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11.13.25



Honoring Our Heroes: Veterans Day Ceremony held at AMVETS Post 26

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Community members gathered at AMVETS Post 26, 1100 W. 4th St., on Tuesday morning to honor the men and women who have served our country during the Veterans Day Ceremony, presented by the Richland County Joint Veterans Council.

The program opened with a warm welcome from Commander Bruce Phipps, followed by the Presentation of Colors and a stirring rendition of the National Anthem performed by John Darby. Attendees joined together for the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Josh Hurrell, before Pastor Hank Webb of Belmont Community Church offered the invocation.

A highlight of the ceremony was the keynote address by Charles E. Kvochick, a U.S. Navy veteran whose decades of military and community service reflect unwavering dedication and patriotism. The first in his family to enlist since his grandfather served in World War I, Kvochick spent 13 years in the Navy, including eight years aboard the USS Tattnell (DDG-19) and five years with the Naval Reserve Mobile Construction Battalion (RNMCB-20) at Rickenbacker Air Station in Columbus. He completed his service as a First Class Petty Officer (E-6) and earned multiple honors, including the Good Conduct Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, and Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist insignia.

Following his military career, Kvochick became a lifelong advocate for veterans, serving as a life member of AMVETS Post 43, a 29-year member of American Legion Post 535, and a leader within both organizations. His roles have included Post Chaplain, 1st Vice Commander, 5th District Commander, and Member of the Department of Ohio Finance Committee. He was also inducted into the Forty & Eight in 2002 by Richland County Voiture 20, where he went on to serve as Ohio's 100th Grand Chef de Gare.

After retiring in 2013 from a 30-year career with the City of Mansfield, where he worked as a Police Dispatcher, Data Analyst, IT Manager, and Utility Collections Manager, Kvochick continues to serve his community with the same sense of duty and pride that marked

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RCT will offer free bus rides

Richland County Transit (RCT) is spreading holiday cheer by offering free special holiday service to thank riders and the community for supporting public transit throughout the year.

Fixed route bus rides are free for everyone and Dial-A-Ride service is free for eligible riders.

Special Saturday service (when RCT doesn't usually run) will be offered for Shop Small Saturday on Saturday, Nov. 22 and on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 9:30 am to 4 pm.

Fare-Free Fridays will be offered during regular hours (6:30 am to 6:30 pm) on Black Friday, Nov. 28 and Friday, Dec. 19.

RCT will be closed all day for Thanksgiving (Nov. 27), Christmas (Dec. 25) and New Year's Day (Jan. 1). RCT will end service at 4 pm on Christmas Eve (Dec. 24).

The schedule on Nov. 22 will be:

Transit 1, Park Avenue, 9:30-3:30, last bus at 2:30
Transit 2, Lexington Avenue, 9:30-4:00, last bus at 3:30
Transit 3, South Main, 9:30-3:30, last bus at 2:30
Transit 5, Springmill, 9:30-4:00, last bus at 3:30 SHOP
Transit 7, Ashland Rd., 10:00-3:30, last bus at 3:00
Transit 8, Glessner, 10:00-3:30, last bus at 3:00

(Continued on Page 20)

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Anita KOCHHEISER

For Springfield Township Trustee

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Photo by Damon Callis

Day Trippin' With Damon – Known as the “Niagara of the South,” Cumberland Falls State Resort Park has a 125-foot curtain of water falling into a boulder-strewn gorge. During a full moon visitors can see the moonbow, a phenomenon not found anywhere else in the Western Hemisphere. It is located at 7351 Highway 90, Corbin, KY.

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THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —

Director Dan Trachtenberg surprised everyone a couple years ago with a reboot of the *Predator* franchise with *Prey*.

Taking on a whole new approach, he made one of the best movies in the series and has done it again with the new release *Predator: Badlands*.

A predator named Dek wants to earn the honor of his father by seeking out an unstoppable creature called the Kalisk. He lands on a distant planet to find the creature and has to contend with all of the dangers it has to offer.

Dek also encounters an android named Thia (Elle Fanning) who assists him on his journey.

This movie is so much fun. Trachtenberg brings the action from start to finish and he really has hit on something by bringing the audience into the predators world instead of the other way around.

Thia is a talker and provides

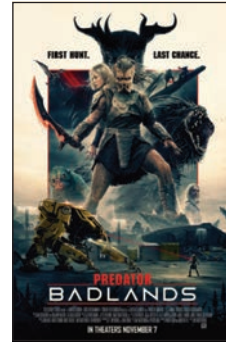
the movie with some humorous moments though there is always an underlying element of family and mission for Dek to achieve what he came there to do.

The special effects are also worth a mention as scary creatures, vicious trees and blades of grass made of glass look great on screen while still having the feel of a *Predator* movie.

After the classic 1987 original with Arnold Schwarzenegger, the movies have been very hit and miss and very spread out.

Trachtenberg's reboot and this movie really bring the franchise back to life. *P*

redator: Badlands is a great big screen adventure that is part action movie, part buddy comedy, part heartfelt story and it surprisingly all works really well.



Shoobox collection starts Monday

Every year, Operation Christmas Child National Collection Week takes place the third week in November when more than 4,500 shoebox drop-off locations open across the country.

Samaritan's Purse's mission for the collection is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Every year, shoebox gifts are collected, filled with toys, school supplies and hygiene items for children around the world. The website at www.samaritanaspurse.org/operation-christmas-child given examples on how to pack a shoebox.

Local drop-off locations will include:

Freedom Ridge, 2200 Bedford Blvd., Ontario, Monday, Nov. 17, Tuesday, Nov. 18, Wednesday, Nov. 19, Friday, Nov. 21 and Saturday, Nov. 22, 9 am to noon; Thursday, Nov. 20, 5-8 pm; Sunday, Nov. 23, 1:30-4:30 pm; and Monday, Nov. 24, 9 am to 3 pm.

Impact Church, 160 Woodruff Rd., Mansfield, Monday, Nov. 17, Wednesday, Nov. 19, Friday, Nov. 21 and Monday, Nov. 24, 9 am to noon; Tuesday, Nov. 18 and Thursday, Nov. 20, 3-6 pm; Saturday, Nov. 22, and Sunday, Nov. 23, noon to 3 pm.

Trinity Lutheran Church, 508 Center St., Ashland, Monday, Nov. 17, Wednesday, Nov. 19, Friday, Nov. 21, Saturday, Nov. 22 and Sunday, Nov. 23, 10 am to noon; Tuesday, Nov. 18 and Thursday, Nov. 20, 5-7 pm; and Monday, Nov. 24, 9-11 am.



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News Briefs

SR 97, just east of N. Huron Street, will close Monday, Nov. 17, for a culvert replacement. This project is managed by the Village of Bellville because it falls within the village corporation limits.

The detour route for eastbound motorists will be SR 13 north to I-71 north to SR 39 east to SR 603 south to SR 95 east to SR 97 and reverse for westbound motorists. The estimated completion is Friday, Nov. 21.

The 32nd Annual Crestview Craft Show will be held Saturday, Nov. 15, from 9 am to 3 pm at Crestview Middle School, 1575 St. Rt. 96, Ashland. Proceeds go to the district's music programs.

The public is invited to a "Celebration of Christ Our King" Saturday, Nov. 29 at Trinity Grace Fellowship, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield.

The combined praise and worship service will begin at 4 pm, followed by a potluck dinner in fellowship hall.

The event is being sponsored by Global Methodist churches in Ashland and Mansfield. Clergy and laity from area Global Methodist churches will be involved throughout the service.

This is an opportunity to come together as a greater body of Christ to celebrate and share how He has blessed each of His churches.

First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Avenue West, in downtown Mansfield will be celebrating Women's Thank Offering during its regular 10 am service on Sunday, Nov. 16. There will be a bake sale in the Narthex and a special offering to support the Malawi Orphan Care Project.

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, Nov. 29 and 30. Acceptable items include steel and aluminum cans, crushed milk jugs, detergent bottles, plastic bottles with number 1 or 2 on the bottom,

broken down cardboard, all papers included with the newspaper but no other magazines or paper. Please remove caps from bottles and rinse all containers well.

