



CortlandNEWS

"The Good News Newspaper"

Vol. 14 No. 4

DECEMBER 16, 2017

SERVING THE LAKESHORE COMMUNITIES



WE WISH YOU A VERY

*Merry
Christmas*

*&
HAPPY NEW YEAR*

*from all your friends
at Cortland News*

HAPPY HOLIDAY GIFT-GIVING

It's nearly inevitable to go through holiday shopping season without that one person on your gift

list who seems impossible to buy for. Rather than spending countless hours meandering through aisle after aisle, try this array of gift options to fit just about anybody on your list.

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A Stylish Stocking Stuffer

When searching for stocking stuffers or a practical present for a relative, friend
See **Gifts** on page 9

COASTING WHILE HOSTING: 5 WAYS TO KEEP YOUR HOLIDAY SPIRIT AT YOUR NEXT PARTY

(BPT) - Many of us are already looking forward to hosting holiday gatherings this year - decorating our homes, whipping up festive foods, planning fun activities and surrounding ourselves with the warmth of family and friends.

In fact, one recent survey found 67 percent of U.S. consumers host and prepare food for holiday events, while another predicts we'll be spending an average \$172 on such entertaining this season. As enjoyable as hosting is, however, the preparations can be time consuming. In a survey by Wakefield Research for BJ's Wholesale Club this year, 26 percent of U.S. respondents reported needing at least 24 hours to prepare for a holiday party. And trying to pull everything together can add pressure when we have copious other demands on our time.

"Our routines are interrupted

by travel, guests, parties and the holidays themselves," notes
See **Hosting** on page 11

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CORTLAND CITY

www.cityofcortland.org

Mayor	330-637-4003	Police/Fire	
City Hall	330-637-3916	Emergency	911
Fax	330-637-4778	Dispatch	330-675-2730
Clerk of Council	330-638-0142	Police - Business	330-638-1000
Service Director	330-637-4637	Fire - Business	330-637-2891

MEETINGS

City Council - first and third Monday of each month
 Monday, Dec. 18, 7 p.m.
 Tuesday, Jan. 2, 7 p.m.

Parks and Recreation - second Monday of each month
 Monday, Jan. 8, 5 p.m.

Planning & Zoning - second Monday of each month
 Monday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m.

Read the minutes from Cortland City Council meetings at <http://www.cityofcortland.org/> under City Council Minutes.

Meetings and agenda of Council and Planning meetings area available at www.cityofcortland.org

All meetings are held at City Hall and are open to the public

Cortland City Council Meetings are now on TV

Cortland City Council Meetings are now posted on YouTube. The videos are usually posted no later than the next day after the meeting and can be accessed via a link on the city website or by visiting www.youtube.com and searching "City of Cortland, Ohio"

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www.bazettatwp.org

Admin Building	330-637-8816	Fire - Police - Rescue	911
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and Cemetery Sexton	330-637-8816	Non Emergency calls	330-675-2730
Road Department	330-637-8311		
Police Department	330-638-5503		

BAZETTA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular meetings the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

Tuesday, Dec. 26, 7 p.m. - Year-end meeting.
 Monday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m. - A 60 minute caucus with department heads preceding.
 Meetings are held at the Township Administration Building unless noted

LAKEVIEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

Regular meetings the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Lakeview High School Media Center, unless otherwise noted.

Monday, Jan. 8, 6 p.m. - Lakeview High School Media Center

AREA SERVICE CLUBS

Cortland-Bazetta Historical Society and Museum Sally Lane 330-638-2330	Bazetta-Cortland Optimist Club Charlie Harper 330-847-0114
The Opera House Kathy Fleischer 330-219-4884	Cortland Rotary Club Lori Harris 330-847-6217
Cortland Beautification Association Mary Kachurik 330-637-3098	Four Seasons Garden Club Becky Bucco 330-637-9115
Cortland Lions Club Mike Hummell 330-372-7951	Friends of the Cortland Library Di Matijejevic 330-637-2717
Moose Lodge #1012 330-637-9957	League of Women Voters of Trumbull County Terri Crabbs 330-637-3845
Warren-Trumbull Branch of AAUW Jennifer Solomon 330-637-3483	SCOPE Darlene Fry / Diane Jordan 330-637-3010
Cortland Masonic Lodge #529 330-638-3110	

Please contact the Cortland News if you would like your organization listed here.

OUR NEXT ISSUE....JAN. 13, 2018

Our theme will be New Year

Article Deadline by Dec. 29 • Display Advertising Deadline is Jan. 3
 Email articles to editor@cortlandnews.net

The mission of the Cortland News is to focus on the positive aspects and events of our community. Our goal is to inspire pride and bring the residents of our community closer to one another by providing accurate, timely and useful information. We hold ourselves to high standards of journalism and strive to be a source of trust for our readers.

Based on the policy of the Cortland News to print positive news about our community, we reserve the right to reject contributed material considered inappropriate. We reserve the right to edit information accepted for publication for accuracy, style, length, spelling, grammar, and clarity.

The Cortland News wishes to present a fair and accurate news report. If you have a concern about anything published, please call our office at 330-565-2637 and leave a message for our Manager or Editor.

Death notices and obituaries will be printed in the Cortland News at the request of the family. Arrangement should be made to have information for death notices and obituaries sent directly to the Cortland News from the funeral home. Space restraints may require some editing. Publication dates for the Cortland News may prohibit an obituary from appearing prior to a funeral or memorial service.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this newspaper, the Cortland News cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions

CORTLAND NEWS SELF SERVE PAPER BOX LOCATIONS

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 Lakeside Sport Shop
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 Vasilios

Publisher

Fox Run Publishing, L.L.C.
 Jim Woofter
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 330-565-2637
info@cortlandnews.net

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 Sally Lane

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 330-565-2637
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 330-727-5688

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Sally Lane

Local Columnists/Journalists

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 Terri Barnovsky
 Jean Bolinger
 Jean A. Corliss
 Kathleen Ferris
 Thom Foley
 Kayley Frost
 Louise List
 Gerri Moll
 Mark Pilarski
 Tom Shortreed
 Jennifer J. Slywczak

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Please direct correspondence to:
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 Cortland, OH 44410
 (330) 565-2637

www.cortlandnews.net

We do not keep regular office hours but if you leave us a message, we will return your call as soon as possible.

The Cortland News will no longer be accepting any facsimile "fax" documents. Please direct all communications to the following email addresses.

Article submissions to:
editor@cortlandnews.net

Display and classified advertising and photographs to:
sales@cortlandnews.net

The Cortland News is published every three weeks free of charge and mailed via USPS to over 5000 area residents and businesses in Cortland and parts of Bazetta Township.

SCAN TO VISIT CORTLAND NEWS



COMMUNITY EVENTS

EVENT CALENDAR DEC. 16 TO JAN. 13

Cortland City/Bazetta Township and Lakeview School Board meetings and schedules. *See pg. 2 and 8*
 Lakeview Local School activities and sports schedules visit www.lakeviewlocal.org.
 American Red Cross blood donations, various dates. www.redcrossblood.org or 1-800-733-2767.
 Bristol Public Library events, various dates. *See pg. 19*
 5th holiday model train event sponsored by the North Bloomfield Historical Society, every Saturday afternoon in December from 2-5 p.m. and every Wednesday evening from 5-8 p.m., 1893 Town Hall, 8830 Park Drive., Bloomfield.
 Johnston Senior Center offers hot meals Monday through Friday at noon.
 "Musicians and Scholars: The Dana Family of Warren, Ohio," Sutliff Museum, second floor of the Warren-Trumbull County Public Library, 444 Mahoning Ave., Warren, through January 2018.
 OhioCAN Blessing Bags project for homeless population, items dropped off at city hall.
 Youngstown Nighthawks Soccer League, Cortland League schedule, visit <https://www.facebook.com/ytownnighthawks>

DECEMBER

- 16 Trumbull Co. Republican Party Christmas brunch, DiLucia's Banquet Center, Warren, 11:30 a.m. *See pg. 14*
- 17 Cortland Community Band concert, Eastwood Mall, main concourse, 3 p.m. *See pg. 16*
- 19 Trumbull Co. Republican Party fund raiser, Greene Eagle Winery, 2576 Davis Peck Road, Cortland, 6-9 p.m. *See pg. 14*
- 20 Johnston Senior Center hosts annual Christmas Party, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., with Caitlin Overton singing starting at noon, 5922 Warren Road, Cortland. *See pg. 4*
- 23, 24 Cortland Trinity Church Choir's musical narration, "Christmas! We Remember, Rejoice, Worship" Dec. 23, 6 p.m. and Dec. 24, 11 a.m. Free admission, 2576 McCleary Jacoby Road, Cortland. *See pg. 16*

JANUARY

- 4 Republican Women's Club meeting, Ciminero's Banquet Centre, Niles. *See pg. 11*
- 7 Sunday Afternoon the Warren Heritage Center, Kinsman House, 303 Mahoning Ave., NW, Warren, 2-5 p.m.

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BUSINESS NEWS AND NOTES

By Thom Foley

Greenwood Insurance wants to buy your Christmas dinner. See the entry blank in their ad on page 3 and drop it off for a chance to win a \$25 gift card at **Sparkle Market**. Drawing is Dec. 22 so hurry!

Speaking of **Cortland Sparkle Market**, I got everything I need for my family Christmas dinner right there - so can you! And that includes the BEST DONUTS ANYWHERE! Hey, doesn't everyone have donuts for dinner?

Cortland Lanes reminds you to make reservations for New Year's Eve. They have TVs to watch all the games and to watch the ball drop at midnight. They have great food and full bar menu.

Mark Thomas Ford has some unbelievable deals on new and used autos. Hurry in before the end of the year for the best deals!

Beef O'Brady's has 28 TVs to watch all of the playoff and bowl games!

