



Heart of Winter

By Sally Lane

When you live in Ohio's snow belt and the first half of the winter is really mild,

one worries about the second half. You think, "It's winter, where is all the snow, the snow days? When will we get to try out the new Sled Hill?" January proved to be pretty boring after the frenzy of the holidays, except for the Polar Plunge at Mosquito Lake. Same old stuff on TV, tax statements and holiday bills in the mail, colds and flu - the list goes on. Then the calendar turns to the new month. Ahhh! February!

The month was once thought of as the "dead of winter," but the human spirit tends to look for the bright side and we give things a positive spin by thinking "halfway to spring." The groundhog gets to give that thought a thumbs up or thumbs down. At press time, we don't know what his prediction was, but we do know that any snow that comes our way won't stay for three months. However, we

still hope to try out that Sled Hill even as the pulse picks up toward spring.

We know how to build excitement, and February is party time. We have the Super Bowl, Presidents Day (a guaranteed day off from school, not dependent on snow), high school basketball and, of course, Valentine's Day.

Right smack in the middle of the month, Valentine's Day is the top day of the year for proposals. As if that wasn't enough, the day is an economic success story with purchases of candy, flowers, jewelry and cards. It's a win-win-win time for those who supply and deliver these happy moments as well as the recipients. There are dinners out, dances, and parties. School kids mark this day as one of their favorites. Most of us have some fond memories of our favorite Valentine's

Days. I know that in my box of life's treasures, my favorites are the little handmade cards that my children gave me and one or two mushy or funny ones from long ago. Now we mark the day with a special dinner and "Face-Time" online with the grandkids. Life is good.

This issue of the Cortland News is our bridal issue. Proposals lead to weddings. Weddings need planning whether they are small or large. My husband and I will celebrate 40 years of marriage this year. We had a very small wedding. Our children's weddings were larger. Planning was the key for all of them. You will find information in this issue that will help you with the decisions you need to make. We wish you all luck, love and happiness.


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What's "news" in the
City of Cortland

Welcome Packets

Would your business or organization like to participate in the city welcome packets?

For several years, the City of Cortland has distributed "Cortland Welcome Packets" to new residents that move into the community.

These packets include a welcome letter from the Mayor as well as information about the city, a listing of important phone numbers and many local business advertisements and announcements. This past year, over 40 business/organizations donated items to the packets.

If you would like to participate, we need a supply of one hundred (100) items such as flyers, coupons, pens, notepads, magnets, etc. Be creative! We ask the items be dropped off no later than Monday, March 20, 2017. This year's supply will be distributed April 2017 through March 2018 so be mindful of expiration dates if donating coupons. If you have any questions, please call 330-638-0142 or email clerkofcouncil@cityofcortland.org.

Utility Aggregate

Many residents have called in recently asking about the city's utility aggregate programs. Here are the current rates. The city should have information on a new gas rate during

the summer. Check the city website, the weekly e-news, and this column for updates.

Gas Aggregate

Rate: \$3.67/Mcf

Provider: Constellation Energy Services 877-225-9416

Term: November 2015 to October 2017 Billing Cycles

This is an opt-in program and residents were first notified in August of 2015.

Electric Aggregate

Rate: 6% off of the price to compare.

Provider: First Energy Solutions 866-636-3749

Term: April 2015 through March 2018

You have to opt out to be excluded from this program.

New Website

Check out the city's newly designed website at www.cityofcortland.org. Clear Choice Creative was contracted to create the new website. The site has a new layout, more information, and is mobile friendly.

Dates to Remember


Feb. 6 - City Council - 7 p.m.

Feb. 13 - Parks Board - 5 p.m.

Feb. 13 - Planning & Zoning - 7 p.m.


Feb. 21 - City Council - 7 p.m.

Feb. 20 - City Offices closed in observance of Presidents Day.



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WAGNER PROMOTED TO CAPTAIN IN CORTLAND FIRE DEPT.

Cortland Fire Department would like to congratulate Jeffrey Wagner on his recent promotion to the rank of Captain. Jeff started his career with the department as a part-time firefighter/paramedic in 2005, then transitioning to full-time status in 2006. On Jan. 3, 2017, he was sworn in by Mayor James Woofter as a Captain. Jeff resides in the city of Cortland with his wife Brandie, and children Miles and Chloe. Congratulations, Jeff!



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS HOLD JANUARY MEETING

The first meeting of the League of Women Voters of Trumbull County was an informal brunch with elected local officials. Held on Jan. 14 at Cafe 422, this event allowed members, guests and elected officials to meet and greet each other in a press-free atmosphere. Charlotte Meloni, president of the League introduced her committee before turning the podium over to Event Chairman Sue Smith. Fourteen elected officials from Trumbull County were given three minutes at the microphone to announce their plans for the community in the upcoming year.

Kirsten Burkey, board member, spoke on the educational projects of the LWV of TC. The Voter Guide, the biggest tool printed in October, was explained along with voter service and registration, Observer Corp and local forums. She touched on membership and how one with nonpartisan views may obtain an application to join. The League of Women Voters of Trumbull County meets on the fourth Monday of the month at various locations in Trumbull County. All meetings are open to the public with the Feb. 20 meeting to be held at Shepherd of the Valley at 6 p.m. The speaker will be Susan Laird, speaking on human trafficking.

The League's website is www.orgsites.com/oh/lwvvc and can also be reached by calling 330-367-4886.

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CORTLAND CITY

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Service Director	330-637-4637	Fire - Business	330-637-2891

MEETINGS

City Council - first and third Monday of each month
 Monday, Feb. 6, 7 p.m.
 Tuesday, Feb. 21, 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>.

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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, Feb. 13, 6 p.m. - A 60 minute caucus with department heads preceding.
 Monday, Feb. 27, 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	SCOPE Darlene Fry / Diane Jordan 330-637-3010
Cortland Masonic Lodge #529 330-638-3110	

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

OUR NEXT ISSUE....FEB. 25, 2017

Our theme will be St. Patrick's Day

Article Deadline by Feb. 10 • Display Advertising Deadline is Feb. 15
 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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 Louise List
 Gerri Moll
 Mark Pilarski
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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:
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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.