The Village of Lexington's Light Up Lexington is set for Monday, Dec. 1, at 7 pm at Lex Landing.

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

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

The group will meet for lunch Dec. 3 at MVP Sports Bar, 275 Park Avenue West.

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

The Pioneer Career and Technology Center Board of Education has changed its regular November board meeting to Monday, Nov. 24, at 6 pm in the Pioneer Board of Education Conference Room.

On Tuesday, Nov. 25, First English Lutheran Church, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Kingdom Grace Fellowship Church will partner to offer a community-wide Thanksgiving service at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 525 W. Cook Rd., Mansfield. The entire community is invited.

All Souls Unitarian Universalist of Bellville, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Brian Moore on Sunday, Nov. 16, at 10:30 am. The subject will be "Living As An Enlightened Leader." For information visit www.allsoulsuuohio.org.

To submit a news brief item email to news@tribune-courier.com.

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Wednesday, November 19**



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-Presbyterian-Church-117768414915815>

Mansfield 1st Presbyterian Church

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

Mansfield Baptist Temple

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

Oakland Lutheran Church

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

Ontario United Methodist Church

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

St. John's United Church of Christ

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

Southside Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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

Trinity Grace Fellowship

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

Families' gifts bring new holiday magic to downtown Shelby

This Christmas season, historic downtown Shelby will shine a little brighter thanks to the generosity of two local families whose gifts celebrate both community and family legacy.

The Curry Family, honoring their parents, Linda and Denny Curry, has donated two Christmas trees that will bring new sparkle to the heart of downtown.

A 24-foot tree will illuminate Black Fork Commons Plaza, while a second tree will adorn the community bandstand, decorated by the Shelby Flower Girls, a local beautification group. The family has also provided a large holiday wreath for the plaza's fireplace, adding a festive touch to this already inviting gathering space.

"Our parents loved Christmas and believed deeply in giving back to the community that gave so much to them," said Steve Curry, son of Denny and Linda. "We hope these trees and decorations bring joy to families who gather downtown each holiday season, just as our family always loved doing together."

Paul and Carolyn Armstrong are also spreading holiday cheer with a generous gift of two nine-foot nutcrackers that will stand at the entrance to the plaza, creating a grand and welcoming entryway.

These contributions were made possible through collaboration with the Community Improvement Corporation of Shelby (CIC), the City of Shelby, and The Shelby Foundation.

"This is such a beautiful example of how generosity and community spirit continue to shape Shelby's story," said Carrie Kemerer, executive director of The Shelby Foundation. "Gifts like these will bring families together and fill our downtown with light and joy."

The public is invited to join the festivities during the Christmas in the City's parade, organized by the Shelby Downtown Business Team, on Sunday, Nov. 30, at 6 pm. The tree lighting ceremony will follow around 6:30 pm in Black Fork Commons Plaza, accompanied by fireworks for all to enjoy.

The City of Shelby will provide labor for assembling and installing the new trees and decorations — helping make this holiday season shine for the community.



THANK YOU

Veterans Day Sponsors 2025

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- Allure Studios Salon & Spa
- Alzheimer's Association
- American Homestead Exteriors
- ArcelorMittal
- BellStores
- BlueScope Recycling
- Bob and Bob Door Co.
- BP Electric
- Buckeye Superstore
- Comfrey Corner
- Forget-Me-Not Flower Shop Inc.
- Hamloaf Inc. Catering
- Interstate Sign Products
- Knox County Career Center
- Lexington Moose Lodge 2511
- MACC
- Mansfield Baptist Temple
- Mansfield Christian School
- Mark and Zoi Romanchuk
- Mansfield Richland County Public Library
- McDonald's of Richland County
- Net2 Services
- Ohio Bird Sanctuary
- Ohio State Reformatory
- Ontario Local Schools
- Pediatric Dentistry
- Pioneer CTC
- Pumpkin Seed Market
- Richland Academy of The Arts
- Richland County Commissioners
- Richland County Veterans Service Commission
- Richland Newhope
- Richland Pregnancy Services
- Richland Public Health
- Rinehart-Walters-Danner Insurance
- Schmidt Security Pro and Fire
- Smokin' Bros BBQ
- Specialized Pipe Technologies (SPT)
- Stratford Guns
- Sutton Bank
- The Local @ 97
- The Ohio State Mansfield
- Third Street Family Health
- University Hospitals Samaritan Medical Center
- Versatile VoIP
- Wigton Real Estate and Auction LLC
- Wilson Family Realty (Jim Wilson)
- Zara Construction Inc.

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Janie Hazel Stamper, Oct. 31
 Steven Jan Noble, Nov. 1
 Peggy Ann Pearson, Nov. 2
 Ralph Peckham, Nov. 3
 Eileen Marie Persinger, Nov. 3
 Eddie Seamour, Nov. 3
 Paula Jean McNeely, Nov. 4
 William Richard Spellman, Nov. 5

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www.wappner.com

Avita Health System celebrates grand opening of new Ontario cancer center — First in Ohio to feature RapidArc Dynamic

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Avita Health System marked a major milestone this week with the grand opening and ribbon cutting of its new comprehensive cancer center at the Ontario South Campus — a state-of-the-art facility poised to transform cancer care across north central Ohio.

The \$15 million, 20,000-square-foot expansion converts the former Sears building at Richland Mall into a regional hub for oncology, bringing cutting-edge technology and compassionate care together under one roof.

A Decade-Long Vision Realized

"Some said it couldn't be done — but we did it," said Kim Winkle, Vice President of Operations. "This is what happens when vision meets determination. For over ten years, we've been working toward this moment."

The center houses medical and radiation oncology, a 16-bay infusion suite, a PET/CT scanner, lab, comprehensive pharmacy services, and financial counseling — all designed to provide seamless, coordinated care close to home.

Leading with Innovation: RapidArc Dynamic Technology

The Avita Ontario Cancer Center is the first in Ohio — and among the first in the nation — to feature Varian® RapidArc® Dynamic, an intelligent radiation system that reduces radiation exposure to nearby organs by up to 50%, while speeding up planning and treatment times by up to 70%.

"We added RapidArc Dynamic to reduce long-term side effects and deliver cancer treatment more quickly and effectively," explained Jerry Morasko, President/CEO of Avita Health System. "All tissues have limits to the radiation they can safely receive. Our goal is to protect healthy tissue while targeting cancer with greater precision. This investment reflects our commitment to the long-term health and safety of our patients."

RapidArc Dynamic integrates with the Varian TrueBeam® radiotherapy system — a top-of-the-line linear accelerator that delivers focused radiation beams with real-time image-guided accuracy. Avita also implemented the IDENTIFY™ surface-guided radiotherapy system, which uses cameras and computer vision to track patient motion with submillimeter accuracy. If a patient shifts beyond safe thresholds, the system automatically pauses treatment to ensure precision and safety.

"We're not sparing any expense when it comes to providing life-saving cancer treatment for our patients," Morasko added.

Honoring the Legacy of Courage and Community

One of the most meaningful moments of the ceremony was the dedication of the new Avita Ontario Jody M. Baker Cancer Center, affectionately known as "The Jode." The name honors Jody Baker, who courageously battled cancer for nearly 25 years before her passing in 2022 and was made possible through a \$5 million legacy gift from Randy and Lisa Payne of Ontario.

The Payne family's transformational gift — given alongside their children Randa Payne and Ryan (Melissa) Payne — also honors Randy's late father, Roger Payne, who passed away in 2023. As part of their contribution, the family established the Roger L. Payne Cancer Innovation Fund, ensuring ongoing advancements in cancer research and treatment for years to come.

"Like countless families, we've been personally touched by cancer," shared Lisa Payne. "We know that this new center, which brings together the region's top oncologists, will offer best-in-class care and renewed hope to people throughout the region."

Randy Payne added, "After losing Jody and my father, we knew that cancer care was the cause we wanted to support. This is our once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make a lasting difference in the community that has given us so much."

