



# TRIBUNE-COURIER

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

news@tribune-courier.com

09.25.25



Photo By Traci Little

**THE ASHLAND COUNTY FAIR** was held Sept. 14-20. Along with 4-H and FFA showings, the schedule included an OSTPA Tractor Pull, a rodeo, motocross racing and a demolition derby. Ashland County Fair pages begin on Page 10.

## Ohio State launches free tuition program for eligible students

Starting autumn semester 2026, low- to middle-income students at The Ohio State University who start at Mansfield, Wooster or other regional campuses will qualify for a new program that will cover all tuition and mandatory fees.

Ohio State President Walter "Ted" Carter Jr. announced the launch of the Regional Campus Commitment program during his State of the University address Sept. 17 — a key element of his "Education for Citizenship 2035" strategic framework. The program enhances affordability and accessibility for more low- to middle-income students to attain an Ohio State degree, while supporting economic development and advancing the university's mission to serve Ohio and its communities.

"This is a bold initiative for all Ohioans and a purposeful investment for students who seek new and expanded opportunities," said Jason Opal, dean and director of The Ohio State University at Mansfield. "Ohio State is committed to making higher education accessible and affordable, and this new program at our campus is an ambitious leap toward achieving those goals."

Ohio State's regional campuses make it possible for students across the state to remain close to home while earning their Ohio State degree. Through the Regional Campus Commitment program, eligible new first-year students who enroll at one of the university's campuses in Mansfield, Lima, Marion or Newark, or at Ohio State ATI in Wooster can now attend Ohio State without having to pay tuition or mandatory fees. Students can choose to complete an associate or bachelor's degree on a regional campus or transition to the Columbus campus.

Ohio State's campus locations across the state are vital in fueling the workforce development pipelines in their regions. Students who attend a regional campus or Ohio State ATI in Wooster can start more than 200 majors, including programs preparing them for in-demand careers in their communities such as advanced manufacturing,

(Continued on Page 30)

## Madison Board of Education presents Ram Pride Award to Jennifer Porter, David Brown

The Madison Local School District School Board met Sept. 17, in the Madison Middle School Auditoria.

The Ram Pride Award was presented to Jennifer Porter, Mifflin Elementary second grade teacher; and David Brown, Madison South Elementary custodian.

Each month throughout the school year, the district will be recognizing one teacher and one staff member as a Ram Pride Honoree. Each teacher and staff member is nominated by their principal and/or supervisor and then selected and recognized for their excellence.

"Mrs. Porter offers her wisdom to both her students and her colleagues to encourage and uplift the school community, and it is truly an honor to work alongside someone of such outstanding character, strength, and dedication to others as her servant's heart is visible to all," said Mifflin Elementary Principal Nathan Stump.

"David's positive attitude, dedication and genuine care make him an invaluable member of Madison Local Schools," said Madison South Elementary Principal Nicole Cox."

Madison High School Principal Sean Conway and athletic director Doug Rickert gave presentations.

A donation of aluminum products valued at \$7,413.12 was accepted from Complete Access — Division of Integrated Stair Systems.

The board approved the monthly financial report, permanent appropriations for FY26, student activity budgets for FY26 and fall submission of the Financial Forecast for FY26.

A grant was received from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation to be used by Dorothy Traynor for Youth Literacy in the amount of \$4,844. A grant was received from The Martha Holden Jennings Foundation to be used by Amy O'Connell for Madison Market Place in the amount of \$2,098.

A grant was given by Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks No. 56, to be used to offset the costs of busing students with special needs to the Raemelon Therapeutic Equestrian Center, in the amount of \$2,000.

Holly North will retire as the business management technology teacher, effective June 1, 2026. Travis Stantz resigned as the head eighth grade boys' basketball coach, effective Sept. 10.

Resident educator mentors approved for the 2025-'26 school year are Zinda Thomas, Patrick McLaughlin, Kristen Agee, Judith Freytag, Brittany Farley, John Foust and Heather Reynolds.

A stipend in the amount of \$1,800 was approved for Karen Von-Stein, lead resident educator mentor for the 2025-'26 school year.

Substitute teachers hired on an "on call" basis, as needed for the 2025-'26 school year include Shelby Bachmann, Karlie Barnhart, Beth Behrendsen, Chandler Brewer, Marlene Brown, Aubreion Chatman, Tessa Dale, Samantha Darling, Laurie Dean, Susan Deel, Michelle Enix, Ezri Farley, Kate Fazzini, Jessica Harris, Addie Heifner, Adam Jackson, Amiel Jarstfer, Lori Keiser, Drena Miller Kilgore, Ema Pritchard, Paige Ray, Gaven Remy, Ronald Seifert, Sydney Shasky, Brayden Spittler, Ashton Wagner, Sarah Voelp and Amy Zender.

Tim Niswander was hired as the head varsity softball coach.

Pupil activity positions went to Kris Swanstrom, seventh grade girls' basketball; Theodore Haring, middle school wrestling assistant; Brian Lowe, assistant varsity girls' basketball ½ contract; Tyler Albright, assistant varsity girls' basketball ½ contract; Trevor Kirsch, eighth grade girls' basketball; Julia Litt, assistant varsity softball; Chris Clapper, assistant varsity softball ½ contract; Mico Castelveter, assistant varsity softball ½ contract; Travis Stantz, head ninth grade boys' basketball coach; and Bryan Mosier, fall fitness coordinator.

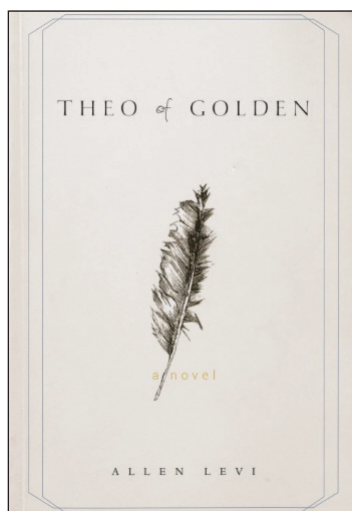
Madison Adult Career Center hirings include Jenna Boliantz, Communicable Disease; Jennifer Johnson, CPR/First Aid and Certified

(Continued on Page 31)

## LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review  
By Mandy Belczak Gurney



*Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi might be the most beautiful book I've ever read. For me, it was 6/5 stars.

Theo is an old man who shows up one day in the small southern town of Golden and no one knows why he has come.

Theo discovers portrait artwork for sale in the local coffee shop and is amazed by the technique, but wonders why more haven't sold.

Theo begins the project of buying certain portraits, tracking down the real people in them and giving them as gifts. This small act of kindness unravels several stories within the story.

I cherished the way they came together in the end. Seeing the world and people through

Theo's eyes is healing.

It's a story of the ripple effects of kindness. It's a story about those who have experienced great loss, but will still lean into joy. It's how we as humans can experience extreme grief and also walk in the light, and even more, we can be the light.

I finished this story on the beach in Florida staring out at the gulf and just wept by its beauty and the profound impact it had on me.

I recommend waiting to read this until you can give it your full attention. If you're in a busy and distracted season, wait. To experience its beauty, you'll need more time.

Allen Levi is the amazing author who self published this story. I think part of why it's so precious is because no large publishing houses got their hands on it. The writing is so pure. I encourage you to find Allen Levi's website and check out his other work.

My rating: ★★★★★

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## THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —



A movie I missed in theaters earlier this year is now streaming on HBO Max and is an A24 released military film called *Warfare*.

Based on true events in Iraq in 2006, a group of Navy SEALs are holed up in a residential home scoping out their surroundings, in constant contact with others that they may be under attack.