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BRADLEY SWORN IN TO PLANNING, ZONING AND BUILDING COMMISSION



On Jan. 9, Mayor Jim Woofter swore in Jim Bradley to the Planning, Zoning and Building Commission. Bradley and his wife Erin have two young sons.



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JEFF PIPER ART EXHIBIT AT NISSEN GALLERY

The work of Jeff Piper is on exhibit at the Nissen Gallery in Trumbull Memorial Hospital, 1350 East Market St. through Feb. 24.

Piper specializes in paintings and ceramic works, but also uses a mixed media approach. Piper, a Lakeview High School art teacher, holds a master of fine arts from Youngstown State University. His artwork has been shown at the Soap Gallery in Youngstown, Gallery 29 in Sharon, Pa., and the Mac Worthington Gallery in Columbus, among others.



OHIO STAR QUILTERS RELEASE UPCOMING CALENDAR

Ohio Star Quilters Vice President Missy Shaffer released a tentative schedule to members at its first 2017 meeting in January. President Sandy O'Malley stated that the Quilt Club meets at Howland SCOPE Senior Center on the first and third Wednesday of each month with the meetings starting at 9:30 a.m. The first session of the month is a business meeting, while the third gathering is a sewing session. As always, guests are welcome to attend and it is a great opportunity to see the ladies work and complete a project. Guests will be asked to join after their second visit.

Members will be preparing projects through April 19 for the "Quilters Day Out" to be held this year on May 3. Jan Mitri, a NEORQC teacher, will teach the art of a "Silk Flower Book Cover" on June 21.

As the club is a teaching club, July 19 and 20 will be the Kids Quilt at the Howland SCOPE Center with Pam Stout as the director of this service. Summer will see the annual picnic on Aug. 5 with Katie Popadak organizing this fun-filled day. If a baby quilt is in your future, Verna McNeil will teach this on Aug.16, with a service project being fulfilled on Sept. 20 and Oct. 18. The end of the year celebration will be on Dec. 6 with a Christmas Party spearheaded by Donna Bishop.

For information on membership, please contact president, Sandy O'Malley at 330-898-3151.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

EVENT CALENDAR FEBRUARY 4 TO FEBRUARY 25

- Cortland City/Bazetta Township and Lakeview School Board meetings and schedules. *See pg. 2 and 3*
- 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. 8*
- Bristol Public Library Children's programming, three different "Times" for children age birth to 5 years. Sessions will be held on Wednesdays and will begin on March 8 and continue for six weeks. Registration by Feb. 13. *See pg. 13*
- Cortland Branch Library events, *See pg. 13*
- Jeff Piper Art Exhibit, Nissen Gallery in Trumbull Memorial Hospital, 1350 E. Market St., Warren, through Feb. 24. *See pg. 4*
- Johnston Senior Center offers hot meals Monday through Friday at noon. *See pg. 6*
- KSU at Trumbull's Link Gallery presents "Immutable Vapor," an exhibition of paintings by Cleveland-based artist Mark Keffer, runs through Feb. 16. *See pg. 20*
- Ohio Star Quilters activities, various dates. *See pg. 4*
- The National Packard Museum's 17th Annual Antique Motorcycle Exhibit, "British Invasion," runs through May 27.
- Vintage Valentines Exhibit, "Messages from Cupid: Vintage Valentines from 1840-1930," Sutliff Museum, Warren, runs through April 4. *See pg. 15*
- Youngstown Nighthawks Soccer League, Cortland League schedule, visit <https://www.facebook.com/ytownnighthawks>

FEBRUARY

- 4 Trumbull County Kindergarten Transition Fair, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Eastwood Mall. *See pg. 20*
- 4 Christ Episcopal Church "Arts on Atlantic" series presents jazz pianist Jackie Warren 7:30 p.m., 2627 Atlantic St. NE, Warren. *See pg. 23*
- 9 Bristol Public Library offering free safety smart cards for children ages 2 months to 18 years. A representative of Baltimore Life will be at the library from 5-6:30 p.m. *See pg. 13*
- 10 St. John Fish Fry Dinners, St. John Orthodox Church, 2220 Reeves Road NE, Warren.
- 11 Valentine Treat Sale, benefitting Legacy Dog Rescue, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Family Video, Austintown. *See pg. 9*
- 11 Every Dog Matters Rescue's benefit dance party "Bow Wow Boogie," 8-11 p.m., Kuzman's, 1025 S. State St., Girard. *See pg. 11*
- 13 Bristol Public Library offering free safety smart cards for children ages 2 months to 18 years. A representative of Baltimore Life will be at the library from 5-6:30 p.m. *See pg. 13*
- 16 Cortland Christian Church Soup & Sandwich Lunch, 153 Grove St., Cortland, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. *See pg. 18*
- 16 "Gardening with Native Plants," OSU Extension, 10 a.m.-noon. *See pg. 11*
- 17 No school at Lakeview Schools
- 18 Slice of the Valley Pizza Challenge, St. Demetrios Community Center, 3223 Atlantic St. NE, Warren, 4:30-7:30 p.m. *See pg. 9*
- 20 Presidents Day, city offices and library closed, no school.
- 24 St. John Fish Fry Dinners, St. John Orthodox Church, 2220 Reeves Road NE, Warren.

OHIO FARMERS URGED TO OBTAIN AGRICULTURAL FERTILIZER CERTIFICATION TRAINING

AG COALITION REMINDS APPLICATORS THEY MUST BE CERTIFIED BY SEPT. 30

A strong coalition consisting of the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), The Ohio State University and several state agricultural organizations are encouraging farmers to attend training courses for the Agricultural Fertilizer Applicator Certification Program.