Jody's husband, Doug Baker, their children Curtis Baker and Kayla Durbin, son-in-law Dakota, and grandchildren Charlotte, Riley, and Cooper joined the Payne family and Avita leaders for the ribbon cutting — a special reminder that behind every great advancement in healthcare are families who choose to turn their heartbreak into hope.

Their gift is part of the Campaign for Avita, which has already raised \$9.3 million of a \$10 million goal through more than 700 benefactors. Nearly 300 donors were honored during the previous October 18 celebration of generosity and progress.

"This extraordinary level of giving is one like no other to our community," said Randy McDonald, Chair of the Avita Health Foundation. "Avita is poised to change cancer care for generations."

Winkle summarized the emotion of the day: "This facility stands as a tribute to courage, compassion, and community. It's built on love — love for patients, for families, and for those whose journeys inspire us."

Community Partnerships and Gratitude

Avita leaders recognized numerous partners, including Adena
(Continued on Page 7)



•Avita celebrates grand opening of new Ontario cancer center

(Continued from Page 6)

Corporation, GPD Architects, and Corda Engineering, as well as Avita's internal operations, IT, oncology, pharmacy, and marketing teams for their roles in bringing the project to life.

Ontario Mayor Kris Knapp presented proclamations on behalf of both the City of Ontario and the State of Ohio, applauding Avita's

continued investment and revitalization efforts.

"Avita has invested hundreds of millions of dollars here since 2013," Knapp said. "They're not only amplifying Ontario but all of Richland County and the surrounding region. This is what community investment looks like."

Avita Board Member Charlie Walker added, "Many said it was impossible — but it's here, and it's real. This project is a testament to our physicians, staff, and the people who believe in local healthcare."

A Future of Healing and Hope

The center's opening has already created 21 new jobs, including six positions in radiation oncology, with plans to expand Avita's total workforce beyond 2,350 employees. If you're looking for a job, reach out — Avita would love to make you an addition to their amazing team!

"This is a facility we hope you never need," Walker said, "but if you do, you'll be grateful it's here."

As the ribbon was cut and guests toured the gleaming new facility, the message was clear: Avita's new Ontario Cancer Center represents not just the latest chapter in healthcare innovation — but a beacon of hope for patients and families across the region.



KCCC to host open house and first chance application night

The Knox County Career Center (KCCC) will host Open House & First Chance Application Night on Thursday, Nov. 20, from 4:30–6:30 pm.

This event will be open to the public. Business partners, alumni, and community members, along with current students and their families, will be in attendance.

Additionally, current sophomores and juniors from our associate schools, along with their families, will have the opportunity to visit KCCC's career tech programs. Sophomores can visit any of our two-year programs.

Juniors will have the chance to visit our senior-only program, Pre-Professional Mentorship. Students will have an opportunity to apply in person in the cafe.

If students are unable to attend this event, the application window will be open from 4:30 pm to midnight by visiting www.knoxcc.org and clicking on "Apply Now".

Local food trucks, On the Rise Bar-B-Que and Buddy's Local Eats, will be selling food at this event. KCCC's Culinary Arts students will be selling coffee and pastries out of the River Room Cafe and WNZR will be broadcasting on-site and doing live interviews. KCCC swag will also be handed out during this event.

For more information email careereducation@knoxcc.org or call 740-397-5820.

Richland County to celebrate small business Saturday a week early

The Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development invites the community to join this year's Shop Small – Richland County celebration on Saturday, Nov. 22.

The event, part of the national Shop Small movement, encourages residents to support locally owned businesses during the holiday season.

Small Business Saturday is nationally recognized on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. This year, after listening to small busi-

nesses, Richland County's celebration will take place one week earlier. It gives shoppers the opportunity to support local businesses, capture shopping dollars an entire week before Black Friday, and still make kickoff for the Ohio State vs. Michigan football game.

"This year, at the request of local businesses who participated in past years and from survey results, Richland County's celebration will take place one week earlier," stated Ellen Heinz,

President & CEO of the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development. "It is the same event, just the Saturday before Thanksgiving. By celebrating a week earlier, shoppers have the opportunity to support local businesses and enjoy the big game."

Dozens of locally owned shops, restaurants, and boutiques across Richland County are expected to participate. Shoppers can visit participating businesses to enter two types of prize drawings:

Each business will host its own prize drawing for shoppers who visit on Nov. 22 (no purchase necessary).

Shoppers can also scan a QR code inside each store to be entered into one of five \$100 grand prize drawings sponsored by the Chamber and partners.

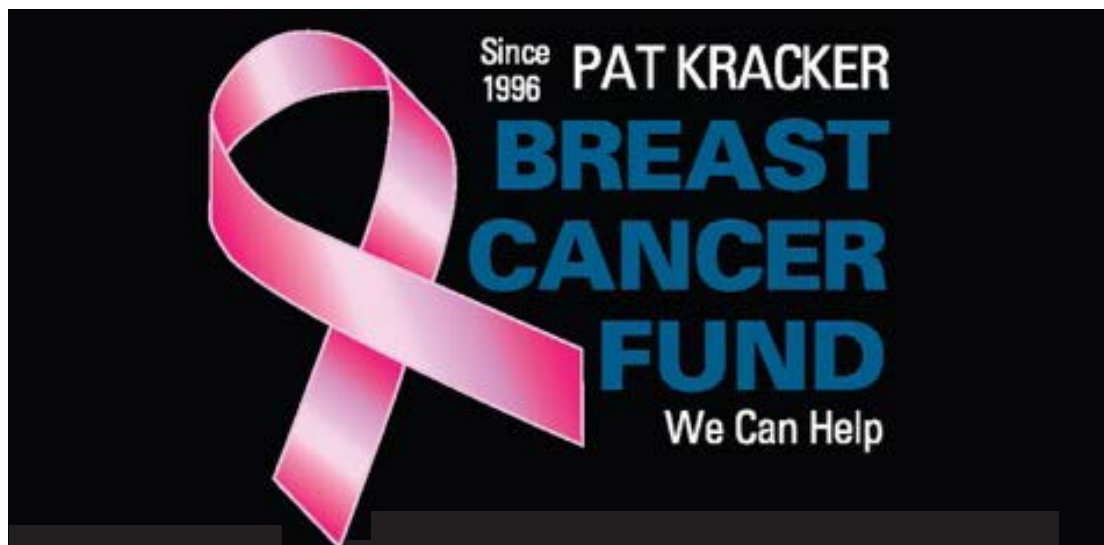
Getting around will be easier than ever this year thanks to Richland County Transit (RCT), which will run fare-free on Saturday, Nov. 22 (and again on Dec. 13). All regular routes will operate except Route 15 (Airport Industrial Park) and Dial-A-Ride will be available for those who qualify.

Basic hours will be from 9:30 am to 4 pm (varies by route). For route details, contact RCT at 419-522-4504.

A list of participating businesses is available at RichlandAreaChamber.com under the event calendar, or by clicking this link.

"Every dollar spent locally helps strengthen our economy and support our beloved local businesses that make Richland County unique," Heinz added. "We encourage everyone to shop early, shop local, and show support for small businesses."

Shop Small – Richland County is presented by the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development in partnership with Downtown Mansfield, Inc., and sponsored by Medical Mutual.



Thank you to the following sponsors for their support of the Pat Kracker 2025 Survivor Dinner. You are great!

OhioHealth
Cleveland Clinic
Dirk Schluter/Shirley Schluter Fund
Dwyer Electric/Ed Dwyer
MVP/Sammy Sertell
REMAX, Lisa Purdy Many Shades of Pink
Minority Health & Wellness Project
Dave Kracker, Founder,
Ann Wadding/Dave Kracker, Jr.

Bigley elected to Phi Kappa Phi

Rebecca Bigley of Lexington, was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at The Ohio State University.

Bigley is among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year.

Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

•Honoring Our Heroes

(Continued from Front Page)

his naval career.

The program also included a wreath presentation by the Jared Mansfield Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and a Salute to the Honored Dead by the Richland County Joint Veterans Burial Squad. The solemn notes of “Taps”, played by Doug Kepler, echoed through the room.

Pastor Hank Webb returned for the benediction, and Commander Phipps offered closing remarks, thanking all who attended and encouraging continued support for local veterans.