Soon, when transferring a wounded soldier, there is an explosion and this group must fight from inside the home waiting for help to arrive.

Directed by Alex Garland and Ray Mendoza, who was actually there when these events occurred, they direct a gripping, gritty war drama that is both suspenseful and scary as these men are dealing with so many things at once while trying to survive this conflict.

Points of view are seen from the air and another combat rescue mission on the ground to try

and get them out. This movie does not hold back at the horrors of war and battle.

Garland is a great director and its nice to have Mendoza on board to give a real life account.

The only issues for me were the movie's narrative, while being true to life, was not as gripping as it could have been and seemed like some lat-

er era Clint Eastwood films that are based on true events though there is not quite enough there to tell as engaging a story as other war movies have.

Still, *Warfare* is a expertly directed and acted story that tells of these men's survival experiences in this conflict.

Garland and Mendoza do an expert job directing and any fan of the war or military genre should enjoy this movie.



## Voter registration deadline nearing for November election

The deadline to register to vote or change an address or name for the Nov. 4, general election is Monday, Oct. 6.

The Richland County Board of Elections office will be open that evening until 9 pm. This office is located at 1495 W. Longview Ave., Suite 101, in the Longview Center. After 4 pm, visitors must use the entrance at the lower-level back parking area at the southwest corner of the building.

Those registering to vote include must be either a native U. S. citizen or a naturalized citizen of the U.S., be a resident of the State of Ohio 30 days before an election and be a minimum of 18 years of age on or before the date of the general election on Nov. 4, 2025.

Registered voters who have moved or changed their name must notify the Board office in writing or in person. Voters currently registered in Ohio may change their address online at [VoteOhio.gov](http://VoteOhio.gov), but must do so by the Oct. 6 deadline.

In addition to the board of elections office, citizens may register or complete a change of address/name at the following locations in Richland County:

- Any library branch
- All city and village hall offices
- The Bureau of Motor Vehicles office
- The Department of Human Services
- The Richland County Courthouse (recorder or treasurer offices)
- All area high school offices

Registration forms may also be obtained at [vote.richlandcountyh.gov](http://vote.richlandcountyh.gov) or requested by mail. Contact the board office at 419-774-5530 to have a form sent by mail. Completed voter registration forms must be postmarked 30 days before election day.

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Serving Ontario, Lexington, Madison, Bellville and Butler Communities in  
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# News Briefs

Washington Township Fire Department will host a pancake breakfast on Oct. 4, from 7–11 am, at the new station, 222 Vanderbilt Rd., Lexington. Breakfast will include pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, coffee, milk and orange juice. Admission is by donation. Proceeds raised will continue assisting the community and the department. For information call 419-756-8330.

The City of Ontario will have its Trick or Treat night on Thursday, Oct. 30, from 5:30–7:30 pm.

The annual rummage and bake sale will be held at Trinity Grace Fellowship, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield, Wednesday through Saturday, Oct. 1–4. Hours are 4–7 pm on Oct. 1; 9 am to 7 pm on Oct. 2; 9 am to 2 pm on Oct. 3; and 9 am to noon on Oct. 4.

Sales are by donation and proceeds and the remaining items will be donated to the community through other local ministries. Food will be available for purchase to eat in or take out.

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, Sept. 27 and 28. Acceptable items include steel and aluminum cans, crushed milk jugs, detergent bottles, plastic bottles with number 1 or 2 on the bottom, broken down cardboard, all papers included with the newspaper but no other magazines or paper. Please remove caps from bottles and rinse all containers well.

Mansfield 1st Presbyterian Church, 399 S. Trimble Rd., Mansfield will host a fall rummage sale on Friday, Oct. 10, from 9 am to 4 pm and Saturday, Oct. 11, 9 am to noon. The church is located at the corner of Trimble Road and Millsboro Road. Proceeds are used for local missions. For information call 419-756-7066.

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Bellville, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Rev. William Humphrey on Sunday, Sept. 28, at 10:30 am. The subject will be "All Good Things..." A potluck will follow the service. For information visit [www.allsoulsuuohio.org](http://www.allsoulsuuohio.org).

The Lexington Area Senior Citizens Inc., invites those 55 and older to attend meetings the third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 am. February through May, the group will meet at New Life Church of Christ (NLC of C), 195 W. Durbin, Bellville. Cost is \$17 for the meal. Meetings June through December will be held at Der Dutchman, Rt. 96, Bellville. Meals are \$16, with an additional \$2 for pie.

The next meal will be Oct. 15, with roast beef. Jane Horton, coun-

try western singer, will perform.

The group will also meet for lunch on Oct. 1, at El Campesino Mexican Restaurant, 1593 W. 4th St., Ontario.

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

Trinity Grace Fellowship Church, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield, will hold community prayer meetings from 6:30–7:30 pm, Oct. 12 and 19. The public is invited.

Richland Early American Center for History will host the 9th Annual American Heritage Days at Southpark, 100 Brinkerhoff Ave, Mansfield, Oct. 4 and 5, from 10 am to 4 pm. Living history reenactors will demonstrate life in America in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Throughout the day there will be crafts, trades, demonstrations and activities, including blacksmithing, games and children's activities, open hearth cooking demonstrations and civilian and military reenactments. Admission and parking are free to the public.

A free family fall festival with trunk-or-treat will be held at Mansfield 1st Presbyterian Church on Sunday, Oct. 5, from 2–4 pm.

There will be games, prizes, snow cones and more.

Kirkin O' the Tartans will be held at the church, Sunday, Oct. 26, at 10 am. A shortbread social will be held after the worship service featuring piper Jesse Tucker. Children can participate in a kid-friendly version of the traditional Highland Games. The church is located at 399 S. Trimble Rd., Mansfield. For information call 419-756-7066 or visit [www.mansfield1st.com](http://www.mansfield1st.com).

A fall rummage sale will be held at First Congregational Church, 640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield on Wednesday, Oct. 8 from 9 am to 4 pm and Thursday, Oct. 9, from 9 am to noon. Lower prices will be featured on Thursday. The sale is handicap accessible with an elevator inside the main entrance. For information call 419-564-5306.

To promote mobility and falls prevention, a walk and bike event will be held Monday, Sept. 29, at the B&O Bike Trail, North Lake Park, 625 Hope Rd., Mansfield.

The event is free and open to the public from 9–11 am. There will be an opportunity to win a free wellness basket.

This event is an opportunity for social engagement and physical activity and will have information and resources provided by the Area Agency on Aging, Richland County Mobility Management and other community partners. Participants can bring a bicycle for individual and/or group riding opportunities. Water will be provided.

Free RCT bus rides will be available to and from the walking event by calling 419-522-4504. This event will be cancelled for inclement weather. No registration is required and for more information call 567-247-6487.



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# Church Directory

## Clay Memorial Lutheran Church

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

## Clear Fork Alliance Church

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

## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

200 West Third St., Mansfield  
419-524-4813 • mansfield1stcc1833@gmail.com  
Rev. David Zerby  
10:30 am Sunday Worship  
Office Hours: Tu., W., Th. 9 am to 1 pm  
Christian Builders, Sunday, 9:30 am  
www.FirstChristianChurchMansfield.com  
FB: FirstChristianChurch,Mansfield,Ohio

## First Congregational Church

640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield  
419-756-3046 • www.mansfieldfcc.com  
Pastor Brad Bunn  
8:30 am Chapel • 10:30 am Sanctuary  
10:30 am Sunday School (nursery-high school)  
10:30 am Monday Morning Bible Study  
7:30 am Wednesday Men's Breakfast

## First English Lutheran Church

53 Park Avenue West, Mansfield  
419-522-0662 • www.felc-mansfield.org  
Pastor Jay Jackson  
9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship  
Call about Prayer Groups, Small Groups, Bible  
Studies, Book Clubs, Pub Theology, Community Meals,  
Free Produce distribution and Senior Boxes.