Signed into law by Governor John R. Kasich in May 2014, Ohio Senate Bill 150 created a first of its kind certification program for applying commercial fertilizer in Ohio. Focusing on science-based practices, the bill requires farmers applying commercial fertilizer to more than 50 acres to attend a course on fertilizer application. Applicators must be certified no later than Sept. 30.

"As farmers look for training opportunities we would encourage them to become certified through our program as soon as possible," said ODA Director David T. Daniels. "While they can't plant in the winter, they can learn about the numerous practices that will save them money while improving water quality. Nearly every farmer who takes the training says they learned something, so I ask producers what are they waiting for?"

OSU Extension will hold numerous training sessions across all regions of the state this winter. The training sessions

focus on best management practices and the latest research to keep nutrients in the field and available to crops while reducing nutrients leaving the field. To date nearly 12,000 farmers have become certified through the program.

"We are looking forward to seeing Ohio farmers at our nutrient application trainings this year," said Roger Rennekamp, director of Ohio State University Extension. "There are hundreds of workshops scheduled, and we'll be sharing the latest research-based information on how to get the most out of fertilizer applications. Farmers want to prevent nutrient run-off as much as anyone, for economic and environmental reasons."

While applicators have until Sept. 30 to become certified, the majority of training sessions for certification will occur in the winter. ODA will strive to gain voluntary compliance but applying commercial fertilizer after Sept. 30 without a certification could result in fines and/or being charged with a misdemeanor offense.

For more information on certification training, farmers can visit www.nutrienteducation.osu.edu. Once there, farmers can learn more about the training and even sign up for classes in their area.

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LOCAL STORE INSTRUMENTAL IN BUILDING MUSIC PROGRAMS

By Sally Lane



Cortland has been fortunate to have had a music store since the 1950s. Over the years, Daybreak Music and its predecessor, Gray's Music, has played a large role in developing music programs in schools and communities all through northeastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania.

Music, as well as art, has a rich history in Cortland and Trumbull county. Pianos were shipped across the Allegheny Mountains from Boston and churches took pride in having an organ for services. Singing groups were popular as were small bands that marched in local parades.

Lucy Kean was one of several piano teachers in Cortland. In the 1950s, when she was married to George Gray, Lucy opened Gray's Music store on North High Street in Cortland and another in Warren. She owned these stores for 27 years. Almost everyone in town who played an instrument and/or took music lessons was a customer at Gray's.

In 1985, Dale Schmidt purchased the store from Lucy, renamed it Daybreak and expanded the business to include more selling, renting, repairing and providing instruments and lessons to budding musicians all through Trumbull, Geauga, Mahoning and Ashtabula counties and Western Pennsylvania schools. "I go to schools on a weekly basis to support the care of the instruments," said Schmidt. Several years ago he moved the store to 259 W. Main St. where there was more parking and space. The store was featured in a Shop Local video in December, narrated by store manager Andrew Purdum.

Schmidt himself has a long background in music. He has played the guitar in bands almost all his life, and performed all over the United States. One of the bands was Sir Bentley & The Street People band with Pat Padula.

Their favorite gigs were in California and Las Vegas. Padula was one of the band leaders to help launch Maureen McGovern's musical career. Schmidt, who hails from Columbiana County, shared many memories of that period in his life before he purchased the music store and settled into Cortland. He chose the name Daybreak for the music store by naming it after the first band he was in after he graduated from high school.

If you were in a school band, it is more than likely you attended a session in fifth grade to pick out an instrument. "We ask students what instrument they would like to play, or offer a variety of instruments to try," he said. The parents then have the option of renting or buying an instrument for their child until both are satisfied with their choice. Lessons are offered so that students learn to read music and play their instruments. There are 15 teachers at Daybreak who teach a variety of instrumental, piano, string, guitar, keyboards, drums and vocal music. Area band directors work with the store also to help their students. Jeff Welsh, of the Jeff Welsh Band, has been with Daybreak since the beginning and teaches guitar.

There is also a large clientele of adults who frequent Daybreak either to learn how to play a new instrument or brush up on skills. There are several community bands in the area - Canfield, Youngstown and Cortland. People considering joining one of those bands often buy or rent new instruments. Frequently their old high school horns need a tune-up. The experience of playing in a band after high school can prove to be fun and satisfying.

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FINCH EARNS CHARTERED FINANCIAL CONSULTANT DESIGNATION



Paul D. Finch, Vice President of Wealth Management at Seven Seventeen Retirement & Investment Group, has earned the Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC) professional designation from The American College of Financial Services in Bryn Mawr, Pa. The Investment Group offices are located at Seven Seventeen Credit Union in Warren.

As vice president of Seven Seventeen Retirement & Investment Group, Finch is qualified to provide credit union members with professional financial planning assistance and quality financial products. He is broker/dealer of securities products (such as mutual funds), and a member of FINRA and SIPC. Finch is also a licensed insurance representative of CMFG Life Insurance Company and holds a CRPC,

CLU and CFP designations.

Candidates for the ChFC designation must complete a minimum of nine courses and 18 hours of supervised examinations. They must also fulfill stringent experience and ethics requirements. Over 50,000 individuals have been awarded the ChFC designation since its inception in 1982 and the credential is widely regarded as the highest standard of knowledge and trust for financial planning professionals.

HHM ELECTS EMPLOYMENT LAWYER MATTHEW RIES AS NEW MEMBER

Harrington, Hoppe & Mitchell Ltd. announced that Matthew M. Ries, an employment and civil litigation lawyer, has been elected to membership (ownership) in the regional law firm. With his addition, HHM now has 13 members.

Ries, a lawyer since 2008, focuses his practice on employment law and business litigation. He was recently recognized as a "Rising Star" by the Super Lawyers organization and as a "25 Under 35" award winner by the Mahoning Valley Young Professionals. In 2015, Ries received a Community Service Award from the Ohio State Bar Foundation.

"Matt's skills and dedication have enhanced HHM's capabilities to deliver favorable results for our clients," said Kevin P. Murphy, chair of HHM's management committee. "He has worked hard as an associate to earn the trust of his clients and colleagues, as well as those he works with in community service activities. We are very pleased to welcome him as a member."