The ceremony served as a heartfelt reminder that freedom comes at a price — one paid by the brave men and women who wear the uniform of the United States Armed Forces.



Photos By Traci Little



Photos By Jeff Hoffer

BELLVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH CENTER held its annual Empty Bowls fundraiser on Nov. 9 at Clear Fork High School. For \$15, guests could choose a hand-painted bowl to keep and fill with a variety of soups. Proceeds went to fund the food pantry. For more information visit www.bnoc.org.

HEAP assistance available

The Ohio Department of Development and the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. has announced that assistance is available to help with 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.

The benefit is applied directly to the customer's utility or bulk fuel bill. Older Ohioans may go to their local Area Agency on Aging office for help with assembling the required documents and completing the application or visit www.energyhelp.ohio.gov to apply online or to download a copy of the application.

Applications must be received by May 31, 2026. For information call 419-524-4144.

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 energy bills after Jan. 1.

Law Enforcement Purple Heart License Plate established

The Ohio Senate passed Senate Bill 229, sponsored by State Senator Mark Romanchuk (R-Ontario), which creates the Law Enforcement Purple Heart license plate.

"It is my honor to recognize those who courageously protect and serve our communities," said Romanchuk.

"This bill acknowledges the sacrifice and commitment of Ohio's law enforcement officers who are injured in the line of duty. I'm proud to see this legislation honor the men and women who bravely serve the citizens of Ohio."

Senate Bill 229 allows any individual awarded the Law Enforcement Purple Heart to apply for this specialty license plate in the State of Ohio.

The Law Enforcement Purple Heart is issued to officers who are injured or disabled in the line of duty.

The bill ensures that officers who sustain injuries in the line of duty and receive the Law Enforcement Purple Heart from an organization or local police department are recognized for their dedication.



WOMEN'S FUND CHAIR Amy Hiner, JoAnn Dutton Volunteer Community Service Award Winner Vivian Winters and Women's Fund Chair-Elect Amy Goyal met together at the Richland County Foundation Women's Fund Grant Awards Luncheon.

Women's Fund continues its effort to improve child care

The Women's Fund of the Richland County Foundation awarded \$68,738 in grants and announced the JoAnn Dutton Award honoree during a recent luncheon.

For the seventh year in a row, the Women's Fund awarded a grant to make quality child care affordable and accessible to women in Richland County. A \$25,000 grant was awarded to the YWCA of Northwest Ohio. They will take applications from in-home child care providers and centers for grants of up to \$2,500 for resources and continuing education. The Women's Fund believes that child care is important to the economic security of women.

Another child care related grant was awarded to North Central State College Foundation for child care scholarships. The Women's Fund and community partners have now invested \$338,000 to reduce barriers for child care providers and improve the quality of care.

Other grants were awarded to Be Elite for a leadership program, Catalyst Life Services for a program to help women find jobs, Mid-Ohio Youth Mentoring for a self-defense class, Ontario Local Schools for a STEM immersion day for girls, Richland Academy of the Arts for a mental and physical wellness program, Rubies Women's Group for financial literacy classes, Shelby City Schools Girls Owning Lives of Dignity for a mentoring program, and Third Street Family Health Services for a mobile food pantry for expecting mothers.

Since 1998, the Women's Fund has awarded \$685,978 via 343 grants impacting thousands of lives.

The Women's Fund also announced the JoAnn Dutton Volunteer Community Service Award winner. The award was named in honor of JoAnn Dutton, former executive director of the Mansfield YWCA. It celebrates women who devote a significant amount of time and energy in a meaningful way to local charitable organizations.

This year's winner is Vivian Winters, the founder of a program called People Helping People which serves a meal to over 100 people a day, every day of the year. Winters has worked to collaborate with community partners to ensure that people in our community receive at least one meal a day.

"It takes a community to take care of their people. There is no income verification or paperwork process. If you are humble enough to stand in line, then we will give you love and a meal," said Winters.

The Women's Fund was founded in 1996 as a permanent endowment to meet the unique needs of women and girls in the community. It supports programs at nonprofit organizations that promote the physical, intellectual, emotional, social, economic, or cultural growth of women and girls in Richland County.

DAR offering \$25,000 scholarships

Undergraduate and graduate students studying American history can apply for a \$25,000 scholarship from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) now through Jan. 31, 2026. The DAR America 250! Scholarship will provide a one-time \$25,000 award to ten students in 2026 and is offered to mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of independence.

"We are so thrilled to expand the America 250! Scholarship in its final year of being awarded in order to be able to offer ten \$25,000 scholarships to students," said Ginnie Sebastian Storage, DAR President General. "We see no better way to celebrate America's 250th anniversary than with these transformative and life-changing scholarships investing in the development of the next generation of American historians who will study our past and help us understand new aspects of the great American story."

The DAR gives more than 30 scholarships annually awarding close to a total of \$250,000 a year to students across the country, but the organization has never provided a singular scholarship of this size. The significant amount of the America 250! Scholarship, and that it will be awarded to ten separate students, is a testament of the importance of American history education that DAR places emphasis on and in honor of the special celebrations taking place throughout 2026 in honor of the 250th anniversary of the nation.

Applicants should apply through the DAR online scholarship portal, DAR Academic Works: <https://dar.academicworks.com/>

Students currently majoring in American history in an accredited university or college undergraduate or graduate program in the year 2026 are eligible to apply. Recipients must be United States citizens, prove a minimum 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale or equivalent and prepare a one-page online essay either on the founding of our nation or on the applicant's personal volunteer achievements for community and country. Students are urged to apply well ahead of the deadline, as the scholarship application requires transcripts and letters of recommendation that must be submitted by others.

Questions can be addressed to america250scholarship@nsdar.org.



First Snow • Photo By Deb Merkel



Photos By Jeff Hoffer

THE RICHLAND COUNTY PARK DISTRICT celebrated its 60th anniversary with a special event at Gorman Nature Center on Nov. 2. The event included guided hikes, animal displays, a campfire with smores, music, refreshments and a presentation by Richland County Park District Director Jordan Tackett. The winners of a fall photo contest were also announced.



Local musicians use music to help feed the community

La LUNA is proud to present "Pantry Palooza: Benefit Concert for the H.O.P.E. Food Pantry" on Friday, Nov. 14, at 7 pm.

The event aims to raise funds to help ensure the H.O.P.E. Food Pantry can continue providing nutritious food to families in need. The concert will take place at La LUNA, located at 32 N. Walnut St., downtown Mansfield.

As of August 2025, the Catholic Charities H.O.P.E. Food Pantry served more than 650 households, representing over 1,793 individuals. Each month, more than 50 new families seek assistance through the pantry's efforts to fight food insecurity in the community.

Each year, La LUNA selects a local nonprofit to benefit from its annual charity concert, donating 100% of proceeds directly to the organization. Last year's concert raised nearly \$900 in just three hours for The Domestic Violence Shelter.

"Musicians sometimes don't recognize the power behind their talents, especially when those talents can be used to positively impact people who are in need," said Aurelio Diaz, owner of La LUNA and Mansfield City Councilman for Ward 5.

"I'm a firm believer in putting creativity to use and proving that we musicians can be true agents of change."

According to Kathy Goodwin, Events Manager at La LUNA, this isn't just an ordinary rock concert.

"Our creative community always comes together for great causes, and with food insecurity being a big problem, we knew that we had to do something," said Goodwin. "Pantry Palooza will introduce all flavors of music throughout the night — folk, punk, metal, avant-garde — you name it!"

The evening lineup includes performances by Yellow No. 5, Sovron Heavies, Sarah Goff, Rat Lord, Foster Kidz, Calio June, Madison Shilliday, Belicia Salas and Chico's Brother.

Doors open at 6:30 pm with a suggested donation of \$10, and all proceeds go directly to the H.O.P.E. Food Pantry.

For more information about Pantry Palooza, contact Aurelio V. Diaz at 419-417-0717 or Kathy Goodwin at 419-685-0066.