## Grace Episcopal Church

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

## G & M Body & Paint Shop

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

## Wappner Funeral Home

Mansfield • Ontario • Ashland • 419-522-5211

## Lexington Church of Christ

230 Delaware Ave., Lexington  
419-884-1532 • www.lccoh.com  
Lead Minister Brandon Bogue  
9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship

## Lexington Church of the Cross

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

## Lexington Presbyterian Church

35 Church St. West, Lexington  
419-884-1330 • 10:30 am Sunday Worship  
Pastor Denny Nezrick  
https://www.facebook.com/Lexington-Presbyteri-  
an-Church-117768414915815

## Mansfield 1st Presbyterian Church

399 Trimble Rd., Mansfield  
419-756-7066 • www.mansfield1st.com  
Rev. Joseph Yerger  
9 am Adult & Youth Sunday School  
10 am Traditional Sunday Worship  
ADA Accessible Nursery & Children's Programming

## Mansfield Baptist Temple

752 N. Stewart Rd., Mansfield  
419-589-5413 • www.mbt.org  
Pastor Rob Kurtz  
9:30 am Sunday School • 10:30 am & 5:30 pm Sunday Worship  
7 pm Wednesday Service

## Oakland Lutheran Church

2045 Olivesburg Rd., Mansfield  
419-571-9920  
Pastor Paul Lintern  
9 am Sunday Worship

## Ontario United Methodist Church

3540 Park Avenue West., Ontario  
419-529-4345 • ontarioumc.com  
Rev. J.P. Snyder  
9:30 am Grace & Eggs  
11 am Sunday Worship and Kingdom Kids

## St. John's United Church of Christ

68 Park Avenue East, Mansfield  
419-522-2813 • www.stjohnsmansfield.org  
Pastor Faith Proietti • 10 am Sunday Worship  
Office hours: Mon-Fri 9am to 1pm  
AA Meetings M & F 10 am & noon;  
Wed. noon Brown Bag and Sat. 6 pm  
Clothing Ministry by appt: 419-512-9817

## Southside Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

2055 Middle-Bellville Rd., Mansfield  
419-756-3436  
Pastor Paul Lintern  
10:45 am Sunday Worship

## Trinity Grace Fellowship

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



## Pioneer board accepts donations and approves agreements

The Pioneer Board of Education met Sept. 15 and adopted Resolution 14-25 for student activity fund purposes and budgets.

The board approved the activity reimbursement schedule and travel allowance for club advisors for 2025-'26.

Revisions were made to job descriptions including CTE teacher aide; custodial-security worker; director, adult education; distribution sales associate; family and civic engagement coordinator; financial aid coordinator, adult ed; food service employee; food service manager; part-time distribution center bus driver; payroll coordinator; secretary, adult ed; secretary, attendance office; and support secretary.

The board adopted Resolution 15-25 to approve the Red Ribbon Week Celebration in October. Adult Education Practical Nursing handbooks were also approved for the 2025-'26 school year. Revisions were made to existing policy and the FY26 appropriations were approved.

Donations were accepted from Luke Painter, Mid Ohio Pipeline, Lexington, a large variety of tools to be used for various student labs at Pioneer; Mr. & Mrs. Scott Donahue, Crestline, \$50 to be deposited in the Art Barr Scholarship Fund; Springfield Township Trustees, Ontario, items to be used in the new First Responder lab; and Wilhelm Accounting Services, Cook & Associates, Bellevue, \$300 to be used for the Culinary Arts Level One lab.

Donations to the Rene' Burtscher Memorial Scholarship Fund included Mark and Candice Bodkin, \$100; Theresa L. Burtscher, \$100; Sara Zuercher, \$50; Edw. Whited Construction, \$100; Walter & Barbara Burtscher, \$100; Susan R Smathers, \$150; Cynthia Swigart, \$30; Christopher & Megan Heitker, \$100; Barbara Wilson, \$60; Joseph and Lynn Wechter, \$100; Virgil or Crystal Jennings, \$50; Laurel Parrish, \$25; Pioneer CTC Sunshine Fund, \$100; Kevin, Jolene, AJ & Kate Young, \$100; Martha A. Roberts, \$200; Lauren A Kirchner, \$200; Kenneth Owen, \$50; Don & Melissa Paullin, \$100; Richard and Vicky Figuly, \$100; Michael and Carrie Murray, \$50; Scott and Karen Donahue, \$50; Mary L. Barr, \$50; Charles and Melissa Follett, \$100; Jeffery and Mary Ritz \$50.00; and Kelly Purvis, \$100.

The retirement resignation of Heather Fighter, STEP instructor, effective June 1, 2026, was accepted.

Stipend contracts were approved for Jennifer Magers, resident educator lead teacher 2025-'26, \$600 and mentor stipend (John Stewart), \$600 (\$300 per semester); and Wendy Rodenbaugh, mentor stipend (Charles Curren), \$600 (\$300 per semester).

The board approved leave without pay for Mike Hoffman, Wynford satellite ag instructor, requesting leave without pay for Sept. 25-'26, 2025 for a family trip; Cassandra Lowery, language arts instructor, maternity leave beginning Aug. 18 through Nov. 7, 2025, with part of that leave being unpaid; Marianne Ritchie, electives instructor, leave of absence beginning Aug. 27 through Nov. 27, 2025, with part of that leave being unpaid; and Jennifer Verspoor, intervention specialist, maternity leave beginning Aug. 18 through Nov. 7, 2025, with part of that leave being unpaid.

Substitute instructors hired include Joy Downing, Julie Adair, Ron Fox, Lisa Kilgore, Susan Switzer, Carlos Villa-Gomez and Lisa Yarger. Jason Hockenberry was hired as a substitute custodial worker.

Clarence Blevins was hired as a custodial student worker.

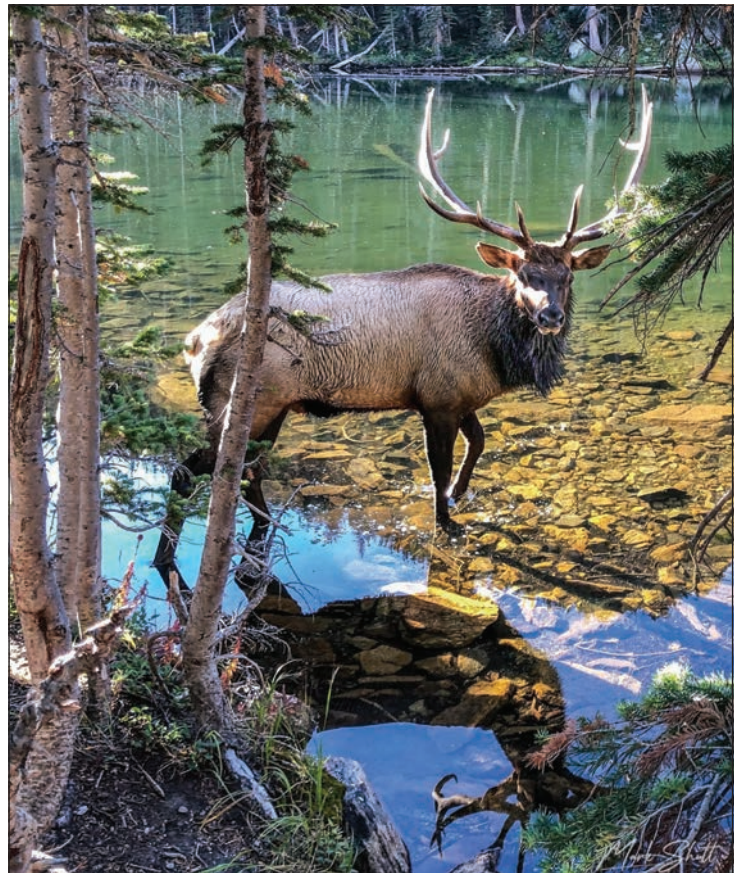
Brenda Taylor resigned as adult education financial aid coordinator, effective Sept. 18, 2025.