Ries serves on the board of directors of the Warren City Schools Foundation and is a high school mock trial coach and advisor. A graduate of Warren G. Harding High School, Ries holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from the Farmer School of Business at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and a Juris Doctor from the Capital University Law School in Columbus.



BUSINESS NEWS AND NOTES

By Thom Foley

Auntie V's Pizza is back from vacation and have some great Super Bowl specials. **Beef O'Brady's** has a great room for your bridal shower. They also are the perfect place to watch the Super Bowl with 30 TVs.

Belleria Pizza is offering 20% off on all dine-in. See the coupon in their ad.

Cortland Playroom is now registering for summer programs and fall registration. Hurry, there are limited openings.

Country Porch Winery is a good location for your bridal shower or other party of any type.

Foleys Fotos makes customized personal wedding gifts.

Getting married? **Greenwood Insurance** offers free insurance reviews. This is a major life change; be sure to talk to them.

Happy Harvest Flowers & More has some great Valentine's deals on flowers.

The Lake Tavern Family Restaurant has great dinner specials all week long.

McKenzie's Catering & Garden Brook Banquet Center still have some great dates open for your wedding reception.

Rite Aid is your one-stop center for all you Valentine's needs: candy, cards and gifts.

Lakeside Sports Shop and Drive-Thru has the largest selection of beer and wine in our area and has all your ice fishing needs.

Mayflower-Wollam Insurance will help you with your insurance needs when you get married. Ask for a free review.

Sparkle Market has anything you need to plan your Super Bowl party...food, chips and hot foods.

DINGER NAMED ASSISTANT SERVICE ADVISOR AT WOLLAM

Lou Wollam Chevrolet proudly announces the appointment of John Dinger as assistant service advisor. Dinger brings years of experience with him including service as a Marine in Desert Storm. John lives in Colebrook with his wife and is originally from Edinboro, Pa. Stop in and let John help you with your service needs for your automobile.



OHIO LIVING LAKE VISTA OFFERS PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Ohio Living Lake Vista is offering a pancake breakfast on Feb. 28 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Clubhouse. The menu includes pancakes, scrambled

eggs, bacon, sausage, coffee and juice. There is no charge, but reservations must be made by Feb. 25 by calling 330-638-2420.

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AMERICAN SEWING GUILD FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

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

Evening Cut Ups meet at Grace Church of Nazarene, 5253 W. Webb Road, Austintown, Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. Continue FitNice woven top. Bring master pattern and tracing material to create pattern. For info call Kim 330-545-6520.

Fancy Cutters meets at Lake Vista, 303 North Mecca St. (Rt. 46), Cortland, Feb. 13 at 10 a.m. Bring items from stash and discuss plans for them. Also ideas for future programs. For info call Virginia at 330-847-7549.

Sewphisticated meet at Shepherd of the Valley, 4100 N. River Road NE, Warren, Feb. 15 at 6 p.m. Embellishment Part 2 (additional information will be e-mailed. For info call Diane 234-855-7610.

Material Girls meet at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 490 N. High (Rt. 5), Cortland, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. Extravaganza centerpieces, bring ribbon, flowers, glue guns, wire cutters. For info call Barb 330-550-1215.

Designing Women machine embroidery group meet at Domestic Sewing, 2011 Youngstown Road, Warren, Feb. 10 at 10 a.m. For info call Shirley 330-959-5020.

Howland Happy Stitchers meet at Living Lord Lutheran Church, 851 Niles-Cortland Road (Rt. 46), Howland, Feb 21 at 10 a.m. Effie will demo table runner. For information call Carol 330-856-4827.

'Twas THE MONTH AFTER CHRISTMAS...

By Sally Lane



Their red suits have been sent to the cleaners. Reindeer are back in the pastures playing games. Decorations are again packed away and cookies have been replaced with more healthful snacks. Life for the people who change into the living, breathing popular hero of the holiday season returns to normal.

However, this year an after-Christmas lunch was offered to the Santas and Mrs. Clauses of the area by a veteran Santa, aka Thom Foley. "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!" he said. Thom has been a Santa in Cortland and all over Trumbull and Mahoning counties for over 40 years.

None of the Santas or Mrs. Clauses were in costume at the lunch so other diners at the Elm Road Quaker Steak & Lube were not aware of their secret identity from November to Dec. 25. However, the common link among the people at the lunch was Shirley James of Ward's Costume shop in Niles. She has supplied all of them with costumes and needed accessories for years.

It didn't take long for these men and women to start sharing funny and poignant stories. Common characteristics of these warm, friendly people soon became apparent: they all love children, and the experience of spreading happiness and love has enriched their own lives beyond measure. "When you put on that red suit, the Lord looks over you. There is a kind of magic, and good things happen," said Tony Lawrence.

"Crackers" aka as Charles Graham, who is also a clown and member of the Aut Mori Ali Baba Grotto, began his

career specializing in hospital visits to children after losing his daughter to cancer when she was 13 years old. Soon he inspired Jesse Boles to join the Shriner group, and he too plays Santa and his wife Sue plays Mrs. Claus. "I've learned that you have to love children (to be a good Santa), and everyone needs a hug," said Crackers. Both have been Santas for close to 20 years.

Tony Lawrence, from Niles, now retired from RMI Titanium, was laid off in 1974 and decided to try being a Santa. "I've worked (as Santa) in the mall and many other places. I've arrived in a helicopter, fire trucks, convertibles and sleighs." He told several amusing and interesting stories of his 42 years as Santa.

Paul Takacs of Cortland, has been a Santa for 36 years, and his wife has accompanied him as Mrs. Claus for 34 years. Cortland residents see him at many local holiday events, like our Cortland Rotary Christmas.

