



HAPPY NEW YEAR

2017

LOOKING BACK, GOING ON

By Sally Lane

One at a time the ornaments are wrapped and put away for another year. The strings of lights and luminaries that made the holidays so festive disappear from yards, and are replaced with true Ohio winter scenery and temperatures. After all the busy-ness of the holidays,

this passage into the heart of winter is somehow relaxing and invigorating at the same time. It is time to make resolutions, but one really can't do that without looking back, evaluating what needs to change. One of my favorite authors, Hal Borland, said it best: *"Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us."*

Not to be flippant, but 2016 was full of experience, both good and bad. We will undoubtedly say the same thing about this new year on the eve of the next one, as the blank spaces on our brand-new calendars and planners become the history of another year. Let's take a quick run through Cortland/Bazetta hometown news in 2016:

In January 2016, our mayor, Jim Woofter; two new council members, Patti Keller and Don Moore; and two re-elected council members, Scott Rowley and James Edwards were sworn into office.

Designs for the new Pre-K to grade 8 school in the Lakeview School Districts were discussed at community meetings, and in May the ground was broken for the new building. During the summer the high school's track was redone, new artificial turf was installed, restrooms

were remodeled and some new bleachers were added. One hundred-thirty nine seniors in the Class of 2016 graduated from Lakeview High School.

The Cortland Bazetta Historical Society celebrated 40 years while Lakeview Outreach And Fellowship (LOAF) celebrated 70 years.

The Pearl Street Park Splash Pad was completed and opened for summer fun.

The Street Fair was the main June event. Kamryn Clark named Miss Cortland; Adison Groves named Little Miss Cortland.

In July, the community mourned the loss of a popular resident. The Love Life Foundation was established to honor Jarrett Hutton who died July 2 at the age of 32. The foundation will continue Jarrett's philosophy of loving life by providing a scholarship and supporting community outreach programs.

The Bazetta Fire Department opened its new station, and purchased a new firetruck.

The Sled Hill opened, just in time for the first snow.

Of course, those were just a very few of the happenings. Every issue of the Cortland News was filled with events:

5K races and walks, craft shows, school sports (we did well!), programs, Specialty Shop events, open houses, concerts – well, the list goes on and on.

The good news is: it WILL go on

See New Year on page 3

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CORTLAND CITY

www.cityofcortland.org

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

MEETINGS

City Council - first and third Monday of each month
 Tuesday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m.
 Monday, Feb. 7, 7 p.m.

Parks and Recreation - second Monday of each month
 Monday, Feb. 13, 5 p.m.

Planning & Zoning - second Monday of each month
 Monday, Feb. 13, 7 p.m.

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

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 broadcasted on television: PTV, Channel 15 (Time Warner). Times are 7 p.m. the Monday seven days after the session that was recorded, Saturday at 9 a.m. and Sunday at 6 p.m.. Viewers can also find broadcast times and watch an Internet stream of the program using the PTV web site: <http://onlineptv.com>.

BAZETTA TOWNSHIP

www.bazettatwp.org

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3372 State Route 5	fax: 330-637-4588	Fire Station #11 -	
Trustees, Clerk, Zoning Inspector		Everett-Hull Road	330-637-4136
and Cemetery Sexton	330-637-8816	Fire Station #13 -	
Road Department	330-637-8311	McCleary-Jacoby Rd	330-637-2872
Police Department	330-638-5503	Non Emergency calls	330-675-2730

BAZETTA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETINGS

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

Monday, Jan. 23, 6 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, Feb. 13, 6:00 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 www.cortlandpictures.com	Four Seasons Garden Club Becky Bucco 330-637-9115
Cortland Lions Club Mike Hummell 330-372-7951	Friends of the Cortland Library Di Matiejevic 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	Cortland Masonic Lodge #529 330-638-3110

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

OUR NEXT ISSUE....FEB. 4, 2017

Our theme will be Valentines Day & Bridal

Article Deadline by Jan. 20 • Display Advertising Deadline is Jan. 25

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

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 330-565-2637
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 Sally Lane

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 Terri Barnovsky
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 Jean A. Corliss
 Kathleen Ferris
 Thom Foley
 Kayley Frost
 Louise List
 Gerri Moll
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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



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COMMUNITY EVENTS

EVENT CALENDAR JANUARY 14 TO FEBRUARY 4

Cortland City/Bazetta Township and Lakeview School Board meetings and schedules. *See pg. 2*

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.

American Sewing Guild meetings, various dates. *See pg. 15*

Celebrating a Life in the Arts – A Memorial Exhibition for Jarrett Hutton, various locations and dates. *See pg. 7*

St. John Fish Fry Dinners, St. John Orthodox Church, 2220 Reeves Road NE, Warren, Jan. 27 and Feb. 10, 24. *See pg. 19*

The National Packard Museum's 17th Annual Antique Motorcycle Exhibit, "British Invasion," runs through May 27. *See pg. 11*

Youngstown Nighthawks Soccer League, Cortland League schedule, visit <https://www.facebook.com/ytownnighthawks>

JANUARY

15 USA Dance Evening of Dance, Orthodox Center, 1025 N. Belle Vista Ave., Youngstown, 5 p.m. *See pg. 21*

16 Bristol Public Library Martin Luther King Jr. holiday closing, re-opens Tuesday, Jan. 17. *See pg. 21*

19 The Trumbull County Travel Club first 2017 meeting, Howland SCOPE Center, 12:30 p.m. *See pg. 22*

21 The 11th annual Mosquito Lake Polar Plunge, "Freezin' for a Reason" to benefit Special Olympics Ohio. Registration and details: www.sooj.kintera.org/2017MosquitoLake. *See pg. 5*

22 The 5th annual Chili Cook-off, Country Porch Winery, 2262 Wilson Sharpsville Road (state Route 305), Cortland, 4 p.m., 330-638-0000. *See pg. 4*

New Year from page 1

and on! One of the first events this year is the Polar Plunge on Jan. 21 at Mosquito Lake State Park. There is always a good turnout for this worthy cause (See page 5).

The Drama Club at Lakeview will be producing the musical, "The Wizard of Oz" in March. There will be concerts, exciting school sports, the Super Bowl, races, car shows, meetings and programs. The Street Fair will be June 15, 16 and 17. Be sure to send your information to the Cortland News. (editor@cortlandnews.net) Good news is our business, and we love sharing it with the community.

One final thought is a quote from Alfred Lord Tennyson: "HOPE smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering, 'It will be happier.'" We wish you much happiness in the new year.

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Phoebe is a 1-year-old Pit Bull mix. Phoebe was at the Trumbull County Dog Pound when she was chosen for the DIPP training program. She will spend 9 weeks learning basic obedience such as commands, housebreaking, crate training and leash walking. Phoebe is an energetic dog that will do best with an active family. Phoebe entered the program on Dec. 27 and will graduate on Feb. 28. Her adoption fee is \$200 and includes her training as well as her spay, vaccinations, heartworm test and a microchip with registration.



Sis is a 9-year-old domestic shorthair mix. She was found as a stray and brought to AWL. Sis is a friendly cat that would love to be a part of your family! She is great with people but she will need to be the only cat in her new home as she doesn't always get along well with the others. Her adoption fee is \$20.16 and includes her spay, vaccinations, FeLV & FIV testing and a microchip.

Shelter hours are Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 6 p.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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5TH ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

The 5th annual Chili Cook-off has been planned for Sunday, Jan. 22 at 4 p.m. at the Country Porch Winery, 2262 Wilson Sharpsville Road (state Route 305), Cortland. There is a \$10 donation to enjoy chili and a salad,

but if you have what it takes, you can enter a pot of chili for \$10. The winner then can donate the money to their favorite charity. For information or to enter your chili, call 330-638-0000.

FURNITURE DÉCOR AND MORE... AND MORE

By Sally Lane



From the very beginning, Patti Keller and her Furniture Décor and More business have been a success story for Cortland. Her career in the consignment business started out almost 10 years ago, in a small baby clothing consignment store on Main Street, then moved onto consignment furniture on the corner of N. High and Main. "There was such a demand that it took us (Patti and her sons) by surprise at first," she said. About three years ago, they outgrew that building and moved the store a short distance north to 212 N. High St. The new building doubled the space and provided much more parking.

Last year they became a U-Haul dealer in addition to the furniture and décor business. Now Patti and her youngest son Brandon, are beginning to expand the scope of their business again. By February, they hope to open an area in the shop as a gift boutique that will sell handcrafted jewelry and other gift items. The future also holds the idea of a decorating service.

Furniture will continue to be the focus of the store, however. Over the years, the shop has been a favorite of sellers and buyers of gently used furniture. Patti's decorating ability skillfully blends items from many sellers into inviting vignettes so that potential buyers can visualize how the item will look in their own homes. The store now has 10 employees.

As part of the Specialty Shops group in Cortland, Furniture Décor and More participates in all the open houses and events for the town. Patti is a Lakeview graduate as are her three sons, Kevin Rush, Justin Rush and Brandon Keller, all who have worked at the store. Kevin helped start the business with his mother, and Brandon is now involved with the operation. In addition to being a businesswoman, Patti is also a member of the Cortland City Council.

Look for highlights of other Cortland businesses in the Cortland News this year as we feature these people and treasures in our hometown.



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BUSINESS NEWS AND NOTES

By Thom Foley

Shortreed and Associates (Amerprise) tells us that now is a great time to discuss your taxes and retirement plans. Call early for an appointment.

Auntie V's Pizza will be closed for vacation Jan. 16 through Jan. 31 - Reopening Feb. 1. Look for their Super Bowl specials that start on Feb. 1!

Beef 'O' Brady's has 31 TVs to watch all of the games on. Check out their Sip 'N Paint dates also.

Belleria Pizza has recently remodeled its dining room. Look for the coupon offering 20% OFF for all dine in.

Cortland Lanes offers Cosmic Bowling every Friday and Saturday night. It's great family fun.

Country Porch Winery is hosting its annual CHILI COOK OFF Sunday, Jan. 22 at 4 p.m. It is a great fund raiser for local charities and a great time for all.

Furniture Décor & More is now accepting spring and summer consignments. Also watch for the opening of their new Gift Shop. All NEW merchandise, including jewelry, perfect for that special gift.

The Lake Tavern Family Restaurant is the perfect place to watch the big game. And it is a great place to take your entire family for dinner. Great food, family-friendly atmosphere and great prices.

