cooper-Wentz, \$1,615; Grace Reven, marching band director, \$7,314; Mallorey Guillereault, assistant band director, \$3,401; David Wolbert, Percussion, \$2,451; Key Club Advisor, Megan Whisler, \$704; and National Honor Society, Kelly Conn, \$970.

School news reporting will be handled by Kim Bell, middle school, \$300; Jodi Cooper-Wentz, high school, \$300; and Tonya Winningham, Stingel, \$600.

After School Club staff will be Lisa Secrist, STEM, \$1,351; Tonya Winningham, LEGO, \$1,615; James Watkins, outdoors, \$1,351; Logan Leitzy, outdoors, \$1,351; Logan Leitzy, video news, \$1,351; James Willis, coding, \$1,351; Amanda vanHarlingen, outdoors, \$1,290; Michelle Laymon, STEM, \$1,173; and Allison Haver, outreach, \$1,173.

Student council advisors will be Jodi Cooper-Wentz, high school, half, \$1,225.50; Megan Whisler, high school, half, \$1,225.50; Aubrey Cardwell, middle school, half, \$807.50; Wendy Wilging, middle school, half, \$807.50.

Webmasters will be Jodi Cooper-Wentz, high school, \$1,783; Aubrey Cardwell, middle school, \$1,783; and Tyler Gates, Stingel Elementary, \$2,064. Yearbook advisors will be Jim Buker, high school, half, \$2,338; Jodi Cooper-Wentz, high school, half; and \$2,338 Karen Kaufman, middle school, \$1,783.

All certificated staff, renhill aides and/or classified staff (with Student Monitor Permit) will be permitted to work as Thursday/Friday After School Supervisors with Thursday being \$50 per day and Friday at \$75 per day.

(Continued on Page 4)



Photo by Damon Callis

Day Trippin' With Damon – Lowe-Volk Nature Park in Crestline offers catch and release fishing, visits with animals and activity areas for children. The 38-acres also includes two miles of trails. For information visit <https://www.crawfordparkdistrict.org/lowe-volk-park.html>

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THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —

The Mandalorian has been a big hit on Disney+ having completed a few well received seasons. Now, the show comes to the big screen in *The Mandalorian and Grogu*.

The *Mandalorian* (Pedro Pascal) and his sidekick Grogu are fighting battles for the New Republic trying to keep the fledgling Empire at bay.

Under the watchful eye of Ward (Sigourney Weaver), the bounty hunter is tasked with returning Jabba's the Hutt's kidnapped son Rotta (voiced by Jeremy Allen White) to his family. Through many adventures and misfires, the *Mandalorian* and Grogu go from galaxy to galaxy to fulfill their duties.

The main issue with this movie is it feels like a two hour episode of the television show. There are a few engaging fight

scenes but the other ones don't go on long enough to really get into. Grogu is cute and funny as always though it feels like the *Mandalorian* needs another human sidekick to play off of.

The character of Rotta is predominately featured though I did not care very much about his character. The plot for most of the movie does not sustain a feature film length and there is a bit of filler.

As a lifelong *Star Wars* fan I was looking forward to this movie, though *The Mandalorian and Grogu* suffers from an uninteresting plot, lots of filler moments and a movie that would be more at home on Disney+ than the big screen.



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News Briefs

Springfield Township Fire Department will host its first annual open house and pancake breakfast on Saturday, May 30, from 8:30–10:30 am.

The event will be held at Station #1, 3700 Park Avenue West, Ontario and is brought to the community with the assistance of the Ontario Lions Club. Those attending can meet the trustees, fiscal officer, zoning inspector, fire chief, assistant fire chief and road department crew.

Free breakfast and handouts are available for residents and kids.

Church of the Cross UMC, 236 Otterbein Dr., Lexington, will hold a rummage sale Friday, June 19, from 8 am to 3 pm. Cost is a free will donation which support local missions.

The church will also host a Wonderful Wednesdays Program for Families and Children June 10, 17 and 24 and July 1, at Lexington Community Park's Pavillion/Community Building on Plymouth St.

The events will run from 11:30 am to 1 pm and free lunch will be provided. There will be music, crafts and activities. Register at churchofthecrosslex.com.

Community Bible Church's youth group will host a rummage sale Thursday, June 18 and Friday, June 19, from 9 am to 3 pm. The church is located at 1043 Springmill St., Mansfield.

The Madison Ram Marching Band Alumni Football Game will be held Friday, Aug. 28, at the Madison Comprehensive High School and Stadium, 600 Esley Ln., Mansfield.

Practices are held Monday, Aug. 24, from 2:30–4:30 pm and Thursday, Aug. 27, from 6–8 pm, in the high school band room.

Musicians should report to the band room at 5 pm on the night of the event. The game begins at 7 pm.

To sign-up visit <https://forms.gle/Ez93fK7YLoXQvVsk6>. Sign ups close on Friday, July 24.

For information email kfanning@mlsd.net or lmann@mlsd.net for the band and mpoland@mlsd.net for Ramettes.

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, June 26 and 27. Acceptable items include steel and aluminum cans, crushed milk jugs, detergent bottles, plastic bottles with number 1 or 2 on the bottom, broken down cardboard, all papers included with the newspaper but no other magazines or paper. Please remove caps from bottles and rinse all containers well.

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

The next meal will be June 24, with a speaker from the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging.

The group will also meet at 11 am on Wednesday, June 3 at Olive Garden in Ontario. For information visit the Facebook page at Lexington Area Senior Citizens (LASC). Dues are \$10 per year.

The City of Ontario's 2026 Concerts in the Park will be held at the band shell in Marshall Park at 6 pm.

Concerts are scheduled for June 9, Canyon Echoes; June 26, I Told You; July 7, Conne; July 21, Oolong Gurus; Aug. 11, Soul Town; and Aug. 25, Red Ball Jets.

This is event is free to attend. Lawn chairs and blankets are encouraged.

All Souls Unitarian Universalist of Bellville, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Rev. Dr. Elaine Strawn on Sunday, May 31, at 10:30 am. The subject will be "True to Our Values" For information visit www.allsoulsuohio.org.

A special meeting of the Ontario Board of Education will be held in the Ontario High School Library, 467 Shelby-Ontario Rd., Ontario on Wednesday, June 17, at 6 pm. This will held to discuss the development of tax policy with Rockmill Financial.

The Franklin Township Fire Department Ice Cream Social will be held Saturday, June 13, at Crestview Elementary School, 1575 St. Rt. 96, Ashland, from 4–7 pm.

The event will feature homemade ice cream, food, bounce house inflatables, Touch-A-Truck with multiple agencies, kids' activities and more.

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.

State Route 61 between Stiving Road and Jayne Avenue, south of the City of Shelby, closed Wednesday, May 27 for bridge repairs.

The detour route will be SR 61 south to SR 96/39 west (Main St) to SR 39 west to SR 598 south to U.S. 30 east to SR 61 north and reverse. Estimated completion is set for Wednesday, June 17.

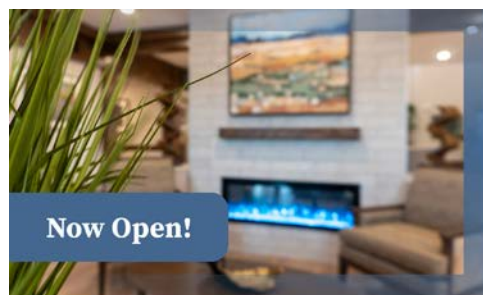
The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. will host a free Senior Spring Extravaganza on Friday, May 29, from 10 am to 2 pm, at the Mid-Ohio Education Center, 890 W. 4th St., Mansfield.

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 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.

The City of Ontario meeting schedule for June has been released. Meetings are held at 55 Stumbo Rd., Ontario. The schedule includes June 3, 5:30 pm, parks committee, 6:15pm, caucus and 7 pm council; June 10, 1 pm, civil service commission and 4 pm, planning commission; and June 17, 5 pm, economic development committee of the whole, meeting at the new construction on Clare Road; 6:15 pm caucus; and 7 pm, council.

A Light Up the Valley 5K and one mile fun run will be held Saturday, June 27 in Bellville. The family friendly 5K will begin at 8:30 am. To register visit www.tinyurl.com/LUTV5K



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•Ontario recognizes theater department program seniors

(Continued from front Page)

Homebound Instruction/ Tutors/Extended School Year positions will be available to all certified staff at \$22.50 hourly.

The board approved the resignation of Mark Ward, Stingel Play-ground Aide, effective at the end of the 2025-'26 school year.

Participation in Federal Grants (IDEA, IDEA-B, Title I-A, Title II-A, Title IV-A) for the 2026-'27 grant year was authorized.

The North Central Ohio Educational Service Center 2026-'27 Ser-vice Agreement, and the 2026-'27 NCOESC certificated substitute list, including updates, were approved.

The classified substitute list for the next school year was approved and Madison Vipperman ws hired as a Wilson Dyslexia Practitioner/ Title 1 Reading Tutor for the next school year at \$50 per hour for 3.5 hours per day.

The Ontario High School seniors were approved for graduation with the Class of 2026, pending completion of all local and state re-quirements.

The Ontario Local Schools Off-School Grounds Solicitations Calen-dar for the next school year was given approval.

A list of items for disposal and a \$1,000 stipend to Kevin Click for conducting two youth football camps were both approved.

A Memorandum of Understanding was approved to switch EMIS services from NEONet to partnership with Madison.

Donations for Ontario Middle School Teacher Appreciation came from Farhana Uni, \$20; Amy Hiner, \$100; Shawna Heydinger \$20; Terra Bonte, \$100; and Local Project Pro LLC, \$100.

Donations for Ontario High School Teacher Appreciation came from Amy Hiner, \$100; Landon Breitingner \$200; Delaney Moritz \$50; anonymous, \$200; Ellie Dawson, \$30; Jerod and Lee Them, \$150; and Heather Rollins, \$50.

Donations were also accepted from NCOECS for the Adaptive Track and Field Day. They donated 400 water bottles. Other dona-tions came from Tim and Wendy Henige, \$250 for the Academic Challenge Team; Alan Waterhouse, \$5,000 for the Marcia Baer Schol-arship Fund; and Brian Gates Insurance Agency, \$300 for teacher ap-preciation.