Crystal Hess was hired as an adult ed LPN instructor.

The board adopted Resolution 16-25 for re-employment of the treasurer and approved MOU with Associated Builders and Contractors Central Ohio Chapter.

The board approved an agreement between Pioneer Adult Education and Educational Compliance Management and a health consultant services agreement with North Central Ohio Educational Services Center. It also approved a paraprofessional services agreement with North Central Ohio Educational Service Center and an MOU with Lucas Local School District.

An affiliation agreement between Pioneer Adult Education and Crestview LSD Board of Education was approved.



Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado • Photo By Mark Shutt

### Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Edward L. Hergatt, September 11  
Raymond Bridges Jr., September 13  
Judith Ann Cole, September 15  
Amy Jo Rust, September 16  
Kenneth Dale DeHart, September 17  
Dorothy Rose Houseman, September 18

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

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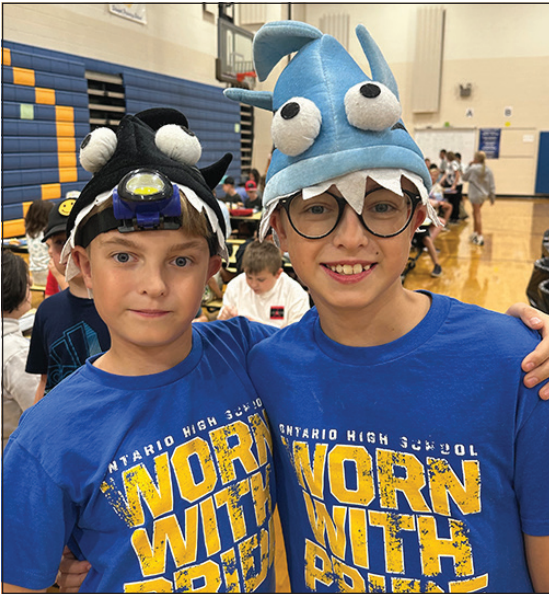
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**HAT DAY** was celebrated at Ontario Stingel on Friday, Sept. 12. Each month there is a themed dress-up day for PBIS.

## KCCC High School receives 5-Star rating

The Career Technical Planning District (CTPD) Report Cards for the 2024-'25 school year were released by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW).

The results are made up of data from the Knox County Career Center High School and other career tech programs in the six associate schools: Centerburg, Clear Fork, Danville, East Knox, Fredericktown and Mount Vernon. The data comes from the students enrolled in half-day career tech programming at KCCC and also in the associate schools where career tech classes are offered by class period in areas such as Ag, Family Consumer Science, Project Lead the Way, etc.

Knox County Career Center (KCCC) CTPD received a 5-star rating, which means KCCC significantly exceeds the state standards. 100% (9 of 9) of the Federal Indicators were met. This is the third year in a row that the KCCC CTPD has received a 5 out of 5-star rating.

KCCC CTPD received 4 stars for achievement with the technical skill attainment rate had a 100% participation rate with 82.1% passage. KCCC CTPD received a 5-star rating for its graduation rate, showing the four-year graduation rate was 98.6% and the five-year rate was 99.2%. KCCC CTPD also received a 5-star rating in career & post secondary readiness with a rate increase from 102.9% to 110.9%.

Finally, KCCC CTPD received a 5-star rating in post-program outcomes. The data showed that the post-program placement increased from 92.5% to 97% for the CTPD, but the KCCC High School had a post-program placement rate of 97.4%.

"We are excited to receive a 5 star rating. We always strive for excellence as we work to prepare students for success. Students at KCCC leave well prepared with industry credentials, work experience, and professional skills. We continue to partner with our associate schools to assist them in providing career technical education to as many students as we can in Knox County. I'm very proud of the career tech education options that we offer in Knox County and all of the work of our teachers and staff," said Kathy Greenwich, KCCC Superintendent.

## Learn Modern "Western Style" Square Dance

**Two (2) Free Lessons starting  
Thursdays, Sept. 25 and Oct. 2, 7-9 pm**



It's a great way to gently exercise the body and mind,  
meet new friends and have fun too.  
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No experience required and dress is casual.  
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(SW corner of W. Cook Rd. & Lexington Ave.)

Questions: Call Don Karger at 419-545-6564



## Ohio State Mansfield recognized for natural resource conservation

While most of the education at Ohio State Mansfield takes place inside classrooms, a very important class also takes place in the outdoors, in the 600-acre part of campus known as the Ecolab.

The Ecolab was recognized Sept. 11 by the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District, which named the campus the "Cooperator of the Year" during the SWCD's annual banquet in Mansfield.

The Ecolab is home to research conducted by undergraduate students, state and federal partners, as well as to numerous community events held throughout the year.

Led by Gabe Karns, Ecolab land manager and a faculty member in environment and natural resources, the Ecolab is a vast array of grasses and trees, wildflowers, wildlife, soil and water. Karns works closely with the academic staff at Ohio State Mansfield to provide an experience that complements coursework with hands-on, in-person learning.

In addition, Karns and his many collaborators hold public-facing events, such as the Maple Madness tour in the spring, educational tree programs during the summer and forestry and wildlife research that continues year-round.

"The Ohio State University at Mansfield is driven by a moral sense of responsibility and careful and creative stewardship of the campus resource," said Darrell Banks, a Richland County commissioner and a presenter at the SWCD banquet.

Banks presented Ohio State Mansfield with a large sign and individual acclamations from the Richland County Commissioners, Mansfield Mayor Jodie Perry; Ohio Sen. Mark Romanchuk; and Ohio Rep. Marilyn John.

## Donors can receive Snoopy sweatshirt, Amazon gift card

The American Red Cross reminds people that giving blood now helps support patients the moment they need medical care. Donors of all types, especially those with types O positive and B negative blood, are asked to make an appointment to give.

Those who come to give now through Oct. 5 can receive a classic Red Cross x PEANUTS sweatshirt featuring Snoopy.

To book a time to give blood or platelets, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), call 1-800-RED CROSS or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

Additionally, all who come to give now through Oct. 19 will receive a \$10 Amazon.com gift card by email.

Bloodmobiles are scheduled for:

Wednesday, Sept. 24, noon to 6 pm, The Ontario Center, 2209 Richland Mall, Ontario

Saturday, Sept. 27, 9 am to 2 pm, The Ontario Center, Richland Mall, Ontario

Monday, Sept. 29, noon to 6 pm The Ontario Center, Richland Mall, Ontario

Wednesday, Oct. 1, noon to 6 pm, The Ontario Center, Richland Mall, Ontario

Thursday, Oct. 2, 2-7 pm, Mohican Wood Products, 20460 Nunda, Butler

Friday, Oct. 3, noon to 5 pm, The Ontario Center, Richland Mall, Ontario

Monday, Oct. 6, 9 am to 2 pm, Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center Mansfield, 1125 Aspira Ct., Mansfield; and noon to 6 pm, The Ontario Center, Richland Mall, Ontario

Tuesday, Oct. 7, noon to 6 pm, Saint Paul Lutheran Church, 48 Church St., Bellville

Wednesday, Oct. 8, noon to 6 pm, The Ontario Center, Richland Mall, Ontario; and 8 am to 1 pm, Shelby High School, 1 Whippet Way, Shelby

Friday, Oct. 10, 11 am to 4 pm, The Ontario Center

Monday, Oct. 13, noon to 5 pm, The Ontario Center, Richland Mall, Ontario

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 9 am to 3 pm, TC Energy, 2873 Pleasant Valley Rd., Lucas

Wednesday, Oct. 15, noon to 6 pm, The Ontario Center, Richland Mall, Ontario; and 1-6 pm, Planktown Country Market, 1921 Free Rd., Shiloh

The Ecolab provides an important extension for classes such as biology and natural resources, said Cynthia Callahan, associate dean of student enrichment.