Rite Aid wishes you a HEALTHY NEW YEAR! They have flu shots without an appointment and are your one stop place for all of your winter cold and flu needs.

Did you know that **Western Reserve Country Store** has E-Z Heat Wood Pellets for only \$204.50/ton? And, while supplies last, have the largest selection of bird feed around.

Daffron Auto Body is the place to go if you are unfortunate enough to get into an accident this winter. Forty years of serving Cortland/Bazetta with dependable service.

Lakeside Sports Shop has all of your ice fishing needs. And one of the largest selections of beer and wine around.

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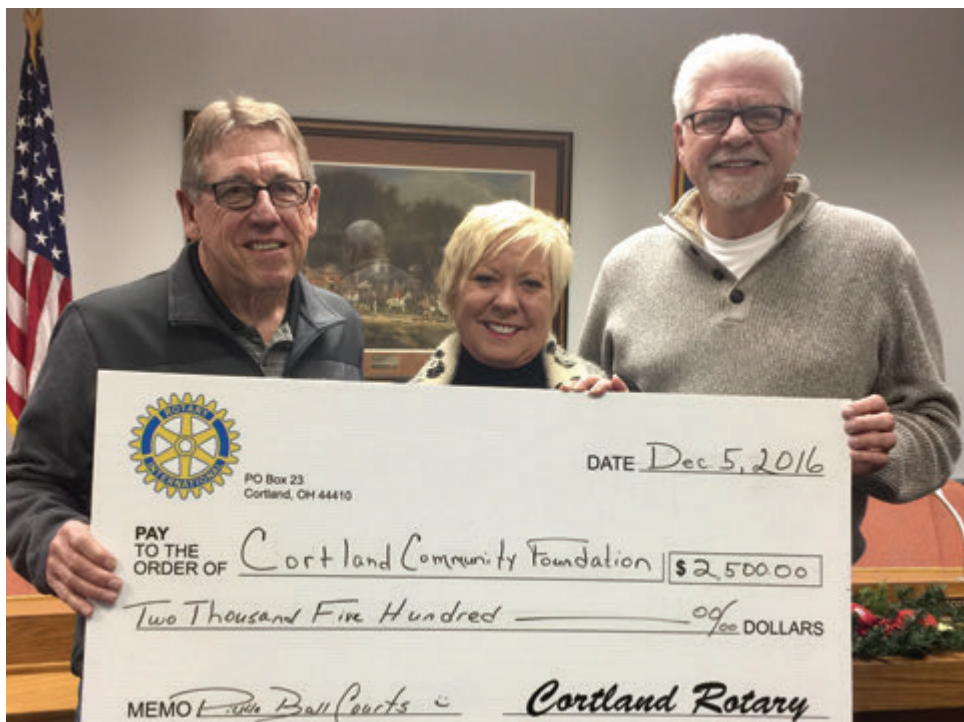
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CORTLAND ROTARY PRESENTS CHECK FOR PICKLE-BALL COURTS



Jerry Carlton and Mary Williams presented a check to the Cortland Community Foundation for \$2,500 as a donation towards resurfacing of the pickle-ball courts in Willow Park. Accepting the check is Mayor Jim Woofter. The project is being planned for spring of 2017.

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11TH ANNUAL MOSQUITO LAKE POLAR PLUNGE BENEFITS SPECIAL OLYMPICS OHIO



attend early check-in at the Cortland Moose Family Center on Friday, Jan. 20 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The center is located at 6400 state Route 46, Cortland. Here you can also turn in any offline (cash or check) money you've raised, collect your official 2017 Polar Plunge t-shirts, wristbands and any incentive prizes earned. Onsite registration is also available and cash, checks (made payable to Special Olympics Ohio), and credit/debit cards will be accepted.

There is an 11 a.m. check-in/registration on the day of the plunge, Saturday, Jan. 21 at Mosquito Lake beach, 1439 state Route 305, Cortland. All plungers must check-in/register at the registration tent that morning (or attend early check-in on Friday, Jan. 20). Registered plungers will need to turn in pledges raised off-line and collect their t-shirts, wristbands and incentive prizes.

At 1 p.m., there will be a costume contest with a chance to win a gift card. The plunge will be held at 1:30 p.m., followed by a Post-Plunge Party from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Cortland Moose Lodge. Prizes will be awarded to the top three fundraising individuals and top fundraising team. Guests of plungers will be charged a small donation to attend the Post-Plunge Party.

For more information and updates about the Mosquito Lake Polar Plunge contact Kate Burdett at kburdett@sooh.org, 614-239-7050 or visit www.sooj.kintera.org/2017MosquitoLake.

The 11th annual Mosquito Lake Polar Plunge, "Freezin' for a Reason" in support of Special Olympics Ohio, will be held on Saturday, Jan. 21. As part of the Polar Plunge experience, participants obtain monetary pledges to earn the privilege of jumping into the frigid waters of Mosquito Lake.

Plungers are required to raise a minimum of \$75 or \$50 (students) in pledges by the day of the event. Plungers must be a minimum of eight years of age to participate.

After registering online at www.sooj.kintera.org/2017MosquitoLake, be sure to create your own fundraising page. You can customize your page and email your family and friends. You can earn incentive prizes by raising additional funds. If you have previously registered online for a Polar Plunge or another Special Olympics Ohio event, please log-in with your username and password.

Avoid the lines on Plunge Day and

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR WOOD BAT TOURNAMENT

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Cortland is a safe community to live in but unfortunately it is not immune from criminal activity. There are steps you can take to improve your chances of not becoming a victim. Below are some tips for keeping your homes and vehicles secure. Security measures can range in cost from free to thousands of dollars. There is no single solution to keeping your property safe, but usually requires a combination of options.

Criminals have different motives for different crimes. Some criminals commit crimes because they were in the "right place at the right time." A criminal may not intend on targeting you, however, when you fail to secure, or at least conceal, your valuables, you create a chance for a crime of opportunity. A criminal may stop at the store to buy a drink or a pack of cigarettes and find that while you're at the same store, you left your car unlocked and running with your purse on the front seat. Your purse or even your car becomes an easy target. Maybe you locked your car door and shut your car off; however, you leave your briefcase or purse on the back seat. Criminals will smash your windows out and grab those items very quickly. Be sure to conceal packages, bags, purses and GPS devices if you are going to leave them in your car. If possible, don't leave anything of value in your vehicle when you are not using it.

Lighting around your home can be a deterrent. Lights come in endless options and can be motion, switch, timer or dusk to dawn or remotely controlled. The use of motion or timer controlled lights allow for lights to come on randomly and could cause a criminal to second guess if someone is home. Criminals like to remain undetected and if your property is well lit, they may just move on to your neighbor that has no lights. Proper lighting also allows for you and your guests to see clearly when walking, thus increasing personal safety as well.

Solid doors and locks can increase security in your home and business. Be sure to consult with your locksmith to ensure the lock you are purchasing is "bump proof/resistant" and appropriate

for your application. Keep in mind that you can put a well manufactured deadbolt on your door, however, if you have a window on that door, the suspect can simply smash the window, reach in and unlock the door. Unfortunately, home security measures can sometimes contradict fire safety measures and have to be designed to complement one another instead of conflicting.

Unless you put a vault door on your home, a lock may not be enough to prevent a break in at your home. A good alarm system can alert police should a burglar gain entry into your house. Make sure the alarm is monitored and that the alarm company has the proper dispatch phone number to report an alarm. That number is 330-675-2730. Some things to consider are the tamper resistant options available with the different alarm companies.

Finally, surveillance cameras have increased in resolution and dropped in price over the past few years. Many local stores sell basic camera kits for your home at a very reasonable cost. These cameras not only act as a deterrent when criminals see them, they can be used to identify bad guys and protect your interests on your property. If you have a camera system or intend on getting one and would like pointers on where to set up cameras, please send me an e-mail and I would love to meet with you. Many times when conducting investigations, we have reached out to residents and businesses to look at their video to help solve a crime.

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. I can be reached by e-mail at dmorris@cityofcortland.org.

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

CORTLAND LIONS DONATE BACK TO LOCAL AREA

The Cortland Lions Club was able to make the following donations during November and December:

- \$500 special donation to Cortland Area Cares at its new building-ribbon cutting.
- \$3,000 in food vouchers to Cortland Area Cares to supplement its monthly food distribution program.
- \$2,400 in food vouchers to residents of Cortview in need. (The Cortland Lions Club is the sponsor of Cortview Villages- a 96 apartment independent living facility located in Cortland.) The food vouchers are redeemable at Cortland Sparkle Market, supporting a local business.
- \$100 donation to Akron Children's Hospital to support pediatric needs.
- \$500 donation to The Children's Rehabilitation Center for pediatric rehabilitation.
- \$200 to Fowler United Methodist Church in support of a program to support families living with or dealing with drug addiction.
- \$150 to provide an eye exam and glasses to a needy local resident.
- \$100 to Cortland SCOPE in support of a Christmas dinner for area seniors.
- \$225 to provide a bowling for the resident of Boyd's Home in Kinsman.

The Cortland Lions Club thanks the community for its support of the club's fundraising activities. Without such support, the Lions Club could not help meet area needs

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CHRISTMAS IN CORTLAND - A FINAL WORD

By Carole Wiley, Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship

Delightful, charming, beautiful. These were a few of the adjectives heard following "Christmas in Cortland" on Dec. 21.

The community has some people to thank for the concert's great success. First of all, a "thank you" to Craig Wiencek, Cortland Community Band's director. His friendly enthusiasm and expertise are big factors in the band's success. And a "thank you" to each and every member of the band! Their individual talents and love of music are impressive. A BIG "thank you" to Ken Young of Lakeview High School. His ability to efficiently coordinate all Raidel Auditorium productions along with his patience and good cheer have been tremendously appreciated. And a special "thank you" goes to Michelle Robbins Jones, the director of the Community Choir. She led an eclectic group of folks who love to sing through just four rehearsals and by concert time, they reached a level at which

beautiful sounds were produced.

And thank you very much to the choir members, many of whom were new this year. This increased number greatly enhanced the finished product. We thank Cortland's mayor, Jim Woofter, for his very special appearance as narrator. A special "thank you" to Pastor Denise Gundersen for her friendly welcome and her Christmas message to open the program. And we thank the LOAF cookie makers for the more than 1,000 cookies served after the concert!

Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship especially thanks the many generous patrons who donated a total of \$952 to Cortland Area Cares at the concert. What a wonderful community!

We all truly look forward to the 2017 Christmas concert. In the meantime, LOAF wishes everyone in the Cortland- Bazetta community a very happy New Year!



CELEBRATING A LIFE IN THE ARTS - A MEMORIAL EXHIBITION FOR JARRETT HUTTON

The Love Life Foundation has collaborated with the Trumbull Art Gallery in Warren, and the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, to host an exhibition featuring the works of Jarrett Hutton. The Love Life Foundation is honored to carry out one of Jarrett's life dreams through these art showings. All of the art has been loaned from private collectors and will not be for sale at this time. His works that will be shown include sketches, paintings, poetry, photography and wood burnings.

These exhibitions will display a combination of eclectic pieces of Jarrett's work that will focus on his innovation, creativity, positivity, faith and love for life. Each of these pieces tell a story about his life passion for the arts. Jarrett wrote, "My artwork is straight from God's hands, down to mine. I thank all of you for your support and love as I bring the world something that nobody has ever seen." As an artist, taken too soon, art opened his world to many things. He quoted, "It has made me love my life, always love life." Jarrett spoke and was an inspiration to many. Please mark your calendars and help celebrate his life's passion through these upcoming events.

"Celebrating a Life in the Arts, A Memorial Exhibition for Jarrett Hutton" will be displayed at the Trumbull Art Gallery beginning Jan. 21 through Feb. 25, with an opening reception from 7 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21. There will be live entertainment of music he enjoyed, along with various private collectors to discuss each of their pieces they purchased from him.

Starting on Sunday, Feb. 26 and continuing to Sunday, May 14, The Butler Institute of American Art will do an exhibition of his Love Life Photography. Additional information regarding this opening and closing reception in his honor will be forthcoming.

For additional information regarding these two art exhibitions visit the Love Life Foundation website at www.lovelifefoundation.net or email foundation.lovelife@gmail.com.



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CORTLAND TROOPER RECEIVES AWARDS



Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Matthew R. Abbey has been selected 2016 Trooper of the Year at the Warren Post. In addition to the selection as the Warren Post Trooper of the Year, Trooper Abbey was selected as the Warren District Trooper of the Year, which accounts for seven counties in Northeast Ohio.

The selection of Trooper Abbey, 32, is in recognition of outstanding service during 2016 at the Warren Post. Fellow officers stationed at the Warren Post chose Trooper Abbey based on leadership abilities, professional ethics, courteous treatment of others, enthusiastic work attitude and cooperation with supervisors, peers, and the public.

Trooper Abbey is now in contention for the State Trooper of the Year Award to be announced at a later date.

Trooper Abbey joined the Highway Patrol in 2006 and has served at the Warren Post, Ravenna Post and Bowling Green Post. He is originally from Howland Twp. and is a graduate of Howland High School. Trooper Abbey graduated from Kent State University with a bachelor's degree. Other Highway Patrol awards received in the past include: ACE award, Criminal Patrol award, physical fitness award and safe driving award.

Trooper Abbey and his wife Kaylynn live in Cortland.

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OSP DISPATCHER SELECTED AS 'DISPATCHER OF THE YEAR'

Ohio State Highway Patrol Dispatcher Ashley Kawecki has been selected 2016 Dispatcher of the Year at the Warren Post.

The selection of Dispatcher Kawecki, 28, is in recognition of outstanding service during 2016 at the Warren Post. Fellow officers and dispatchers stationed at the Warren Post chose Dispatcher Kawecki based on leadership abilities, professional ethics, courteous treatment of others, enthusiastic work attitude, and cooperation with supervisors, peers, and the public.

She joined the Highway Patrol in 2012 and has served at the Warren Post. Dispatcher Kawecki is originally from Bazetta Twp. and is a graduate of Labrae High School. She graduated from Kent State University with a bachelor's degree. Dispatcher Kawecki lives in Cortland.



TCAP WINTER CRISIS PROGRAM

Trumbull Community Action Program (TCAP), 1230 Palmyra Road SW, Warren, utility bill assistance under the Winter Crisis Program is available now through Friday, March 31.

The program helps eligible households avoid utility disconnection; restore disconnected service; establish new service; and purchase fuel oil, propane, coal and wood.

Walk-ins are available all day on Mondays. Tuesday through Friday, walk-in customers that arrive between 7:30 and 10:30 a.m. can be seen each day before noon. Appointments for weekday afternoons can be scheduled by calling 1-866-747-1041. Callers must wait to receive a confirmation number to secure the appointment.

Applicants that cannot apply at the TCAP Warren office can apply at one of four satellite sites by appointments only from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact the following:

Mondays: City of Hubbard Municipal Building - 330-393-2507, ext. 229, 220 West Liberty St., Hubbard, Ohio 44425.

Tuesdays: Niles Community Center - 330-393-2507, ext. 227, 401 Vienna Ave., Suite 2, Tiffany Square, Niles, Ohio 44446.

Wednesdays: Newton Falls Methodist Church - 330-393-2507, ext. 232, 334 Ridge Road, Newton Falls, Ohio 44444.

Thursdays: Tod's Crossing Senior Living - 330-393-2507, ext. 230, 330 Blakely Circle SW, Warren, Ohio 44485.

For all other questions and additional information call TCAP at 330-393-2507, ext. 225.

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**WARREN JUNIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUE HOLD
CANCER FUND RAISER**



GFWC Ohio Warren Junior Women's League - Homelife Chairman Renee Maiorca and her committee held "Cocktails for a Cure" fundraiser at Barrel 33 located in Howland. Over \$300 was raised from the proceeds of a raffle, 50/50, signature drinks and meals. The money was donated to the American Cancer Society of Trumbull County. Kaitlin Irgang,

community manager - Relay for Life, American Cancer Society was invited and brought information on all the different forms of cancer. Pictured are Kaitlin Irgang, WJWL President Julie Vugrinovich, Jonnah Hetzel, Andree Rhodes-owner Barrel 33, Chairman Renee Maiorca, Linda McCredy, Karen Margala, Monica Olbrych and Carmella Neilson.

**WARREN REPUBLICAN WOMEN HOLD CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATION WITH SALVATION ARMY**



On Thursday, Dec. 1, the Warren Republican Women's Club held its annual Christmas celebration at the Salvation Army Community Room in downtown Warren, where they were greeted by Majors Dianna and Michael Morales. Members and guests enjoyed a potluck lunch, along with games, door prizes and fellowship. Those in attendance gave monetary donations in addition to contributing 100-plus items of clothing and toys for the Salvation Army's annual community Christmas distribution.

Pictured are: Cathy Lukasko, treasurer; Major Michael Morales; Edwina Wolcott, membership; Gail Drushel, newsletter; Barbara Rosier-Tryon, president; Sandy Mahaffey, historian; Major Dianna Morales; Judie Shortreed, secretary; Cary Ann Sullivan, 1st vice president; Kathi Creed, political action; and Carol Griffiths, Sunshine.

**FREE STATE OF OHIO SERVICES COULD PUT
MONEY IN YOUR POCKET**

Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor is encouraging Ohioans to take advantage of free state-provided services that could put money back in your pocket.

A missing life insurance policy and annuity contract search service, one of the first of its kind in the country, provided by the Ohio Department of Insurance might uncover money you never realized you had.

"The state of Ohio works hard to generate awareness of its valuable services, including helping Ohioans identify money that may belong to them," said Taylor, also director of the Ohio Department of Insurance.

Implemented in 2009, thousands of Ohio residents and family members of deceased Ohio residents have utilized the missing life insurance and annuity contract search service to see if they have beneficiary funds. More than

1,530 matches have been made.

Members of the deceased person's immediate family, executors or legal representatives can initiate a search by obtaining the necessary form at www.insurance.ohio.gov or by calling 800-686-1526. Requests received are sent to Ohio life insurance companies for review and the insurer contacts the beneficiary if money is to be paid.

Ohioans also can visit www.missingmoney.com to see if they have any unclaimed property, including life insurance and annuity contracts. The Ohio Department of Commerce is responsible for taking reports of unclaimed funds that result when an account becomes dormant and the business no longer has contact information for the account owner, holding these funds for safekeeping, and working aggressively to track down the rightful owner.



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STRIMBU MEMORIAL FUND DISTRIBUTES

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NEW BOARD MEMBERS ALSO SELECTED

By Jean A. Corliss



At its recent 28th Annual Gift Giving meeting the Strimbu Memorial Fund Board of Directors voted to disperse grant allocations to local economic development and charitable organizations and individuals in need totaling nearly \$110,500.

On Dec. 22, 2016, individuals representing these non-profits, charitable groups and those organizations involved in economic advancement, gathered at the Winner Arts and Cultural Center in Sharon, Pa., to receive their grants distributed by the Strimbu Memorial Fund Board of Directors.

Along with individuals in need, grants were awarded to the following organizations:

- The American Red Cross Lake to River Chapter, NE Ohio Region
- Community Food Warehouse
- Community Library of the Shenango Valley
- Joshua's Haven
- Military Affairs of Northeast Ohio
- Penn-Northwest Development Corp.
- Prince of Peace Center
- The Salvation Army
- United Way of Mercer County
- Meals on Wheels Shenango Valley
- Meals on Wheels Trumbull County
- The Hope Center for Arts & Technology
- West Hill Ministries
- Inspiring Minds
- Jamie's Story
- WaterFire, Sharon PA
- Mercer County Mentoring

"These grants are essential to the organizations that assist in economic development efforts and provide assistance and programs to those in need," said Bill Strimbu. "Their work is extremely important and beneficial to our surrounding communities."

Also at its Annual Gift Giving meeting, Spencer Strimbu and Dustin Ghizzoni were nominated and elected to the board.

Since its creation in 1990, the Strimbu Memorial Fund has provided \$3.1 million in donations and scholarships. Its major event has enabled it to perpetuate Nick Strimbu Jr.'s legacy, the annual Strimbu Memorial Fund Barbeque. This past year, the fund awarded fourteen \$2,000 and one \$10,000 college scholarships to local high school seniors planning to further their education. Leadership and self-reliance are the two most important criteria that are required to receive one of these scholarships.

"It is just as important as what we do as an organization as the dollar amount that has been given over the years," said President of the Board Jim Grasso. "None of this would have happened without Nick Strimbu Jr. as our first leader."