TNT Well Drilling & Repair wants to thank all of their customers for their loyalty and kindness, and wish everyone a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Centerra has some great offers for bird feeders, candles and more.

Country Porch Winery reminds us that they have gift baskets and gift cards. SHOP LOCAL!

Daffron Auto Body fixed my car after I was in a fender bender a few weeks ago and it looks great. They can do the same for you! A family business serving the community for over 40 years.

Have you stopped in yet at **Quilters Fancy's** new location at 225 S. High St. across from Circle K?

Furniture Décor & More has Christmas décor going on sale.

The Lake Tavern has a Christmas Party on Dec. 16 with the band BAR CODE. Don't forget to make plans for Christmas Eve - NO COVER and Gary Pirrung is performing!

Lou Wollam Chevrolet has rebates on AC DELCO batteries and various tires. They also have a coupon for brakes and oil changes.

Cortland Mower is offering FREE pickup and delivery when spring tune-up is scheduled between Nov. 1 and Feb. 28.

Don't forget that **Lakeside Sport Shop & Drive Thru** has a very large selection of wine and Ohio beers!

ALDI OPENS NEW CORTLAND STORE

ALDI opened its new Cortland store, located at 2120 Elm St. on Dec. 7. The Cortland store is part of the aggressive \$3.4 billion investment plan ALDI recently announced to expand to 2,500 stores nationwide by the end of 2022. ALDI currently has more than 1,600 stores in 35 states, serving more than 40 million customers each month.

To celebrate the opening of the new Cortland store, ALDI hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Following the ceremony, customers toured the store, sampled ALDI exclusive brand products and entered an onsite sweepstakes for a chance to win a year's supply of ALDI produce. ALDI offers a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, including several organic produce items.

"We have our own style when it comes to grocery shopping, and we're pleased to welcome customers in Cortland to experience exactly what sets ALDI apart from competitors, and how it's made us one of the fastest growing retailers in the U.S.," said Corey Stucker, Hinckley division vice president for ALDI. "We recognize that customers want high-quality, reasonably-priced groceries, and we invite them to come see what Simply Smarter Shopping is all about."

Thanks to input from customers, the Cortland store presents a new look, offering a modern and convenient shopping experience. Customers will notice a focus on fresh items, including more robust produce, dairy and bakery sections and more room for customers' favorite products. ALDI stores will also feature a modern design, open ceilings, natural lighting and environmentally-friendly building materials - such as recycled materials, energy-saving refrigeration and LED lighting.

According to ALDI representatives, ALDI is proud to offer a wide range of premium groceries at prices up to 50 percent less than the competitors. In the last few years, ALDI has added a number of new product lines that have quickly become customer favorites including a growing organic selection, USDA Choice meats, the liveGfree gluten-free product line, the SimplyNature line of products free from over 125 artificial ingredients and preservatives and the Never Any! line of meats free from antibiotics, added hormones and animal by-products. To better serve customers and their growing families, ALDI now carries a full line of baby products, Little Journey, which offers customers award-winning diapers, wipes, training pants, formula, organic food and snacks.

ALDI states that it saves customers money by cutting overhead costs through smart practices, such as an innovative cart system: ALDI shoppers insert a quarter to release a cart from the corral and receive the quarter back upon the cart's return. Other cost-saving practices include a smaller store footprint, open carton displays and encouraging customers to bring their own shopping bags. It said that it also saves shoppers money by keeping stores open during prime shopping times. The new Cortland location will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Sunday. All ALDI stores nationwide accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express.



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JOHNSTON SENIOR CENTER TO HOST CAITLIN OVERTON PERFORMANCE

The Johnston Senior Center will be hosting its annual Christmas Party on Wednesday Dec. 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., with Caitlin Overton singing starting at noon. The party is open to the public. If you would like to have a lunch that day there is a \$2 donation. Please call to reserve before Dec. 18 at 330-924-0412. Lunch will be roasted pork with gravy, redskin potatoes and green beans. The center is located at 5922 Warren Road, Cortland. For any questions call 330 924-0412.

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WINNERS NAMED IN GINGERBREAD WALK



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



The winning houses for the Gingerbread House Contest that was held during the Cortland Specialty Shop's Gingerbread Walk have been announced.

They are photo 1: Age 5-8, Dominic Morales-Stitt, winner of People's Choice and celebrity's Choice. Photo 2: Age 9-12, Ella Yarbentez, winner of Celebrity's Choice. Photo 3: Age 9-12, Tristan Frederick, winner of People's Choice. Photo 4: Age 13-17, Calista Hall, winner of both People's Choice and Celebrity's Choice. Photo 5: Age 18 and over, Sandy Mealy, winner of both People's Choice and Celebrity's Choice.

The winner of the gift box of goodies that all the specialty shops donated items to was Mary Patrnochak of Warren.

WARREN JUNIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUE LUNCHEON & STYLE SHOW ATTENDED BY OVER 400

GFWC Ohio Warren Junior Women's League recently held its 48th annual Champagne Luncheon and Style show at St. Demetrios Community Center. "Hollywood Christmas" was chosen as this year's theme by luncheon chairman Julie Vugrinovich. Over 420 women attending the kick off to the holiday season, dined on a gourmet

lunch provided by Saratoga Catering while viewing the latest in holiday fashions from Macy's Eastwood Mall, Buckle and Ski Chalet. Proceeds from the event will go to Children's Rehabilitation Center's "Children with Courage Fund" so no child is turned away because of his or her inability to pay.

Looking for that special gift for that special person who has everything? Why not get them a certificate to lease a flag from Cortland Rotary.

When you lease a flag from the Cortland Rotary Club, you will get to display an American Flag on six major holidays:

- Memorial Day
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- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Patriot Day (9/11)
- Veterans Day



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On each of the six holidays listed, a 3' x 5' American Flag mounted on a 10-foot metal pole is placed in the sleeve. We purchase the flags, display, store and maintain them.

For more information call please email: flags@cortlandrotary.org, or call 330-360-1595.



Wishing you and your loved ones a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Ohio Living Lake Vista sends you our warmest holiday greetings. May you be surrounded by friends and family, and may you enjoy all the laughter, love and wonder of the season.



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4 WAYS TO SURVIVE HOLIDAY GIFTING

(Family Features) While the holidays might be the most wonderful time of the year for children, the gifting season can quickly spiral out of control for unprepared shoppers

These four tips can help you conquer holiday gifting like a pro:

Get organized. The secret to conquering the holiday season is having a plan. Take 10-15 minutes to update your calendar with all your holiday parties, family engagements, secret Santa exchanges or any other gifting commitments. Make sure to include dates, locations, times and even specifics, like themes, if they're available. If you have multiple holiday events, you might even color-coordinate your planner for an easy visual reminder. Sync your events across all smart devices for an easy glance at the touch of a button.

Find your go-to gifts. As an adult, deciphering what kind of gifts a child wants in this digital age can be tricky. Some classics like brick toys are still a hit with kids of all ages. Studies show that 60 percent of children love playing with brick toys and more than half of

parents love that their kids do, according to Mattel Global Consumer Insights. Try product lines like Mega Construx and Mega Bloks, which combine the fun of brick toys with popular franchises to create exciting products for kids. Find more holiday gift ideas at shop.mattel.com.

Wrap gifts early. Now that you have your plan in place, save time by purchasing all the gifts you will need for the holidays and wrapping them at one time. Prevent the stress of a last-minute gift wrap run by pre-wrapping gifts and simply labeling them with removable sticky notes.

Build a gifting closet. Once you have your gifts wrapped and ready to go, consider using an old crate or storage container and turning it into a "gifting closet." Insert dividers to separate the gifts by age range and set aside your treasure trove in an easy-to-reach storage area. You can even use this closet year-round for birthdays and other gifting events. On the day of the party, simply open your gifting closet, grab a gift for the right age and head out the door.

DOCTORS TO RETIRE AT END OF YEAR

By Sally Lane

Not one, but both Fosters, Dr. E. Lee Foster, who established the Cortland Family Medicine practice and Dr. Sandra Foster, Clinical Psychologist Specialist, are winding up long, happy and notable careers in Cortland at the end of this year.

First is Dr. E. Lee Foster, whose medical career spans five and a half decades.

In 1979, Dr. E. Lee Foster, his wife Sandra and family moved to Cortland from Warren, and he established his practice of Family Medicine. Population in Cortland at that time was increasing rapidly and needed more doctors, dentists, teachers and businesses to take care of all the new families in town. Cortland proved to be a perfect fit for the Fosters as the next 38 years flew by. "Cortland has been a wonderful community to raise our children and for me to practice my profession. We have thoroughly enjoyed our time in Cortland and have made many friends here," he said.

In Warren, Dr. Foster graduated from Warren G. Harding High School. He went to college and graduated from Kirksville College of Osteopathy and Surgery in Kirksville, Mo. He then had a practice on Warren's East Market Street for 17 years. During that time, he was named the 1972 Young Man of the Year, and was a community activist. He was president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce. In 1999 he was inducted into the Warren Schools Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame.

In Cortland, he continued his community and professional involvement. Plaques and certificates adorn the walls of his waiting room: A Fellow Award recognized outstanding service to his profession by the American College of General Practitioners, another plaque honored him as president of the Osteopathic Association. In 1994 he was named Family Physician of the Year by the Ohio State Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians. The list goes on and on. One thing is certain: this is a man who takes his work seriously.

In his letter to patients announcing his retirement, Dr. Foster said, "I have been fortunate to work in a career I love and to feel that I have been a part in the lives of many wonderful people." He thanked his patients and wished them "excellent health, happiness and prosperity."

On Facebook recently (but before the doctor's retirement announcement), a new resident asked Cortland residents for recommendations for a family doctor. Dozens recommended Dr. Foster, citing his care and kindness to his patients. Almost unanimously people commented that with Dr. Foster, they feel "like family."