Follow event updates on Facebook at Pantry Palooza: Benefit for HOPE Food Pantry



OSU-M to show “Medea” — A modern lens on ancient tragedy

A classic Greek tragedy full of complex relationships, revenge and sorcery will soon be performed by The Ohio State University at Mansfield Theater Department from Nov. 15–17.

Featuring characters from Greek mythology, *Medea* tells the story of the turbulent relationship between the mythical hero Jason and his faithful wife Medea, who becomes vengeful after discovering that Jason, in an effort to better his own position in life, has planned to marry another woman.

While the original play was written by the ancient playwright Euripides, this performance is based on a translation of the original text done by the eminent English scholar, poet and suffragist Augusta Webster.

“I think one thing that’s really wonderful about this production is that, in a way, we have resurrected a not commonly examined translation,” says Joseph Fahey, professor of theater at Ohio State Mansfield, and director of the theater program. “We modernized some of the language but kept as much of her text as we could.”

The result is a dynamic, forward-moving script that features a relevant, multifaceted perspective on the struggle of gender equality and a woman’s role in society, as well as the unimaginable choices that people make.

“I think the Greeks had great lessons that we still have to come to terms with” says Fahey. “Questions about revenge and being so single-minded in your purpose that you aren’t willing to listen to the other side of an argument, as well as deeper questions about loyalty are reasons enough to revisit this play.”

Professor Fahey considers this play as a part of a larger project of finding and adapting works that are in the public domain.

“To edit and clarify these works as a class in a way that can be made available to any educator or person interested in producing them is important,” says Fahey, who notes that being able to adapt a story without having the restrictions of copyright is beneficial.

“I love how there is no correct person here,” says Syd Schnell, an Ohio State student who plays Medea. “It gives a good viewpoint on what it was like to be a woman in this part of history, because you see Medea slighted in a way that only a woman could be slighted. You see her unravel and it’s kind of healing in a way.”

As with many performances done by the Ohio State Mansfield, this play features a cast and crew made up of Ohio State students, NCSC students and community members. The performances will be at Founders Auditorium, located on the Ohio State Mansfield campus. The play has no intermission, and the runtime is about 70 minutes.

“This kind of story is important at a time when people feel like they must choose a side or see things in a certain way,” says Andrea

Wittmer, head librarian at Ohio State Mansfield, who is co-directing and helped adapt the play for this performance. “To realize that life isn’t neatly categorized is important.”

The opening night will be followed by a free Friends of the Theatre reception in the lobby. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$6 for students and seniors, and can be purchased online or at the theater. More information can be found at <https://go.osu.edu/mansfieldtheatretickets>

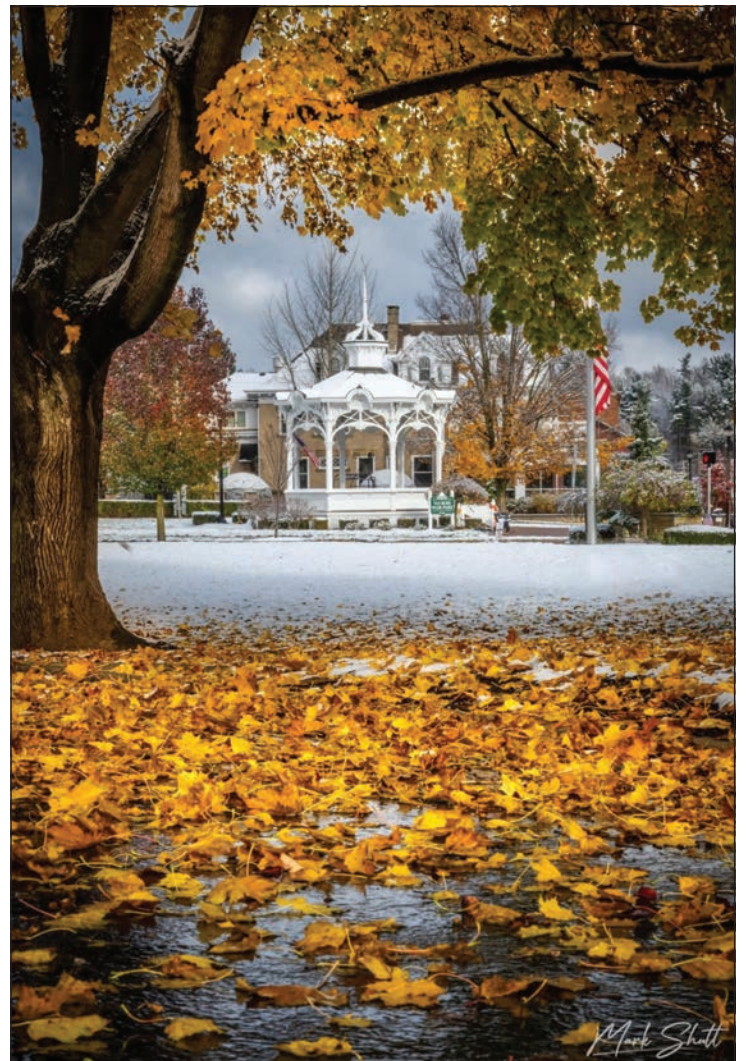


Photo By Mark Shutt



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Honor and Merit Rolls

Clear Fork High School

1st Nine Weeks

ALL A

Seniors — Jacob Brokaw, Alyssa Burger, Mattie Colegrove, Kaiden Dettmer, Abigail Geary, Jasmine Johnson, Zoe Lamp, Nicholas Martin, Austin McFerren, Lucy Myer, Bailee Riddle, Selena Ross, Hadley Slaughter, Clinton Stallard, Ashtyn Wine and Nathan Wine

Juniors — Jadelyn Brokaw, Grace Burgholder, Mackenzie Daniels, Layla Daugherty, Alaina Hawkins, Davis Hoeflich, Marcus Hoeflich, Brody McGregor, Katrina Neal, Alekai Price, Hudson Schag, Ella Schmidt, Hailly Thrush, Arianna Vanhooose and Austin Vanhouten

Sophomores — Audrey Haring, Adilynn Hickinbotham, Luke Keever, Maria Knight, McKenley Knuckles, Kylie Ludwig, Ethan McFerren, Karlynn Mortimer, Kendall Oswalt, Quentin Rinehart, Adelyn Snyder and Allison Walker

Freshmen — Katie Beck, Brea Bieri, Millie Chamberlain, Coralene Cline, Marlee Cromer, Kolton Crunkilton, Morgan Crunkilton, Ameenah Domer, Brock Douglas, Brody Douglas, Lincoln Ehrmantraut, Isabella Fenton, Kaitlyn Gerhart, Elijah Jones, Cierra Knecht, Garrett Lane, Ian Lang, Lillian Mccready, Eliyah Molina and Joshua Snider

HONOR ROLL

Seniors — Piper Black, Hansen Dornbirer, Addison Johnson, Gweneth Jones, Kenadee Muntain, Faith Smith, Liliana Trunzo, Sophia Wharton and Jacob Zack

Juniors — Asia Bechtel, Taylor Bly, Ava Boccio, Aubri D'Hondt, Benjamin Dudley, Jonathan Evans, Tiegana Franta, Charles Granholm, Mariah Hatfield, Zachary Hill, Brynley Kirkpatrick, Isabella McKenna, Deacon Sims, Wade Traxler, Owen Weikle and Adalyn Wise

Sophomores — Eliza Baumgardner, Ian Black, Nathaniel Buck, Wyatt Bunnell, Gunnar Dill, Madelynn Frontz, Broghan Gatton, Alyson Geary, Alyssa Johnson, Malayna Kehl, Jyllian Langer, Katelyn Lucci, Adelyn New, Aubryn Nickoli, Braylen Peteri, Ashley Peterson, Isaiah Police, Caitlin Seward, Emma Shultz, Caleb Snyder, Quinn Stover, Alina Van Horn and Malia Walker