"The Ecolab allows students to take some of the skills that they learn in their classes and apply them in the outdoors," she said. "The full range of water, forestry and animal life that is available on our campus allows students to engage with the natural environment in their coursework and to complete the introductory courses for environmental science degrees."

**Educational opportunities**

According to Karns, the Ecolab provides valuable education opportunities to college students, those in middle and high school and the general public. Currently, there is research being done by the US Forest Service into Emerald Ash Borer, and there are public events planned around forestry, pollinators and maple syrup production.

"Our ability to show and tell is enabled and complimented by the fact that this campus has all manner of land cover types and habitats," said Karns. "Those include wetlands, woodlands, young forestry, established forestry, open areas managed as prairie and so much more."

The Richland Soil and Water Conservation District is one of 88 county-based conservation organizations in Ohio, committed to working with landowners and the public on ways to improve natural resource stewardship.

Jason Opal, Dean of Ohio State Mansfield, accepted the award during the banquet and said the campus is honored to be recognized.

"Natural resource stewardship is very important to us, and we are intentional and forthright about our moral and ethical responsibilities to take care of our campus," he said. "We endeavor to provide our students with opportunities and education that enriches them, that enables them to do well in a wide array of fields, whether it's related to conservation and biology or something else."

A video honoring the campus was shown during the banquet, which also featured comments from Kathy Smith, OSU Extension forestry program director. To learn more visit [Mansfield.osu.edu](http://Mansfield.osu.edu).





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# 'Family Tree' art exhibition debuts

A new art exhibit entitled "Family Tree" is on display at the Pearl Conard Art Gallery, featuring the works of four sisters as they portray trees in conditions in and outside of human care and conflict.

The exhibit will display the works of Elin O'Hara Slavick, Madeleine Slavick, Sarah Slavick and Susanne Slavick — each using their artistry in different ways.

"Family Tree offers both critical commentary and sensual delight in visualizing the tree as refuge and livelihood, consumed and consuming, under assault and triumphant, as historical record, and as harbinger of things to come," says Susanne Slavick, one of the artists and professor emerita at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

The sisters move fluidly between imagery and language, working as artists and authors with a variety of visual media and publications. Their paintings, photographs, and works on paper have been exhibited around the world, and their poems, essays and other writings have been featured in publications such as the New York Times, Art New Zealand, The Boston Globe and the Journal of Visual Culture.

The exhibit is intended to showcase trees and their representations, examining how trees can promote talking, listening and learning through the solace and space that they offer.

"In its beauty and force, 'nature' is often regarded as benign and apolitical," said Slavick. "We do not expect trees to assume editorial stances or embody ideologies. Wheth-

er bombed or irradiated, contained or marginalized, in underground union or standing in persistence, trees and their representations can offer solace and space — for the necessity of talking, listening and learning."

The exhibition is free and open to the public now through Friday, Oct. 24. Staffed by students, the exhibit will be open most school days, during normal daytime hours.

For more information about the Pearl Conard Art Gallery, including up to date hours, visit <http://u.osu.edu/pcagallery>

Those with a disability or need special accommodations can email [u@osu.edu](mailto:u@osu.edu) or call 614-292-5000 for assistance.

Elin O'Hara Slavick has exhibited internationally and is currently Artist-In-Residence at the University of California, Irvine. Her work is included in many collections, including the Queens Museum, The National Library of France, The Library of Congress, the Nasher Museum and the Art Institute of Chicago. She is an author of two monographs

Madeleine Slavick is the author of several books of photography, poetry and nonfiction. Her writing and images have been published internationally.

Sarah Slavick is a professor at Lesley University's College of Art and Design in Boston. Numerous awards include a grant in painting from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and artist residencies at Baer Art Center in Iceland, the Millay Colony, and the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art. She is an artist, curator, and University Professor Emerita at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.



Tree of Life Nepal

## Free Medicare and Part D prescription drug benefits to be discussed

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. invites the community to a Medicare Part D Information Session on Friday, Oct. 10, at 10 am in the Hawkins Conference Center, 2131 Park Avenue West, Ontario.

A live feed will also be on the Facebook page at [facebook.com/aaa5ohio](https://facebook.com/aaa5ohio).

This free session will provide clear, unbiased information about Medicare and Part D prescription drug benefits.

Representatives from the Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIIP) will be available to answer questions

and help attendees explore ways to save money and choose the best plan for their needs.

Medicare Open Enrollment is Oct. 15 through Dec. 7, and is the only time to re-

view and compare 2026 plans.

Any changes will begin Jan. 1, 2026.

For more information, contact Consumer Assistance at 1-800-860-5799 or 419-524-4144.



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## Community Research Frenzy set for Oct. 8 at Mansfield library

Eight faculty researchers from The Ohio State University at Mansfield will present on a broad range of topics during the annual "Community Research Frenzy," slated for Oct. 8 at the Mansfield Richland County Public Library.

Topics will include biology, social science, art, language and culture – presented in seven-minute sessions, with time for question and answer at the end.

"The Research Frenzy is an event we host every year to share our latest research with the community," said Amy Brunell, associate dean for faculty enrichment at Ohio State, and this year's Frenzy organizer. "Similar to a TED talk, participants highlight their research but only have a few minutes to do so before moving onto the next presenter."

Research topics include:

**The Life and Times of a Caribbean Leaf-Cutter Bee:** How hard is it to be a bee? In this talk, Carol Landry will discuss her work investigating the nesting habits of *Megachile alleni* on San Salvador Island, The Bahamas. She is associate professor in the department of Evolution, Ecology & Organismal Biology.

**Why Was Shakespeare's Stage All Male?:** There was no law or official policy against women actors in Shakespeare's England, yet only male actors performed on commercial stages. Elizabeth Kolkovich's talk explains why scholars don't have a clear answer to the question, why this question matters and what combination of precedents I think led to an all-male stage. She is associate professor in the department of English.

**Social Categories: Say Our Name:** Phil Mazzocco will discuss the benefits of acknowledging and embracing social categories, as well as the harms of doing otherwise. He is associate professor in the department of Psychology.

**Postgraphicapocalypse:** This is a frenzied overview of artworks by John Thrasher, professor in the department of Art.

**Phytoremediation: Using Plants to Clean Up Pollution:** Phytoremediation is a cost effective and environmentally friendly method of cleaning up contaminated soil and water using plants. In this talk Ozeas Costawill present the pathways used by plants to absorb, degrade, or immobilize pollutants like heavy metals, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, nutrients and other contaminants. Costa is professor in the School of Earth Sciences.

**Indispensable Partners: The Central Role of Women in Medieval European Society:** Medieval women are commonly thought to be powerless pawns, confined to hearth or castle, and valued only for the children they produced. In this talk Heather Tanner will sketch out how medieval women were central to all aspects of medieval society — politics, economics, religious life, culture and family life. She is professor in the department of History.

**Bacteriophages, the Viruses of Bacteria:** This talk will highlight what bacteriophages are and how they are studied. It will be presented by Stephen Abedon, professor in the department of Microbiology.