When he was in medical school in Missouri, he met and married Sandra Waddill. She had a bachelor's degree, and helped him through medical school by teaching school. Then as his practice became established in Cortland, and the children grew up, she went back to college and earned a Master's degree and then a PhD in psychology at the University of Akron. In 1992, she opened her own



business as a clinical psychologist sharing the same office space where her husband has his medical practice. "I have loved my work and appreciate all the wonderful people I have had the pleasure of meeting over the last 25 years," she said.

Both Dr. Foster and Dr. Sandra, as she is called, confessed to mixed emotions as they decided to retire at the same time. "It's hard to let go," they both said.

With that in mind many, many patients will be looking for a new doctor and/or psychologist. A new medical doctor will be taking over Dr. Foster's practice. He is Dr. Basem Doss. He was born in Egypt, but came to the United States when he was two years old with his parents. His father was a physician. He grew up in New York and went to undergrad there. He graduated from Chicago Medical School, and has two brothers that are doctors also.

Dr. Doss did his residency at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Youngstown. It was there he met his future wife, who was working as an RN at the time. He completed his residency in 2000 and moved to a small community close to Atlanta, Ga., and had his own family practice until 2016, when he and his family returned to the area to be near family. He and his wife have three children: a son, 15, who attends Canfield High School, a nine-year-old daughter, and a seven-year-old son. He enjoys practicing in a small town where people become lifelong friends and feel like family.

Dr. Sandra recommended that her patients call their insurance company to discover what providers are on their insurance plan. "When you have established a relationship with a new therapist, and wish to have your records transferred, sign a release, mail it to me, and I will send a copy of your records to your new therapist. It is with gratitude that I thank you for allowing me to be a part of your life. It is my hope that you enjoy a healthy and peaceful future."

Thank you, Dr. Foster and Dr. Sandra for your commitment and involvement, your caring and your kindness all through your years in Cortland. You have truly made a difference in many peoples' lives. We wish you all the best in your retirement.

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By Detective David Morris, Cortland Police Department

The Cortland Police Department is comprised of 10 full time and three part time police officers that provide 24/7 protection for our citizens. Because CPD is a small department, each full time officer has unique assignments and has received specialization training in those areas. All members of the department are required to handle routine and emergency calls for service, traffic crashes and routine patrols in addition to those specialized duties. With trained, experienced officers and a supportive community, Cortland is considered one of the safest places to live in Trumbull County. Below is a description of the specialized training each officer has and the years of full time experience they bring to the department.

Chief Tom Andrews (26 years) is the head of the department, handling the administrative functions and day-to-day supervision of the other officers. Chief Andrews served as the department investigator for several years before being promoted.

Officer Jason Smith (23 years) serves as the department's School Resource Officer (SRO) in the Lakeview School District. SRO Smith has been in this position for approximately 10 years and has built many great relationships with the staff and students. These relationships help him understand the needs of the district and what it takes to keep our schools safe.

Detective John Weston (22 years) is currently the department investigator and firearms instructor. As the investigator, Detective Weston follows up on cases that can't be resolved in a single shift. As one of the department's firearms instructors, John instructs officers in the use of firearms and conducts annual qualifications as required by law.

Detective David Morris (20 years) is an OPOTA Master Criminal Investigator and Evidence Technician. Detective Morris served as the department investigator for several years and is currently assigned to the Trumbull County Child Homicide Task Force and the Homicide Task Force. Officers from several Trumbull County departments are assigned to these task forces and work together whenever there is a homicide in Trumbull County that needs investigated.

Officer Steve Orslene (19 years) is the department's RADAR and LIDAR instructor. Officer Orslene is responsible for making sure officers are trained in the use of electronic speed measuring devices, making purchases of the devices used and ensuring they are calibrated annually. He also provides training in that area to officers from other departments when requested.

Officer Andy Chovan (14 years) is certified as a Level 3 traffic crash investigator. His duties include investigating serious traffic crashes and reviewing and approving crash reports generated by other officers.

Officer Brandon Rice (11 years) is one of the department's firearms instructors and is responsible for training officers in the use of firearms

and conducting the annual qualifications as required by law. Officer Rice is also a certified police instructor and can teach general law enforcement topics in the basic police academy and continuing education courses to veteran officers.

Officer Paul O'Connor (7 years) holds several certifications that allow him to instruct officers in the use of unarmed self-defense tactics, OC Spray and batons. He can provide both the initial certifications required and annual re-certifications.

Officer Nick Mancini (5 years) serves as the senior breathalyzer operator and is certified in scientific marijuana identification. As the senior breathalyzer operator, Officer Mancini makes sure the BAC Datamaster used to test levels of alcohol in impaired drivers is checked for calibration weekly. With the overload of opioid drug cases throughout the state, the BCI Crime Lab no longer tests marijuana for local departments. When this change took place, Officer Mancini became certified to use scientific tests to identify marijuana. Officer Mancini can testify the same as a BCI Forensic Scientist that the substance recovered by officers is in fact marijuana.

Officer John Mosora (6 months) is the department liaison with the Trumbull Ashtabula Group (TAG) drug task force. Since the opioid epidemic has not left any community untouched, Officer Mosora is assigned to work with TAG in enforcing drug laws throughout Trumbull and Ashtabula County.

As always, we want to hear from you and keep you informed of what is going on. You can follow the CPD on Facebook or Twitter and can read the latest police blotter at www.cityofcortland.org. Emergencies can be reported to 9-1-1 and non-emergency calls can be reported to dispatch at 330-675-2730. Should you require a copy of a report already filed or need to speak with Chief Andrews or a specific officer, call 330-638-1000. Drug activity tips can be e-mailed to TAG Officer John Mosora at jmosora@cityofcortland.org. I can be reached by e-mail at dmorris@cityofcortland.org.

Authorship of this column alternates between the Cortland and Bazetta Twp. Police Departments.

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What's "news" in the City of Cortland

By Terri Barnovsky, administrative assistant




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Holiday Decorations

The city would like to thank the following organizations for making Cortland so festive during this season:

- Junior Women's League of Warren for decorating Point Park and the gazebo
- Cortland Rotary for decorating Rotary Park on E. Main Street
- Cortland Beautification Association for decorating the area by the community sign and for getting the wreaths and snowflakes ready to hang again this year
- Four Seasons Garden Club and Cortland Beautification Association for decorating the bridge

Sled Hill at Eastlake Park

The sled hill had more dirt added to it this year and is seeded and ready to go for another winter. The park is located at 422 N. Mecca St. Now we just need to "Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow."

Christmas Tree Disposal

This is a reminder that The Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste District Policy Committee voted to suspend the Christmas tree recycling grant program a few years ago. Therefore, the city will not have a Christmas tree recycling program this year.

Republic Services does pick up Christmas trees, but they have a size restriction of 5 feet. Any specific questions on what they can pick up should be directed to Republic at 1-800-437-1123.

Another alternative would be to save your tree until the city's brush chipping program begins in April.

Dates to Remember:

- Dec. 18 - City Council - 7 p.m.
- Dec. 25 - City Offices will be closed. Republic's trash collection will be operating on a one day delay.
- Jan. 1 - City Offices will be closed. Republic's trash collection will be operating on a one day delay.
- Jan. 2 - City Council - 7 p.m.
- Jan. 8 - Parks Board - 5 p.m.
- Jan. 8 - Planning & Zoning Commission - 7 p.m.
- Jan. 15 - City offices will be closed.
- Jan. 16 - City Council - 7 p.m.

SCOPE SENIOR CENTERS OFFER TRANSPORTATION TO ITS SITES

Free transportation to the six SCOPE Senior Centers in Trumbull County is available to seniors over 60 years of age. To order free transportation, call the local senior center you wish to travel to three days in advance to your trip. These include Champion at TCTC, 330-847-0503 Ext. 1638; Cortland, at the former post office, 330-637-3010; Howland, next to the administration building, 330-609-7806; Lordstown, at the back door of the elementary school, 330-824-2173; Niles, across from fire station, 330-544-3676 or Warren, in the YWCA building on N. Park, at 330-399-8846.

"This free countywide transportation service is a partnership with Trumbull Transit and Community Busing. This free service has become vital especially to those seniors who wish to take advantage of the \$2 senior lunch program," stated Mike Wilson,

director of SCOPE Senior Services.

The Trumbull County Commissioners recently approved three of the SCOPE Senior Centers to serve as locations of their senior lunch program. Cortland, Lordstown and Warren SCOPE Centers host the \$2 Senior Lunch as coordinated by the Trumbull County Office of Elderly Affairs with a grant through the Area Agency on Aging District 11, while the other three centers have their own lunch service.

Please call any SCOPE Senior Center for information on free transportation, the \$2 lunch and other planned activities.



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Gifts from page 1

or workplace gift exchange, consider a Zebra Pen option. With a wide variety of pen types, styles and ink colors, there's a high-quality pen for nearly everyone on your list. From the Steel Series line perfect for the professionals in your life to Sarasa colored gel pens featuring rapid-drying ink technology that make planning and journaling a breeze.

A Tasteful Gift

With the holidays just around the corner, give your loved ones a gift that keeps giving - the Omaha Steaks Tasteful Gift combo. This assortment of dishes has something for almost everyone, including tender Filet Mignons; juicy Top Sirloins; naturally lean, yet juicy Boneless Pork Chops; Potatoes au Gratin; and home-style Caramel Apple Tartlets. It's a crave-worthy holiday gift, at a special, limited-time low price.

Cook with Innovation

Cook with ease and confidence this holiday season with the GE Cafe front control slide-in ranges with an industry-first six burners and a double oven. Make cooking less of a chore and add that "wow" factor to your kitchen with convenient Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity that allows you to heat, set timers and even change temperatures through automated home gadgets. With the double oven and 50 percent more burners, you can maximize every inch of kitchen space.

The Gift of Gratitude

This holiday season, spread the gift of gratitude and say "thank you" to the people in your life with merci Chocolates, a thoughtful collection of European chocolates. Each slim, stylish box contains eight unique, individually wrapped flavors, making it the perfect gift for nearly everyone on your holiday list. Find more information at merci.us.