The board approved extended time, not to exceed one day for Pre-school Play Based Assessments (SPED), for Emily Bogner, speech; Ally Morrison, psychologist; Kennedie Spencer, preschool interven-tion specialist; and Mackenzie Reese, general education teacher.

Six teachers were approved to be paid two days, at their current per diem rate, for conducting kindergarten screenings and assess-ments prior to the start of the 2026-'27 school year. These are Ash-ley Baker, Hallee Brown, Amanda vanHarlingen, Ashley Scott, Julie Shreffler and Lindsey Thompson.

Robin Owen was approved for five extended days to advise the high school FCCLA organization for the 2026-'27 school year.

An appropriation adjustment to align the appropriations with the February forecast was made to the general fund for \$42,369.

The Ontario Summer Swim Program with Mike Ruhe and Wendy Ruhe as the volunteer supervisors was given approval. The summer swim program is under the authority of the high school swim coach.

Facility requests were approved and open enrollment numbers were discussed.

Mr. Friend and Mr. Baxter gave an Ontario Athletic Council Report and Mrs. Hiner and Mrs. Sapp gave a Community Engagement Re-port. The next regular meeting will be held on June 9.

Church Directory

All Souls Unitarian Universalist

25 Church St., Bellville
419-886-3497 • www.allsoulsuuohio.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@stjohnmansfield.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

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Memorial Arrangements

Robert A. Carter

Robert Allen Carter, 90, of Mansfield, Ohio, passed away on May 20, 2026. Born on December 29, 1935, in Mansfield to Robert Harvey Carter and Norma (Russell) Carter, Bob grew up in Lexington, where his curiosity, humor, and deep love of local history first took root.

He spent his early childhood living in the house next to the entrance of Lexington Cemetery. He rode his bike through the cemetery paths, played amongst the gravestones, talked with the workers, and learned to see stories everywhere. Now he returns home to rest beside the place where his story began, marked by a millstone in honor of the gristmills he so loved and spent a lifetime researching.

Bob's early years were filled with adventure — helping on his grandparents' farm and learning life lessons from the colorful characters who shaped his youth. He often said his love of history began by listening to old-timers tell stories while he tagged along with his grandfather. Those stories would eventually inspire a lifelong passion for preserving the past.

A 1954 graduate of Lexington High School, Bob worked for Carter Electric, the family business, where he became a skilled electrician and later an estimator. His work took him to schools, hospitals, churches, and public buildings across Ohio — many of which he later watched be torn down, joking that it was the surest sign he was getting old.

On August 31, 1957, Bob married Jackie, the love of his life, after what he called "the most expensive cheeseburgers I ever bought." Together they built a family, a home, and a partnership that lasted more than six decades. They raised five children and Bob often said that if your kids turn out alright, nothing else in life really matters.

Bob was a devoted father, Scout leader, volunteer firefighter, and community historian. He volunteered for Habitat for Humanity and after retirement, delivered meals to the elderly and infirm. His thirteen years as Scoutmaster of Troop 131 became legendary, especially after he helped the troop build a full-scale working cannon for the Bicentennial celebrations. He led boys on adventures across Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Canada, and beyond — teaching them resilience, responsibility, and the joy of a good story.

His passion for local history led him to write several books, including *Tales of the Old-Timers: The History of Lexington*, *The Mansfield Riots of 1900*, and *Tom Lyons*. He was a long-time contributor of historical narratives to both the *Tribune-Courier* and the *Mansfield News Journal*. His research preserved countless stories that would otherwise have been lost, and his work remains a treasured part of Richland County's historical record and North Central Ohio Industrial Museum.

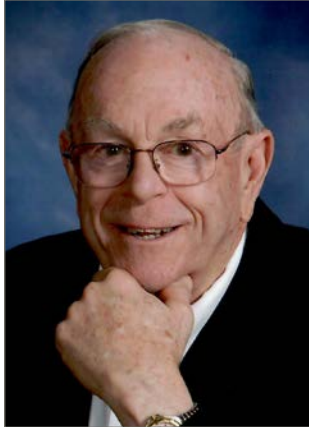
Bob's life was also shaped by his love of railroads, his years of hard work as an electrician, his dedication to the Lexington Church of the Cross, and his deep affection for the many dogs, friends, and neighbors who filled his days. He never lost his sense of humor, his curiosity, or his appreciation for a good story — especially one with a little mischief.

He was preceded in death by his brother, David "Pete" Carter. He is survived by his beloved wife, Jacqueline (Treisch) Carter; children Jeffrey (Laura) Carter, George "Greg" (Jennifer) Carter, Ann Carter, Amy (Tom) Hess, and Robert (Jennifer) Carter; brother Richard "Dick" Carter; sister Mary Carter Raines; grandchildren Allie, Jacob, Avery, Austin, Carter, Mitchell, Sophia, Henry, Amelia, Melody; great-grandchildren Ella June, Thomas, Liam; and a lifetime of friends, Scouts, and neighbors who will forever remember his generosity, wit, and the way he made history come alive.

Funeral services celebrating the life of Robert A. "Bob" Carter, will begin at 11 am, Saturday May 30, 2026, at Lexington Church of the Cross, 236 Otterbein Drive, Lexington, Ohio 44904 where his visitation will be from 10-11 am. Burial will follow in Lexington Cemetery.

The Lexington Avenue Snyder Funeral Home is honored to assist the Carter family with services. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Lexington Church of the Cross.

Bob often reflected on his great-great-grandfather, who came to Ohio in 1815 to clear land and build a home for his family. "He made it," Bob wrote. "I had it easy." But those who knew him would say that Bob built something just as enduring — a legacy of family, community, and stories that will be told for generations.



Ontario community sale will benefit local family in need of wheelchair van

An Ontario community is coming together this weekend to support a local family in need of a wheelchair-accessible van through a large fundraising community sale.

Friends, family members and church supporters have donated hundreds of items for the sale, with organizers saying 100 percent of the proceeds will go toward helping purchase the much needed wheelchair vehicle for Jeff and Joni Davis and their family.

The event is being described as a "pickers market" featuring a wide variety of items including vintage and antique pieces, jewelry, indoor and outdoor furniture, household items, children's outdoor play equipment, seasonal décor, and more. Organizers also say some items are brand new with tags still attached.

One featured item includes a nearly new power wheelchair that will be sold along with extra batteries and accessories.

The fundraiser sale will take place Saturday, May 30, and Sunday, May 31, from 9 am to 4 pm at 409 Sherwood Ct., in Ontario, located off Rosewood Drive. Organizers ask that there be no early sales.

Community members are encouraged to attend, shop and help support the family while finding bargains along the way.



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Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Linda Sue Leisure, May 15

Dennis Ray Mills, May 16

Darlene Fedina William, May 18

Betty Marie Nelson, May 19

John Stuart Taylor, May 19

Elizabeth Mae Connolly, May 20

Jerilee Jamison, May 20

Allen Eugene Kisling, May 21

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586 Park Avenue East,
OH-430, Mansfield

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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

**The Cafe at
Arbor Creek**
Gardens and Floral
3052 Mabree Rd, Ontario

Honey B Express
Coffee Trailer
567-303-5248

**Pronto Pizza
and Coffee**
914 Ashland Rd, Mansfield
419-589-7777

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Janet Heydinger, RN of Galion Hospital



Aimee McKenzie, BSN, RN

Avita Health System recognizes nurses with DAISY Awards

Three registered nurses at Avita Health System were honored with The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses® during Nurses Week. The award is part of The DAISY Foundation's mission to recognize nurses for the compassionate care they provide to patients and families every day.

This year's DAISY Award recipients are Janet Heydinger, RN of Galion Hospital; Andrea "Andi" Evans, RN of Bucyrus Hospital; and Andrea Roberts, RN of Ontario Hospital.

Janet Heydinger works in the Emergency Department at Galion Hospital. She was nominated by a patient and her husband for the care and compassion she showed during a miscarriage.

"My wife was in the ER...she was having a hard time. Janet...was able to sympathize with her. She showed that she cared and didn't mind the number of times we asked questions," the patient's husband shared.

The patient added, "There are no words to describe how grateful I am for her care. She made the whole ordeal much easier for me to handle."

Andrea "Andi" Evans is a shift supervisor in the Emergency Department at Bucyrus Hospital. She was nominated by a colleague for the care she provided to a fellow team member in crisis.

According to the nominator, Andi noticed a coworker struggling and took the time to step in, listen, and support her. "Her actions went far beyond her duties as a nurse...Andi's vigilance and kindness may have saved a life, and she exemplifies what nursing is all about."

Andrea Roberts works in the Intensive Care Unit at Ontario Hospital. She was nominated by a colleague for her commitment to patient-centered care.

"When I spoke with Andrea, she immediately looked into how to better coordinate lab draws so the patient wouldn't have to be stuck multiple times," the nominator shared. "Putting patient care above all... that is amazing patient care, and we all appreciate her more than words can explain."

In addition to the individual honorees, several special DAISY recognitions were presented.

Aimee McKenzie, BSN, RN, Director of the Education and Training Center at Avita Health System, received the DAISY Educator Award. One team member shared, "Because of Aimee's leadership, nurses and students are better prepared, teams are stronger, and the ripple effect is felt where it matters most...in the care our patients receive."

The DAISY Team Award was presented to the Intensive Care Unit staff at Ontario Hospital. The team was nominated by families in recognition of the care and support they provided during difficult moments. "My family and I want to express our sincere gratitude... In one of the hardest moments of our lives, you cared for my brother with dignity and cared for us with compassion," one family member wrote.

Sarah Konves, BSN, RN, Nurse Manager of the Medical-Surgical Unit and ICU at Ontario Hospital, received the DAISY Nurse Leader Award. She was nominated for her advocacy and leadership in supporting an employee through a critical health situation.

The DAISY Foundation is a not-for-profit organization established in memory of J. Patrick Barnes, who died at age 33 from complications of an autoimmune disease. The compassionate care he and his family received from nurses inspired this recognition program to thank nurses who make a lasting difference in the lives of others.

"We love this time of year when we can pause to recognize our nurses," said Kathy Durlinger, Chief Nursing Officer at Avita Health System. "These nurses and nurse leaders make a lasting impact on patients and families and help guide the next generation of caregivers. They embody our mission to provide quality care to the communities we serve."

Nurses at Avita Health System can be nominated by patients, families, and colleagues by filling out a form online at avitahealth.org/daisy-award or at any of Avita's hospital locations. Award recipients are selected anonymously by a committee of employees and community members based on specific criteria.