The 20th Annual Wild Game Dinner is being planned for Feb. 26, along with the 28th Annual Strimbu Memorial BBQ set for May 3. Funds raised by the two events will enable the SMF to continue its philanthropic support of area charitable initiatives.

More information about the Strimbu Memorial Fund is available at the Memorial Fund's website, strimbumemorialfund.com.

INSTEAD OF 'BREAKFAST WITH SANTA' WE ARE HAVING A 'LUNCH WITH ALL SANTAS!'

By Thom Foley

On Sunday, Jan. 22 at 2 p.m., several of us from the Mahoning Valley (approximately 16-18) who play Santa, will be meeting for a fun time to share stories, get to know each other and just have fun. We will be meeting at the Quaker Steak & Lube on Elm Rd in Warren/Cortland. NONE OF US will be in costume that day, of course. Most of us have done this for years but don't really have an opportunity to meet each other and share the joyful stories of playing Santa. Most of us are SENIORS and just enjoy making children happy!

The common link for most us is Shirley James, owner of Ward's Costume shop in Niles. She has supplied us with costumes and needed accessories for years. She will be joining us also.

I invite all those who play Santa or Mrs. Claus and would like to join us to please contact me at 330-727-5688.



OHIO CHANGES THE WAY IT SELLS ABANDONED PROPERTIES

Q: Several abandoned houses in our neighborhood are hurting our property values. What is being done about these abandoned properties in Ohio?

A: Following the great recession, it became clear that abandoned properties were lowering neighborhood property values. When a property owner defaults on a loan, a court is generally responsible for selling the property through a "judicial sale," such as an auction. In many parts of the state, judicial sales were taking far too long to be held, which gave more time for properties to become abandoned and for problems to arise.

Q: I understand that the Ohio legislature changed the law regarding judicial sales in Ohio. What was the goal of this change?

A: The goal of the legislation was to modernize the process by which property is sold in the state, maximize sales prices by allowing for a more diverse group of potential bidders and attempt to reduce blight by disposing of troubled properties more quickly.

Q: If I have missed payments on my mortgage-loan, can I still contest the bank's ability to foreclose my house?

A: Yes. You, as the borrower, can still contest the lender's entitlement to foreclose on the property. The new laws mainly focus on how residential properties can be sold in Ohio after the court enters a foreclosure decree.

Q: What happens if I am in foreclosure and I intentionally damage my house to get back at the lender?

A: The new law would make you subject to a misdemeanor for criminal mischief for damaging, destroying or improperly tampering with property once you have been served with the summons and complaint in the foreclosure action.

Q: Will the sheriff still conduct judicial sales?

A: Yes and no. The sheriff will still handle judicial in a vast majority of cases. However, the foreclosing lender, such as a bank, can ask the court to appoint a private selling officer (PSO) to market and sell the property instead. The PSO must be a licensed auctioneer and real estate broker/salesperson.

Q: Will judicial sales still take place at the courthouse?

A: Again, yes and no. The new law requires a single, statewide auction management system to be implemented. For the first five years of the new management system, individual counties can choose to hold sheriff's sales at the courthouse or to sell residential properties through Internet auctions. If an individual county decides to hold Internet auctions, the county sheriff must give notice similar to what is required for a sheriff's sale. This includes notice of the auction's start date, the minimum amount of time the auction will last (no less than seven days), the website address of the Internet sale, and the required deposit and costs. After the management system has been in place for five years, there will be no more in-person sheriff's sales at the courthouse, and all judicial sales of residential property must be completed through Internet auctions managed by individual county's sheriff departments.

Q: What happens if there is a judicial sale, but nobody buys the property?

A: The new law requires the county

sheriff to set two dates for the sale of residential property. The court sets the first sale date and lists a second sale date in case the original sale is "no bid, no sale." The second sale date must be held between seven and 30 days from the date of the initial sale. If the residential property goes to the second sale, there is no minimum bid requirement. This provides a greater chance for the property to be sold, rather than having to use the original two-thirds sheriff's appraised value that was used for the first sale date.

Q: If I am interested in buying property at a judicial sale under the new law, how much money do I have to put down?

A: According to the new law, you would have to pay a deposit of \$2,000 for a property that is appraised at \$10,000 or less; \$5,000 for a property that appraised at \$200,000 or less; and \$10,000 for a property that appraises at more than \$200,000 by the sheriff.

Q: What happens if I put down a deposit for a property at a sheriff's sale, but I change my mind or can't get financing to complete the purchase?

A: If you fail, for any reason, to pay the balance due on the purchase price within 30 days of the court's confirmation of the sale, then you would forfeit the deposit.

This "Law You Can Use" column was provided by the Ohio State Bar Association (OSBA). It was prepared by Columbus attorney David VanSlyke of Plunkett Cooney. The column offers general information about the law. It is not intended to be legal advice. Seek an attorney's advice before applying this information to a legal problem.

NATIONAL PACKARD MUSEUM PRESENTS 17TH ANNUAL ANTIQUE MOTORCYCLE EXHIBIT

The National Packard Museum's 17th Annual Antique Motorcycle Exhibit, "British Invasion," opened Jan. 7 and runs through May 27. This year's "British Invasion" exhibit will feature 30 motorcycles manufactured by British companies as early as 1913 and as recently as 2006, from both well-known motorcycle brands like Triumph, Norton and BSA, to lesser known marks like Abington, Sunbeam and Velocette.

The motorcycles not only demonstrate how motorcycling technology evolved over the course of the 20th Century, but also illustrate, like British rock 'n' roll that redefined the American music scene, how British motorcycles reshaped and challenged the American motorcycle scene in the 1960s. The exhibit also tells the story of the rise, fall, and resurrection of the British motorcycle industry over the course of the 20th and 21st centuries. Moreover, many of the motorcycles on display are on loan from owners in Northeast Ohio, demonstrating just how successful the British motorcycle invasion was locally.

Being widely recognized as one of the nation's finest motorcycle exhibits, the National Packard Museum's Annual Antique Motorcycle Exhibit has historically received a number of awards and recognitions. Among these are the Antique Motorcycle Foundation's highest honor, the "Award for Excellence," as well as three consecutive first place awards in the Interpretive Exhibits Category from the National Association of Automobile Museums. The Annual Antique Motorcycle Exhibit regularly attracts visitors from around the world.

Previous exhibits have welcomed guests from over 30 states and nine foreign countries.

"The purpose of the National Packard Museum's Annual Antique Motorcycle Exhibit is to educate our visitors about the important and unique role motorcycles have played within the broader story of transportation history," said Mary Ann Porinchak, the museum's executive director. "Our annual exhibit also promotes and celebrates the preservation, restoration and collection of antique motorcycles, so that audiences young and old may have the opportunity to learn about and appreciate motorcycle history's unique story."

"This year's exhibit highlights the redefining role British motorcycles have played in motorcycle history, particularly American motorcycle history. While each motorcycle on display, just like any motorcycle, has its own history and its own story to tell, this particular collection of motorcycles speaks to the collective contribution British motorcycles made to shaping today's American motorcycle culture."

During the exhibit, the museum will present its popular "Coffee & Donuts" seminars. These enlightening educational programs are open to the public free of charge with paid admission to the museum. More information about this year's series of seminars will be released in the near future.

The 17th Annual Antique Motorcycle Exhibit, "The British Invasion," is sponsored by The Trumbull County Tourism Bureau and The Lake Erie Chapter of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America.

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By Kathleen Ferris, Master Gardener

A happy and healthy New Year's wish to all in 2017. By now, most Christmas trees are a memory, the poinsettias are a little worse for wear, and I don't even have a Christmas cactus or another house plant to love. So at this time of year I'm always looking for something **new** and **interesting**, and this year I have found Air Plants. Or they found me.

I've been noticing Tillandsia on display in the privately owned greenhouses/nurseries in the area in recent years, so air plants are only really new to me. A recent article about *Tillandsia xerographica*, a giant air plant, in one of my favorite gardening magazines followed by a catalog featuring a 8"x8" wood frame with a Tillandsia suspended in a spider web of twine in the center, creating a living picture caught my attention. I'm hooked.

So what is a Tillandsia? First off, they belong to a genus of around 550 species and most are epiphytes. Epiphytes are plants that grow harmlessly upon another plant (such as a tree) and gets its nutrients and moisture from the air, rain and sometimes from the debris that accumulates around the base. Native to the southern United States, Mexico, Central America and South America, air plants are warm weather lovers that can take a little neglect and grow and thrive without soil. Generally, the thinner-leaved varieties grow in rainy areas and the thicker leafed varieties are more subject to drought.

So what does one look like? The plants range in size from miniatures to a foliage rosette 12 to 15 inches wide at maturity. The leaves are silver, shades of green and even a rusty red. They can be strappy, spiky, curly, twisted, re-curved, thick or thin, short or long, or wide or narrow. The plants can also be thick or thin, short or long, wide or narrow. They produce dramatic blooms in bright shades of purple, red, pink, green and yellow.

Tillandsia have a life cycle of one plant growing to maturity and blooming. Before, during, after blooming (depending on the species), the plant will start producing pups (young). It will look better as it starts to clump and produce new blooms. This is how the air plant grows and increases in

size. The bad news is each plant will only flower once, but then the plant will produce pups, they flower and then more pups.

Epiphytes are not parasites as they grow on other plants solely for support and do not negatively sap the strength of the host. Their roots are grown to help attach the plants and specialized structures on the leaves of the air plants (like cups and scales) may be used to collect or hold moisture. Epiphytes use photosynthesis for energy and absorb carbon dioxide at night not during the daytime hours.

Because Tillandsia are epiphytes, the way you choose to use them is only limited by your imagination. The most important requirements are bright light, though not direct sun, good air circulation and water. Remember, do not plant an air plant in soil – bad, bad! Air plants can be mounted on wood bases, on a tile or a rock, in ceramic or pottery, or in a glass globe with holes for air circulation. Outdoors, place them in the crooks of trees, mount on walls and hang them by wire making striking living mobiles. Use a sturdy flexible wire and make a loose basket to hold the plant and shape a hook at the other end for hanging.

Glue, wire, fishing line, twisty ties, nails, staples and Velcro can be used to attach an air plant for display. Do not staple your plant on its fleshy parts, only through the roots. Try to use waterproof glue such as Liquid Nails or a hot glue gun, after a five second cool down. Do not use superglue or copper wire as these will kill your plant. Anything with copper will kill a Tillandsia.