Serving Up Pancakes for Good

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CORTLAND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

By Curt Moll

A little-known resource exists in the Cortland / Bazetta community - The Cortland Community Foundation. Our community foundation is a tax exempt, non-profit, charitable organization with the long-term goal of building permanent funds with a mission to enhance the quality of life in Cortland and Bazetta Township. Think of it as a community savings account. The IRS recognizes community foundations as 501(c)3 public charities because they receive support from the public and their boards broadly represent the areas served.



The Cortland Community Foundation has been in existence since 2006. The foundation has accumulated enough funds to cover expenses while mostly helping local groups to raise money and make improvements to our community. Several projects have been completed with the support of the foundation. These include the town clock, ramps and equipment for skateboarding at Willow Park, 4th of July fireworks at the school, and the splashpad at Pearl Park. This year the pickle ball courts were repaved with a grant requested through the foundation and the Veteran's Memorial Committee is raising money for the memorial and may receive grants through the Foundation.

With your help, the Cortland Community Foundation can help Cortland to be a healthy and progressive community well into the future, with resources to fulfill community needs that may otherwise go unfunded. As a community we can accomplish more together than we can alone.

Your donation to the Cortland Community Foundation makes a lasting impact and your generosity will shine brightly for generations to come -- right here, where it will do the most good. You can make your tax exempt donation to Cortland Community Foundation at 400 North High St., Cortland, OH 44410. Please consider making a contribution to our community as this year comes to a close.

WOLLAM CHEVROLET ANNOUNCES VETERANS MEMORIAL SPONSORSHIP



Wollam Chevrolet presents \$19,250 to the Cortland Veterans Memorial. From left are, Ian McAleer and Dick McClain, co-chairs of the memorial project, Vince Prindle, owner of Wollam Chevrolet and Tom Fye, general manager at Wollam.

The "Chevy All Stars" and Lou Wollam Chevrolet announce their sponsorship of three major component features in the Cortland Veterans Memorial project.

Working with the Veterans Memorial Committee, the "Chevy All Stars" and Lou Wollam Chevrolet will sponsor the granite monument with the engraved emblems of the service branches, the soldier's cross featured in the center of the design plan, and the 16" stainless stand-off letters on the entrance wall. The sponsorship will total \$19,250.

The Lou Wollam Chevrolet dealership is generally recognized as a strong business citizen in the Cortland community and beyond, with their previous support for such projects as the Lakeview football field scoreboard and the Cortland splash pad. This latest sponsorship, provided by the "Chevy All Stars" and Wollam Chevrolet, will publically demonstrate their appreciation for the sacrifices by our heroes in the armed services, as they take a prominent

leadership role in the community effort to build the veterans memorial.

At the check presentation, Vince Prindle, owner of Wollam Chevrolet, commented that one of the major reasons for the sponsorship is that Cortland can significantly enhance the memorial already at Point Park and create a very visible and attractive memorial where future public observances can be staged on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Ian McAleer, chairman of the Veterans Memorial Committee, expressed their deep appreciation for the sponsorship from the "Chevy All Stars" and Wollam Chevrolet, and commented that the \$19,250 will take their fund-raising effort of contributions, paver orders, pledges and other commitments to a total of \$66,000. McAleer also mentioned that the project website -- CortlandVeteransMem.Org - will provide more information about the memorial and how anyone can make a contribution or order an engraved paver to honor a veteran.

REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S CLUB HEARS FROM 910TH AIRLIFT



Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr., Jean Cramer, president and Colonel Daniel Sarachene.

The November meeting of the Trumbull County Republican Women's Club met at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station in Vienna for a luncheon. The guest speaker was, Colonel Daniel Sarachene, commander of the 910th Airlift Wing, Youngstown Air Reserve Station. Assisting Col. Sarachene was Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr., 910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office. The Wing Commander spoke about the 910th mission as well as the close relationship with the surrounding community.

The Youngstown Air Reserve Station (YARS), is one of nine Reserve host installations in the U.S., Sarachene explained. He said that it is a little gem of a base in Northeast Ohio that has a big impact on not only national defense, but also across the globe and across the country.

Any women believing in the principals of the Republican Party and intending generally to support its candidates, is eligible for membership. The club meets monthly on the first Thursday of the month at area locations in Trumbull County. For membership information, call Barbara Tryon-Rosier at 330-550-1215. The Jan. 4, 2018 meeting will be held at Ciminero's Banquet Center in Niles. Guest speaker will be Nick Santucci, Educational Workforce Development manager at the Regional Chamber.

Hosting from page 1

physician Dr. Spencer Blackman in Entrepreneur. "If you're entertaining friends and family or organizing a work party, it takes upstream work to ensure a smooth event. Engage your support system and make a plan before things get crazy."

Consider these host-with-the-most suggestions for keeping the joy of the season no matter how large your impending event - and for making sure it's more fun than frantic.

Santa knows who's on the nice list. You may be head elf, but there's no reason to take on every bit of the cooking, cleaning and entertaining yourself. Recruit a secondary elf squad ahead of time, assigning specific tasks so the work is parceled out evenly. Note: Youngsters needing gift-buying money may be motivated to take on the more grueling chores.

Visions of sugarplums. Plan your menu ahead. When you know way ahead of time what you'll be serving, most food items and utensils can be purchased in advance - and in volume - so you'll have plenty to offer even if your guest list spikes unexpectedly. The last thing you want is to run out; of the 65 percent of Americans who told Wakefield they've been at parties that went awry, 28 percent pointed to a shortage of eating utensils and 27 percent were disappointed the food ran out early.

Reindeer games? Check. Do the parents (and everyone else) at your gathering a favor by anticipating how your youngest party attendees will spend their time. Can you put together a kid-friendly craft, Lego, board game or cookie decorating table? Build a blanket fort? Set up age-appropriate video games? Rent movies? Stage a snowman-building contest? Put up port-a-cribs and baby swings for the nappers?

Haul out the holly. Fifty-six percent of Americans see decor as more impactful on holiday spirit than food, according to Wakefield. You can always go all out on decorations if that's your thing, but the most striking ones are often the simplest. Hang multiple strands of sparkling lights, add a fire to the fireplace, light sweet-smelling candles and generously place fresh red-ribboned pine boughs on mantles, around doorways and banisters and in containers. Nearly instant magic.

Mix and a-mingle. All too often, we're so busy making everything perfect

for our guests we don't have time to join in the fun ourselves. The more you plan ahead to have your food, drinks and entertainment all planned out before guests arrive, the greater your chances of being able to relax and enjoy your own festivities.

The key to being a great host is to prepare enough so you're not hopelessly frazzled by the time guests arrive. Plan ahead this year so you can appreciate the joy of entertaining and create stellar holiday memories for all who attend. It may be the perfect ending of a perfect day.

PREVENT BLINDNESS PROVIDES TIPS ON BEST WAYS TO KEEP HOLIDAYS SAFE

Last year, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) issued a report stating that there were an estimated 254,200 toy-related injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments. An estimated 88,700 of those injuries were to children younger than age 5. And, 45 percent of the total injuries were to the head and face area, the area of the body with the most injuries.

To help shoppers select appropriate gifts this holiday season that emphasize eye safety, Prevent Blindness has declared December as Safe Toys and Gifts Awareness month and offers tips including:

- Avoid toys that shoot or include parts that fly off.
 - Ask yourself or the parent if the toy is right for the child's ability and age. Consider whether other smaller children may be in the home and may have access to the toy.
 - Avoid purchasing toys with sharp or rigid points, spikes, rods, or dangerous edges.
 - Buy toys that will withstand impact and not break into dangerous shards.
- When giving gifts of sports equipment make sure that the proper sports eye protection is also included. Recommendations may be found at www.preventblindness.org/recommended-sports-eye-protectors.
- Look for the letters "ASTM." This designation means the product meets the national safety standards set by ASTM International.
 - Read all warnings and instructions on the box.
 - Always supervise children and demonstrate to them how to use their toys safely.
 - If purchasing sunglasses, make sure they are labeled as 100 percent UV-blocking.

Other toy safety tips include:

- Do not give toys with small parts to young children. Young kids tend to put things in their mouths, increasing the risk of choking. If any part of a toy can fit in a toilet paper roll, the toy is not appropriate for children under the age of 3.
- Do not purchase toys with long strings or cords, especially for infants and very young children as these can become wrapped around a child's neck.
- Always dispose of uninflated or broken balloons immediately.
- Do not purchase toys with small magnets. Magnets, like those found in magnetic building sets and other toys, can be extremely harmful if swallowed. Seek immediate medical attention if you suspect a child may have swallowed a magnet.
- Ensure any batteries are securely in place.
- Ensure all art materials are labeled as "nontoxic."

"When giving the gift of sports equipment, Prevent Blindness strongly urges also providing sports eye protection," said Sherry Williams, president & CEO of the Ohio Affiliate of Prevent Blindness. "An eye care professional can provide guidance for the best protection for each sport and athlete."

For more information on safe toys and gifts for children, please visit preventblindness.org/safe-toy-checklist. For more information on sports eye protection and safety, visit www.preventblindness.org/sports-eye-safety or call 800-301-2020.

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FUND-RAISERS FOR YOUR GROUP OR CLUB AVAILABLE

VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE LAUNCHES SPECIAL FUND RAISER

By Dick McClain



The Cortland Veterans Memorial Committee, consisting of 19 local area residents, has announced its next special fund raiser.

The committee members will be selling raffle tickets for a Henry Golden Boy .22 rifle -- special engraved Military Service Tribute Edition valued at \$1,150 retail. This lever action rifle is made in America by the Henry Repeating Arms Co., and can be viewed at www.henryusa.com

Henry is producing this particular rifle as a salute to our armed forces. It is built on a time-honored tradition dating back to the Civil War, when ornately engraved Henry rifles were first presented to veterans as tokens of appreciation. The manufacturer has included the octagon barrel, the nickel receiver and the intricate scroll work that features selectively plated 24K gold to make this rifle a prized possession for any veteran.