The youngest Santa at the gathering was Chuck Woodyard of Champion. Although he has been a Santa for a few years, the veterans shared advice to the relatively newest member of the Santa team. All Santas had items that made visits memorable: a watch that plays music, a set of "magic" keys for houses without chimneys, little gifts and badges. For house party visits, Foley has parents send him a photo of their "Elf on the Shelf" and little hints of what the elf might have observed. "The kids are astounded when I pull out my book of elf reports, and point out their elf." He also gives each child a button that says "I saw Santa."

As children get a little older, they begin to wonder about the number of "Santas" they see. Most parents tell them that they are Santa's helpers, and that satisfies them for a little while longer. More recently, some parents are explaining the Santa phenomenon with perhaps a more reasonable answer: Santa is not just one person, but a team of many that passes on the love in the season. While some of this team may wear costumes, and are visible during the holidays, each person can become part of Team Santa and spread the true meaning of Christmas all year long.

Attending the after-Christmas lunch were several of the Santas and Mrs. Clauses that made the holiday special for children, schools, community events, hospitals and nursing homes. Pictured are Paul Takacs, Thom Foley, Sue Boles, Jesse Boles, Tony Lawrence, Donna Graham, Crackers Graham, and Chuck Woodyard. Kneeling is Shirley James, owner of Ward's Costume shop in Niles.


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CELEBRATING A LIFE IN THE ARTS
A MEMORIAL EXHIBITION

By Sally Lane



A large crowd visited the first public exhibition of the art of Jarrett Hutton, a Cortland resident who died in July. A talented artist, Jarrett created with a variety of types of paint, poetry, photography, sketches and wood burning techniques to bring his visions to life. The use of contrasting bold colors in his paintings elicits an emotional response by the viewers. There are paintings where you see his sense of humor, others where you see his faith, and others of people and objects that make one think. All the works in this exhibit are from private collections.

Often Jarrett added phrases to his art that reflected his own philosophy: LOVE LIFE. His positive phrases that were his mantra have influenced his friends and many others who have come to know him through his art. The outpouring of love from the community after his death inspired the establishment of the Love Life Foundation. It aims to encourage expression through the arts, provide and support community outreach programs and raise and distribute funds for select scholarship programs.

The exhibition of his art at the Trumbull Art Gallery, on the Square in Warren, is open until Feb. 25. After that, a memorial photography collection honoring Jarrett will be at The Butler Institute of American Art from Feb. 27 to May 14, 524 Wick Ave., Youngstown, with an opening reception on Feb. 26. Additional information regarding these art exhibitions is available at www.lovelifefoundation.net or email foundation.lovelife@gmail.com.

"Love Life; Love Yourself, Love What You Do, Love All" - Jarrett Hutton
Pictured are the board of the Love Life Foundation Lori Rosensteel; Jillian Beck; Daynelle Hutton Sanner, Jarrett's sister; Pamela Rumancik; Becky Lewis; Theresa Hutton, Jarrett's mother; Erica Lance; Daphne Thompson Zeigler. Back row: Kris Vadas; not pictured Tanya Vadas and Mary Dreliszak.



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Mark Your Calendar

VALENTINE "TREAT" SALE TO BENEFIT LEGACY DOG RESCUE

Legacy Dog Rescue will be holding a Valentine "Treat" sale on Saturday, Feb. 11 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Family Video in Austintown. Choose from a wide variety of Valentine-themed cookies, cupcakes, and treats for all of your loved ones...dog treats, too. Some of the group's adoptable dogs will be making an appearance as well. Proceeds will help Legacy Dog Rescue, a local nonprofit group, save dogs that have been abandoned, abused or neglected, and place them into loving homes.

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OSP PROMOTIONS

Captain Joshua M. Swindell was promoted to the rank of major on Jan. 6 and was recognized by Colonel Paul A. Pride, Patrol superintendent, during a ceremony at the Patrol's Academy. Major Swindell will transfer from his current assignment at Warren District Headquarters to serve as commander of the Office of Field Operations.

Staff Lieutenant Eric R. Sheppard was promoted to the rank of captain on Jan. 6 and was recognized today by Colonel Paul A. Pride, Patrol superintendent, during a ceremony at the Patrol's Academy. Captain Sheppard will transfer from the Cleveland District Headquarters to serve as commander of the Warren District Headquarters.



By Ptl. Donald Utterback, Bazetta Police Department

BAZETTA POLICE DEPARTMENT FOCUSED ON SAFETY IN 2016

While 2016 has ended and we rang in 2017, Bazetta Township Police turned the calendar on another busy year.

The senior watch program had another successful year. There are currently 35 seniors enrolled in the program. For those who are unfamiliar with this program, any senior citizen age 65 and older who resides in Bazetta Twp. may apply by filling out an application that can be found on the township website (www.bazettatwp.org), or at the township building, police department, or fire department. Depending which program you are interested in participating, a police officer, firefighter, or community volunteer would either call to check on your welfare, or will come to your residence to check on your welfare. The program is free of charge and all community volunteers go through a thorough background check and receive thorough training in elderly needs and assessments. For more information, visit the township website.

Bazetta police also showed our dedication to keeping the children in our community safe. During school days, officers patrol the school zone in the morning during the children's arrival as well as in the afternoon as they depart. Just a reminder, the speed limit is 20 miles per hour while the yellow school zone flashing lights are on.

In cooperation with the Cortland/Bazetta Optimist Club, officers were again able to hand out over 400 Kids Identification Kits. The kits were taken home by the children with instructions for the parents on how to collect DNA samples, take fingerprints and take identification photos.

In June, Bazetta police and fire departments along with the Mosquito Lake marina held their 13th annual safety day. Besides the host departments, other

departments participating were the Cortland Police and Fire, the Mahoning Valley Crisis Response Team tactical vehicle "The Bear," Trumbull County Hazmat team, Trumbull County Sheriff's Office dive team as well as booths from various safety organizations. The highlight of safety day was the landing of the Metro Life Flight helicopter.