Now about watering the Tillandsia. Thoroughly wet the air plant 2-3 times a week. They cannot get water from their roots or save water internally. Never use distilled water or softened water because of the salt. Filtered water or tap water that has sat long enough for the chlorine to dissipate are fine at room temperature. Only misting is an insufficient means of watering. Submerge an air plant for 10 to 20 minutes once a week and then set them on a towel upside down to drain away rather than collect between the leaves promoting rot. Mist several times a week but do not keep the plants constantly wet or moist; they should dry in around three hours. You can fertilize by adding a pinch of Bromeliad or Orchid fertilizer to the mister; no more than 1/4 to 1/2 strength.

The best temperatures for Tillandsia is 50 to 90 degrees, though 40 to 45 degrees for a couple of nights should be all right. Tillandsia will die with a frost. Have some fun with these plants. They are not expensive for small starter plants and can be used to help stimulate that latent crafter/gardener gene this winter. There is even a glue just for this plant, Tilly Tacker. Who knew!

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

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MORE BANG FOR YOUR BUCK WATCHING SPORTS

Dear Mark: I will be in Las Vegas for Super Bowl Sunday and was wondering where you would recommend that I watch the game, and, what kind of games should I be playing? Dean M.

As to your gaming question, Dean, I would routinely recommend playing perfect basic strategy at Blackjack; a pass line bet and placing the 6 or 8 on a Crap game; video poker that offers a decent pay schedule; and Baccarat, where the house advantage is either 1.17% when betting the bank hand or 1.36% with a player hand wager. Smart gambling, yes, but not for this column.

As your inquiry indicates, you will be in Las Vegas during Super Bowl weekend. So, Dean, where should you be and what should you be betting? As your social/gambling coordinator, my recommendation would be in a sports book, sports bar or a casino-sponsored party. I have been to a Super Bowl twice, but at least 20 times somewhere in the Silver State, and I would take the latter every time. Go early, especially in a sports book, for good seating or plan to stand shoulder-to-shoulder to some inebriated jerk that abandoned his attempt to hit the men's room during a first half scoring drive. Yep, it happened to me.

Unfortunately, due to the NFL's crackdown on throwing Super Bowl parties for profit, most Las Vegas casinos just offer FREE Super Bowl party packages for Players Card members only. Clearly, Dean, first check where you have a Player's Card. Once hosted by former professional players or the Jagermeister girls, here is but another example of the days of old gone by.

Don't blame the casinos for

this one, but instead, this language read at the end of each game: "This telecast is copyrighted by the NFL for the private use of our audience. Any other use of this telecast or any pictures, descriptions, or accounts of the game without the NFL's consent is prohibited."

Fortunately, Dean, it exempts sports bars. Therefore, even if it is \$1 dogs, drafts and shrimp cocktails, most restaurants, bars, pubs, etc. have special offers for "Super Sunday," with some charging an admission fee that usually includes seating, drinks, and food.

Being it's early January, I would start immediately researching your option as to where to watch the Big Game. Google "Super Bowl Party Las Vegas 2016" and you will find some all-encompassing lists.

As for betting, nothing gets a better cluck-for-the-buck than a sports wager. The Super Bowl will last at least four hours, and even if you were betting the wagers I initially mentioned, your money will last far longer than at a blackjack table, a crap game, on a video poker machine, or on a baccarat game.

Also, I have been known to dabble (squander hard-earned money) on a few "proposition" bets as they are called. Figuring the Super Bowl is a national holiday, and it should be treated as such, my favorite is betting the length of the singing of the National Anthem - typically around two minutes. My lifetime record for that proposition bet is as follows: I win some, lose more. Win or lose, our patriotic song along with a flyover gets you fired up for the game and is worth at least a \$10 wager.

Whenever you place a point-spread, you lay 11 to win 10. That means if you want to win \$10, you have to wager \$11 no matter which team you are betting on. If you win, you will collect \$21 - your \$11 wager plus the \$10 you just won. This extra dollar commission, also called a vigorish (a.k.a. vig), is the compensation taken by the house on every sports bet wagered. Exotic proposition bets vary in price.

You might as well spread a slew of \$10 prop bets across the board from any number of individual performance props to the color of the Gatorade bath at the end of the game. Oh, and since you're going to bet the length of the National Anthem, you might as well wager whether the singer flubs, at least, one word of the song. Just think Christina Aguilera and the National Anthem at Super Bowl XLV.

My final advice, Dean, is to take Heads on the coin toss, and no matter where you watch the game, make it in close proximity to your hotel's pillow to support your head after a long day, and night, of Super Bowl partying.

Gambling Wisdom of the Week: "The truth is the Super Bowl long ago became more than just a football store. It's part of our culture like turkey at Thanksgiving and lights at Christmas." Bob Schieffer, CBS News



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CONFIDENCE-BOOSTING TIPS FOR FITNESS CLASS FIRST-TIMERS

(BPT) - You've joined a health club and now you're curious about fitness classes. You're almost ready to sign up for an indoor cycle, yoga or strength-training class, but something stops you. You feel nervous and uncomfortable and decide to wait.

Group fitness classes are a fantastic way to exercise because you're guided by an expert, plus the energy of the group keeps you motivated. However, because it's something new that puts people outside their comfort zone, it's common to feel apprehensive in the beginning.

To help you gain confidence to try any type of group exercise class, consider these tips from three health club members.

Comfort over style. "Trust me, no one cares what you're wearing," says Deb Kampe, a member at Life Time, which operates 122 destinations across the United States and in Canada. "If you want to wear gym shorts and a T-shirt, do it. Head-to-toe athleisure? Do it. A tutu? Do it. Just make sure you're comfortable and safe. Don't spend a fortune on the latest fitness clothing trends or labels. Expensive does not equal better."

Don't be self-conscious. "It's easy to assume everyone in class is fit, knows all the moves and is judging you. No one cares," Kampe says. "Once the music starts and the instructor begins, all eyes are up front taking direction and being lifted into the moment."

Everyone was a newbie. "Everyone was a first-timer at some point, so they know how it feels," says Dustin Meriwether, member at Life Time. "They're not going to judge you for it, and many - hopefully all - will be willing to answer any questions and help in any other way."

Instructors want to assist. "All instructors - and other members - want to help you," says Kelby Mezzenga, member at Life Time. "So just walk in and let the instructor know you are new or have a question. That welcoming feeling takes the edge off and chances are, you'll have met a new friend."

Keep an open mind. "Group fitness classes are designed to challenge you and take you out of your comfort zone. You may be unfamiliar with the equipment you'll use or how hard it might be, but I guarantee you will feel the burn," Mezzenga says.

Listen to your body. "You know your body best," says Meriwether. "If something doesn't feel right or if you know you have problems with something, modify the workout correspondingly. People do that all the time and many instructors are good about suggesting such modifications."

Give it 100 percent. "You get out what you put in," Meriwether says. "If you put in minimal effort, you can expect minimal results. But if you give it your all, you can expect some pretty fantastic fitness changes."

Bring water. Hydration is important, but you don't need to worry about anything else. "Life Time has everything you'll need for any class, from yoga mats to towels," says Mezzenga.

Celebrate victories. "During the cool-down and stretching segment of class, take a moment to celebrate your victory," says Kampe. "Look around, everyone no matter what their age and ability will be seriously sweaty, all there with you sharing the same endorphins. Take that feeling with you and own it. Then look at the class schedule and commit to another one."

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY HOLDS SOCK DRIVE TO HELP VETERANS

Shepherd of the Valley recently held a sock drive to support the Trumbull County Council of the American Legion. Each year, the American Legion distributes socks at the holidays to veteran men and women in local nursing facilities and veteran clinics.



Shepherd of the Valley collected more than 1,700 pairs of socks for veterans' holiday gifts. They will be holding another sock drive for the legion in July 2017.

Pictured are representatives from the Trumbull County Council of the American Legion who picked up more than 1,700 pairs of socks from Shepherd of the Valley. Pictured are Danielle Procopio, Shepherd of the Valley; Bob Marino and Ron Curry, Trumbull County Council of the American Legion.

AMERICAN SEWING GUILD JANUARY SCHEDULE

The Niles Chapter of the American Sewing Guild's January schedule for Neighborhood Group meetings. Guests are always welcome.

- Fancy Cutters meet at Lake Vista, 303 North Mecca St. (Rt. 46), Cortland. No January meeting.
- Material Girls meet at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 490 N. High (Rt. 5), Cortland. No January meeting.
- Howland Happy Stitchers meet at Living Lord Lutheran Church, 851 Niles- Cortland Road (Rt. 46), Howland, Jan. 17. Ellen will demo casserole cover. Carol 330-856-4827.
- Sewphisticates (Garment Group) meet at Shepherd of the Valley, 4100 N. River Road NE, Warren, Jan. 18. Embellishments- Part 1. More information will be e-mailed. Diane 234-855-7610.
- Austintown Stitch and Share meets at Humility House, 755 Ohltown Road, Austintown, Jan. 19 at 10 a.m. Theresa will demo an apron from a man's shirt. Bonnie 330-402-5382.
- Southington So-Sews meet at Southington Christian Church, 3285 state Route 534, Southington, Jan. 23 at 10 a.m. Rita will demo making hats from old sweaters. Jennie 330-847-7386.



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**PREPARE FOR MEDICARE PART A AND B
PRICE CHANGES IN 2017**

By Nathaniel Sillin

If you're eligible for Medicare, or will be in the coming year, there are a few changes you should know about for 2017.

An increase in the Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index (CPI) means there'll be an increase in Social Security benefits and Medicare Part B premiums. For most recipients the increases almost offset each other, but those who aren't covered by the "hold harmless" provision (about 30 percent of recipients) face a larger Part B premium increase.

These changes, along with several others, will go into effect soon and you should consider how they could affect your budget.

A slight increase in your Social Security benefits. Since 1975, Social Security benefits have an automatic cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). The adjustment depends on the CPI and helps keep your benefits in line with the rising cost of goods.

There wasn't a COLA for 2016 benefits, but there is a .3 percent adjustment for next year. Meaning, you'll get an additional \$3 per \$1,000 you receive in benefits. The estimated average monthly benefit for all retired workers is expected to increase \$5, from \$1,355 to \$1,360.