Freshmen — John Angelas, Kylee Bloomfield, Jackson Brubaker, Elizabeth Dudley, Violet Freeman, Jude Gailey, Ava Kime, Kaitlin Kline, Ridley Line, Stella Lynn, Tyler Mack, Logan Oswalt, Brody Pritchard, Paige Reece, Eli Rinehart, Wyatt Scheid, Jakob Schmidt, Caylin Sellers, Karli Shultz, Raegan Sudol, Brody Thompson, Cooper Thompson, Lincoln Thrush, Drayden Tschantz, Jayden Weemhoff and Ridge Wendling

MERIT ROLL

Seniors — Tobin Amos, Clement Britton, Sabree Caudill, Reece Cook, Xander Cyphers, Joseph Drockton, Laiken Eith, Jayden Kaylor, Trysten Kilgore, Cameron Lanker, Kaleb Martin, Savannah Mazzola, Gannon O'Brien, Devyn Oswalt, Bryar Ousley, Garrett Ranshaw, Christopher Ransom, Porter Schmidt and Ian Symsick

Juniors — Morgan Armstrong, Cooper Brokaw, Wesley Bunnell, Khristopher Bush, Carter Coale, Xavier Crase, Christian Edwards, Noah Goodman, Erika Hollar, Joseph Lykins, Mya Perry, Marley Pinkerton, Ava Roberts, Isaac Ross, Peyton Sickles, Nicholas Skaggs, Chloe Steward, Kaiden Thomas and Addison Weikle

Sophomores — Aiden Armstrong, Kendall Baughman, Chesnei Flynn, Olivia Hall, Ava Hanson, Brayden Hayes, Gage Hoffman, Ashlyn Inman, Presley Lilly, Keegan Lorentz, Sloan McGhee, Madilynn Peters, Paige Raika, Sophia Schag, Jaydee Skeens, Ashley Smith, Payton Snyder, Addison Thrush, Victoriya Vaughn, Alexis Walters and Barrett Walters

Freshmen — Briar Bethea, Dean Bowman, Leeum Castle, Lucas Colvin, Emerson Gautreaux, Aimee Greene, Wade Hamilton, Ashton McGregor, Lotus McKittrick, Mya Meyers, Makaalah Mills, Landon Palmer, Jesse Schmidt, Tenli Shultz, Samantha Skeens, Beckett Slaughter, Grace Smith, William Spayde, Trey Swank, Troy Swank, Audrie Thompson, Mason Weidemeyer and Braylee Wenger

Ontario Middle School

1st Nine Weeks

ALL A

Sixth Grade — Holden Allen, Mason Barley, Ellie Bayer, Six Blancett, Greyson Born, Breah Boyd, Quinten Breedlove, Reagan Buck-

ner, Addie Buttil, Canaan Cash, Adriana Cervantes, Cali Dalton, Mason Dawson, Marley Dudleson, Marcus Eberst, Gwenn Exten-Skairie, Brooklynn First, Zef Franco, Zoey Franco, Parker Friend, Maddy Gray, Zoey Grayson, Abbi Guth, George Horning, Ava Hristovski, Abby Jenkins, Levi King, Tyrin Kirst, Quinn Kline, Cooper Krebs, Ellie Lawhorn, Emma Lawhorn, Rosie Lawhorn, Camden Linger, Lucy Linger, Adam Mackey, Kendall Mcferren, Carter Meyer, Harper Mottayaw, Kaydence Orsini, Vaidehi Patel, Yug Patel, Brynn Potter, Stefan Prykhodko, Hadley Risner, Hardtly Roig, Max Ruhe, Abigail Sandwall, Amelia Sandwall, Cambri Schneider, Kennadi Schneider, Aria Schwartfigure, Niko Sersen, Avery Smith, Hudson Sowards, Carson Speck, Braeden Swiatek, Lillian Thomas, Arianna Tipton, Harley Ulery, Sloane Walter, Evie Walton, Saniyah Webb, Maleah Wells, Cooper Welty, Kinley Whisler, Siannah Witherspoon, Bray Wyrick, Charlie Yoakam and Lock Zeigler

Seventh Grade — Preston Baumgard, Oliver Biddle, Juliana Blunk, Jacob Bonte, Sophi Breiteringer, Kaylee Cochran, Andrew Coley, Becca Dunkle, Kacey Finley, Evan Fleming, Freh Gushard, Albany Hacker, Adam Hamilton, Sammie Hamilton, Aubrey Hawkins, Elliana Heydinger, Maeley Hiner, Pippa Hines, Blake Jourden, Cam Kreinbrink, James Lee, Marley Mullins, Briggs Musick, Chloe Nemeth, Miles Ruhe, Riya Sasikumar, Isaac Simpers, Eli Sterner, Hannah Them, Hiep Tran, Emelyn Truax, Eva Uhde and Trace Wetzel

Eighth Grade — Leyton Bender, Breahna Blackstone, Hudson Born, Sylvi Burns, Charlie Cotter, Jeffrey Davis, Nolan Dials, Tyler Domyan, Sam Dumas, Reed Eberst, Ava Estep, Nico Fox, Brooklyn Gobble, Connor Goodlin, Jordan Heckard, Zoey Jones, Gage Kososky, Ian Linger, Ronnie Maddox, Aubrey McAleer, Emery Miller, Dylan Milligan, Naomi Mullins, Jarrett Peachee, Hudsyn Pelphrey, Julia Pohlabel, Alyssa Racer, Rychel Rehberg, Carter Robinson, Ahyaan Saif, Molly Sapp, Cruz Schroeder, Zoey Schwartfigure, Blake Schwartz, Callie Scott, Loewen Shaw, Chloe Siburt, Trevor Stacy, Walter Tickhill, Char Wagoner, Cole Walter, Braden Ward, Saniyah Witherspoon and Logan Zeigler

HONOR ROLL

Sixth Grade — Kayleb Barnhart, Lincoln Bell, Brax Chandler, Kooper Daugherty, Zayne Dzugan-Besenti, Ary Estrada, Reeve Fanello, Emmett Fitch, Kendall Friley, Braelynn Fultz, Kindsey Gregory, Ellie Groscoast, Lexi Headley, Quinn Horsley, CJ Johnson, Gia Knipp, Baylee Kuhlman, Kali Lovejoy, Macy McClellan, Bronson Miller, Madelyn Moots, Bradley Munoz, Mariah Oden, Jaliyah Preston, Rylee Schoonover, Gregory Secrist, Landon Spellman, Karsen Streich, Naomi Sutter, Lily Tomlinson, Phyllip Walter, Leelah Weaver, Lila Winans and Harry Yugovich

Seventh Grade — Kale Ames, Crew Arter, Garrett Bender, Hazel Bessette, Will Bishop, Grady Boyd, Owen Brinker, Khloe Browning, Asher Clark, Wyatt Click, Liam Conn, Amaya Dean, Kale DeHart, Meghan Dille, Nico DiOrio, Wailynn Dzugan, Jordyn Featheringill, Jett Hale, Addy Harvey, Ryland Hensel, Micah Klopstein, Brody Kuhlman, Lexi McCracken, Cali Miller, Chloe Perry, Larkin Rietschlin, Everly Roig, Rowyn Santry, Bella Shafer, Bryson Smith, Carrington Smith, Jillian Soliday, Lucy Spellman, Briella Van Harlingen, Hadley Vavra, Benton Willis and Liam Wilson-Golden

Eighth Grade — Emma Boor, Grayson Bradley, Bella Calise, Brody Carpenter, Fenton Cobb, Andrew Crouch, Zoe Decimus, Emilee Eberhardt, Cheyenne Elliott, Hayden Grisham, Whitley Hall, Jason Harwood, Lavary Jackson, Keatyn Kilgore, Aiden Kirst, Ava Lamb, Karsynn Lawhorn, Dereiah Lawrence, Aiden Mattoni, Zander Monroy, Braylen Moore, Rinka Mori, Carson Mosier, Thao Phan, Jayson Reedy, Mya Rose, Braxton Schneider, Jett Soliday, Luke Spellman, Aileen Steiding, Clay Stevens, Carter Tomlinson, Makayla Wells and Olivia Whisler