Awards are presented throughout the year at celebrations attended by colleagues, patients, and visitors. Honorees receive a certificate, a DAISY Award pin, and a hand-carved sculpture called "A Healer's Touch."



Andrea "Andi" Evans, RN of Bucyrus Hospital



Andrea Roberts, RN of Ontario Hospital

Mansfield Memorial Day 2026



Photos By Traci Little

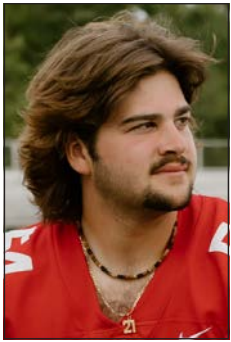
Mansfield Memorial Day 2026



Photos By Traci Little



Shelby High School Graduates



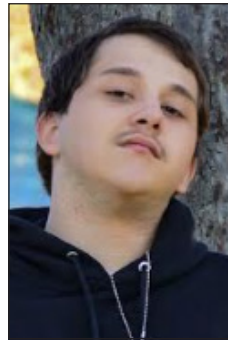
**Quinton
Albert**



**Xavior
Alleyne**



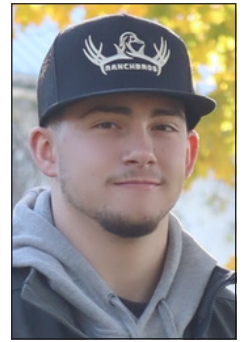
**Owen
Amburgey**



**Joseph
Amerio**



**Dalton
Bailey**



**Trevor
Baker**



**Madelyn
Beck**



**Autumn
Benavides**



**Kyleigh
Biglin**



**Kristen
Black**



**Jadyn
Bowman**



**Sherridan
Browning**



**Ava
Burge**



**Olivia
Byrd**



**Addisyn
Carver**



**Aniya
Clark**



**Serenity
Cline**



**Elizabeth
Cole**

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HIRING!**

Happy Graduation

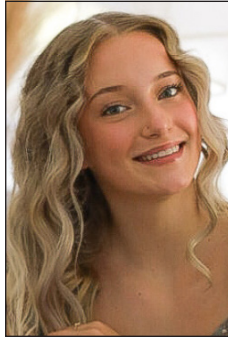
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**Cyrus
Collins**



**Avery
Combs**



**Maddie
Crose**



**Anthony
Dawson**



**Brayden
Devito**



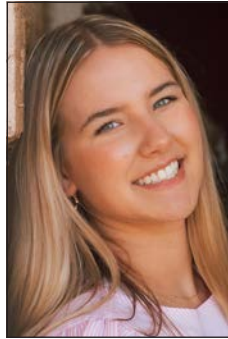
**Cole
Dorsey**



**Kaydence
Driscoll**



**Adrianne
Erwin**



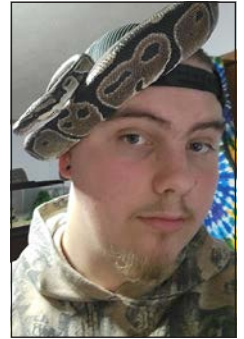
**Ruthie
Faith**



**Brock
Fisher**



**Kaden
Fletcher**



**Eathan
Floro**



**Landon
Foltz**



**Kayonna
Franklin**



**Reece
Friend**



**Alivia
Fritz**



**Sharon
Frost**



**Grace
Fuller**





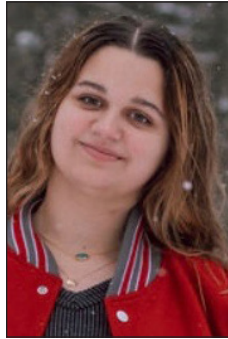
Shelby High School Graduates



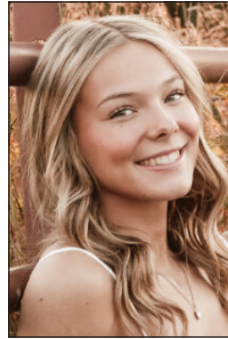
Ángel
García Ochoa



Brody
Gray



Gabriella
Griefenstine



Sammi
Grove



Sam
Gwirtz



Madison
Henkel



Mia
Hubert



Aiden
Johnston



Liana
Jones



Natalie
Kennard



Carter
Kessler



Kassie
Kleman



Samantha
Knipp



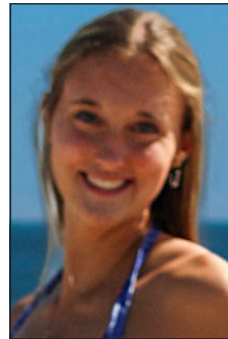
Natalie
Korbas



Abbagail
Laferty



Avery
Lambert



Alexandra
Lay



Natalie
Lindsey



Congratulations!
SHELBY CLASS OF 2026

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Shelby High School Graduates



**Lacey
McCoy**



**Adalie
Miller**



**Gavin
Miller**



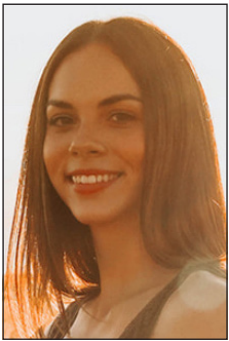
**Madeline
Miller**



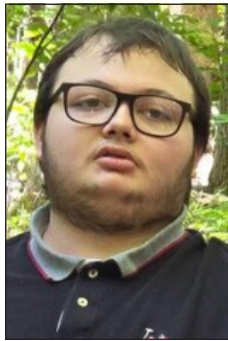
**Leland
Milligan**



**Brock
Mills**



**Jocelyn
Moore**



**Kenneth
Moore**



**Faith
Neff**



**Ryleigh
Newsome**



**Blake
Nixon**



**Hunter
Oney**



**Alex
Palmer**



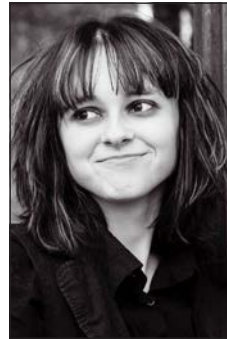
**Molly
Parks**



**Sophie
Penn**



**Makenzi
Perkins**



**Ren
Pritchard**



**Casey
Redden**

*Congratulations Graduates!
Best of Luck on
Your Next Adventure!*



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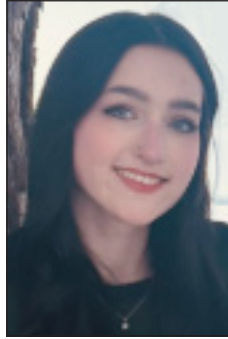
OhioEyeAssociates.com



Shelby High School Graduates



**Taylor
Reese**



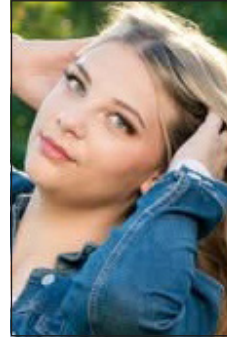
**Brooklyn
Rowlett**



**Brice
Sampsel**



**Brayden
Schartiger**



**Jaylen
Scott**



**Carter
Seitz**



**Keegan
Sensmeier**



**Kolten
Sexton**



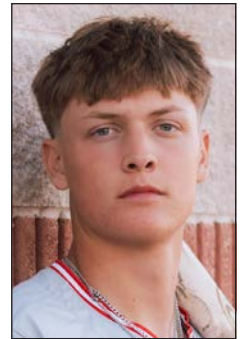
**Mylee
Shackle**



**Lilee
Shifflet**



**Ethan
Showman**



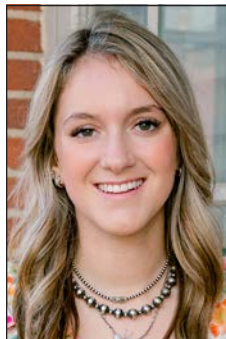
**Travis
Slone**



**Riley
Smith**



**Savannah
Smith**



**Abby
Snyder**



**Kaleb
Stairs**



**Katie
Taylor**



**Aaron
Tenore**



CONGRATULATIONS
GRADUATES!



BUCKEYE SUPERSTORE



Shelby High School Graduates



**Lucian
Thull**



**Princess
Timko**



**Kinsley
Van Dine**



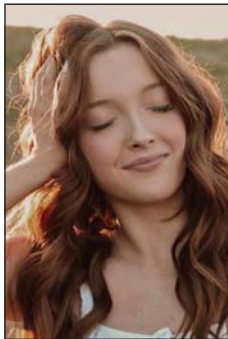
**Lauren
Vogt**



**Sophia
Wagner**



**Aydan
Watson**



**Kaydence
Weir**



**Ryan
Wertz**

Not Pictured:

Carson Bailey
Roman Barker
Keanu Brooks
Noah Bryant
Jason Casto
Emma Clark
Maddilynn Conklin
Tristen Dawson
Caleb Duncan
Tanner Ernst
Earl Ferguson
Lise Ferret-Cuvellier
Jess Fisher
Anissa Gosser

Drake Griffith
Gavin Hainline
Jamison Keiser
Sam Keller
Jason Knapp
Sean Koehler
Skye Koniski-Estep
Wolf Koniski-Estep
Lillian McClain
Ethan Metzger
Jason Montgomery
Elise Mullins
Edward Mulvane
Lane Perry
River Peyton
Lucas Potts

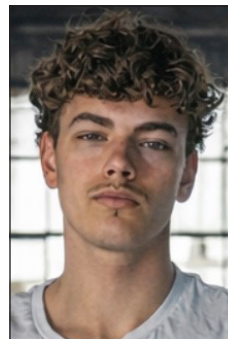
Kaden Price
Corbin Pryor
Brynlee Rank
Alyssa Reiman
Mykah Salyer
Christian Santiz
Marissa Schwartz
Blake Stone
Parker Sutter
Kayden Voshel
Robert Wagner
Hanna Walton
Brennan Weaver
Madison Webb
Eithan Willison
Ethan Young



**Kyler
Williams**



**Erica
Winkle**



**Josh
Woodhull**



**Alexis
Young**



**Jackson
Young**

Foreign Exchange Students:

Lise Ferret-Cuvellier
Sara Guiso



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Shelby High School Graduates

Class of 2026 celebrated during Senior Signing Day event

The Shelby High School Senior Signing Day for the Class of 2026 was held Monday, May 11, in the high school gym.