Since the memorial project

fund raising effort began in May, the committee has raised \$63,000 in donations, pledges and other verbal commitments. This includes the proceeds from three other recently held raffles -- the lawn mower donated by Cortland Mower, the patriotic quilt donated by Quilters Fancy and the flag quilt donated by Eileen Dyett.

Contributors interested in buying any raffle tickets, or in ordering an engraved paver, or in making a tax deductible donation or pledge to the memorial project are asked to call 330-637-2977 or 330-974-4355.

As we approach year-end, the Memorial Committee wishes to thank everyone for the support and encouragement shown by a broad spectrum of the Cortland community. As the fund raising continues into the new year, the committee will be determining the construction schedule for the veteran's memorial.

GUITAR RAFFLE AT LAKE TAVERN BENEFITS MECCA FIRE DEPT.

A drawing was held on Nov. 27 at The Lake Tavern, 6071 state Route 46 NE, Cortland, for an autographed Sammy Hagar Fender guitar that was donated by Greenwood Insurance. The raffle generated over \$900 for the Mecca Fire Department. Chief Curtis Woolfer, from the fire department, was on hand to accept the proceeds. Cindy Miller, of Ron's Barber Shop in Cortland, won the guitar. Pictured below are Paul Ackerman and Bob Greenwood Jr., both of Greenwood Insurance, Fire Chief Curtis Woolfer of the Mecca Fire Dept. and John Palasics of The Lake Tavern.



LAST MINUTE HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

(StatePoint) Holiday shopping can be a source of stress for anyone, but particularly for procrastinators. Need some last-minute gift ideas? Think about readily accessible, yet thoughtful items that don't require a lengthy shipping process.

Let these five ideas help solve your eleventh-hour gift-giving woes.

1. DIY-It. DIY gifts can be heartfelt, and many items can be made in a pinch. Bake a tray of Christmas cookies and tie them up with a bow; make seasonally scented homemade candles; or knit a scarf. The possibilities for crafty folks are endless.

2. Get Accessorized. Don't get stumped. Consider a classic fashion accessory, such as a Casio Vintage Watch, which can be found in many national retailers, in a range of affordable prices. Functional and fashionable, these water-resistant timepieces that feature both an alarm

and stopwatch will complement an array of style preferences.

3. Head to the Box Office. Quickly check the schedule of your gift recipient's favorite band, team or theater company for tickets to an experience, such as a musical, concert or game. This thoughtful gift can be purchased and received in an instant, thanks to e-ticketing.

4. Pamper Them. The holidays are stressful. Help your loved ones unwind during a busy time of year. Consider a gift certificate for a spa or beauty treatment somewhere local to your recipient. The gift can be enjoyed exactly when it's needed most.

5. Let Them Pick. When you're really in a pinch and you've waited until the last minute, don't stress. A gift card can be a great way to show you thought of someone, without having to spend too much time or energy in search of the perfect item.

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Dr. Lehky's Braces Friendly Mint Chocolate Chip Cookies

Prep time: 20 min. Yield 50 cookies

Ingredients:

1 cup butter, Softened
 1 1/2 cups sugar
 2 large eggs plus 1 egg yolk
 1 teaspoon peppermint extract (or more to taste)
 about 10 drops of green food coloring
 3 1/4 cups all purpose flour, spooned and leveled
 2 teaspoons baking powder
 1 teaspoon baking soda
 1 teaspoon cream of tartar
 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
 12 ounces dark chocolate chips, divided

Preheat the oven to 350° F. Line one or more baking sheets w/parchment paper.

In a large bowl or stand mixer, beat the butter and sugar together. Scrape the sides and bottom of the bowl, then beat on medium for about 2 min. or until light & fluffy.

Add the eggs + yolk, peppermint extract and food coloring.

In a separate bowl, combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, cream of tartar and salt. Add to the wet ingredients and combine until the flour is not quite incorporated.

Add half of the chocolate chips to the dough. *Chop the other half coarsely, with a knife or food processor.

Add the chopped chocolate to the dough, mix until just combined.

Cover the dough and refrigerate for about an hour**

Bake at 350° f for about 8-10 minutes, or until BARELY starting to brown on the edges. The centers should mostly be not-shiny when you take them out, but a little shine is OK.

Let cool 5 minutes on the pan, then remove to a cooling rack.

Recipe Notes:

* I reserved about 1/3 cup of whole chips and pushed them into the baked cookies immediately after taking them out of the oven. ** Chilling is not mandatory. You can bake them right after you mix it, I tried it. I prefer the texture / flavor after chilling.



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FROM the **Garden**

By Kathleen Ferris, Master Gardener

Christmas cactus is a beautiful plant that can bloom year after year. Unlike the Poinsettia that can look pretty ratty after the holiday season, the cactus is a keeper. Long lived, it can be passed down through generations. I have friends now taking care of "Mom's cactus" decades after inheriting the plant. In fact, the age of a Christmas cactus guarantees bragging rights among plant owners.

Botanically known as *Schlumbergera buckleyii*, the Christmas cactus has two cousins. The Thanksgiving cactus that blooms in November, *Schlumbergera truncata* and the Easter cactus, *Rhipsalidopsis gaertneri* blooming in March until May. All have arching foliage and brilliant flowers, require similar care though their leaves vary in shape.

The Christmas cactus produces many decorative vivid and frilly blooms from flattened, jointed stems in shades of coral to hot pink, red, white and purple. Each bloom lasts for several days and the entire blooming period lasts several weeks. Temperatures should be 65 to

70 degrees during the day and 55 to 65 at night. Sudden temperature changes can cause buds to drop off the plant. Bud drop can also happen when the soil is allowed to dry out. Keep soil evenly moist. Allow for moderate light, some shade and some direct sun in winter from eastern exposure. Once the flower buds form apply a high-potassium fertilizer every two weeks. Repot every couple of years after flowering. Feed less in fall, and never move or turn the plant while it is in bloom, it will drop buds and stop flowering. Propagate by stem cuttings.

Like a Poinsettia, keep dark 12 hours a day from Oct. 1 until bloom. The cactus will only grow to the circumference of its pot. If you want a bigger cactus, repot into a wider container. Through the year, turn plants at regular intervals or you will get the lush blooms on one side and fewer or none on the other. Enjoy this beautiful plant, Merry Christmas!

Happy Gardening!
Kathleen Ferris is a Trumbull County Ohio State Extension Master Gardener and a Cortland resident.



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CORTLAND MASONIC LODGE INSTALLS 2018 OFFICERS



Members of the Cortland Masonic Lodge #529 recently elected and installed its 2018 officers. The new Worshipful Master, Ian McAleer was installed by his brother, RWB Adrian McAleer, who is a past District Deputy Grand Master of the 25th Masonic District, which includes five northeast Ohio counties. Also assisting in the installation ceremony was RWB Terry Swauger and RWB Roger Yost who are both past District Deputies.

The installation meeting, which followed a catered dinner, was open to all spouses and guests, with over 70 were in attendance.

Pictured are the new lodge officers, (front row, from left, Tim Chaney, senior deacon; Frank Daugherty, junior warden; Ian McAleer, worshipful master; Craig Camens, senior warden; Frank Chapin, junior steward; and Jacob Wengerd, tyler. Back row, from left, Matt Barker, senior steward; WB Larry Dyett, secretary; WB Bill Gore, chaplain; WB and DEO Dan Shaffer, treasurer; RWB James Kowacich, district deputy; WB Jon Trego, DEO; RWB Roger Yost, installing marshal; K.P. Johnson, junior deacon; and RWB Adrian McAleer, installing master.

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TC REPUBLICAN PARTY NEWS

The Trumbull County Republican Party met for its monthly breakfast meeting at the 4-Star Diner in Cortland on Nov. 18. Guest speaker was Judge Craig Baldwin who spoke on the impact presidential appointments have with regard to the U.S. Supreme Court, and the issue of legislating from the bench.

The Trumbull County Republican Party will celebrate Christmas with a full brunch at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16, at DiLucia's Banquet Center, 2610 Elm Road, Warren. Guest speaker will be Chris DePizzo, candidate for U.S. Representative in the 13th District. Cost is \$20. RSVP by mailing check payable

to Trumbull County Republican Party, 1835 Albright McKay NE, Brookfield, OH 44403. For further information, email trumbullgopchair@gmail.com.

It will also hold a Christmas fundraiser on Tuesday, Dec. 19 from 6-9 p.m. at the Greene Eagle Winery, 2576 Davis Peck Road, Cortland. Cost is \$30 and includes dinner, a glass of wine and musical entertainment by Take II. Seating is limited, so make reservations now by mailing check made payable to Trumbull County Republican Party, 1569 Woodland NE, Suite #12, Warren, OH 44483. For further information call 330-891-8321, e-mail: reginamarie1234@aol.com.

GIFTS THAT GIVE HOPE

(Family Features) Hope is a gift on every child's wish list, especially those in parts of the world ravaged by natural disasters and poverty. Giving hope lets these children know that the world hasn't forgotten them.

From UNICEF Market products to items available from partners, UNICEF USA is making it possible to give gifts that make a difference and deliver the greatest gift of all: hope.

Goods from around the globe

From jewelry to accessories to home decor, each item purchased through the UNICEF Market benefits programs that provide children with basic necessities such as nutrition, medicine, education, clean water and more. The UNICEF Market, market.unicefusa.org, is a partnership between UNICEF USA and Novica that offers unique items such as multicolored snowman ornaments made in India and an artisan leather tray handmade in Peru.

Inspired giving

Another option is UNICEF Inspired Gifts, which are lifesaving items that can be purchased in honor of a loved one and go directly to help children in need around the world. Examples include hygiene kits, mosquito nets and winter survival packs. Find more options at inspiredgifts.org.