2016 was a busy year for patrol officers on the streets as well. Officers handled 6,838 calls for service. Officers handled 184 traffic crash investigations, an increase from 158 in 2015. Officers wrote 1,077 traffic related offenses. Of these offenses, 319 drivers were cited for not having a valid driver's license. Also, 411 of these drivers were uninsured.

As with any police department, officers go through yearly training such as firearms and cultural diversity. This year was no different. Officers were updated on their CPR certifications. In March, officers were trained in carrying NARCAN in their vehicles to help reverse the effects of opioids. Less than two weeks later, an officer used his NARCAN to save a life. For the year, Bazetta officers have saved seven lives using NARCAN.

Bazetta police also believe in community involvement. In November, Bazetta Police and Bazetta Fire departments held their annual food drive at Wal-Mart, which supports the Cortland food bank. This year, we collected approximately 4,000 to 5,000 pounds of food and \$2,500 in cash. In December, we were fortunate to escort 10 children from Bazetta Elementary School for our annual Shop with a Cop and Fireman at Wal-Mart.

Bazetta Police wish everyone a happy and safe 2017.

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

Director / Administrator Susette Zickefoose

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COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR SEMI-SKILLED LABORER

EXAMINATION DATE: MARCH 1, 2017 AT 9:00 A.M.
PLACE: TRUMBULL CO. AGRICULTURE & FAMILY EDUCATION CENTER
520 W MAIN ST, CORTLAND, OHIO

Must have Driver's License or Photo ID day of exam

The purpose of the examination is to create an eligibility list for the position of Semi-Skilled Laborer in the Service Department. The City anticipates filling a vacant position from this list.

Applications will be accepted at the City Administration Building, 400 N. High St., Cortland, OH 44410 from January 25th through February 10th from 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Mon. - Fri. A \$40.00 administration fee will be due upon return of the application.

QUALIFICATIONS: To be appointed to this position, applicants must have a high school degree or GED equivalency, must possess or obtain prior to appointment a valid State of Ohio Commercial Driver's License (Class B or higher), and be a U.S. Citizen in anticipation of a full time position.

Verifiable documentation must be submitted upon return of the application and/or prior to the day of the examination.

The City of Cortland Civil Service Commission

LT. GOVERNOR MARY TAYLOR ANNOUNCES OHIOANS PAY AMONG LOWEST FOR INSURANCE

Ohioans pay among the lowest average premiums in the nation for auto and homeowner's insurance according to a national study, Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor announced.

"We are driven to help foster a competitive insurance marketplace that benefits Ohio consumers with increased choice in coverage and lower costs," said Taylor, also director of the Ohio Department of Insurance. "These most recent national rate comparisons proves our policy continues to work for Ohioans."

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners found Ohioans paid an average of \$797 (9th lowest) for homeowners insurance and \$683 (12th lowest) for auto insurance in 2014 (the most recent data available) compared to the respective national averages of \$1,132 and \$866. Ohio's combined average savings are \$518 below the national averages.

Ohio as compared to its neighboring states' average insurance premiums:

Homeowner's	Auto
Ohio \$797	Indiana \$642
Michigan \$865	Ohio \$683
West Virginia \$877	Kentucky \$783
Pennsylvania \$893	Pennsylvania \$858
Indiana \$944	West Virginia \$871
Kentucky \$1,023	Michigan \$1,227

Ohio's ranking remains unchanged from the previous year.

To help save money when shopping for insurance, Taylor advises consumers to compare products from different companies and to regularly evaluate coverage.

Consumers with insurance questions can contact the Ohio Department of Insurance at 1-800-686-1526 and visit www.insurance.ohio.gov for information.



Since I tend to be a very active gardener spring and summer months are busy, so I enjoy my downtime during winter. Unlike the perennials, shrubs and trees that go dormant in winter I use this downtime to actively seek and attend seminars and programs to increase my knowledge about gardening and the home landscape. This is the time to get inspired by what is new for 2017 and to just exchange ideas and information among gardening friends also enjoying "winter break."

The annual P.L.A.N.T. seminar presented by the Perennial Plant Association and The Ohio State University Master Gardener Volunteer Association was well attended by local gardeners recently in Columbus. The Perennial Plant Association is the group that chooses the Perennial Plant of the Year, and this year it is *Asclepias tuberosa*, Butterflyweed.

This year's title for the seminar was "Inspirations and Perennials," with six presenters from different states; Tennessee to Michigan, and Indiana, Maine and Wisconsin. Individual programs ran the gamut from the seemingly endless stream of new plants to using tried and true perennials to designing with patterns relating to saving time and maintenance costs. Using vines (annual, woody and perennial) to reach for the sky, for screening and for creating shade. To look beyond just a pretty flower and purchase plants that deliver more; like food for pollinators and four season interest. Plus the use of lush tropical plants to help keep a garden fresh through the dog days of August, and successfully using rare and unusual shade perennials.

Then there was the "Growing Indoor Plants with Success" at the OSU Extension in Cortland. While not a major houseplant grower, I always learn something. Always, always water houseplants with room temperature water. The plant cannot warm itself. If the soil temperature is lowered, roots can get damaged and plant growth hindered.

If you are interested in "Gardening with Native Plants," the OSU Extension

and the Master Gardeners are hosting Ellen Speicher on Feb. 16 from 10 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$15 per person and pre-registration is requested. Call 330-638-6783 for more information. Native plants are well adapted to Ohio and tolerate our clay soil and summer humidity. I plan on attending, hope you will, too. Ahhh, more catalogs have arrived in the mail. More to want and always more to learn!

Happy gardening!