At the signing, students show their commitment to colleges and universities, certification programs, military enlistment and employment.

Parents, family and students were welcomed by Shelby High School Counselor Bobbi Weaver and the senior address was given by Olivia Byrd.

Mr. John Gies, Shelby High School Principal, gave the address and closing remarks. He was recognized for his upcoming retirement after 35 years in education, including 24 years at Shelby and 20 years as Shelby High School Principal.

Foreign exchange students Lise Ferret-Cuvellier, France; and Sara Guiso, Italy, were recognized. They will return to their home countries to complete their high school graduation requirements.

Signing at the event were:

Employment/Apprenticeship

Trevor Baker, Walnut Hill Feeds
 Sherridan Browning, Adena
 Eathan Floro, Yeager Home Improvement
 Gabi Griefenstine, Eagle Crusher
 Jamison Keiser, Ohio Valley Manufacturing
 Jason Knapp, Richland County Jail
 Gavin Miller, Lamb Builders
 Brock Mills, Hensley's Towing and Garage
 Kenneth Moore, The Mansfield YMCA
 Elise Mullins, Salon Loft 419
 Ed Mulvane, Shelby City Schools
 Alex Palme, River Run Solution
 Corbin Pryor, Best Buy
 Aaron Tenore, Monica Enterprises
 Kayden Voshel, Carton Service
 Kyler Williams, Phileo Properties
 Eithan Willison, Cosam Construction
 Josh Woodhull, RG Smith Company

Certification Program

Maddie Miller, APEX Academy
 Abby Snyder, Tiffin Academy of Hair Design
 Aydan Watson, Pioneer Medical Assisting Program

Enlistment

Anthony Dawson, Air Force
 Cole Dorsey, Air National Guard
 Jocelyn Moore, Air National Guard
 Travis Slone, Air National Guard
 Kaydence Weir, Army Reserve
 Jackson Young, Army

Military Academy

Brayden DeVito, United States Air Force Academy

Enrollment

Ashland University: Kayonna Franklin, Samantha Grove, Sam Gwirtz and Katie Taylor

Bowling Green State University-Firelands: Sophia Wagner

Bowling Green State University: Brock Fisher, Lucas Potts, Lilee Shifflet and Lauren Vogt

Coastal Carolina University: Madison Henkel

Eastern Michigan University: Olivia Byrd

Heidelberg University: Kaleb Stairs

John Carroll University: Sophie Penn

Kent State University: Maddie Crose

Kenyon College: Alexandra Lay

Malone University: Blake Nixon

Marietta College: Avery Lambert

Miami University: Avery Combs and Kinsley Van Dine

North Central State College: Addisyn Carver, Aniya Clark, Ruthie Faith, Adalie Miller, Ryleigh Newsome, Lane Perry, Taylor Reese, Savannah Smith and Erica Winkle

Ohio Dominican University: Natalie Kennard

Ohio Northern University: Elizabeth Cole and Tanner Ernst

Ohio University: Mia Hubert, Lillian McClain, Faith Neff and Mylee Shackle

The Ohio State University- ATI: Kassie Kleman

The Ohio State University-Columbus: Lacey McCoy

The Ohio State University- Mansfield: Owen Amburgey, Dalton Bailey, Addy Erwin, Kaden Fletcher, Alivia Fritz, Skye Koniski-Estep, Wolf Koniski-Estep, Abigail Laferty, Molly Parks, Ren Pritchard, Jaylen Scott, Carter Seitz, Hanna Walton, Ryan Wertz and Alexis Young

Quincy University: Keegan Sensmeier

Spring Hill College: Quinton Albert

Stark State College: Kyleigh Biglin

Taylor University: Brayden Scharitger

Tiffin University: Hunter Oney

University of Akron: Sharon Frost, Natalie Korbas and Lucian Thull

University of Findlay: Kaydence Picheco and Princess Timko

Shelby Senior Executive Committee members are Olivia Byrd, Addisyn Carver, Aniya Clark, Elizabeth Cole, Avery Combs, Mia Hubert, Samantha Knipp, Natalie Korbas, Alex Lay, Lacey McCoy, Molly Parks, Sophie Penn, Katie Taylor, Lucian Thull, Princess Timko, Lauren Vogt, Sophie Wagner, Erica Winkle and Lexi Young.

The class flower is a white rose and class colors are red and gray. The class motto is "Sometimes you never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory," Dr. Suess.

CONGRATULATIONS

SHELBY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2026!



ArcelorMittal

Shelby High School Graduates



Olivia Byrd



Signing Photos By Teresa Vore & Jenna Wolford



congrats
Class of 2026

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Shelby High School Graduates



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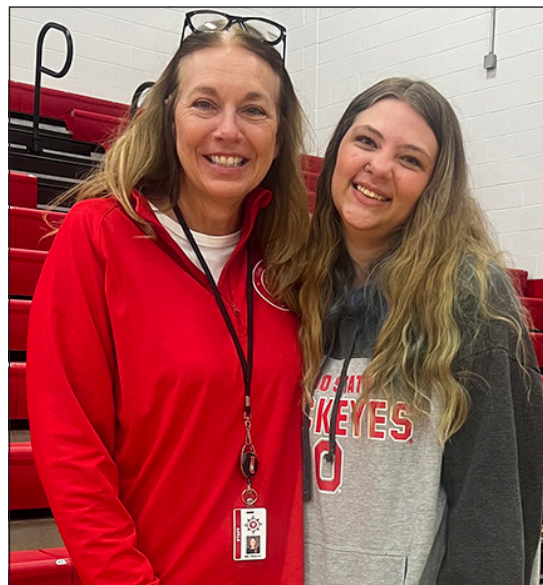
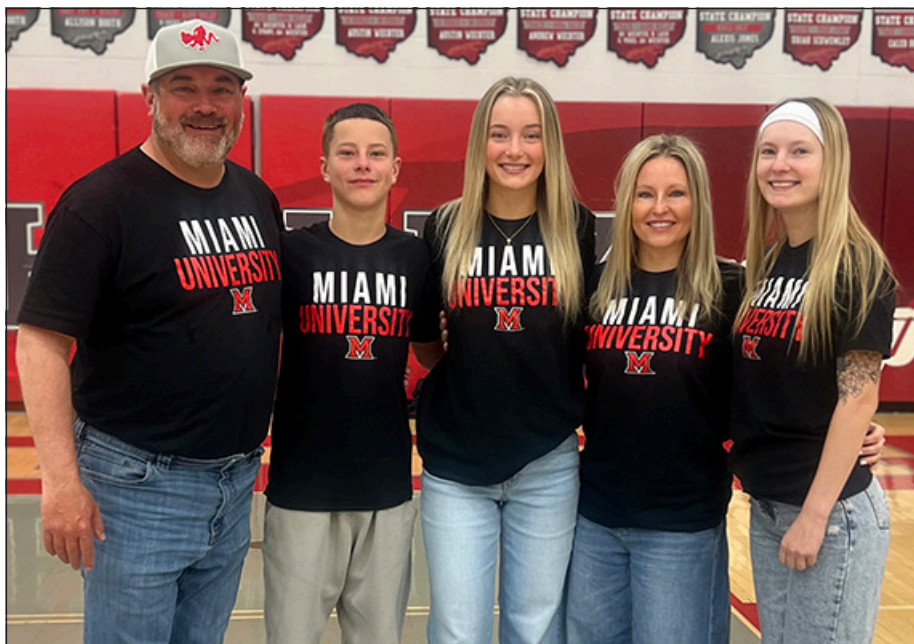
Congrats 2026 Graduates

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Shelby High School Graduates



Congratulations Class of 2026!

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Shelby High School Graduates



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A black graduation cap with a tassel and the year '2026' written on it.

Shelby High School Graduates



**Congratulations,
Shelby Graduates!**

There's still time to become a Buckeye!
go.osu.edu/visitmansfield



Shelby High School Graduates



Congratulations Graduates!



Shelby High School Graduates



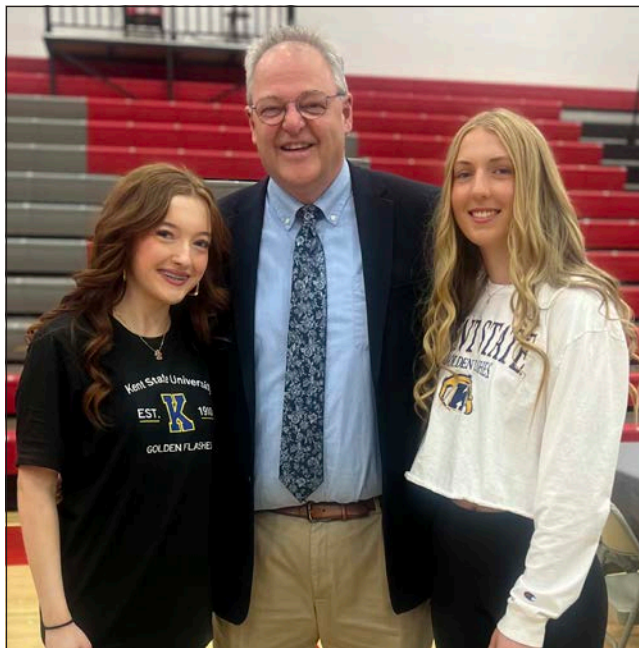
Congratulations!
**Shelby High School
Class of 2026**



From The Shelby City Schools Board of Education, Administration, Faculty & Staff



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~ Inspire children

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2026 Graduates



Ontario holds Adaptive Track and Field Day for local students

Ontario held an Adaptive Track and Field Day on May 8.

Despite the rainy weather, the spirit and excitement could not be dampened. Students with special needs from schools across the area joined together for a day focused on participation, encouragement and fun.

Although activities had to move indoors due to rain, students and staff created a special parade through the halls to cheer on all of the athletes. The building was filled with applause, signs, smiles and school spirit as participants were recognized and celebrated for their hard work and enthusiasm.

Adaptive Track and Field Day continues to be a meaningful event that highlights inclusion, teamwork and the importance of supporting one another.

Students were from Ontario, Lexington, Galion, Northmor and Shelby competed in a 50/100 meter dash, softball throw (shot put), long jump, javelin throw, power kick and hurdles.

There was a dance station and activity area where students could get face paint, draw with sidewalk chalk and play corn hole.