MERIT ROLL

Sixth Grade — Yousef AL Zijawi, Isabella Al-Farsi, Mason Beauchamp, Dominic Bulten, Ady Copley, Jermarion Cotton, Hunter Danals, Aubree Draper, Colt Hall, Morgan Hartzler, Zoey Howard, Kennedy Johnson, Dylan Kissel, Adalynn Leonard, Greyson Loper, Harper Marvin, Dawson Minnich, Kai Muir, Elijah Null, Gideon OBrian, Payton Orren, Drey Patterson, Conner Robbins, Chris Russell, Chistopher, Olivea Scott, Zoey Seidel, Kaden Smith, Karter Stephens, Tegan Teggart, Logan Tucker and Ayyree Wilson

Seventh Grade — Harper Armstrong, Holly Barker, Abbey Bercaw, Avery Caldwell, Kendra Corl, Jarren Crace, Joe Dahlby, Zizi Decimus, Matthew Dickson, Wyatt Eddleblute, Will Fenner, Gavin Fitzpatrick, Danielle Frasz, Cali Godfrey, Ava Herold, Isaac Hohman, Jaevin Howard, Flynn Jovani, Nathan Kershner,

(Continued on Page 15)



THE CCP OCEANUS, CCP CHEMISTRY and advanced art students from Ontario High School traveled to Old Woman Creek for an outdoor field experience. Old Woman Creek is the only estuary on Lake Erie, and often the lake is considered similar to an inland ocean. Students were led on an interpretive hike of a mature upland forest and lower estuary habitat overlooking the estuary. Students then visited the nature center and water testing laboratory. Afterwards, students went to the barrier beach, observing the dune formations and waves. The CCP students tested and compared water quality in the lake, mouth and estuary while the art students sketched and painted lake shore scenes using the plein air technique.



STUDENTS IN BRITTANY RHODES' culinary fundamentals class at Ontario has been learning about the nutritional aspect and benefits of beans and legumes. They had the opportunity to create their own chili recipe through recipe development and compete against other lab groups for best chili, hottest chili and most unique chili.

•Honor and Merit Rolls

(Continued from Page 14)

Konnor Leonhard, Lexie McClain, Macie McClain, Gavin Meligan, Claire Moritz, Hudson Morrison, CJ Moyer, Gavin Peterson, Philip Pickens, Gavin Polotto, Abbey Rhoad, Aaliyah Schaade, Jonah Smith, Baylee Totman and Grace Vermillion

Eighth Grade — Lillian Brahler, Everett Breedlove, Liam Chitwood, Braxton Collins, Airiona Courtney, Laura Dauterman, Sophia Deel, Natalie DuChene, Wyatt Dzigan, Tim Elias, Renelle Harris, Hayden Headley, Deklan Jovani, Kellan McManes, Gage Miller, Peyton Miller, Lexi Norman, Kylie Pocock, Kiran Ramirez Gutierrez, Jocelyn Risner, Kori Risner, Syllas Sabo, Marissa Salmons, Kenny Sanger, Allie Seymour, Abby Shira, Kenzie Shupp, Jaiden Sines, Brooks Smith, Camron Smithberger, Leland Taylor, Brinley Vincent and Azzy Young



MRS. GEER'S FIRST GRADE students at Ontario were busy using their creativity decorating pumpkins last week. Each student chose materials to decorate their pumpkin. Afterwards, they named their pumpkins and wrote a story about them.



A TRUNK-OR-TREAT event was held at Ontario Stingel on Thursday, Oct. 16. Community and staff came together for the event.



Ontario High School hosts National Honor Society induction

Ontario High School held the Kona Chapter of National Honor Society Induction on Nov. 5.

2025-'26 candidates inducted were Ryleigh Ames, Emma Bell, Alexander Bilyj, Bryant Born, Kaylei Chandler, Connor Dawson, Eliana Fittante, Maia Fox, Alaina Friend, Logan Goldbach, Eva Hadsell, Camryn Hanning, Jazlyn Johnson, Yuchen Lin, Joelle Ly, Madison Mabry, Sydney McManes, Gracy Miller, Tatum Mottayaw, Elaina Owens, Ayla Reed, Skyliie Salmons, Maja Seibel, Paxton So, Ava Spearman, Jackson Swiatek, Lin Angel Tan, Elton Toska, Mirielle Trumpower, Lauren Uhde, Owen Walte, William Wang, Braedon Watson,

Timo Winningham, Mitchell Ye, Madelyn Yoha and Hattie Yugovich.

They joined members Brady Baumgard, Darbie Broom, Sasha Bulakovski, Serena Caudill, Blake DeWees, Mason Egner, Mackenzie Goodlin, Kailey Hale, Emma Henderson, Brinlee Kreger, Kaylee Lynch, Delaney Moritz, Madeline Mullins, Jacob Palmer, Eva Riettschlin, Madeline Saltzgeber, Remington Schroeder, Payne Schwartz, Lily Secrist, Alexia SESCO, Hayden Sexton, Jacob Seymour, Joie Simmering, Alexis Swank, Justin Switaj, Addison Thurber, Jaxson Tinkham, Grantham Trumpower, James Unger, Michael Ward and Jace Young.



TONYA WELCH'S biology classes at Ontario fermented three different types of plant biomass to see which produced the most ethyl alcohol, using an ethanol sensor and breathalyzers for analysis.



ONTARIO LOCAL SCHOOLS celebrated Red Ribbon Week recently. Red Ribbon Week is an annual alcohol, tobacco, and drug prevention campaign in the United States that takes place in October. It honors DEA special agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who was killed in the line of duty in 1985, and has grown into the largest and longest-running drug awareness and prevention program in the country.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

Shelby Whippets deliver shut-out to Orrville 42-0

By Kris Leiter

Another hats off to the Shelby Whippets for another victory! They handed Orrville a rout of 42-0 at the Whippet Athletic Complex last Friday night!

Shelby is entering round 3 of the playoffs and proudly carries the number one seed. This has earned them home field advantage for

the first three rounds, including a bye the first week and now will host and tangle with Lima Bath at their house in Shelby.

Please note, some websites list Bath as their opponent. There is an actual Bath, Ohio located near Akron, but this is Lima Bath, located in Lima.

The Whippets will bring thier undefeated record of 11-0 and continue their firepower under the regime of quarterback Brayden Devito. His résumé carries more accolades than I can count!

They have also notched four shutouts thus far this season and three of those by the identical score of 42-0.

The Lima Bath Wildcats come into Friday night's contest at a healthy record of 9-2. They recently shutout well known perennial powerhouse Bellevue Redmen 21-0.

Let's look ahead a bit if you will. If Shelby wins Friday and Galion beats Sandusky Perkins Friday, we could a have the number one and two seeded teams, who are just a few cornfields away, going at it in round four of the tournament!

Division IV Region 14

No. 4 Lima Bath (9-2) at No. 1 Shelby (11-0)

No. 6 Sandusky Perkins (9-3) at No. 2 Galion (10-1)

OHSAA Football Regional Semifinal Playoff Pairings

Pairings shown with regional seed. All games on Friday, Nov. 14, at 7 pm, unless indicated otherwise.