Medicare Part B premiums will also rise. The COLA also affects Medicare Part B premiums, the part of Medicare that covers some types of procedures and medical equipment. However, for about 70 percent of Medicare recipients, the Social Security Act's "hold harmless" provision prohibits an increase to Medicare B premiums of more than the previous year's COLA adjustment.

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, held harmless recipients will pay \$109 per month, an increase of \$4.10.

If you aren't held harmless, Part B premiums could increase by about 10 percent. The remaining 30 percent of Social Security beneficiaries will have their Part B premium increase by about 10 percent. You could fall into the non-held-

- harmless group if you:
- Are a new enrollee
 - Enrolled in Medicare but don't receive Social Security benefits
 - Get billed directly for Medicare Part B
 - Receive Medicare and Medicaid benefits and your state Medicaid programs pay your Part B premium
 - Are a high-income earner subject to an income-adjusted premium

For the non-held-harmless group, the premium depends on the recipient's (or couple's when filing a joint tax return) adjusted gross income (AGI).

- The lowest monthly premium, for individuals who have an AGI of \$85,000 or less (\$170,000 for couples), will increase from \$121.80 to \$134 a month per person.
- On the high end, for recipients with an AGI over \$214,000 (\$428,000 for couples), the monthly premium will increase from \$389.80 to \$428.60 per person.

Medicare Part A and B deductibles will also increase. Most people don't have to pay Medicare Part A premiums, but you could still have to pay a deductible or coinsurance for some Part A benefits.

- The deductible for inpatient hospital coverage, which helps cover the first 60 days of care, will increase from \$1,288 to \$1,316 per benefit period.
- Daily coinsurance for the 61st through 90th day of treatment will increase from \$322 to \$329.
- Daily coinsurance for day 91 on will rise from \$644 to \$658.
- Each day past day 90 counts towards your lifetime reserve. You have a maximum of 60 lifetime reserve days; after which you could be responsible for all costs.

• Skilled nursing facility care is completely covered for your first 20 days.

- Daily coinsurance for day 21 to 100 of skilled nursing care will increase to \$164.50.
- You could be responsible for all costs beyond day 100.

The Part B annual deductible will also increase, from \$166 to \$183. Generally, after you've met your deductible, you'll pay 20 percent of Medicare-approved costs for services covered by Part B.

Bottom line: Social Security benefits, Medicare Part B premiums and Part A and B deductibles and coinsurance will increase in 2017. Whether you're held harmless or not, take steps to understand which changes could affect you and alter your budget accordingly.

Nathaniel Sillin directs Visa's financial education programs. To follow Practical Money Skills on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney

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HOW TO TAKE CARE OF BRUISED, FRAGILE SKIN IN WINTER

(StatePoint) Many people who bruise easily breathe a sigh of relief in the winter, because long sleeves and leggings or slacks can conceal myriad skin issues. But, it's important to note that while the outside world can't see what's going on under the layers, leaving these skin issues untreated may lead to more serious problems down the road.

A healthy skincare regimen is important no matter what season it is, particularly as you age and skin becomes more fragile.

"Just like our bones, aging skin can get brittle and break," says dermatologist, Dr. Helen Torok. "Over time, the skin's barrier can be broken down due to a variety of factors. Luckily, you can help prevent skin aging issues with an effective year-round skincare routine. While your skin transitions from one decade to the next, taking preventative measures to help maintain a strong, healthy and resistant skin barrier is key."

As skin ages and thins, it can become more vulnerable to insults that might not have bothered it before, manifesting in black and blue bruises on your body. However, by using a product like DerMend Moisturizing Bruise Formula, you can help fragile skin that is prone to bruising and restore skin's natural barrier that may have been affected by aging, sun exposure or certain medications. This dermatologist-recommended cream contains ceramides, retinol, arnica oil and glycolic acid and is available at Walgreens, CVS, Rite Aid, and Walmart stores nationwide.

According to Dr. Torok, "Applying DerMend twice daily to the areas of your skin that are prone to bruising can help improve skin's appearance and restore it to better health. It's important to be proactive

and consistent with application."

There are also other factors besides thinning skin that may lead to bruising and the breakdown of your skin's barrier. These include aging, genetics, medication and lifestyle. Sun damage can also play a major role. The sun does not just disappear in winter and neither should your sunscreen and other UV protection. Too much sun exposure over your lifetime can make you more susceptible to skin problems later in life. Apply sunscreen to exposed skin year-round.

So, don't use the winter months as an excuse to take a vacation from your skincare regimen. Start building a strong skin barrier as early as you can and consult your dermatologist about your skin today. The thinning of the skin is a gradual process and early intervention can help you get on the right track.

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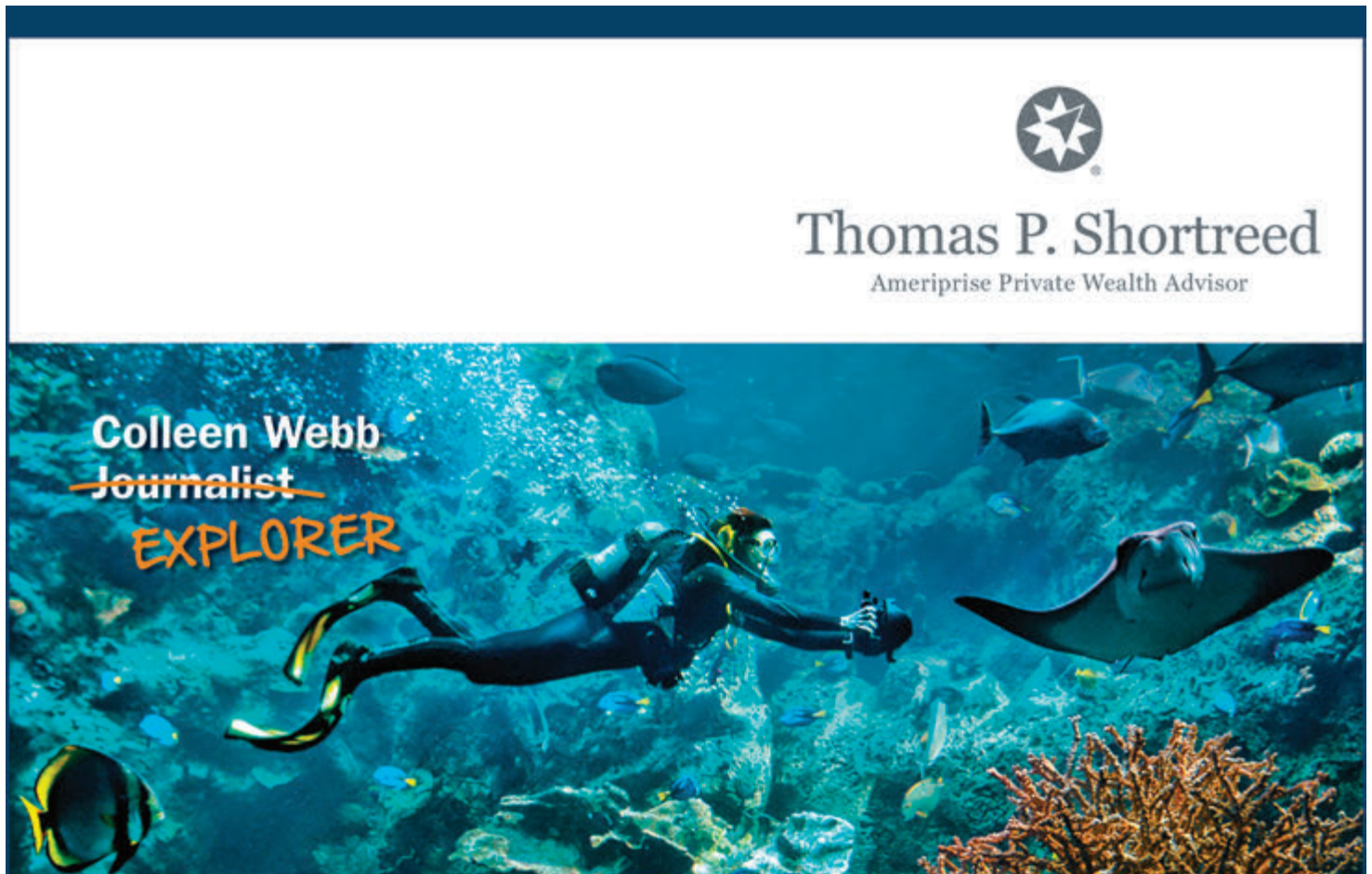


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The Confident Retirement approach is not a guarantee of future financial results.

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OHIO STAR QUILTERS INSTALL OFFICERS



The Ohio Star Quilter's met for its annual Christmas party with 28 members in attendance. Chairperson of the party, Donna Bishop, arranged for an informal social event and luncheon that included the installation of the 2017 club officers. Outgoing president Karen Miles installed Sandy O'Malley, president; Missy Shaffer, vice-president; Dee Esposito, secretary and Verna McNeill, treasurer.

The Ohio Star Quilters meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month at the Howland SCOPE Senior Center in Howland from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The quilt club welcomes new members interested in learning the art of quilting and the history of the sewing and piecing of quilts. The first meeting is the business meeting, with the third Wednesday being a sewing and project making day. The club sponsors a "Kids Day Out" in the summer and "Quilter's Day Out" held every May with a guest speaker and luncheon.