Lexington hires coaches as board prepares for next school year

The Lexington Board of Education met Wednesday, May 20. Student representative Emma Bacquet was in attendance.

The board approved an insurance premium holiday for June 2026 for health and dental insurance.

Resignations, effective at the end of the 2025-'26 school year, were accepted from Lana Hill, general music/band teacher at Eastern Elementary; Addeline Haring, Central Elementary Intervention Specialist, pending Clearfork May Board meeting approval; Bruce Dewey, junior high math, pending Mansfield City School Board approval; and Howard Hoffman, high school art.

Employment was granted for next school year to Lana Hill, high school band teacher; Emily Richter, Central Elementary Intervention Specialist, one-year contract; and Jessica Walters, Central Elementary Intervention Specialist, one-year contract. Salary adjustments were approved for Michelle Ingram and David Hines.

Bruce Dewey resigned as the safety monitor, student council advisor and Robotics Club advisor.

Teaching/extended Service contracts and supplemental activity-contracts were approved for next school year.

Lynn Sherman will retire as the high school/junior high kitchen supervisor; Connie Baker will retire from high school/junior high food service; Carl Carrington will retire as a high school custodian; and Karen Yoder will retire from the high school food service department. Amy Tallman resigned from the high school/junior high food service department.

Kiarra Johnson was hired as a substitute educational aide for the remainder of the current school year. Margaret Jordan was hired as a high school/junior high kitchen supervisor for next school year. Karen Yoder was hired as a high school/junior high food service substitute for next school year.

Contracts were approved for classified employees.

Madison Herrnstein resigned as the eighth grade volleyball coach, effective end of the 2025-'26 school year.

Coaches approved for the 2026-'27 school year are Denise Benson, head cross country; Holly Rice, assistant high school cross country; Tricia Volz, assistant high school cross country; Heidi Roush, junior high cross country; Lisa Pfizenmayer, junior high cross country; Andrew Saris, head varsity football; Jeff Strickler, assistant high school football; Dalton Fix, assistant high school football; Jacob Owens, assistant high school football; John Murray, assistant high school football (half contract); Nate West, assistant high school football (half contract); Aedan Nicol, assistant high school football (half contract); Grayson Murray, freshman football; Mitch Sellers, freshman football; Jacob Brown, junior high football; Luke Rogers, junior high football; Patrick O'Connell, junior high football; Nick Durchik, head varsity boys' golf; Greg Owens, JV boys' golf; Kevin Morrow, head varsity girls' golf; Whitney Eibon, JV girls' golf; Pete Them, head varsity boys' soccer; Mason Wilike, JV boys' soccer; Brian George, volunteer boys' assistant soccer coach; Buck Morton, head varsity girls' soccer; Roxanne Drueschler, JV girls' soccer; Jansen Webster, co-head girls' tennis coach (60%); Hayliegh Tucker, co-head girls' tennis coach (40%); Sam Marcum, JV girls' volleyball; Pam Leasure, varsity/reserve cheer; Melanie Walker, freshman cheer; and John Murray, weight strength: May-July.

The board approved the graduating class of 2026, as presented by high school principal Jamie Masi, pending successful completion of all graduation requirements.

Summer help in the maintenance department will include Chase Nelson and Ben Wiltanger.

Payment was approved to Erin Wolford for \$750 from the Drama Club account for choreography services. Substitute lists were approved as provided by MOESC dated April 11-May 15, 2026.



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Reality Store helps Madison Middle School students explore careers and finances

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Madison Middle School students recently received a hands-on lesson in real-world finances and career exploration during the school's annual Reality Store and Career Day held on May 21. The interactive event gave students the opportunity to experience how education, career choices, salaries, and everyday expenses all work together in adult life.

Throughout the morning, community volunteers shared insight into a variety of career pathways, offering students a glimpse into the skills, education, and experiences connected to professions across the region. Volunteers discussed their personal journeys, daily responsibilities, and the characteristics that can help students succeed in different career fields. The presentations encouraged students to begin thinking about future goals while learning how their strengths and interests can connect to some of their career interests.

In the gymnasium, students participated in the highly engaging "Reality Store" simulation. Each student was assigned a career and monthly income before entering the event. From there, they navigated a series of stations representing common life expenses such as housing, transportation, food, childcare, entertainment, insurance, clothing, and more. As students made financial decisions, volunteers helped them balance their budgets, track expenses in checkbook registers, and understand how debt, loans, and lifestyle choices can impact financial stability.

The simulation quickly became both educational and entertaining as students worked through real-life budgeting challenges. Some learned that higher-paying careers can still come with financial pressures, while others discovered the importance of prioritizing needs over wants. The event also included fun elements, such as officers issuing humorous "citations" for speeding, horseplay, or driving without insurance, adding energy and excitement to the experience.

Students who completed all stations also had the opportunity to visit student-led career tech tables to learn more about programs available through high school career technical education pathways.

The success of the Reality Store and Career Day was made possible through the support of local volunteers who dedicated their time to investing in the future of Madison Middle School students. Their willingness to share knowledge, experiences, and encouragement helped create a memorable day filled with practical life lessons and inspiration for the future.

By combining career exploration with real-world financial decision-making, Madison Middle School continues to provide students with meaningful experiences that help prepare them for life beyond the classroom.



Bellville Memorial Day 2026



Photos By Jeff Hoffer

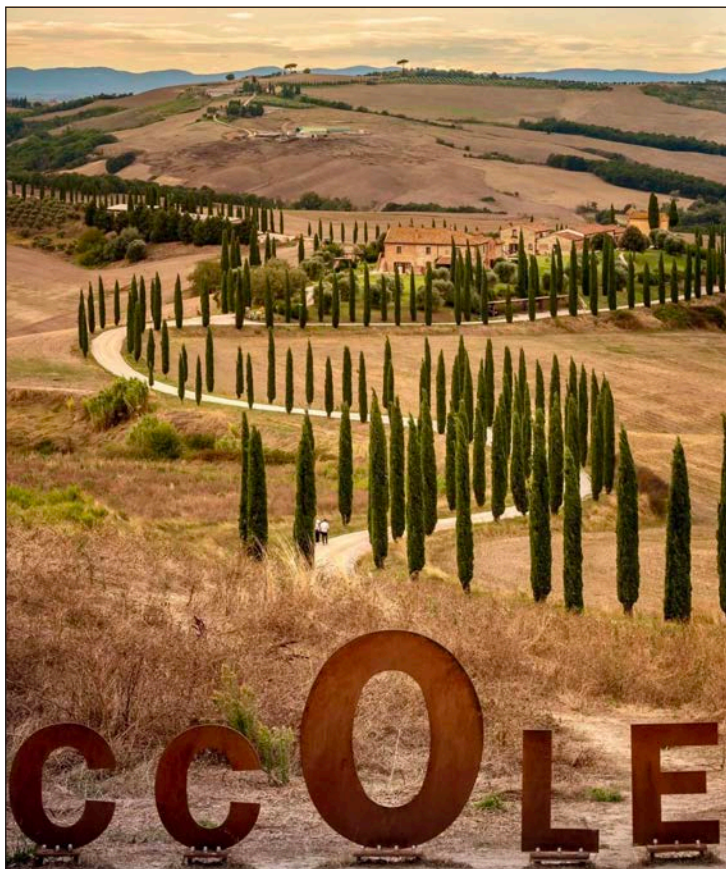


Photo By Mark Shutt

Howard inducted into honors program

Sol Howard of Lexington was inducted into the Baldwin Wallace University Honors Program during the spring 2026 semester. Howard, a graduate of Lexington High School, majoring in music industry, shared the distinction with 55 other high-achieving students. BW Honors Program faculty congratulated students on their entry into the program, and graduating seniors shared their experiences in the Honors Program to encourage them to embrace the distinctive and inspiring learning opportunities that the program provides both inside and outside the classroom. Inductees received a pin and other Honors memorabilia during the ceremony.

The program helps students make the most of their college experience by joining a community of scholars dedicated to academic excellence, leadership development and community engagement. Interdisciplinary and experiential, the program offers unique courses and an enhanced core curriculum. The goal of the program is to engage the whole student, connect theoretical ideas to real-world applications and foster independent thinking.

Local teachers are recipients of Directions Credit Union grants

Directions Credit Union is awarding grants to educators across its field of membership through its Directions Cares for Classrooms program, supporting innovative classroom projects and student success.

This grant cycle, Directions Credit Union received 130 applications from educators seeking funding for creative and impactful initiatives designed to enhance learning experiences.

Directions Cares for Classrooms provides grants of up to \$500 for a wide range of needs, including books, STEM materials, sensory tools, classroom libraries, and basic student essentials, helping teachers bring new ideas and resources into their classrooms.

The grant program is open to K-12 educators who work for public, private or charter schools within the Directions field of membership. Area teachers receiving grants are:

Karmen Peterson, Malabar Intermediate, to help purchase color overlays and reading supports for students with dyslexia, ADHD or reading-related stress. These tools will provide additional support and improve reading accessibility for struggling learners.

Lisa Secrist, Ontario Stingel Elementary, for a variety of STEM materials focused on renewable energy. Students will gain hands-on experience while learning about sustainability and real-world applications of science.

Karen Von Stein, Madison Comprehensive High School, to assist with items needed for independent living skill development, including kitchen tools and everyday resources. These materials will help students build practical life skills for greater independence.

HEAP application deadline is May 31

The Ohio Department of Development and the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. reminds older Ohioans that assistance is available to help with their home energy bills.

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps Ohioans at or below 175% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of up to eight members and 60% of state median income for a household of nine or more members to pay their heating bills.

Applied directly to the customer's utility or bulk fuel bill, the benefit can help manage heating costs. Older Ohioans may go to their local Area Agency on Aging office for help with assembling the required documents and completing their HEAP application. Residents may also visit www.energyhelp.ohio.gov to apply online or to download a copy of the application.

When applying, individuals need to have copies of most recent utility bills, a list of all household members (including birth dates and Social Security numbers), proof of income for the past 30 days for all household members (12 months for certain income types), proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members and proof of disability (if applicable). HEAP benefits are applied to an individual's energy bill after Jan. 1. Applications for the HEAP program must be received by May 31. For more information or assistance with applying for a HEAP benefit, contact the Area Agency on Aging office at 419-524-4144 or 800-860-5799.