**German Grammar: Some Facts for Casual Conversation:** Steven Joyce will discuss some odd and maybe interesting features of German grammar. He is professor in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures.

The Community Research Frenzy is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Amy Brunell at [brunell.2@osu.edu](mailto:brunell.2@osu.edu) or 419-755-4119.

## Raffle basket will include signed jersey

The Friends of the Galion Public Library has a Cincinnati Bengals raffle basket worth approximately \$450 and features Bengals and other football items.

Items include a Bengals t-shirt, blanket, key chain, tumbler, Joe Burrow Hat, cups, a M&S Pizza gift certificate for a large three-item pizza, three books, flag and snacks and utensils for game day.

The basket also has a signed and authenticated Ja'Marr Chase jersey. The basket will also be on display during the fall book sale Oct. 9, 10 and 11.

Tickets can be purchased at the library, 123 N. Market St., 419-468-3203, through Oct. 11. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 with the drawing on Oct. 13. All proceeds go to the library.



**CLEAR FORK HIGH SCHOOL** 2025 homecoming court members are freshmen, Makaelah Mills and Elijah Jones; sophomores, Malayna Kehl and Luke Remy; juniors, Layla Daughtery and Nash Evans; and seniors, Kailyn Bowman, Audrey Vanausdle, Ashtyn Wine, Ben Campbell, Landen Perry and Myles Sharp. Homecoming week at CFHS will take place from Sept. 22-27. This week includes Spirit Week, a pep rally, football games and the homecoming dance. The court will be honored before the football game on Friday night against Marion Harding and the crowning of the 2025 homecoming king and queen will take place at that time.

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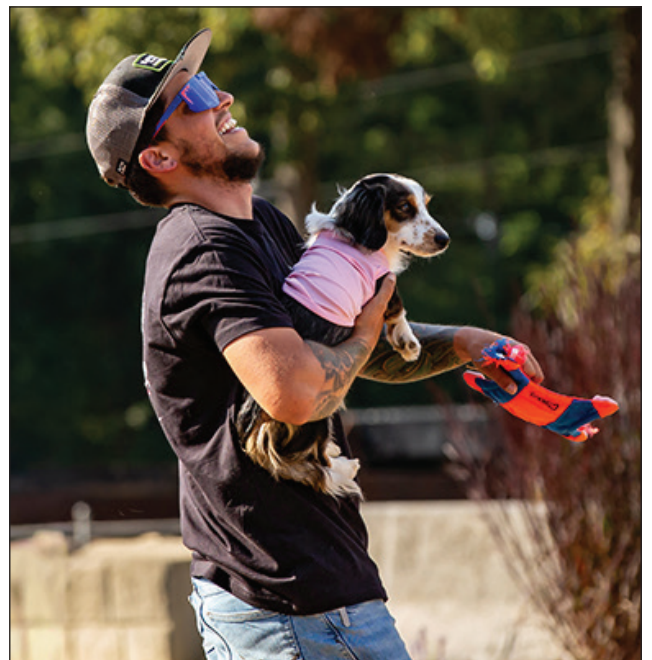
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A large banner for Storyside church. It features a stylized logo with a green and white swirl. To the right of the logo, the word "Storyside" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below the logo and name, the website address "www.storysidechurch.com" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. In the background, there is a dark image of a church interior with people sitting in pews.

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**MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL'S** 2025 Homecoming King and Queen are Isaiah Krause and Lacy DeFrancisco.



**THE MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL** 2025 Homecoming Court members are seniors Lacy DeFrancisco, Isaiah Krause, Adelle Cramer, Aidan Boothe, Emma Docherty, JR Reeder; juniors Mara Chase and Sam Clark; sophomores Natalie Ricker and Micah Walsh; and freshmen Lucy Fry and Landon Hickinbotham.

## •Ohio State launches free tuition program for eligible students

*(Continued from Front Page)*

engineering technology, health care, agriculture, business, information technology and environmental resource management.

This program is part of the university's commitment to increase the number of two- and four-year degrees awarded across Ohio to meet workforce demands and improve educational attainment.

"The Regional Campus Commitment makes an Ohio State degree attainable for more students across the state," said Ohio State Executive Vice President and Provost Ravi V. Bellamkonda. "By removing financial barriers, we are expanding opportunity and preparing more graduates to contribute to their communities and to Ohio's future."

The award covers the remaining tuition and mandatory fees after applying other federal, state and institutional aid. The award is similar to other programs at Ohio State, such as the Buckeye Opportunity Program, which covers tuition and mandatory fees for Ohio residents on all campuses who are Pell Grant eligible and show significant need.

To qualify, students must be Ohio residents, enroll at an Ohio State regional campus or Ohio State ATI in Wooster, file the free application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) annually by the priority deadline, maintain full-time enrollment at Ohio State and have a family Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of \$100,000 or less (verified through FAFSA).

New first-year student enrollment on Ohio State's regional campuses has increased nearly 20% over the last two years, and this program will build on that momentum, creating more pathways for students to earn their Ohio State degree while continuing to strengthen the workforce and communities across the state.

For information on The Ohio State University at Mansfield campus visit <https://mansfield.osu.edu>.

## News Briefs in Education

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) students named to the summer 2025 president's list are Brittany Deaton of Ontario, Reece Neuenschwander of Mansfield, Thomas Wilcoxson of Mansfield, Christopher Gehrisch of Lexington, Robert Broyles of Mansfield and Klyer Roberts of Mansfield.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.7 and above for the reporting term are named to the list.

Students named to the summer 2025 dean's list are Brock Hill of Ontario, Debra Christo of Mansfield and Gre'Juan Sweet of Mansfield.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.5 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the list. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring and summer.

★

Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) has released the honors list for summer semester 2025 to recognize students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement. Local students on the honors list are Mariah Cook and Lillian Fetzer, both of Mansfield.

To qualify, students must earn a grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 or higher and have completed six or more credit hours (excluding satisfactory/unsatisfactory courses) in a semester.

★

The Ontario High School Onarama Yearbook has arrived. Pick-up is available now through Friday, Sept. 25, at lunchtime for OHS students and in the office for OHS graduates.



**ONTARIO PRESCHOOL** students in Haley Echelberger's class decorated with stickers to strengthen their fine motor skills.



## •Madison Board of Education presents Ram Pride Award

(Continued from Front Page)

Nurse Aide; Tim Dean, ABC Electrical Apprenticeship Level 4; Jason Phelps, ABC Electrical Apprenticeship Levels 1 & 3; Ginger Harris, Medical Assisting; Cassandra Jarvis, Medical Assisting; Dalton Godsey, Industrial Maintenance; and Robert Dingus, Industrial Maintenance.

Volunteers approved for the 2025-'26 school year include Sean Conway, middle school wrestling; Casey Foote, middle school boys' basketball; Tim Carper, softball; and Jackie Flinders, softball.

Melissa Sayre resigned as a 4-hour cook at Eastview; Keiayrsah Jones resigned as a MECLC assistant teacher; Michelle Keen resigned as a high school custodian; Amy Ryan resigned as a MECLC preschool teacher; Victoria Sloan resigned as a preschool teacher; Dallas Pettet resigned as the MACC evening administrator's assistant; and Angela Wilson resigned as a special education paraprofessional at Mifflin.

Hirings included Anne Brinley, 4-Hour cook, Eastview; Natalie Lewis, MECLC assistant teacher; Ashley Dismuke, MECLC lead teacher; Allie Moysi, special education paraprofessional - preschool and Jocelyn Turner, assistant teacher - MECLC.