Kid-friendly inspiration

Motivate kids, inspire philanthropy and help save the lives of malnourished children around the world with the "Star Wars: Force for Change" UNICEF

Kid Power Band. Every movement made while wearing the activity band adds up to points that unlock lifesaving nutrition, which is sent to malnourished children around the world. Bands are available at Target or unicefkidpower.org.

Accessories with purpose

This holiday season, ALEX AND ANI is spreading a message of world peace with a jewelry collection that features the iconic peace symbol and benefits UNICEF's work for children. The World Peace collection includes an online-exclusive sterling silver necklace with Swarovski crystals, a charm bracelet and a trend necklace. In addition, bracelets with a festive-themed snowman, daisy and a mother and child charm also support the cause. Until Aug. 31, 2018, ALEX AND ANI will donate 20 percent of the purchase price of all items sold through its retail stores, authorized retailers and on alexandani.com.

Comfort that keeps on giving

To help children around the world, L'Occitane will donate \$4 from each Shea Butter Collection and Shea Butter Deluxe Collection Gift Sets to UNICEF, up to \$120,000. The gift sets are available for purchase at boutiques throughout the United States and Canada, and online at usa.loccitane.com.

Giving a gift that inspires hope this holiday season can impact not only the person receiving the gift but also vulnerable children around the world.

AWL Adopt A Pet
ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE



Edwina is a 1-year-old Pit Bull Terrier mix. She is a happy and playful girl that will make a fantastic addition to your family. Edwina is recently graduated from the CCP training program. The CCP Program is a nine week basic obedience program held at Trumbull Correctional Institute. Edwina will also be housebroken and crate trained. Her adoption fee is \$200 and includes her spay, vaccinations, heartworm testing, microchip with registration and more.

Dizzy is an 8-year-old Domestic Shorthair mix. Dizzy and several other cats came to AWL from a humane case. He is a friendly and gentle cat that just wants a loving family and a warm couch to take naps on. Dizzy would make a great addition to any family! His adoption fee is \$20.17 and includes his neuter, vaccinations, FeLV/FIV testing, a microchip with registration and more.



Shelter hours are Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 6p.m. Adoptions close at 5:30 p.m. The shelter is closed on Sundays and Mondays. AWL shelter is located at 812 Youngstown Kingsville Road SE in Vienna, across the street from Avalon at Squaw Creek. For more information call, 330-539-5300 or visit www.awlrescueme.com.

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**OBSERVATIONS FROM
THE CHAPLAIN'S
PERSPECTIVE**

Rev. Donald P. Barnes

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it. John 1: 5

Installed two security lights in one week: one at my daughter's and one at our home. A couple of weeks ago, someone ransacked two vehicles that were sitting in my daughter's driveway. Kelly and Matt live in the country. When the sun goes down, darkness draws an impenetrable pall across the landscape. It's almost an invitation to engage in unseemly shenanigans. The new light should put an end to that. The beam from this brilliant lantern casts light on an acre of their property, lighting it up like a parking lot at the car dealership. Darkness conceals - light reveals. It's true of freshly installed security lights and it is also true of the Powerful Light that arrives on Christmas. As Brother John says: "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it." Of course, light does much more than offer a buffer against deeds that might be done in the dark, it also offers a sense of comfort and security in the midst of the darkness. We find that same comfort and security in the Christ of Christmas - God putting on flesh and blood and experiencing life on this side of eternity. The scriptures inform us that "those who walked in darkness have seen a great light." May that same light bless your Christmas celebration. May the power of God's light shine on you and yours.



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**CHRISTMAS MUSICAL AT
CORTLAND TRINITY**

The Cortland Trinity Church Choir will present the musical narration, "Christmas! We Remember, Rejoice, Worship" on Saturday, Dec. 23 at 6 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 24 at 11 a.m. The public is invited. Admission is free. Cortland Trinity is located at 2576 McCleary Jacoby Road in Cortland. For more information call 330-637-1421.

**CORTLAND COMMUNITY
BAND TO PERFORM AT
EASTWOOD MALL**

The Cortland Community Band will be performing at Eastwood Mall, Sunday, Dec. 17, 3 p.m. in the main concourse. Come hear traditional, popular and contemporary holiday music. Directed by Craig Wiencek, the band has been performing at the mall every Christmas season for at least 15 years.

Organized in 1983 by Roger Harned and Jim Woofert, the band has become a favorite for summer and holiday concerts. It has grown from about 30 musicians from over a three-county area, to over 60 members of all ages. The band rehearses Wednesdays during the school year at Lakeview Middle School, from 7 to 9 p.m. No auditions. The group will be celebrating its 35th anniversary in 2018. Visit www.cortlandcommunityband.org for more information.



CAPITALIZING ON A GROWING GLOBAL ECONOMY

One of the notable trends in 2017 is that for the first time since the Great Recession, virtually all economies around the world have enjoyed synchronized global growth. This is one of several reasons why investors have increasingly turned to international stocks and bonds to diversify their portfolio over the long term. If you are wondering if overseas markets should be part - or an increased part - of your diversified portfolio, here are four considerations to keep in mind.

1. Non-U.S. markets make up a growing portion of the world's economy

The U.S. is still the largest economy in the world, representing about one-quarter of total global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) according to the International Monetary Fund. Yet emerging markets, including countries with much larger populations such as China and India, represent more than 50 percent of global GDP. This may represent significant investment potential.

2. Growing economies lead to an emerging middle class

For the past generation, an important economic story is the ascendance of the emerging global middle class. The improved economic prospects for millions of people across the globe continues to generate a new wave of consumers and business growth. Additionally, established companies in the U.S. and overseas are capitalizing on the burgeoning numbers of consumers and businesses. This rapid growth may create the potential for attractive investment opportunities in other markets.

3. Overall stock value is still skewed to the U.S.

U.S. stocks still draw more attention than any other part of the market. For example, their value makes up more than half of the total value of the Morgan Stanley Capital World Index of 23 developed markets. However, the influence of emerging markets is growing. As non-U.S. economies

continue to become more prominent on the world stage, more investment dollars may flow into their equity and fixed income markets.

4. Global investments can help diversify your portfolio

A risk of having all your money invested in U.S. stocks and bonds is that when markets move in a negative direction, your portfolio will be significantly exposed to the potential for losses. For example, if interest rates in the U.S. begin to trend higher, it could create a challenging environment for domestic bonds. However, that doesn't mean the same trend will be happening in all overseas markets. There may be attractive opportunities in bonds issued by foreign governments or corporations. The same is true of equity markets. As markets move up and down, there could be times when the U.S. market may perform better than overseas markets, and vice versa.

Is investing overseas right for you?

If you haven't sufficiently incorporated global investments into your own portfolio, this may be the time to explore it further. There are risks to consider, such as currency fluctuations, which can impact the net return you receive on investments in overseas securities. Purchasing individual securities may be more challenging on a global level than it is when you focus on U.S. investments. For that reason, a good alternative for many investors may be to utilize mutual funds or exchange-traded funds that invest in broad global markets or specific segments of them.

Global stocks and bonds offer the potential to effectively diversify your portfolio over the long run. Talk to your financial advisor to determine whether you might be able to capitalize on this expanding piece of the investment marketplace.

Column provided by Shortreed & Associates, financial planning services and investments offered through Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA & SIPC.

RED HATTERS KICK OFF THE HOLIDAYS



Red Hatters kicked off the holidays with a luncheon at Squaw Creek. They exchanged gifts and played LCR afterwards.

Standing are from left, Mary Theis, Gloria Waldeck, O'ine Schoonover, Joanne King, Judy Blastic, Dorothy Davis, Tina Hsieh, Paula Palovich, Marge Seyer, Danuta Allen and Patti Rose. Seated are from left, Starr Willaman, Mary Louise Anspach, Queen Rita Lane, Queen Judie Shortreed, Lisa Barrass and Reba Gizdic.

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TRUMBULL COUNTY & PEARL HARBOR DAY

Mary Ann and Harold Ryther, founder of the USS Oklahoma Preservation Project, presented an informative slide show to the members and guests of the League of Women Voters of Trumbull County of the day when the Japanese Navy torpedoed Battleship Row sinking the USS Constitution. They were informed of the tragic fate of the USS Oklahoma Battle Ship hit on Dec. 7, 1941.

The League will also be holding its annual public officials brunch on Jan. 20

at the Café 422, with doors opening at 11:30 a.m.

New members are welcome at all League of Women Voter's meetings. It is a nonpartisan, political organization. The League encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy. For more information call 330-367-4886 or visit www.orgsites.com/oh/lwvtc.



From left, Harold Ryther, Peggy Boyd, president of the League of Women Voters of Trumbull County and Mary Ann Ryther.

PATROL OFFERS TIPS AND WARNINGS ABOUT DRIVING IN WINTER WEATHER

The Ohio State Highway Patrol urges motorists to prepare vehicles for winter driving. During inclement weather drive slowly and always carry a winter car kit in case you get stranded.

During the winter of 2016-17, there were 13,783 crashes on snow, ice or slush covered roads in Ohio. This is an increase of 19 percent from last year, and resulted in 26 deaths and 3,613 injuries. Speed-related factors were reported as a cause in 21 percent of these crashes. The Patrol's 2017 bulletin on winter driving provides more statistics.

"In the event of a vehicle breakdown or traffic crash, motorists should turn on their hazard lights and safely position their vehicle as far off the road as possible, call #677 for assistance and remain in the vehicle until help arrives," explained Lt. Brian Holt, commander of the Warren Post.

It is also suggested if you are stuck in snow, ensure the tail pipe is free of all snow and debris to decrease the chance of carbon monoxide poisoning.