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2026 Walk To End Alzheimer's NCO/Mansfield

SAVE THE DATE - NEW LOCATION at the Mansfield Speedway Saturday September 19



Mansfield Speedway: 400 Crall Rd E, Mansfield

Event Details : Check in 9:00 am | Ceremony 10 am / Walk at 10:20 am

Pioneer board approves contracts for instructors

The Pioneer Board of Education met Monday, May 18, and approved an attendance agreement for the 2026-'27 school year.

The board approved medical, dental, vision and life insurance rates. The Crawford County Head Start Interagency Agreement and MOU for the 2026-'27 program year was approved.

Donations were accepted from Mary Medley, Virginia Beach, \$500 for the Art Barr Scholarship Fund; Tom Dornbusch, Mansfield, desk in honor of Amber Mills (Dornbusch); Rachel Arneson, Mansfield, several cosmetology items with an approximate value of \$4207.90 to be used in our cosmetology lab; and Wade Boggs, Mansfield, 11ga x 1-1/2" x 1-1/2" square tubing with an approximate value of \$941.42 to be used in the welding lab.

The board approved student participation in competitive events including the SkillsUSA State Competition in Columbus May 5 and 6. Students attending are Ezra Stevens, Crestview; Laura Quail, Crestline; Natalie Lehnhart, Lexington; and Halle Husty, Lexington.

Students will also attend the FCCLA National Leadership Conference in Washington DC, July 5-11.

Rita Wiening resigned as the CollegeNOW Instructor, effective Oct. 14, 2026. A request for change of retirement date was granted to Marianne Ritchie from May 29 to June 30, 2026.

The board approved a voluntary change of certificated position for Jordan Kiess, FCS Instructor at Bucyrus to FCS Instructor at Colonel Crawford beginning with the 2026-'27 school year.

Mark Seitz, intervention specialist, was approved for one hour of unpaid leave on May 8.

The board approved contracts for Michael Messersmith, Auto Tech instructor, to inspect and maintain the Pioneer vehicles June -July 31, 2026; Skyler Rose, Collision Repair instructor, to maintain and repair Pioneer vehicles Aug. 1, 2026 through July 31, 2027; Caleb Alt, Industrial Diesel instructor, to inspect and maintain the Pioneer vehicles beginning Aug. 1, 2026 through July 31, 2027; Michael Messersmith, Auto Tech instructor, to inspect and maintain the Pioneer vehicles beginning Aug. 1, 2026 to July 31, 2027; Seth Weibel, Culinary Arts Level One instructor, for banquet prep for the 2026-'27 school year; William Dichtl, administrative copy work, up to 250 hours beginning June 2-Aug. 17, 2026; Caleb Alt, three days extended service to attend UNOH Instructor Update Seminar, University of NW Ohio, July 16-18, for professional development/new technology; and Michael Messersmith, three days extended service to attend UNOH Instructor Update Seminar, University of NW Ohio,

July 16-18, for Professional development/new technology.

The board approved stipend contracts of certificated personnel for the FCCLA State Leadership Conference in Columbus, for Kris Bruce, \$50; Gwen Schwemley, \$50; Kelly Jung, \$100; and Maleesa Warner, \$100.

HOSA State Contest, Toledo, stipends were granted to Karrie Davison, \$50 and Michael Millward, \$50.

Google Certification stipends were awarded to Jessica Clark, Level 1, \$110; Robin Hager, Level 1, \$110; Gabe Helbert, Level 1, \$110; and Robin Hager, Level 2, \$110.

A Staff Summer Camp stipend for June 8-11, was approved for Charlie Curren, substitute instructor, \$125/day up to a total of \$500.

Resignations came from Bethany Rachel, Ontario Career Coach; and Dan Gorbett, Colonel Crawford Career Coach.

Ima (Jo) Towler was approved as a part-time cafeteria worker.

Part-time summer workers hired include Kinsley Van Dine, summer custodian; Isaiah Miller, summer custodian; Jayden Fisher, summer IT; and Christopher (Will) Saum, summer IT.

Part-time adult education certificated personnel hired for the 2026-'27 school year are Caleb Alt, customized training instructor; Dana Braden, LPN instructor; David Bush, customized training coordinator; Tim Butcher, Forklift/OSHA instructor; Nic Campbell, Welding instructor; Samantha Crosby, STNA instructor; Carrie Daugherty, LPN instructor; Robert Dingus, Industrial Maintenance instructor; Ashley Draper, LPN instructor; Crystal Escalera, counselor/evening coordinator; Charles Eyerly, LPN instructor; David Foley, LPN instructor; Tanna Goebbel, LPN Instructor; Sandra Grau, Holiday Wreath instructor; Angela Harr, LPN instructor; Abigail Hoven, LPN instructor; Jennifer Howell, Cake Decorating instructor; Richard Jones, Welding instructor; Lisa Kilgore, LPN instructor and CCMA/STNA instructor; Kelsi Kitzmiller, Phlebotomy instructor; Christopher Lane, Welding instructor; Laurie Lenz, STNA instructor; Jacob Lugo, Welding instructor; Alison Lykins, LPN instructor; Lori Madison, Phlebotomy instructor; Jesse Meyer, Welding instructor/sub; Karleigh Proshaska, LPN instructor; Amber Reed, LPN instructor; Haley Richardson, Phlebotomy instructor; Skyler Rose - CTX instructor; James Secrest, CNA instructor; Jon Secrest, Welding instructor/sub; Hannah Thobe, LPN instructor; Art Varga, Applied Math & Blueprint Reading/CXT instructor; Brittany West, CCMA instructor; Stacy Worner, LPN instructor; Amber Wurgler, LPN instructor; and John Yohe, Edgenuity instructor

The board approved an expenditure for joint cost of the Central Ohio Industrial Park paving project. The Pioneer Cybersecurity Incident Response Plan was also approved.

Mansfield's Juneteenth celebration expands with parade and festival

The annual Juneteenth parade and festival returns on Saturday, June 13, now hosted at Mansfield Senior High School, 124 N. Linden Rd. This free, all day community celebration will begin with the parade at 11 am featuring marching bands from Mansfield Senior, Columbus Linden McKinley and Columbus South Canton En-Rich-Ment Drumline, dance teams from across Ohio, local churches, businesses, community groups and political candidates

The Grand Marshal is Brigitte Coles, We ACT Co-Founder, Richland County Children Services Community Engagement Supervisor, author and former television broadcaster.

The parade starts at Arlin Field, proceeds down West 4th Street, and ends at Mansfield Senior High School. Attendees may line the entire route.

Parking is available at Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center, 890 W. 4th St., Mansfield. A free shuttle will run between the parking area, parade and festival grounds throughout the day.

Once the parade arrives at the new festival grounds, the celebration expands into a full-scale community experience at noon with live music and entertainment, a vendor marketplace, food trucks, book signings with eight local authors, line dancing, community choirs, a health fair and family-friendly activities for all ages.

This year's entertainment lineup includes CONNE, Just Us and Chasing Dreams.

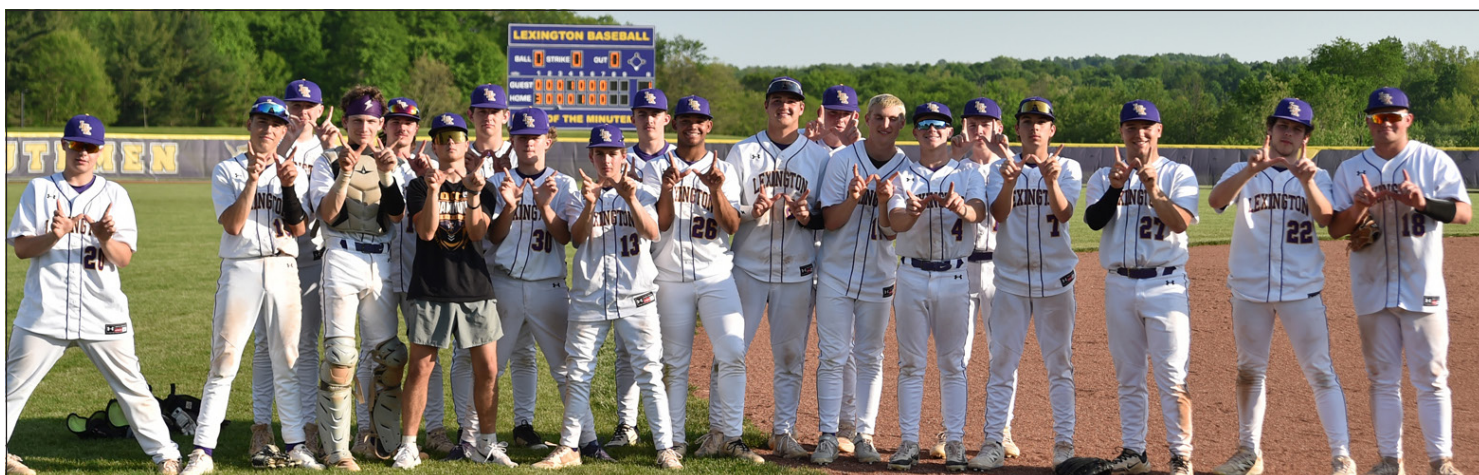
This year's event highlights health equity, voter education and engagement, economic empowerment and educational advancement.