Nov. 14 Regional Semifinals

Nov. 21 Regional Finals

Nov. 27 Thanksgiving

Nov. 28 State Semifinals

Dec. 4-6 State Championships, Canton

2025 OHSAA State Cross Country Championship Results

Compiled by Kris Leiter

Girls 5K - Division II

Lexington Team: Third

8 Katya Prykhodko (senior) 18:15.70

20 Gabi Twedt (freshman) 18:47.18

22 Brailey Slone (senior) 18:48.39

113 Jenna Halfhill (junior) 20:04.27

128 Evalynn Adkins (junior) 20:25.46

139 Hallie Durbin (senior) 20:32.60

155 Adria Sharrock (sophomore) 20:49.30

Shelby

59 Anna Will (junior) 19:32.04

Girls 5K - Division III

Clear Fork

15 Katrina Neal (junior) 18:47

Girls 5K - Division IV

Mansfield Christian

9 Riley Patrick (senior) 18:45.64

Crestline

53 Nevaeh Hill (junior) 20:03.52

Lucas

90 Riley Trumpower (sophomore) 20:36.71

Crestview Team: 18th

41 Emmie Kemp (senior) 19:47.02

100 Alina Durbin (senior) 20:42.34

131 Laynie Kemp (sophomore) 21:20.84

159 Audrey Wolford (senior) 21:58.21

192 Alexandra Cutlip (sophomore) 23:22.10

214 Emily Pond (sophomore) 30:01.43

Boys 5K - Division II

Lexington Team: First

9 Latrell Hughes (senior) 15:43.31

15 Lincoln Rice (senior) 15:59.00

35 Will Hooper (junior) 16:20.42

53 Luke Haring (senior) 16:30.51

70 Christian Estep (sophomore) 16:39.91

122 Finn Devaney (junior) 17:05.97

Boys 5K - Division III

Ontario Team: 17th

23 Xavier Trent (senior) 16:05.41

108 Rylan Baker (senior) 17:05.04

166 Michael Ward (senior) 17:43.95

172 Jackson Buttil (freshman) 17:55.73

179 Alex Simmering (freshman) 18:10.06

186 Remington Schroeder (senior) 18:15.89

Lexington falls to Toledo Central Catholic 49-18

By Kris Leiter

It's not always easy writing on a loss in sports contest. I usually try to find the silver lining, because there are usually some bright spots.

Even though a team may suffer a loss, it could have played just as hard as the winning team or maybe even dominated the game and lost in the last few seconds of the game.

Lexington ended the year with a tough loss Friday night to a staunt Toledo Central Catholic. As any sports fan knows, the deeper you go into the playoffs, the stiffer the competition becomes. In this day and age, just getting into the playoffs is a quite an accomplishment.

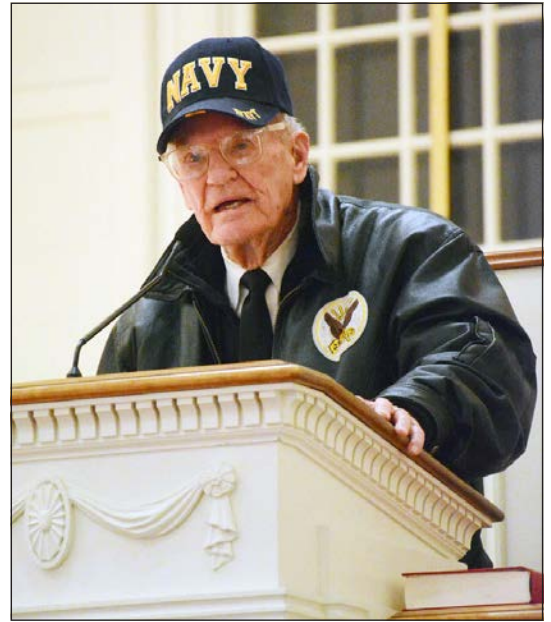
Since high school football uses the computer-points formula, fans are watching their teams starting in week five, when the points start to accumulate. It's exciting as the remaining five weeks go by and now the top 12 teams are eligible.

So, we give kudos the Lexington Minutemen for another fine season. They have continued to qualify for post-season even from last year.

This year, the Minutemen can hold their heads high. First and foremost, they start by claiming a phenomenal regular season record 9-1 with their only loss coming to a friendly foe in upper Richland County, the Shelby Whippets in week 2.

They can also proudly claim the title of Ohio Cardinal Conference champions as first-place victors with an unblemished 6-0 conference record.

Their defense can hang their hat proudly for 9-of-11 games, by keeping their opponents to 20 points or less! The Minutemenn also got a first-round bye with a number-one-seed.



Photos By Jeff Hoffer

THE FUN CENTER CHORDSMEN held its Veterans Salute concert at First Congregational Church in Mansfield on Nov. 10. Keynote speaker was Korean War Veteran Doug Theaker. The Chordsmen's upcoming performances include Christmas Caroling at the Ontario Center on Dec. 1, from 4:30–6:30 pm; Christmas at Malabar Farm, from 5–7 pm; and Christmas at First United Methodist of Shelby, Dec. 13, at 6 pm.



RCT will offer free bus rides

(Continued from Front Page)

Transit 9, W Fourth St., 10:00-4:00, last bus at 3:00
 Route 16 Ontario Circulator (Leaves Walmart on the hour with the first bus at 10 am. Leaves Meijer on the half hour, last bus at 3:25)
 DAR will be available from 9:30–4:00, with last scheduled pick-up time at 3:15 pm. Call 419-522-4504 to schedule.

The schedule on Dec. 13 will be:
 Transit 1, Park Avenue, 9:30-3:30, last bus at 2:30
 Transit 2, Lexington Avenue, 9:30-4:00, last bus at 3:30
 Transit 3, South Main, 9:30-3:30, last bus at 2:30
 Transit 5, Springmill, 9:30-4:00, last bus at 3:30
 Transit 7, Ashland Rd., 10:00-3:30, last bus at 3:00
 Transit 8, Glessner 10:00-3:30, last bus at 3:00
 Transit 9, W Fourth St 10:00-4:00, last bus at 3:00
 Route 16, Christmas Circular (Leaves Walmart on the hour with the first bus at 10:00. Leaves Meijer on the half hour last bus at 3:25).
 DAR available from 9:30-4:00, last scheduled pick-up time 3:15 pm. Call 419-522-4504 to schedule.



CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held before Village Council of the Village of Lexington at 7:30 p.m. on Monday November 17, 2025 at the Village Hall, 44 West Main Street, Lexington, Ohio upon the following proposed zoning variance request:

A change of zoning at 85 South Mill Street in Lexington, Ohio from Residential - R2 to Light Industrial - I1

All residents are invited to attend and express their views on this request..

Brenda Barton
Clerk of Council
Village of Lexington, Ohio
(T-C 11-6, 13 '25) 16L

LEGAL NOTICE

The following is a succinct summary of the legislation adopted by the Council of the City of Ontario, at their regular meeting held on November 5, 2025.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 25-12 – A RESOLUTION RENEWING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF ONTARIO, OHIO AND THE RICHLAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP TO FURTHER HELP WITH ESTABLISHING THE ONTARIO COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-23 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 525, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC OFFICE, BY ADDING SECTION 525.19 ESCAPE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-24 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 25-05 KNOWN AS THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR 2025 BY MAKING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND, SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND, AND THE ENTERPRISE FUND.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-25 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Cathy VanAuker
Clerk of Council
City of Ontario, OH
(T-C 11-13, 20, '25) 44L

Southside Christian to host seminar

Southside Christian Church, 2055 Middle-Bellville, will host a video seminar, "One Minute After You Die," by Dr. Erwin Lutzer, this Saturday, Nov. 15, 9 am to 3:30 pm.

Hosted by Pastor Paul Lintern, the event will focus on biblical references to death and Heaven, using eight short video presentations each of which answers several questions many people have about what happens at death. Lutzer is pastor emeritus of Moody Bible Church in Chicago



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL hosted a letter signing ceremony for Deanna Givens, who will run cross country for Tiffin University and Morgan Pearson who will play softball at Shawnee State University.

Renaissance Performing Arts to present musical comedy

The Renaissance Performing Arts Association will present *She Loves Me*, a timeless musical comedy filled with romance, charm, and wit, opening Friday, Nov. 14, at Theatre 166. Performances will run over three weekends through Sunday, Nov. 30. The production is part of Christmas at the Ren presented by Brightspeed.

Set in a 1930s European perfumery, *She Loves Me* follows Georg and Amalia, two shop clerks who clash daily at work while unknowingly falling in love as anonymous pen pals. Their spirited rivalry collides with their heartfelt letters, creating delightful misunderstandings, tender revelations, and an unforgettable happily-ever-after.

With a stunning score by Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick, the Tony Award-winning team behind *Fiddler on the Roof*, the musical features beloved numbers such as "Vanilla Ice Cream" and "She Loves Me." Brimming with witty banter, lovable characters, and a touch of holiday

magic, this enchanting production promises to warm hearts and lift spirits.

"*She Loves Me* is often referred to as 'a perfect jewel box of a musical,' which makes it an ideal choice for the intimate environs of Theatre 166," said director Michael Thomas.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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