For more tips on winter vehicle care and winter driving visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/beforestorm/preparecar.html>

<http://exchange.aaa.com/safety/driving-advice/winter-driving-tips/#.Wh8ptk0UWUk>

<http://weathersafety.ohio.gov/VehiclePreparednessKit.aspx>

Before traveling in winter weather, visit the Ohio Department of Transportation that provides real time Ohio traffic updates at: <http://www.ohgo.com/>



ENSURING YOUR YEAR-END DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

Many people make donations at the end of the year. To be deductible on your 2017 return, a charitable donation must be made by Dec. 31, 2017. You can only deduct charitable contributions if you itemize deductions on Form 1040, Schedule A (PDF), *Itemized Deductions*.

1. Qualified Charities. Taxpayers must donate to a qualified charity. Gifts to individuals, political organizations or candidates are not deductible. To determine if the organization that you contributed to qualifies as a charitable organization for income tax deduction purposes, refer to the "Exempt Organizations Select Check" tool at the IRS website at www.irs.gov. For more information, see Publication 526, *Charitable Contributions* and Can I Deduct My Charitable Contributions?

2. Itemize Deductions. To deduct charitable contributions, taxpayers must file Form 1040 and itemize deductions. File Schedule A, *Itemized Deductions*, with a federal tax return.

3. Benefit in Return. If taxpayers get something in return for their donation, they may have to reduce their deduction. Taxpayers can only deduct the amount that exceeds the fair market value of the benefit received. Examples of benefits include merchandise, meals, tickets to events or other goods and services.

4. Type of Donation. If taxpayers give property instead of cash, their deduction amount is normally limited to the item's fair market value. Fair market value is generally the price they would get if the property sold on the open market. If they donate used clothing and household items, those items generally must be in good condition or better. Special rules apply to cars, boats and other types of property donations.

5. Noncash Charitable Contributions. File Form 8283, *Noncash Charitable Contributions*, for all noncash gifts totaling more than \$500 for the year. Complete section-A for noncash property contributions worth \$5,000 or less. Complete section-B for noncash property contributions more than \$5,000 and include a qualified appraisal to the return. Taxpayers may be able to prepare and e-file their tax return for free using IRS Free File. The type of records they must keep depends on the amount and type of their donation. To learn more about what records to keep, see Publication 526, *Charitable Contributions*. Special rules apply to donations of certain types of property such as automobiles, inventory and investments that

have appreciated in value. For more information, refer to Publication 526, *Charitable Contributions*. For information on determining the value of your noncash contributions, refer to Publication 561, *Determining the Value of Donated Property*.

6. Donations of \$250 or More. If taxpayers donated cash or goods of \$250 or more, they must have a written statement from the charity. It must show the amount of the donation and a description of any property given. It must also say whether they received any goods or services in exchange for the gift. According to the IRS, a donation generally is "made" at the time of its "unconditional delivery." But what does this mean? Is it the date you write a check or charge an online gift to your credit card? Or is it the date the charity actually receives the funds? In practice, the delivery date depends in part on what you donate and how you donate it. Here are a few common examples:

Checks. The date you mail it.

Credit cards. The date you make the charge.

Pay-by-phone accounts. The date the financial institution pays the amount.

Stock certificates. The date you mail the properly endorsed stock certificate to the charity.

To be deductible, a donation must be made to a "qualified charity" — one that's eligible to receive tax deductible contributions. The IRS's online search tool, "Exempt Organizations (EO) Select Check," can help you more easily find out whether an organization is eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions. You can access it at <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/exempt-organizations-select-check>. Information about organizations eligible to receive deductible contributions is updated monthly.

Many additional rules apply to the charitable donation deduction, so please contact us if you have questions about the deductibility of a gift you've made or are considering making. But act soon — you don't have much time left to make donations that will reduce your 2017 tax bill.

Jennifer J. Slywczak, CPA, is the owner of Integrated Accounting and Tax Solutions LLC, located at 3378 State Route 5, Cortland. You can reach her at 330-638-2727 or by email at jenniferslycpa.com. To sign up for monthly newsletters you can visit her website at www.jenjslycpa.com.



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BRISTOL PUBLIC LIBRARY DECEMBER NEWS

Holiday closings

The library will be closed Friday, Dec. 22 through Monday, Dec. 25. Regular hours resume Tuesday, Dec. 26 at 8 a.m. It will also be closed Friday, Dec. 29 through Monday, Jan. 1, 2018. Regular hours will resume Tuesday, Jan. 2 at 8 a.m. The staff of the Bristol Public Library wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year.

9th Annual Language Tree on display

The 9th annual language tree is now on display at the Bristol Public Library. Students in the Spanish language classes at Bristol High School have decorated a language-themed Christmas tree that will be on display in the library through Dec. 15. All of the Spanish club students were involved in making the decorations for the tree. The tree, in the library's entryway, is decorated with the students' handmade ornaments.

Ferdinand the Bull Giveaway

Children can enter for a chance to win a "Story of Ferdinand" book and toy set. "Ferdinand: The Movie," being released in theaters Dec. 15, was

inspired by this best-selling children's book. Children ages birth through age 5 will receive one prize drawing ticket each day when they visit the library. A random drawing will be held on Friday, Dec. 15.

Elf on the Shelf

The Bristol Public Library's own "Elf on the Shelf," Andrew, will be somewhere in the library waiting to hear all the children's Christmas wishes during the month of December. Santa sent his scout elf, Andrew, named for the library's benefactor Andrew Carnegie, to library as an extra set of eyes and ears to report which children have been naughty or nice.

Visit the library each week through Dec. 21 to see what Andrew is up to. If you find him you might receive an early Christmas present when you tell the librarians where he is. Finding our Elf on the Shelf is open to children ages 3 through 12th grade. Just remember not to touch him or he'll lose his magic and won't be able to report to Santa!

The Bristol Public Library is located at 1855 Greenville Road. For more information contact the circulation desk at 330-889-3651.

IMMUNE BOOSTING TIPS FOR A HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON

(StatePoint) The hectic holidays and chill in the air can take a toll on the immune system and make one more susceptible to cold weather challenges. Stay healthy and vital all season by taking the following steps.

Be Balanced

From eggnog and cookies to champagne toasts at midnight, you may be more likely to over indulge during the holiday season than at other times of the year. Be mindful of what you are eating and drinking at parties and on a day-to-day basis, and then balance out these extravagances with plenty of rest, regular exercise, healthy hydration and an otherwise nutrition-filled diet.

Get Some Support

"We are learning more each day about what weakens the immune system and how we can strengthen it for better health," says Larry Robinson, PhD, vice president of scientific affairs at Embria Health Sciences, a manufacturer of natural, science-based ingredients that support wellness and vitality. "Good immune health requires more than just getting enough vitamin C."

For some extra support this season and beyond, consider taking an immune-supporting supplement that goes further than a standard vitamin C tablet. Those that contains Embria's ingredient EpiCor, a whole food fermentate made

through a proprietary process using *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, a common single-celled microorganism, have been shown in scientific studies to support the body's ability to initiate the proper immune response at the appropriate time. For example, NOW EpiCor Plus Immunity contains Zinc, Selenium, and vitamins D-3 and C, and can give you the nutrition you need to help you make it through the holidays healthfully.

While all these statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration and this supplement is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent disease, many experts believe they can help maintain your daily health

Relax

The holiday season is meant to be joyful. Unfortunately, it can also be stressful. From navigating a shopping mall parking lot on the busiest day of the year to dealing with the extended family, stress can compromise your immune response. Use at least some of that time you may have off from work to truly relax, scheduling some down time for yourself -- whether it's curling up with a glass of green tea and a paperback, taking a bubble bath or doing yoga.

For a happy holiday season, take steps to treat your body right and to prioritize health and wellness.

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KENT STATE TRUMBULL NURSING STUDENTS LOOK FOR WAYS TO GIVE BACK

No one thought becoming a nurse was easy. Classes and clinical work are time consuming and challenging. Kent State University at Trumbull nursing students take their education to another level as they learn how to care for patients as well as the community.

This fall through their Student Nurses Association (SNA), they raised money to purchase Sleep Sacks for new parents at Trumbull Memorial Hospital to counteract high infant mortality rates in Ohio, installed smoke detectors in homes in the community for veterans, families in domestic violence situations, and the elderly, and most recently, packed shoeboxes with toys, personal hygiene items, clothes and other small items for children in the name of Operation Christmas through the Samaritans Purse.

"We are in a great place," said Emily Trunick, nursing student and president

of the SNA. "As we go through classes together, we become a family. And we all want to help make the Valley a better place. It's a great feeling to be part of something so worthwhile and positive."

Students plan to raise more money for the community at their 2nd Annual Craft Show on March 10 at Kent State Trumbull.

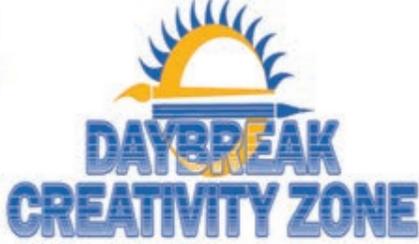
"Our Student Nurses Association is one of the hardest working groups. We are proud of their dedication to this community and to the profession of nursing," said Alice Colwell, one of the SNA faculty advisors. "They have worked tirelessly to make their organization a success."

The newest class of graduating nurses will be recognized on Thursday, Dec. 14 as more than 20 nursing students will receive their nursing pins. The ceremony begins at 6 p.m. and will be held at Vernon's Cafe, Niles.



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For this year's "Make A Difference Day," the nursing students collaborated with the American Red Cross and the county to help install smoke detectors in over 17 homes in the community. Pictured are from left, Loni Nyako, Brittany Courtney, Margaret Graben, ARC volunteer, Danielle DeCristofaro and Emily Trunick (SNA president).

AMERICAN WINDS COLLEGE OF AERONAUTICS NOW ENROLLING FOR WINTER TERM 2018

American Winds College of Aeronautics, the only school in Ohio solely devoted to aviation, is now enrolling for Winter Term 2018. Classes begin Sat., Jan. 6, 2018. The college is located at Akron-Fulton Int'l. Airport, 1600 Triplett Blvd. in Akron.