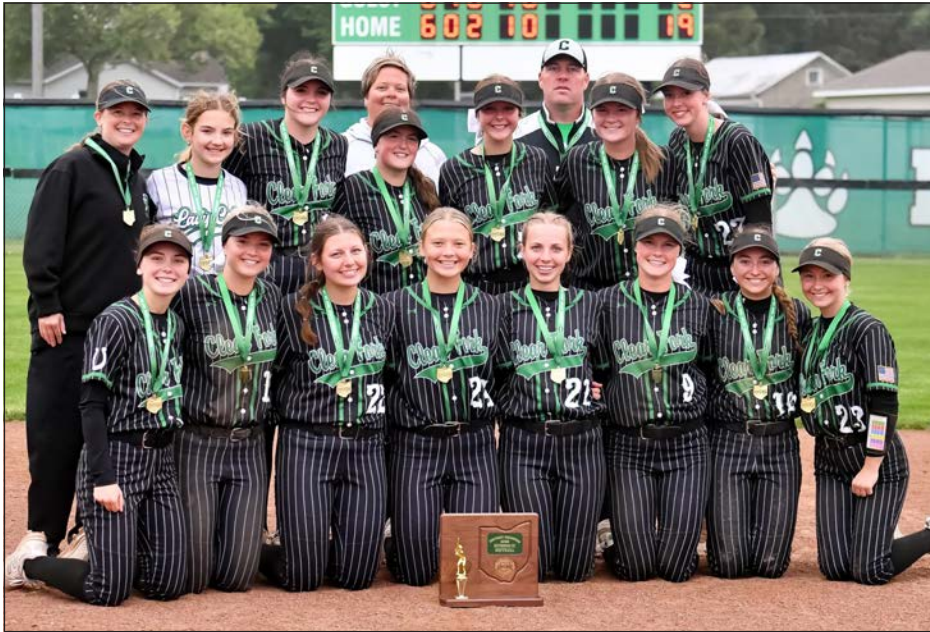
THE MANSFIELD/RICHLAND COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY'S 2026 Summer Library Program launches June 1 and runs through July 25. Participants can "Unearth a Story" through reading, learning, playing and discovery. The dinosaur-themed program is divided into three age tracks: children, teens and adults, with customized challenges and programs tailored for each group. Participants earn entries toward age-specific grand prizes. Family-friendly performances are scheduled throughout the summer and include Leaping Lizard Adventures, Rockstar Magic, Dino Academy with Dr. Sarah Tops and Whiz Bang Science: The World of Dinosaurs. To learn more and see the full event calendar, visit mrcpl.org/slp2026.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS TIFFIN DIVISION III SECTIONAL SEMIFINAL BASEBALL • MAY 19
MINUTEMEN WIN 4-1 • PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights



Photos By Jill Schlosser/Pics by Jill

Clear Fork Lady Colts advance to regional semi-finals

By Kris Leiter

The Clear Fork Lady Colts (23-7, 9-5, fourth MOAC) claimed the district final victory over Lima Bath (15-10, 14-10 sixth Western Buckeye Conference) by the score of 19-2 on May 22.

The Lady Colts ended things in fine fashion, implementing the five-inning mercy rule.

I noted some unique things about the Lady Colts team after talking to head coach Adam Brokaw, a 2000 Clear Fork graduate.

Brokaw, in only his second year at the helm, said they don't have any seniors on their roster. This is a bigger deal when you consider their presence going deep into the tournament trail over the past two seasons.

They have had phenomenal success with a mix of players, ranging from freshmen to juniors. A lot of teams that journey into the latter parts of the post-season are loaded with seniors as the norm. That says a lot about the talent in the Valley.

"Our freshmen in 2024, who are now juniors, lost in district finals to Lexington, who had a stud pitcher, Mackaree Chapman (junior 2024).

"Last year (2025) we were 16-11. We lost in district finals to Lexington again and senior pitcher Mackaree Chapman helped Lex make it to the state final four last year."

The second unique feature is using the five-inning mercy rule which can be considered a rarity in post-season play.

Even more noteworthy is that Clear Fork put up 16 runs in a single inning. The fact that they did this in a district title game against a highly-seeded tournament team speaks to an explosive, elite offense and tremendous plate discipline.

As the team works their strategy for post-season play, coach Brokaw said, "I'm trying to give the girls as much info I can about their pitchers and their hitters. We like to put them in good situations to succeed."

Starting the first inning with those 16 runs was an incredible beginning and credit needs to go to both the Colt's pitching and defense!

Colt's phenom pitcher Miley Schafer would kick things off to start the game and keep Bath at bay, not allowing a single run.

Entering the bottom of the first, the Lady Colts brought the lumber to the plate. By the end of the first inning, the Colts had batted through their entire line-up twice and then a few more for a total of

21 at-bats! The Colts scored nine runs before they would get their first out!

In the first inning alone, the Lady Colts notched six singles by Jada Brokaw, Mya Perry, Presley Lily, Karlynn Mortimer, Braylee Wenger and Kylie Ludwig. Three doubles came from Millie Chamberlain (1) and Chloe Steward (2). Hailly Thrush had a home run and four walks came from Jada Brokaw, Hailly Thrush, Karlynn Mortimer and Braylee Wenger. After one inning of play, they had an 84 percent of their total runs.

"We went out to the field the top half of the inning and we got out of it. Then we got our lead-off runner on base in the bottom of the inning," said Brokaw. "We bunted her Jada Brokaw to second base, got another base hit by Perry and scored both of those runners with Lilly. We just kept rolling."

The second inning, things got quiet for both teams, as Bath would score their first run of the game. The Lady Kittens would hold Clear Fork scoreless for the inning.

During the third inning, the Colts brought around two more tallies by Brokaw and Wenger, adding to the previous 16 runs. The Lady Colts would lead 18-1 after three innings of play.

Both teams entered on run in the fourth inning. Lady Colt Hailly Thrush would cross home plate for Clear Fork. After four innings of play, the Colts were leading 19-2.

Bring on the fifth and final inning! The Colts brought in pitcher Mariah Hatfield, as she would continue to be on-point and close out the game holding Bath scoreless again.

Batting for Clear Fork were Chloe Steward: 2-3, three RBIs, two doubles; Presley Lily, 2-4, four RBIs, one run; Hailly Thrush, 1-3, two RBIs, one home run, one stolen base; and Kylie Ludwig, 1-3, two RBIs.

Pitching for the Colts were Miley Schafer (winning pitcher), four innings pitched, one strikeout, 54 pitches, 38 strikes; and Mariah Hatfield, one inning pitched, 15 pitches, 9 strikes.

The Colts' victory will move them into the regional semi-finals, facing the Bryan Lady Golden Bears from the Northwest region of the state.

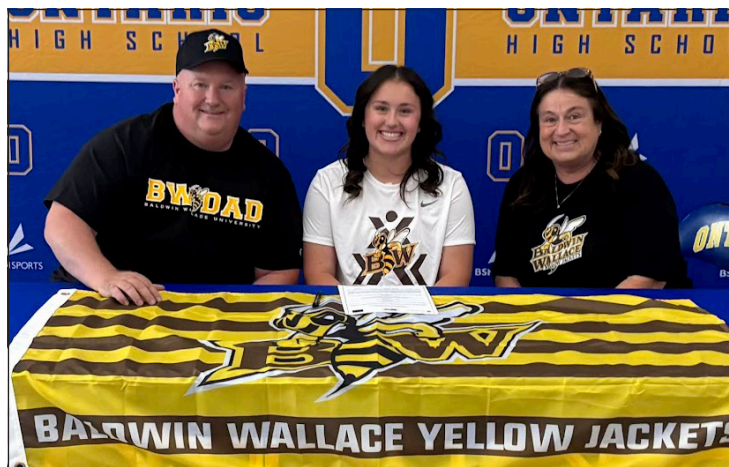
The Lady Bears are no strangers to winning, as they will be sporting their undefeated record of 21-0.

Commenting on their competition, coach Brokaw said, "They

(Continued on Page 34)

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Ontario High School Letters of Intent Signings



Darbie Broom
Baldwin Wallace • STUNT & Baton Twirling



Kailey Hale
Baldwin Wallace • Soccer



Tessa Crum
Ashland University • Swimming



Alexander McWhorter
Rio Grande • Football



Grantham Trumpower
Indiana University • Swimming

•Clear Fork Lady Colts advance to regional semi-finals

(Continued from Page 33)

have a senior stud pitcher. She's going to Division I North Carolina State. Two years ago, when she was a sophomore, she was part of their state runner-up team."

"Last year, they lost to Lexington in regional finals 6-1. We are going to face a good pitcher."

As for Brokaw's strategy, "We want to try to limit our strikeouts. We're going to hopefully get some base runners on and make some things happen."

The Lady Bears have notched 16 shutouts during the regular season and eight games of scoring in double-digits. Rest assured, they have the bats to produce the round-trippers.

They have also staked their claim as the Northwest Ohio Athletic Conference victors with a first place, unblemished 7-0 conference record!

The showcase showdown will take place at the neutral site of Clyde High School on Wednesday, May 27, at 2 pm.



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Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Whippets baseball claims sectional title over Clear Fork

By Kris Leiter

As they say, the third time is the charm. Two fierce Mid-Ohio Athletic Conference teams, Shelby and Clear Fork, took to the field for the third time this season playing for the Division IV sectional title.

The Shelby Whippets came away with the 8-3 win on a damp Wednesday evening at the beautiful Whippet Athletic Complex.

Head coach Jonathon Amicone, a 2002 Shelby graduate, is in his 12th year manning the helm for the Whippets. He was thrilled with the victory.

"We had two good games with Clear Fork this season and we split with them. This was a series-clenching game for both teams, so I know both teams really wanted it."

In the first inning, the Clear Fork Colts lead-off batter, Perry, tallied the first single of the game. He would continue the momentum by stealing second base, eventually scoring the first run of the game.

Shelby's phenom pitcher Kaleb Stairs, with 37 strikeouts on the year, retired the side quickly by putting out the next three Colts batters: Brokaw, Bias and Sharp. They would fall victim to Shelby's solid defense, keeping the ball within the infield.

"We worked extremely fast and got a lot of good ground balls for our guys," said Amicone. "We played a really clean game. Defensively, no errors were made."

It was now the Colts turn to return the favor, only needing four batters as well to notch three outs by the Colts defense. The Whippets would draw two walks by lead-off batter Brady Bowman, followed by Quentin Albert, last year's District Player of the Year. Bowman would be the first out on the attempted steal.

The Colts would put down the next two Whippet batters, Dorsey and Stairs. Dorsey would be out number two, getting caught looking with a no-look strikeout, Stairs would be out number three on a ground ball. After one complete inning, the Colts were leading 1-0.

As the second inning would begin, The Colts offense would keep Shelby's defense busy. Colts Crunkilton led off with a single. He would eventually notch run number two.

Again, Stairs' pitching would tally two strikeouts in the inning, putting down Colt's swinging, for out number two. The third out would be Stairs delivering lead-off batter Perry with a no-look strikeout to end the second inning.

At the top of the third, Clear Fork was back at the plate. Shelby claimed the top of the third as their own by pitching a shutout inning on the Colts.

Clear Fork's Brokaw would ground-out for out number one. Followed by Bias notching a single to right-field. The next two batters, Sharp and Crunkilton (batting .273 this year), would both fly out, Bias to the pitcher and Crunkilton to the first-basemen for outs two and three. It was Shelby's Kaleb Stairs and the Whippet defense that would dominate, and I mean dominate, needing four batters to end the inning!