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

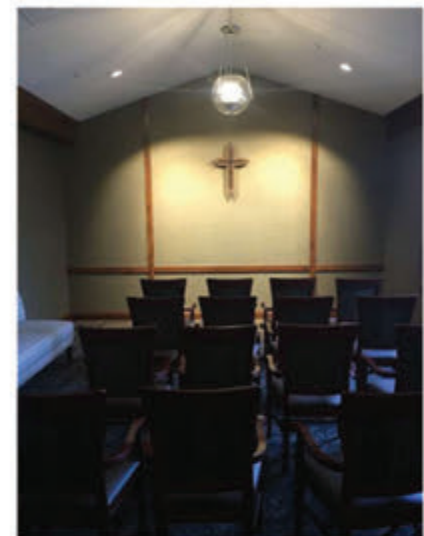
ANDREW FRANKO RECEIVES 'YOUNG GUN' AWARD

Renegade Racing Association wrapped up the 2016 racing season recently with its annual awards banquet held at the Geneva Community Center. Local drag racer and student at TCTC, Andrew Franko, received the "Young Gun" award. This award recognized his record setting accomplishment of being the youngest racer to ever become a Renegade member and race in the annual War by the Shore international drag race. Andrew turned 16 on Aug. 5. He took his driving test at 8:30 a.m. to get his license and then went to load his race car with his dad, Mark Franko, and headed for the track earning Andrew the record. As a sponsor of the race, RPM Magazine was on hand on Aug. 6, and Andrew was brought onto the track and commended for his achievement as the youngest racer to drive in this contest.

Andrew drove a new car in this race, a 1981 Malibu in the 11.50 index reaching 120 mph or more. He is currently working with his dad in preparation for the 2017 season and will continue to race the Malibu.

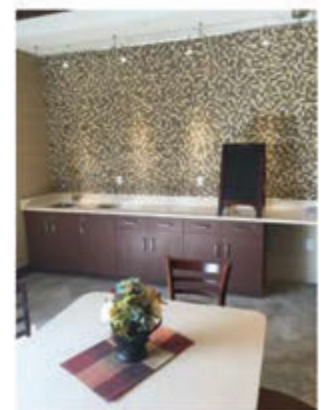


Armstrong Memory Care Assisted Living



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.

Tours Available Daily



**234-806-3320 2 Windsor Place Warren, OH 44483
(Located off Mahoning Ave. & Champion Ave.)**

www.ArmstrongMemoryCareAL.com

'BOW WOW BOOGIE'

BENEFITS DOG RESCUE

Every Dog Matters Rescue will hold a benefit dance party "Bow Wow Boogie" on Saturday, Feb. 11 from 8 to 11 p.m. at Kuzman's, 1025 S. State St., Girard. The evening will feature both The John Reese Project and DJ Stephen Barba.

Advance tickets are \$10 and are available from volunteers at EveryDogMatters@yahoo.com or ShamPoochies Grooming Spa, 1728 Raccoon Road, Austintown. Tickets will be available at the night of the event for \$12. One hundred percent of the proceeds will support Every Dog Matters Rescue. Sponsorship opportunities are available by contacting EveryDogMatters@yahoo.com.

AWL Adopt A Pet

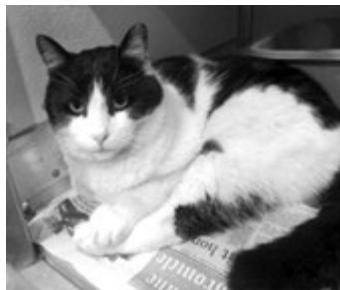
ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE



Sugar is a 6-year-old Pit Bull Terrier mix. She was found as a stray and brought to AWL by a Good Samaritan. When Sugar was not reclaimed by a previous owner, she was placed up for adoption so she could find a new, loving home. When Sugar arrived, she did have some hair loss from an untreated infection of flea allergies. She is on the mend and doing much better. Sugar is an incredibly sweet and loving dog that will make an excellent addition to almost any family.

Her adoption fee is \$150 and includes her spay, heartworm testing, vaccinations and microchip with registration.

Chad is a 10-year-old domestic shorthair. He was surrendered by his previous owners because they didn't want him anymore. Chad is a loving, older cat that gets along with everyone he meets, including other cats! Even though Chad is a senior, he is still an active boy that would love to become a part of your family. Chad's adoption fee is \$20.16 and includes his neuter, vaccinations, FeLV and FIV testing and a microchip with registration.



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.

"AWL Adopt A Pet" Brought to you by

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To The Editor

Dear Editor,

Over the past five years I have had several occasions to call 9-1-1 for emergency ambulance service to the hospital. Without fail, the medics would be on my doorstep within the next five minutes. They were always professional, efficient and, above all, respectful.

We in Cortland are very fortunate to have them. God bless.

Name withheld per writer

Fire Prevention & Safety Tips

By Chief David E. Rea, Cortland Fire Department

For patients that go into cardiac arrest, when their heart stops beating effectively and they have no pulse, the most immediate need in the chain of survival is high quality cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) with a focus on effective and continuous chest compressions. The first link in the chain is that a bystander witnesses the event and immediately starts CPR, calls 911, and uses an automated external defibrillator (AED). From there EMS takes over care and transports the patient to the hospital. This is a perfect scenario, and as we all know, circumstances can prevent this from happening.

However, in the absence of the perfect scenario, the need for high quality continuous chest compressions during CRP remains the most crucial step. This is where the LUCAS 2 cardiac compression device comes in handy. It is an automated device that provides continuous chest compressions thus allowing EMS personnel to focus on other tasks that need to be completed. While this device may not change the outcome of the patient's condition, it certainly does give them an added advantage.



To this point this technology has been very costly and beyond our ability to procure.

That being said, this past December the Cortland Fire Department received a very generous donation of a LUCAS 2 from University Hospital-Geauga Medical Center. We would like to thank the hospital and its CEO, Mr. Steven Jones. Their generosity will help in achieving our goal of providing the best possible pre-hospital care.

SCOPE PARTNERS WITH OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS TO OFFER LUNCH

The Trumbull County Commissioners approved in December three of the SCOPE Senior Centers to serve as hosts of their senior lunch program for 2017. Cortland, Lordstown and Warren SCOPE Centers have been providing the \$2 Senior Lunch since Jan. 3 as coordinated by the Trumbull County Office of Elderly Affairs with a grant through the Area Agency on Aging District 11.