Substitute employees hired on an "on call" basis, as needed, for the 2025-'26 school year include Jessica Francisco, administrative assistant/paraprofessional; Dallas Pettet, administrative assistant; and Cheyenne Sumler, administrative assistant/paraprofessional.

The board authorized the Ohio Schools Council Cooperative to advertise and receive bids for the purchase of one 84 passenger conventional type school bus on the board's behalf. This resolution does not obligate the district to purchase the bus.

The board approved in-lieu of transportation students for the 2025-'26 school year including Jackson Esterline, Reagan Byus and Ryan Byus.

The board approved the amended staffing agreement between Madison Local Schools, Mansfield Christian Schools, and Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center from July 1, 2025 through July 31, 2026.

The bid from Standard Plumbing and Heating Co. for the boiler project at the high school was accepted at a cost of \$154,980.

A Cybersecurity Incident Response Plan was accepted and first readings were completed for new/revised/replaced/rescinded board policies. The board suspended the practice of multiple readings of board policies for the September regular meeting and approved the first and only reading.

The next regular meeting will be held at 6 pm on Oct. 15, in the Madison Middle School Auditoria.

Records Commission members also met Sept. 17, to review records submitted for disposal. The commission approved the updated records retention schedule RC-2.

## Ontario High School Homecoming Dance





# Madison crowns homecoming king and queen

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Madison Comprehensive High School's 2025 Homecoming Week was filled with Ram pride, spirit, and celebration — culminating in the announcement of this year's royalty.

During the pep rally on Friday morning, senior Timothy Ellis was crowned homecoming king. Ellis is the son of Julie Wilkinson and Terry Ellis, Sr. He is an active member of OCC Leadership, National Honor Society, Executive Committee, and serves as Treasurer of Student Council. While in high school, he's been a member of the track team and has taken College Credit Plus classes from both North Central State College and Ashland University.

In the future, Tim plans to further his education at Butterburg University to eventually open a Culver's Restaurant or attend an in-state college with an undecided major aimed toward helping improve people's lives. Tim would like to thank God first; his parents, who have supported him through everything; his grandparents; his five older siblings; his friends, especially his best friend, Kalayah Johnson and her family; his coworkers; and his teachers — all of whom have pushed him to strive further in life and to be a better person each and every day.

On Friday evening, during halftime of the Rams' home football game on Sept. 19, Lillian Symsick was crowned homecoming queen. Lillian is the daughter of Stefanie Symsick. She is a member of the cheerleading team, track team, and is a Spirit Girl at Madison. She is also enrolled in the Business Management Technology career tech program and has earned all of her Microsoft Certificates. In addition, she is a member and officer of the Business Professionals of America and is consistently on the honor roll.

Outside of school, Lillian is an active member of her youth group at church. After graduation, she plans to attend college to major in interior design and to continue her cheerleading career. She would also like to obtain her real estate license and travel to spread the gospel. Lillian would like to thank Jesus because without Him, none of this would be possible. She also thanks her mother, her Papa, and the ABCD group chat for supporting her, picking her back up any time she doubted herself, and being by her side through it all. She shared that she would not be the person she is today without them.

In addition to Ellis and Symsick, the 2025 Homecoming Court included Madison Berry, Randy Jamieson, Myla Blankenship, Carter Branham, Caleigh Cook, Kaleb Gordon, Maci Hergatt, Colton Adkins, Emma Reynolds, Grady Spurlock, Evan Cyrus, Sanaa Davis,

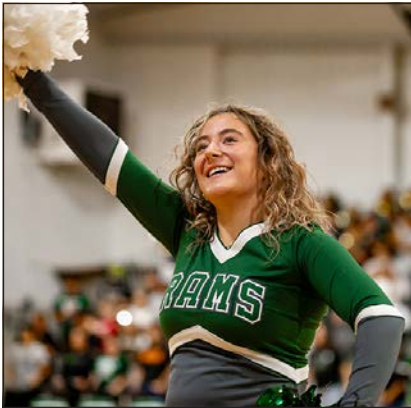
Courtney Cyrus, Taylor Steffey, Raygen Reiter, Liam Stone, Campbell Kiser and Julius Walker.

The week-long activities, filled with music, school spirit, and Ram tradition, reflected the energy of the Madison community. The crowning of King Timothy Ellis and Queen Lillian Symsick marked a memorable conclusion to Madison's spirit week.





# MADISON COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING



Photos By Traci Little



## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

## MADISON COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING



Photos By Traci Little

**THE MADISON COMPREHENSIVE RAMS** hosted West Holmes for the homecoming game Friday night, Sept. 19, where the visiting Knights came away with a 35-0 win. Despite the loss, Madison showed determination in front of a spirited home crowd, with the Rams' defense working hard against a strong West Holmes offense and the team rallying around the excitement of the Homecoming festivities. Lillian Symsick was crowned homecoming queen during halftime. Pictured with her is king Timothy Ellis.





# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

## ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING



**Queen Kaylee Lynch**



**King Michael Ward**





## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**GIRLS GOLF M.O.A.C. TOURNAMENT • SEPT. 18 • PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER**





# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

## ONTARIO VS HARDING GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER SENIOR NIGHT · SEPT. 16





## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS CLEAR FORK VARSITY SOCCER · SEPT. 19  
LEXINGTON WINS 3-1 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER





# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**ONTARIO VS GALION VOLLEYBALL · SEPT. 18 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER**





## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS MANSFIELD SENIOR VARSITY SOCCER · SEPT. 18

PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER





## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**CLEAR FORK VS CENTERBURG GIRLS GOLF · SEPT. 15 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER**





## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

### Lucas Cubs fall to Martins Ferry Purple Riders 34-15

By Kris Leiter

It's hard to believe we are coming up to week five in the football season. Where has the time gone?

I had chance to watch the Martins Ferry Purple Riders roll into Lucas Cub territory at Bob Wine Field last Friday.

The Riders (2-2, Ohio Valley AAAA) and the Cubs (2-3 Mid-Buckeye Conference) were neck-and-neck after the first quarter of play, Lucas leading 7-6.

The Riders moved the ball into Cub territory the majority of the first quarter while notching a few first downs along the way.

As the second quarter opened, the Cub defense continued to dig in. The Riders mixed things up with some runs and passing. Lucas kept the Riders defense honest, as they would break up a number of passes.

Lucas would get the ball back early in the second quarter and with 9:15 on the clock, Brady Guegold struck the end zone for the Cubs on a 42-yard run. The Cubs added the 2-point conversion, making it 15-6, Lucas.

After the kick-off from Lucas, the Riders went back on offense with a few short runs in their own end of the field, starting on their own 39-yd line. At 7:02, the Cubs defense held the Rider offense to a 3-and-out and again, the Cubs would get the ball back.

As two plays would click away, Guegold ran 52 yards for another Cub touchdown! However, the Cubs would negate the score by an

illegal procedure penalty.

As the second quarter clock ticked away, both defenses kept the other team with limited yardage. As the halftime horn sounded, Lucas was leading, 15-6.

It's always good to go into the locker room at halftime with lead, but as the Riders made their 2.5-hour bus trip, they weren't just going to walk away empty-handed.

With the third quarter starting and just five minutes ticking off the clock, the Riders ran to paydirt with a 59-yard run, as they would also score the 2-point conversion as well, and would be within one-point of the Cub lead, 15-14 Cubs.

How about an on-side kick to spice things up? And that's just what the Riders would do and succeed to get the ball back.

The Riders continued their offensive groove and scored another 22-yard pass for a touchdown and 2-point conversion, bringing the score and the lead, 22-15!

The Riders would keep the heat on and scored a touchdown at 5:10, they ran for an 86-yard touchdown! Red Riders spread the lead 28-15!