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8 TIPS TO IMPROVE YOUR FINANCIAL COMMUNICATION

What makes a couple successful in their financial relationship? Ameriprise Financial surveyed over 1,500 couples (those married or living together for at least six months) to learn about their money conversations and how they make decisions. The results revealed eight ways you can improve the financial health of your relationship:

1. **Understand your partner's money mindset.** It's normal to have differing views and habits about money, but that doesn't mean you can't agree on your financial goals. Couples who report being on the same page financially work to understand their partner's approach to money and keep the lines of communication open.
2. **Make finances a priority and don't give up.** Couples who are willing to have the hard conversations and who work together to find financial harmony will reap the benefits over time. As you might expect, the study found that couples who had been together longer tend to have better communication and are on the same page when it comes to financial matters.
3. **Agree on financial goals.** It's tough to pool your money with someone who overspends or who isn't willing to save for the vacation you've always dreamed about. Sharing financial goals does bring you closer together—or at least it's one less thing to argue about. To make it easier to save, challenge yourselves to add a timeframe to each goal so you know what you're working toward first.
4. **Assign and accept financial roles and responsibilities.** Most couples split up tasks such as paying bills or monitoring investments. Clear responsibilities allow you to hold one another accountable without worrying if the cable bill was paid. However, be sure to work together on tasks such as retirement planning that requires close collaboration.
5. **Invest in your future together.** Make it a priority to set aside a portion of your earnings for short- and long-term goals, including retirement. Know how much you collectively have in retirement savings—a surprising 23 percent of couples are unsure of this number. If you have kids, talk about how much you'd like to contribute to their college expenses so you can save accordingly.
6. **Set a spending limit.** Spending habits were the leading cause of contention for couples. Consider setting a spending limit to ensure you're on the same page as your partner regarding large expenditures. On average, couples said a purchase over \$400 should trigger a discussion.
7. **Understand that disagreeing is okay.** According to the Ameriprise study, even couples who say they're in financial harmony disagree on financial matters. What's important isn't that the partners don't always agree, but that 82 percent resolve their issues and move on.
8. **Enlist a professional to solidify your financial plan.** When you need an objective opinion—or a deciding vote—meet with a financial advisor. Together the three of you can create a financial plan that meets your specific needs as a couple.

Ultimately, it feels good when you are in sync with your partner regarding financial decisions and can work together toward managing your finances. Couples who actively work on improving their financial relationship will likely be less frustrated over money matters and may even feel better about their relationship overall.

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

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**TRUMBULL/MAHONING COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH
AND RECOVERY BOARDS LAUNCH
"WORKING PARTNERS" INITIATIVE**

In an effort to address the safety and economic threat of drug abuse in the workplace, the Trumbull and Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery boards have partnered with 20 local stakeholders and "Working Partners" to launch the Working Partners Drug-Free Workforce Community Initiative in Trumbull and Mahoning counties. Similar community initiatives are occurring in 18 counties across Ohio.

During the initial stakeholder meeting, the group learned about the objectives of the initiative: to increase workforce readiness and employability; build healthier, stronger, more productive workplaces; and to create systems to educate employees - who are parents or have influence over young people - to prevent drug use among that population. In addition, they discussed current substance abuse trends in the local community, explored community-specific assets and liabilities

and reviewed the initial tasks of the initiative.

"We are excited to begin the important work of bringing employers and community leaders together to address the drug-related issues facing our community," said Duane Piccirilli, executive director of the Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board. "Our initial stakeholder meeting was the first step in the process of making our workplaces safer and our workforce and community stronger."

"I am pleased to be invited to participate as a stakeholder in this local Working Partners Drug-Free Workforce Community Initiative," said Dale Foerster of Starr Manufacturing in Vienna Twp. "By collecting data and bringing to light the issues we face in our community, sharing best practices and working collaboratively, we have the opportunity to tackle this issue in a focused way and have a true impact."



START OF 2017 TAX SEASON IS JAN. 23

The Internal Revenue Service and partners from the states and tax industry reminds taxpayers that the nation's 2017 individual income tax filing season opens Jan. 23.

The IRS expects more than 153 million tax returns to be filed this year and taxpayers have until Tuesday, Apr. 18, 2017, to file their 2016 tax returns and pay any tax due. The deadline is extended because the Emancipation Day, a holiday in Washington, D.C., will be observed on Monday, Apr. 17, pushing the nation's filing deadline to April 18.

"There are a number of important changes this year involving refunds and tax law changes that we encourage people to keep in mind," said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen. "We encourage taxpayers to plan ahead and take a few minutes to review these changes. As we enter the filing season, taxpayers should know that the dedicated workforce of the IRS and the nation's tax community stand ready to help."

Taxpayers that are e-filing can still submit returns to their software provider before Jan. 23. They will hold the return and transmit it to the IRS when the systems open. The IRS also reminds taxpayers that they don't have to wait until Jan. 23 to contact their tax professional.

In 2016, the IRS issued 111 million individual tax refunds and expects more than 70 percent of taxpayers to receive a refund in 2017. Also, the IRS reminds taxpayers that a new law requires the IRS to hold refunds claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) until Feb. 15. "We encourage taxpayers to file as they normally would, including returns claiming the EITC or ACTC," Koskinen said. "The IRS and the nation's tax community are committed to making this another smooth filing season."

e-File

More than four out of five returns are expected to be filed electronically, with a similar proportion of refunds issued through direct deposit. The IRS encourages taxpayers to plan ahead and take advantage of the online resources available on IRS.gov.

Choosing e-file and direct deposit for refunds remains the fastest and safest way to file an accurate income tax return and receive a refund. The IRS anticipates issuing more than nine out of 10 refunds in less than 21 days from the time returns are received.

All taxpayers regardless of income will again have access to free online fillable forms, which provide electronic versions of IRS paper forms to complete and file. This option is available through IRS.gov and is free.

Protecting taxpayers from ID-Theft-related refund fraud

The IRS continues to work with state tax authorities and the tax industry to address tax-related identity theft and refund fraud. As part of the Security Summit, the IRS made significant inroads against fraudulent returns in 2016. While working to stop the issuance of fraudulent refunds, the IRS remains focused on releasing legitimate refunds as quickly as possible in 2017. Thus far, Summit efforts have led to a 50 percent decline in the number of new reports of stolen identities on federal tax returns. Late last year, Summit leaders detailed new and expanded safeguards for taxpayers in the upcoming 2017 tax season. The 2017 focus revolves around "trusted customer" features that will help ensure the authenticity of the taxpayer and the tax return - before, during and after a tax return is filed. The additional protections will build on the 2016 successes that prevented fraudulent returns and protected tax refunds.

Health care basics

Again this year, meeting the tax obligation of the Affordable Care Act for the vast majority of taxpayers will simply mean checking a box to verify everyone on their return has health coverage. For others, IRS.gov/aca features useful information, tips and interactive online tools to help taxpayers with the premium tax credit, the individual shared responsibility requirement and other tax-related provisions of the ACA.

The Affordable Care Act requires that a taxpayer and each member of their family either has qualifying health coverage for each month of the year, qualifies for an exemption, or makes an individual shared responsibility payment when filing their tax returns.

Assistance filing the tax return

The IRS reminds taxpayers that a trusted tax professional can also provide helpful information about the tax law.

The IRS urges all taxpayers to make sure they have all their year-end statements in hand before they file their return. This includes Forms W-2 from employers, Forms 1099 from banks and other payers, and for those claiming the premium tax credit, Form 1095-A from the Marketplace. Doing so will help avoid refund delays and the need to file an amended return later.

Delayed refunds

The IRS expects to issue more than nine out of 10 refunds in less than 21 days. However, the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act mandates the IRS hold refunds on tax returns claiming the EITC or the Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) until mid-February. The change helps ensure that taxpayers get the refund they are owed by giving the IRS more time to help detect and prevent tax fraud.

The IRS will begin releasing EITC and ACTC refunds starting Feb. 15, but cautions taxpayers that these refunds likely will not start arriving in bank accounts or on debit cards until the week of Feb. 27. The IRS wants taxpayers to know it will take additional time for their refunds to be processed and for financial institutions to accept and deposit the refunds to bank accounts. The IRS reminds taxpayers many financial institutions do not process payments on weekends or holidays, which can affect when refunds reach taxpayers. For EITC and ACTC filers, the three-day holiday weekend involving President's Day may affect their refund timing.

Where's My Refund? on IRS.gov and the IRS2Go phone app will be updated with projected deposit dates for early EITC and ACTC refund filers a few days after Feb. 15. Taxpayers will not see a refund date on Where's My Refund? or through their software packages until then. The IRS, tax preparers and tax software will not have additional information on refund dates, so Where's My Refund? remains the best way to check the status of a refund.

Help for taxpayers

The IRS also reminds taxpayers that a trusted tax professional can provide helpful information and advice about the ever-changing tax code.

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 jennifer@jenjlycpa.com To sign up for monthly newsletters you can visit her website at www.jenjlycpa.com.

TIPS TO SAVE AND SPEND WISELY IN 2017

(StatePoint) Did you get carried away with the holiday spirit this past season? On the heels of hefty spending, the new year is the best time to take stock of personal finance habits and make beneficial changes for the year ahead.

Here are some useful tips and tricks to spend and save wisely in 2017.

Think Long-Term

Don't neglect the future. It's never too early to save for retirement. In fact, the sooner you start, the better off you will be. Invest through a company-sponsored plan if possible. If not, look into IRAs that can help you grow your wealth exponentially.

Create Categorized Funds

Consider the 52-week savings challenge. In the first week, save \$1, followed by \$2 the second week, all the way through week 52, when you put aside \$52. Sticking to this plan results in \$1,378 saved at the end of the year, as well as any interest you've earned.

Creating a savings account for a specific purpose is a perennially sound savings strategy. Look for banks that are fee friendly, which allows you to open an online savings or Money Market account with no minimum and no monthly maintenance fee. You can

deposit money easily through e-check deposit, direct deposit and you'll earn interest compounded daily on your savings. In addition, putting this money in a separate account allows you to track your spending against the account balance.

Use Shopping Apps

It is incredibly easy to save money with a little online research. With a few minutes effort, you'll find discount codes, loyalty programs or cashback websites that track your purchases and reward you for the extra step of navigating through their shopping portal instead of going straight to the big name retailers' websites.

Reap Rewards

While no personal finance expert would advocate running up credit card bills one can't afford, savvy consumers know how to take advantage of credit card reward programs for hotel points, airline miles or just straight cash in their pockets.

If you don't want to open a new account, check your current credit cards for promotions or cash back offers, which can add up quickly on everyday purchases.

With a little homework, savvy consumers can make 2017 the year they spend strategically and save more.

ST. JOHN OFFERS FISH FRY DINNERS

St. John Orthodox Church, 2220 Reeves Road NE, Warren, will be holding fish fry dinners on Jan. 27 and Feb. 10 and 24. Dinner will be served from 4 to 7 p.m. with baked or fried cod or shrimp, macaroni and cheese, French fries, cole slaw, dessert and drink, all for only \$10. Call ahead for take-out orders at 330-372-3895.