In January 2017, American Winds received approval from the State of Ohio Board of Career Colleges and Schools to confer an associate degree of applied science in three aviation programs: Aeronautics (professional pilot program), Aeronautical Instruction (instructor pilot program) and Aviation Administration & Management (AAM program). The college is also qualified to accept VA benefits.

"There is a near catastrophic shortage of pilots in the U.S.," said Denise Hobart, president and chief pilot of American

Winds. "A two-year degree is the fastest route to a career in aviation. Commercial airlines prefer hiring students with a degree over someone without a degree. Our aim is to meet the growing demand for commercial pilots through our comprehensive training program, internship courses and professional programs, as well as career employment assistance after graduation."

Interested students can visit americanwinds.edu, call 330-733-2500 or email admissions@teachmetofly.com. Founded in 2001, American Winds has been honored by the Council of Smaller Enterprises in Cleveland and the Greater Akron Area Chamber of Commerce. In 2006, the school made aviation history when a hearing-impaired flight student successfully completed his Instrument Pilot Training.



\$5 Lunch at Ohio Living Lake Vista
11:30 to 1 p.m. | Jan. 2

Join Ohio Living Lake Vista for lunch the first Tuesday of each month! For \$5, you'll receive your choice of soup, sandwich and drink. Dessert will be available for an additional cost. Sit down to relax over lunch in our club house, or take it with you on the go. You can also enter a drawing to win free lunch for a year!

Call Amy at 330.638.2420 to learn more!



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CORTLAND PLAYROOM CHILDREN VISIT KRAYNAK'S

There was so much excitement when the pre-K and pre-K2 classes of the Cortland Playroom recently toured Kraynak's in Hermitage, Pa. The children were amazed by all the beautifully decorated trees and of course, talking with Santa and giving him their list!



**SANTA ARRIVES AT
CORTLAND PLAYROOM**



On Saturday, Dec. 2 the Cortland Playroom hosted another successful "Lunch with Santa." Before Santa's arrival, everyone enjoyed a lunch of hot dogs, chips, cookies and a drink. There were also games and a magic show while the children's waited for Santa to arrive. Not to disappoint, Santa arrived on a fire truck, courtesy of the Cortland Fire Dept. There were also basket raffles and multitude of gift certificates from local businesses.

**CORTLAND PLAYROOM
SPECIAL PERSON DAY**



Zachery Fortney and Grandpa Jim Samples

On Thursday, Nov. 15, the part-time Yellow Pre-K 2, Orange Room Pre-K a.m. and p.m. and Red Room children at the Cortland Playroom celebrated "Special Person Day." Each child shared with their special guest a snack that they made and drinks, and sang a few songs for them. They also made a special gift for them. The smiles were contagious that day.



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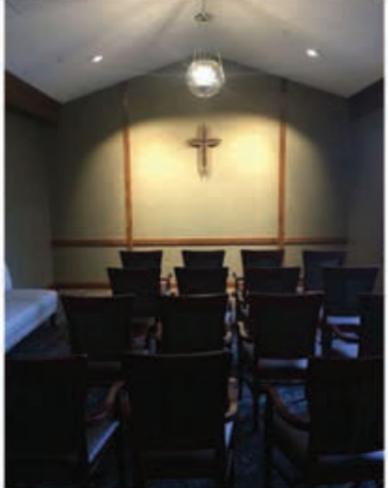
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TIPS FOR SETTING THE PERFECT HOLIDAY TABLE

(BPT) - Every holiday season, you invest hours planning and preparing the perfect menu for each celebration you host. While easy and fun may be the name of the game for buffet-style events, when it's a sit-down soiree, the delightful cuisine you produce deserves a presentation worthy of your efforts. A beautifully set table can elevate your holiday dinner from just great to simply perfect.



"Table-setting is an art form anyone can learn to execute beautifully," says Mary Bernardo, director of product development at Princess House, a leading provider of unique and exclusive cookware, food storage and home and entertainment products. "Simple touches like elegant holiday plates, colorful linens and an eye-catching centerpiece ensure a holiday table looks as inviting as the food smells."

Bernardo and the table decor experts at Princess House offer these tips for creating a beautiful holiday dinner table:

Layers look lovely

Tablecloths, placemats, table runners and chargers not only help protect your table from spills and scrapes, but they also create a lovely backdrop for dishes, glasses, stemware and - of course - the food. Layering these items adds depth and interest to the tabletop.

Consider starting off with a simple white or red tablecloth, and then add either placemats in seasonal patterns or a festive runner. If chargers take up too much room on the table (or too much of your holiday budget), you can layer dinner and lunch plates to create the same effect. For example, place a Pavillion Berry Dinner Plate from Princess House beneath a Poinsettia Lunch Plate. The solid deep red of the dinner plate is the perfect complement to the elegant creamy background and poinsettia pattern of the lunch plate.

Keep dishware seasonal and simple

"It's been said simplicity is the soul of elegance, and that's certainly true when you're setting a holiday dinner table," Bernardo says.

Choose dishes with a basic white or cream background accented with a traditional holiday motif. Flatware should also be simple; if your everyday collection is in good condition, feel free to use it for your holiday celebrations. If you don't have enough pieces, supplement with basic flatware that's free of embellishment or heavy designs. Glassware should also be simple and, whenever possible, multi-functional. For example, stemless wine glasses can be used for soft drinks and water, as well as wine.

Add seasonal accents

Even the simplest table setting can feel festive when you add holiday-specific touches, like napkin rings in jewel green or red, a centerpiece filled with evergreen or holly and twinkling candles.

For a centerpiece that's festive and practical, consider using your favorite holiday serving bowl, such as a crystal bowl, for the foundation. Then add holiday decor items, like mini Christmas packages, your favorite Christmas tree decorations or a pillar candle in a holiday hue like red, green or snow white. Top with a few sprigs of evergreen, holly or fresh flowers and you have an easy, elegant DIY centerpiece.

Finally, don't overlook the opportunity to extend the table's festive atmosphere to the chairs as well. You can add to their elegance by adding simple decoration such as a mini-holiday wreath strung on a piece of ribbon and looped over the back of the chair.

"The dinner table is where holiday magic occurs," Bernardo says. "With a few special touches, you can set a holiday table that's perfect for the festive and welcoming spirit of the season."

Want to find more holiday decor and inspiration for the table? Visit www.princesshouse.com.

DELIVER HOLIDAY FLAVOR WITH PECANS

(Family Features) The holiday season is ripe with opportunities to gather around the table with loved ones and enjoy a delicious meal.

Elevate your holiday menu with freshly harvested ingredients like naturally sweet pecans. As America's only native tree nut, the pecan boasts a proud heritage shared by the farmers who have grown it for generations - but this tree nut is more than a pie ingredient.

While the American Pecan Council's Classic Pecan Pie is an ideal grand finale, consider including nutrient-dense pecans throughout the holiday season as a snack or in innovative pecan-filled dishes like Roasted Acorn Squash with Pecan Vinaigrette.

In addition to being a versatile addition to your holiday feast, in each 1-ounce serving of pecans, you'll get 12 grams of "good" monounsaturated fat with zero cholesterol or sodium, according to the USDA. Compared to other nuts, pecans are among the lowest in carbs (4 grams) and highest in dietary fiber (3 grams) per serving.

Classic Pecan Pie

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 70 minutes
Servings: 10



1 pie dough (9 inches)
6 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted and cooled
1 cup light corn syrup
1 cup light brown sugar
2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
3 large eggs, lightly beaten
½ teaspoon salt
2 ½ cups raw pecan halves

Place baking sheet in oven. Heat oven to 350 F.

Line pie pan with rolled out pie dough. Press into edges and up sides. Use fingers or fork to create decorative edge. Set aside.

In large bowl, whisk together butter, corn syrup, brown sugar and vanilla extract. Add eggs and salt, and whisk until mixture is even. Fold in pecan halves.

Pour mixture into pie crust and spread evenly with spatula. Use pieces of aluminum foil to cover edges of pie crust. Place pie on prepared baking sheet and bake 60-70 minutes, or until pie is set in center.

Remove pie from oven and allow to cool completely before serving or chilling.

Note: Pie can be made one day ahead and refrigerated overnight. Allow pie to come to room temperature before serving.

Roasted Acorn Squash Salad with Pecan Vinaigrette

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 35 minutes
Servings: 4



Squash:
1 small acorn squash
1 tablespoon olive oil
¼ teaspoon sea salt

Dressing:
½ cup raw pecan pieces
¼ cup olive or pecan oil
2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
1 tablespoon maple syrup
¼ teaspoon sea salt

Salad:
3-4 handfuls baby spinach
1 ½ cups cooked farro
1 medium shallot, thinly sliced
1 ounce crumbled goat cheese

Heat oven to 425 F.

To create base, slice small part of one side of squash. Trim ends from squash, cut in half lengthwise and scoop out sides. Place cut-side down and cut squash into 1/4-inch thick slices. Place on sheet tray and toss with olive or pecan oil and salt. Roast until squash and peels are tender, 30-40 minutes.

While squash is roasting, heat small skillet over medium heat. Add pecans and toast, shaking pan, until nuts are fragrant. Transfer 1/3 cup of pecans to bowl and reserve remaining pecans for topping. Add oil, vinegar, maple syrup and salt while nuts are still warm. Stir vigorously and set aside.

In large bowl, combine spinach, farro, shallot, half the squash and half the dressing. Toss to combine then lay remaining squash on top of salad. Drizzle with remaining dressing and sprinkle with goat cheese and remaining toasted pecans before serving.

Note: Acorn squash skin is edible but needs roasting long enough to make it tender. If unsure, use delicata squash or skinless butternut squash.

Happy Holidays
From Our Family to Yours!



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