As much the Cubs would try, they would not score again. The Riders scored a touchdown at 4:57 in the fourth quarter and ended the game 34-15.

The Cubs put up a fight with a galant effort, but the Riders would seal the deal!

### Madison Community Youth Park: The Field of Dreams

By Kris Letier  
(Part 3)

This week, in Part 3 of this series, we will see how the Madison Community Youth Park board members finally saw the fruits of their labor and how the current board members have continued to improve the facility.

As the years have gone by at the park, good things have happened and it just keeps getting bigger and better, year after year.

Since the beginning of this adventure in 1961 the vision has grown. What is the secret to success for the growth to continue? People tend to tell other people and the chain grows.

"Long-time Community involvement keeps things moving forward," said Dave Miller, long-time board member. "Madison doesn't have a huge amount of landmarks to hang our hats on, so we cherish the youth complex as our shining star. Good people started this from years gone by. Monumental support came from Jim Vantilburg and Ray Peterson and many others."

"The National Honor Society came to help in the concession stand and volunteers come out in the spring and the fall. They put all the field signs up for us. There are thirty of them."

The board is a unique group. They don't sit complacent and leave things to happenstance. They get their hands dirty and pitch in alongside their fellow brothers and sisters. They are constantly looking for ways to improve and grow.

Growth doesn't always happen and when it does, it can be scary and sometimes painful. Most people are not a fan of pain. Growth can happen in the unknown, sometimes even in failure, but if you look back on life, growth usually merits good things.

As things at the complex kept growing, more people wanted to be a part of it. That's when the idea of allowing girls to play came in.

"Keep in mind, until we did this, (completed the complex) girls never played," said board member Gary Boyd.

Steve Katz and Miller also mentioned, "At that time, It was still in-house so we didn't have a dirt field. It was all grass field."

Cindy Townley added, "When we opened the park, all four fields opened at the same time."

"The girls played before this was built, but they were all different

elementary fields," said Boyd.

As the concessions and volunteers became a constant fixture year-after-year, so the word would spread.

"We started the MOC. Madison, Ontario, Clearfork. It became the MOCL when we added Lexington," said Miller.

"Then it was back to the MOC, since Lexington is not in it anymore. We actually have seven different school systems. We also picked up Northmor. Now, we're down to 2,500 kids. We still we have an MOC tournament that's during the regular season."

"We play Ontario and Clearfork through the season. It's not just Madison, We can play everybody twice. We also picked up Lucas, two fields."

A draft was needed for an even playing field Boyd also wanted to change things regarding the assembly of the teams.

"One of the first things I changed was the selection of teams," said Boyd. "They would say, here is our coach, and these four guys are my assistants — the four best kids. How do you prevent that? They were beating all the teams 18-2 by the fourth game of season. The teams stopped coming to play." Because they were going to get beat, they wouldn't show up. That wasn't any good either."

"We made some fair rules, like batting players one through twelve — everybody bats and every other inning you have to sit. Everybody has set two innings out here."

As in any sport, officials keep the peace and finding good umpires is not an easy task.

"I think we have the best group of umpires issue we've ever had," said Boyd. "We brought in David Gilbert. He is a registered umpire. He's also a coach and does cross country. We also provide board members here at every game, so if there's any kind of a dispute we have backup."

"Board members don't get into their game, we let the umpires call the game."

As baseball season comes and goes, if you stop by the complex chances are you will probably see one of the board members mentioned in this series. Stop in to watch a game and grab a snack from the concession stand.



## Mansfield Symphony to host Carnegie Hall's Link up program

The Renaissance Theatre has announced the return of Carnegie Hall's Link Up program with this year's theme, The Orchestra Swings, to be held on Thursday, Oct. 16, with performances at 9:45-11:45 am on the Renaissance Theatre's main stage, 138 Park Avenue West in Mansfield.

Part of the Mechanics Bank Education Series, this free educational assembly invites students in grades 3-5 (with K-2 also encouraged to attend) to experience the magic of swing music through an interactive concert with the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra and a live jazz ensemble. Area schools and homeschool families are invited to register their students to attend this free educational initiative.

Carnegie Hall's Link Up: The Orchestra Swings explores the distinctive rhythms, styles, and history of swing — a genre rooted in jazz but thriving across musical traditions, including orchestral works. Students will learn how an orchestra can "swing," discover the elements that create this rhythmic feel, and experience the exciting connection between jazz and classical music.

The program culminates in a high-energy performance where students sing, play, and clap along from their seats, participating in re-

al time with professional musicians. Under the direction of Maestro Octavio Más-Arocas, the concert features immersive narration and demonstrations that bring swing to life.

Optional curriculum resources are available to schools and families interested in participating prior to the event, including:

- Curriculum Resources: Comprehensive lesson plans, repertoire for singing and playing, and age-appropriate activities.
- Multimedia Tools: Access to audio, video, and Carnegie Hall's online resources for teachers.
- Interactive Experience: A culminating live performance where students become part of the orchestra and jazz ensemble.

The mission of the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra is to provide a quality symphonic experience that engages musicians, patrons, and youth alike.

## LEGOLAND offering free admission

LEGOLAND Discovery Center Columbus is showing thanks by offering free admission to local community heroes by offering free admission during specific appreciation months. October is first responder's month and military appreciation month is in November. They also receive 30% off for up to six friends and family members so they can enjoy a memorable day building memories.

In addition, guests visiting between Sept. 25 and Oct. 31 can enjoy the Halloween event, Brick-or-Treat, as LEGO® Monsters take over LEGOLAND Discovery Center Columbus and throw a Monster Party.

Free admission for first responders is only available at LEGOLAND Discovery Center Columbus during the month of October, and tickets will be available a few days prior to October for first responders on this website. First responders must show employer ID or pay stub at admissions. First responders must purchase a ticket to receive one free admission ticket.

Free admission for military personnel is only available at LEGOLAND Discovery Center Columbus during the month of November, and tickets will be available a few days prior to November for military personnel on this website. Military personnel must provide military ID or pay stub at admissions. Military personnel must purchase a ticket to receive one free admission ticket.

For information visit <https://www.legolanddiscoverycenter.com/columbus/ticket-deals/discount-offers/>

## Construction projects underway

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

State Route 13 northbound and southbound, from Hanley Road to Chilton Ave, will have long-term lane closures for a resurfacing project. Estimated completion is May 2027

East Hanley Road at SR 13 closed Friday, Sept. 19 for 21 days. The detour route for southbound and northbound motorists from SR 13 to East Hanley Road will be SR 13 to Possum Run Road to Stander Ave to Washington Pkwy to Hanley Road, and reverse for East Hanley Road motorists trying to go to SR 13. Estimated completion is Friday, Oct. 10,. Access to West Hanley Road at SR 13 will remain open.

There will be traffic signal upgrades along U.S. 42 at Hanley Road, Kroger (Ashland Road), Stewart Road and Eastview/Reiser Drive. Traffic will be maintained by daytime lane closures when necessary. Estimated completion is April 2026.

State Route 181 will have single lane closures through the village of Crestline from Scott Street to the Crawford/Richland County line; and from the Crawford/Richland County line (Middletown Road) to SR 309. Work includes pavement repairs and bridge maintenance. Traffic will be maintained by flaggers. Estimated completion is September 2025.



**MACKENZIE REESE'S** AM & PM classes at Ontario are engaging in dramatic play. The kids enjoyed "playing house" with pretend dishes, food and baby dolls. They took on family roles, cooked meals and cared for the baby. Old phones were a favorite prop, as they pretended to call family and friends. The children used lots of imagination and worked together while acting out everyday routines. They also enjoyed sensory play with buttons.

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