"We wanted to focus on playing the Shelby way, which is really good defense, playing the strike zone and with productive at-bats," said Amicone.

In the bottom of the third inning, Colt's pitcher Schumacher, sporting a 2.40 ERA, would have Shelby down two outs on the first two batters, Dorsey and Stairs, Dorsey grounding-out followed by Stairs with a flyout.

Shelby would relish the pressure of the two-out rally!

The Whippets exploded for four runs and batted through the entire order! Enter Sloane for the Whippets. He would walk to first and score from Colts pitching. Schumacher struggle from the mound, hitting two batters, Fisher and Hartz, allowing a stolen base and walk by Koch making the tie 2-2.

Lykins would then score run number three on a walk to give Shelby the 3-2 lead. Fisher scored run number four on wild pitches and a walk. For Shelby's fifth run, Koch drew the walk.

Amicone commented, "We try to put the ball in play, playing small ball by bunting, hit-and-run, stealing bases. That's the sort of things you got to do."

At the end of the third, Shelby led 5-2 after a shutout inning.

As the Colts returned to the plate in the fourth, the Whippets brought in Ball to pitch to hold the Colts offense at bay. Shelby would have a little breathing room, heading into the halfway mark of this nail-biter. Clear Fork's Domka started things off with double to deep-right.

It was time for Clear Fork pitcher, Ball, and Shelby's defense to go to work and they did just that! The Whippets wasted no time, as the next three batters would merit three outs. A fly-out by Rahall and two ground-outs by Schmit and Slaughter would end the inning with Shelby still holding the narrow lead, 5-2.

Dorsey began the fifth with a walk and the Colts pitching would open the door a bit wider for the Whippets. Dorsey notched another run from a stolen base and error by the Colts. Shelby added another round-tripper to their tally, leading 6-2. Shelby exited the inning with the next four batters, but enough to open the lead a bit more.

The Colts returned to the plate hoping to close the four-run lead by the Whippets. By now, Shelby pitcher Stairs was in fine form. He shut down the first three batters — two ground-outs by Perry and Brokaw and one fly-out by Bias. The Whippets were holding, 6-2!

"I think Kaleb Stairs only had three strikeouts, but he didn't walk anyone," said Amicone.

Shelby's Koch and Gray would each notch a single — Koch to shallow right-center and Gray up the middle. They would score runs 7 and 8 increasing Shelby's lead 8-2. Clear Fork had two at-bats remaining. Would they catch the Whippets?

Colt's leading batter Sharp notched a single to right field to start the sixth inning. He would eventually score run number three.

Shelby's defense continued to hold their own as they took three more outs with next three batters, Crunkilton, Domka and Rahall, Shelby holding, 8-3.

The Whippets came to bat at the bottom of the sixth. They struggled a bit as the Colts' Ball would bring the heat. Clear Fork would retire the side in only four batters, notching two strikeouts on Koch and Hartz.

Entering the seventh and final inning, Stairs and the Whippet defense would seal the deal and send the first three batters back to the dugout.

This was a big win in the series between the Colts and Shelby as the Whippets move on to the district semifinals!

Pleased with the efforts of his team, Amicone said, "If your pitchers throw a lot of strikes and your defense is playing error-free baseball, it will give you a good chance to win. They worked extremely hard. They're really good kids."

Shelby's batting showed Domka: 3-3, 1 RBI; Sharp, 2-3, 1 RBI; and Rahall, 1-3. Pitching stats came from Stairs, seven innings pitched, 28 batters faced, 91 pitches, 59 strikes and three strike outs.

The Whippets will be facing a familiar opponent, the Bellevue Redmen, the two-seed on Wednesday, May 27 in the district semifinals at Willard High School at 4:30 pm.

Both schools are former members and rivals of the Northern Ohio League from years gone by. Amicone is familiar with their program and expects a good game from the Redmen.

"Bellevue has a really good baseball program," said Amicone. "Their head coach is Andy Dennings. He does a tremendous job for their program."

Amicone has no doubt they will come prepared, as they usually play each other during the regular season as well. I asked Amicone about the neutral site and whether that would play into the preparation, not being on their home turf at Shelby.

"Willard is a turf infield, which we have at Shelby. We have to play the same way we've always played."

I asked him if Bellevue's seeding has an effect on Shelby's game plan.

"They were a two-seed in our district. Their pitchers can take them a long way. I think we have to be very efficient with our pitching as well."

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Ashland Arrows advance with thrilling sectional final victory

By Traci Little

ASHLAND — The Ashland Arrows are moving on! Ashland secured the Division III Sectional Championship on Thursday, May 21, with a dramatic 6–5 victory over Celina at Bud Plank Field at Archer Arrows Park. The win came in walk-off fashion, sending the Arrows and their fans into celebration as they punched their ticket to the district tournament.

With the victory, Ashland survived and advanced, earning a trip to Tiffin University's Paradiso Athletic Complex for the district semifinal on May 26.

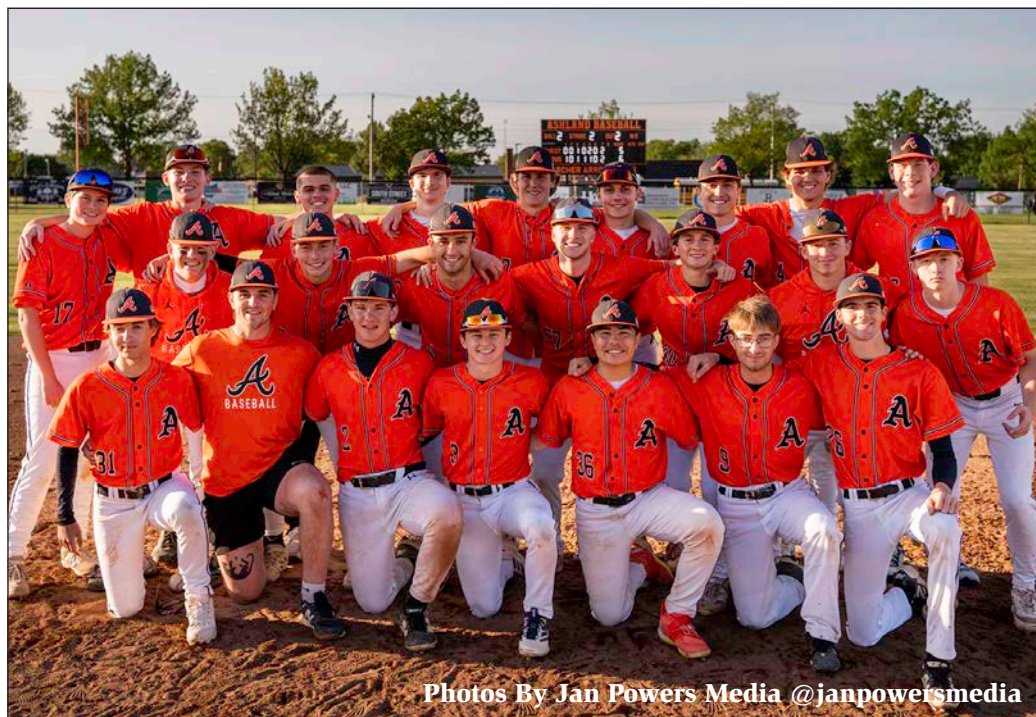
The sectional title marks the beginning of a new postseason chapter for the Arrows, who battled through a tightly contested game before delivering the game-winning moment in their final home appearance of the season.

Ashland's walk-off win capped an exciting evening at Archer Arrows Park and kept the team's tournament hopes alive as they continue their postseason run.

Final Score: Ashland 6, Celina 5

Sectional Champion: Ashland Arrows

Next Game: District Semifinal vs. Defiance, May 26 at Tiffin University's Paradiso Athletic Complex.



Photos By Jan Powers Media @janpowersmedia

Safety Town will begin

The Mansfield Division of Police has announced the return of one of the community's most beloved traditions, Safety Town.

Now in its 89th year, Safety Town has been giving Mansfield's youngest residents the tools to stay safe since 1937, when Mansfield Police Officer Frend Boals first brought this one-of-a-kind program to life.

Designed specifically for children heading into kindergarten, Safety Town is a fun, hands-on learning experience that teaches essential traffic safety and personal safety skills; all in a friendly, age-appropriate setting. It's the perfect head start before the school year begins.

Children entering kindergarten in the fall of 2026 may attend. Sessions will be held at the former Spanish Immersion, 240 Euclid Ave., Mansfield, from 9 am to noon.

Sessions are grouped by elementary school and children whose school isn't listed will be placed with others from the same district.

The first session will be June 8-12 and June 15-18 with graduation on June 18. Schools in the first session are Sherman, Foundation Academy, Spanish Immersion, Madison and STEM.

The second session will be held June 22-26 and June 29, 30 and July 1, 2. Graduation will be July 2.

Schools in second session are St. Peters, 1st Assembly Day Care, Mansfield Christian, RSSA, St. Mary's and Temple Christian.

The third session will be held July 6-10 and 13-17.

Schools in the third session are the Mansfield YMCA and is open to all who cannot attend the first two sessions or attends a school not listed.

Registration forms are available at <https://mansfieldpolicedepartment.com/safety-town/>. Pre-registration is required.

Registration for each session closes one week before that session begins. For more information, contact Ginger Antrican, Safety Town Director, at 419-755-9428.

Free community performance of "1776: In Concert" coming to Brickyard

The Renaissance Theatre celebrates our nation's 250th birthday with a performance of *1776: In Concert* at Mansfield's Brickyard. The Renaissance Theatre, the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra and Downtown Mansfield Inc. will join forces to present the one-night-only event, on June 20 at 7:30 pm at The Brickyard in downtown Mansfield. Performers from Broadway and Hollywood, as well as artists and musicians from all over North Central Ohio, will be showcased in the Tony Award-winning musical that inspired *Hamilton*.

Set in Philadelphia, in the days leading up to the American Revolution, the founding fathers come to life as they debate America's future and pen the Declaration of Independence.

Attendees can also enjoy food trucks. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or other portable seating for their comfort.

While admission is free, reservations are encouraged and tickets are available as pay what you can at 419-522-2726 or rentickets.org.



Photos By Jeff Hoffer

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