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LOCAL WOMEN RECEIVES DEGREE FROM ST. VINCENT COLLEGE

Samantha Case of Cortland, was one of 136 students that were awarded bachelor's, master's or doctoral degrees by President Br. Norman W. Hipps, O.S.B., in a traditional public ceremony that recognized the completion of their degree studies at the 12th annual December commencement ceremony of Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, Pa., on Dec. 17, in the Robert S. Carey Student Center. Presiding over the academic exercises was the Very Rev. Earl J. Henry, O.S.B., Prior of Saint Vincent Archabbey. Samantha was awarded a B.A. in Economics.

REGISTER FOR CREATIVE ARTS AND KNIT & CROCHET FESTIVAL

This year the Pittsburgh Creative Arts and Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival that will be held from March 24 to 26 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, will again offer a marketplace, classes and special events encompassing knit, crochet, sewing and quilting, fiber, spinning, weaving and more.

Some of the highlights for the 2017 festival include:

- Marketplace with exhibitors
- Over 90 classes and workshops
- The Creative Open Studio - a space to play and try different sewing, cutting and felting machines
- The 1 Million Pillowcase Challenge - pillowcases will be sewn on site and delivered to UPMC Cancer Center patients after the festival
- Maker Space - a space to try out new crafts and take one home
- Kickoff luncheon with Steven B
- Movie room - a room dedicated to instructional and DIY videos
- 2017 Quilt Challenge - cash prizes and honorable mentions
- Charity Lounge
- 1st stop of the 2017 SW PA Quilt Shop Hop

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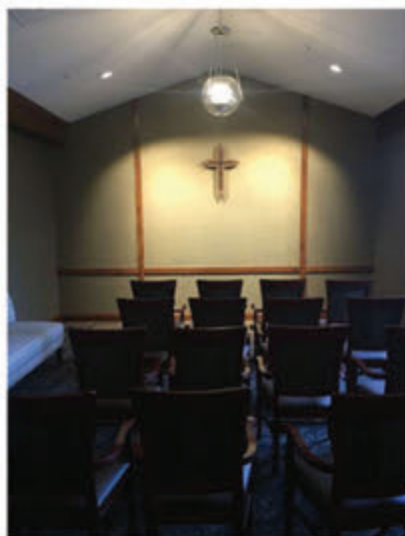
SAUER NAMED TO TRUMBULL METRO PARK BOARD



Kurt Sauer was recently sworn in by Trumbull County Probate Judge James A. Fredericka for a 3-year term on the Trumbull County Metropolitan Park Board that commenced on Jan. 1 and will end on Dec. 31, 2019.

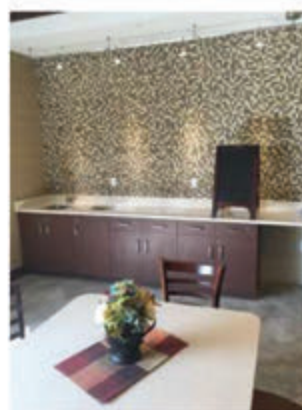
Pictured are Kurt Sauer, Drew Verbosky, bailiff at Trumbull County Probate Court; and Probate Judge James A. Fredericka.

Armstrong Memory Care Assisted Living



Trumbull County's only memory care assisted living, **Windsor House at Armstrong Memory Care Assisted Living**, is Now Open. Located off Mahoning Ave. and Champion Ave., residents will enjoy the privacy of their own apartment, daily recreational and social activities, 3 fresh meals, assistance with activities of daily living, companionship of staff members and other residents, a secured outdoor courtyard and much more.

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CORTLAND BRANCH LIBRARY EVENTS IN JANUARY

The following programs take place at the Cortland Branch Library, 578 Lakeview Dr., Cortland. All library events are free and open to the public. No reservations are required unless noted.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

All Warren-Trumbull County Public Library locations will be closed on Jan. 16 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Preschool Storytime

Mondays, Jan. 23, 30 at 6 p.m.;

Tuesdays, Jan. 17, 24, 31 at 11 a.m.

Preschool Storytime features stories and a craft related to a weekly theme and reinforces the development of early literacy skills. For children ages 3 to 5.

Time for Tots

Wednesdays at 11 a.m.: Jan. 18, 25

A developmentally appropriate storytime program for children ages 2 to 3 1/2 with a parent or caregiver. Registration is required; call 330-638-6335.

Teen Paint & Sip

Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 6 p.m.

What better way to spend an evening than painting and sipping hot chocolate? Let us know you're coming by calling 330-638-6335. All supplies will be provided. Free for teens in grades 7 to 12. **Ancestry: Library Edition Class**

Thursday, Jan. 19 at 11 a.m.

Participants will learn how to use the library's subscription database to find census, marriage, death, birth, military and immigration records, and how to refine their searches. Those taking the class should be familiar with navigating a computer using a mouse. Registration is required by calling the Local History & Genealogy Center at 330-399-8807, ext. 202.

LEGO Lovers Unite!

Saturday, Jan. 21 drop-in any time between 1-2 p.m.

Do you enjoy creating with LEGO bricks? Join us for LLU, a monthly program where you can have fun with other kids creating LEGO masterpieces. For children in kindergarten to grade 6.

Fun with Junie B.!

Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 5:30 p.m.

Are you a Junie B. fan? Bring a friend to an evening full of fun inspired by the popular book character, Junie B. Jones! There will be crafts, games, and snacks. For kids in kindergarten to grade 3. Registration is required; call 330-638-6335.



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FOCL MEETINGS

The Friends of Cortland Library (FOCL) meet five times each year, the second Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. in the Cortland Branch meeting room. Upcoming meetings will be March 8 and May 10. FOCL does not meet in the summer months. The meetings are open to the public. Contact Di Matijevic at 330-637-2717 for more information.

BRISTOL PUBLIC LIBRARY HOLIDAY CLOSING

The Bristol Public Library will be closed Monday, Jan. 16 in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Regular business hours will resume Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 8 a.m.



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USA DANCE BEGINS NEW YEAR WITH AN EVENING OF DANCE

USA Dance will feature East Coast Swing lessons and general dancing on Sunday, Jan. 15 at the Orthodox Center, 1025 N. Belle Vista Ave., Youngstown. The evening will feature Bolero Basics at 5 p.m., Bolero lessons at 5:30 p.m., sponsored by Mary Ann Ebert, "Meet Me on the Dance Floor," followed by open dancing to ballroom, Latin, Swing and Hustle.

There is a \$5 fee for USA Dance members and \$10 for non-members and \$2.50 for students. "Bow Wow Boogie" Every Dog Matters Rescue benefit dance party advance tickets will be available for purchase for \$10 at the Sunday dance.

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PASTOR'S PEN

By Reverend Donald P. Barnes, Pastor, Cortland Christian Church

Unstringing the lights - pack the tinsel away - off come the ornaments - the Crèche resumes its place in the attic - Christmas knick knacks are stored away for the season - the blue spruce is uprooted from its stand - and an Oreck vacuum sweeper disposes of the loose needles.

Lorra and I have a tradition at our house. She does the decorating and I do the un-decorating. Both exercises are founded on solid theological underpinnings. Lorra's efforts put us in the proper mental and emotional framework to receive a King - my task disposes us to go about the practical work of living for a King. It's January and Christ lives among us. Hallelujah! Praise God! In all respects, the season of celebration has been grand. My question: will there be any lasting impact. Has the arrival of our King been transformative in real terms? Are you ready to do the hard work of ministry? Are you bent on leading a Christ-centered life, practically-speaking? You know what I mean, don't you?

There's a wonderful story recorded in the Synoptic Gospels. It seems that Jesus leads his three closest disciples (Peter, James and John) to a mountaintop. He is transfigured before them, clothed in shimmering light of his divinity. Rather than falling to his knees in fear and worship, our brother, Peter, chooses

to put his "foot in his mouth": "Please Jesus. Let's set permanent camp in this place and capture this moment forever." You remember well, don't you? God speaks from the clouds: "This is my son, the beloved. Listen to him." Shortly thereafter, the three fall-in-step behind Jesus as he leads them from the majesty of the mountaintop to the shadows of the valley below. Mountaintop experiences are transformative, but the real work of ministry commences in the valley. Practically speaking, are you ready to set the celebration aside and follow Jesus into the world? Are you ready to go to work?

According to Indira Gandhi, her grandfather told her "there are two kinds of people: those who do the work and those who take the credit." "He told me to try to be in the first group; there was less competition there." Where are you at today? Celebrations are great and mountaintop experiences have their place, but God's initiative to join us calls us to do likewise. How long will you hold onto the "wonder" of Christmas, while ignoring the call to join in the grand proclamation that "God is with us?" I pray you and yours had a wonderful Christmas. I also ask that your time of worship reflection has been transformative, compelling you to move into the valley and make a difference for Christ's sake.

LOAF PARTNERS WITH SALVATION ARMY FOR RED KETTLE CAMPAIGN



Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship (LOAF) partnered with the Salvation Army in their annual Red Kettle Campaign. On weekends in December, volunteers from all the LOAF churches were out "ringing the bell" at Sparkle Market and Wal-mart. The Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign began in 1891, in San Francisco by Salvation Army Captain Joseph McFee as a means of providing Christmas dinner for the poor. Today, donations collected through the Red Kettle Campaign are used to help the needy, sick, elderly and less fortunate individuals throughout the year.

UPCOMING TRAVEL CLUB MEETING WILL OUTLINE UPCOMING TRIPS

The Trumbull County Travel Club will hold its first 2017 meeting on Thursday, Jan. 19 at the Howland SCOPE Center at 12:30 p.m. Members will discuss the day trips scheduled for the first half of

the year. Day trips have been planned for March 20, April 10, May 23 and June 9.

There are six seats remaining on the April 24 to 30 motor coach tour to Savannah, Charleston, Beaufort and Jekyll Island. Springtime deep in the South is ablaze with the camellias and azaleas in full bloom.

In September, members will visit Noah's ARK in Williamstown, Ky. Following the design given to Noah in the Old Testament, 100 skilled Amish carpenters labored over six years in building the largest timber structure in the world. This three-day mini-vacation will visit the Kentucky Horse Park, Creation Museum, Basilica of the Assumption and an Ohio River cruise with two breakfasts and two dinners included.

The Travel Club is open to any person over the age of 21. Information on all outings, including the Thanksgiving Parade 2017 three day trip will be available at the January meeting. A listing can also be acquired by sending a business size, self-addressed, stamped envelope to the secretary. Please call Peggy at 330-856-5398 for the address.

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