The key to eating lunch at these centers is to remember the number "two" as in making a reservation two days before you plan to eat by 2 p.m. for only a \$2 donation for those over 60.

Cortland SCOPE serves lunch at noon, while Lordstown and Warren SCOPE's both serve at 11:30 a.m. There are no carry outs available. Menus are provided for the entire month to make it easier for reservations with dessert options available for those with sugar issues.

"The food tastes great for a very reasonable cost with very nice Elderly Affairs staff serving our seniors," stated Mike Wilson, SCOPE's director. "We have already seen a huge increase in the total number of individuals eating lunch at these three sites in just the first month," Wilson added.

For only a \$2 donation, seniors can eat a nutritious lunch by making a reservation by 2 p.m., two days before the day they plan to eat. Simply call 330-675-2486 or tell the onsite food manager to make a reservation to eat. The Office of Elderly Affairs also provides lunches delivered to those who are homebound and shut in by calling this number.

Transportation to the SCOPE Senior Centers is available through TCAP with a donation by calling 330-395-2287 or Trumbull Transit at 330-369-2600.

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CORTLAND BRANCH LIBRARY EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

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 CLOSING:

All Warren-Trumbull County Public Library locations will be closed on Monday, Feb. 20, for Presidents' Day. This includes branch libraries in Brookfield, Cortland, Howland, Liberty, and Lordstown, and the Main Library in Warren.

Time for Tots

Wednesday at 11 a.m.: Feb. 8

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.

Preschool Storytime

Mondays, Feb. 6, 13, 27 at 6 p.m.;
Tuesdays, Feb. 7, 14, 28 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.

Basic Computer Classes

Intro to Computers - Tuesday, Feb. 7 from 2-4 p.m.

Intro to the Internet - Tuesday, Feb. 14 from 2-4 p.m.

Intro to Email - Tuesday, Feb. 21 from 2-4 p.m.

These free introductory classes are especially designed for the novice computer user. Registration is required. To sign up for a class, call the Main Library Adult Computer Area at 330-399-8807 ext. 201.

Love is Gross!

Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 5:30 p.m.

YUCK! Valentines! Kisses! Hugs! Who needs them? Would you rather check out stuff that is gross? Join us at the library to explore the world of icky and smelly! For kids in grades 2 to 6. Registration is required by Feb. 4 by calling 330-638-6335.

Yoga and Essential Oils

Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Yoga continues to invite a deeper connection between the mind and body. At this free class for adults, learn how using essential oils in a yoga practice not only brings nature into the studio, but also can increase one's mental clarity and focus during the practice. Come see what happens for you when yoga is combined with essential oils! Presenter Ginny Taylor is a ZOO-level RYT (Registered Yoga Teacher through Yoga Alliance) and has been teaching yoga for several years. Please bring a yoga mat or a beach towel. No prior yoga experience needed. Call 330-638-6335 to sign up.

LEGO Lovers Unite!

Saturday, Feb. 18 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.

Cortland Chocolate Challenge

Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 6 p.m.

Take on the sweetest challenge of them all! Please register by calling 330-638-6335. For teens in grades 7 to 12.

NEW! Learning Express Library Online Resources

Tuesday, Feb. 28 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Get an overview of this interactive online learning platform that includes practice tests and free tutorials designed to jump start your school or career success. From high school/GED all the way through career descriptions, preparation, test taking, resumes, and more. Familiarity with a mouse, keyboard, and computer required. To sign up for the class, call the Main Library Adult Computer Area at 330-399-8807 ext. 201.

FREE SAFETY SMART CARDS AT BRISTOL PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Bristol Public Library, in collaboration with The Baltimore Life Companies, is offering free safety smart cards for children ages 2 months to 18 years. On Thursday, Feb. 9 and Monday, Feb. 13, a representative of Baltimore Life will be at the library from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

As a public service, Baltimore Life is providing your child's photograph and fingerprint on an ID card. Parents or legal guardians will need to fill out a permission form for each child. Forms

may be picked up in advance at the library's circulation desk and returned on the chosen night.

On Monday, Feb. 27, a parent or guardian will need to return to the Bristol Public Library between the hours of 8 to 10 a.m. or 3 to 6:30 p.m. to pick up the completed card.

The Bristol Public Library is located at 1855 Greenville Road in Bristolville. Contact the circulation desk at 330-889-3651 for more information.

IT'S THAT "TIME" AT BRISTOL PUBLIC LIBRARY

Children's programming will resume in March at the Bristol Public Library. This year the library will be offering three different "Times" for children age birth to 5 years. Sessions will be held on Wednesdays and will begin on March 8 and continue for six weeks.

Baby Time will be held on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. for children age birth to 24 months with a parent or caregiver. Short stories, music and interactive activities will be the focus during the 30-minute session.

Toddler Time will be held on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. for children ages 2 and 3 with a parent or caregiver.

During this 30-minute session we will share stories, songs and rhymes.

Story Time for 4 and 5 year olds will be held on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. Children will enjoy stories, songs, and games during each 30-minute session. This is the perfect opportunity for your child to learn to interact and socialize as they make new friends as well as learn to be away from parents or caregivers.

Registration for all "Times" is required, due to limited space, and will begin on Monday, Feb. 13. Visit the Bristol Public Library for more information and to register or contact the Circulation Desk at 330-889-3651.

♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥



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<p>2017 Ford F150 RC 4x2 #T27369 101A, PKG, CHROME PKG, POWER EQUIP.</p>  <p>SAVE \$5,500</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>MSRP</td><td>\$31,430</td></tr> <tr><td>PKG DISCOUNT</td><td>\$1,250</td></tr> <tr><td>MTF DISCOUNT</td><td>\$1,500</td></tr> <tr><td>RETAIL CASH</td><td>\$1,000</td></tr> <tr><td>REBATE</td><td>\$1,750</td></tr> </table> <p>\$25,930 PLUS TAX, TITLE, FEES</p> <p>2 AT THIS PRICE, 28 OTHERS AVAILABLE</p>	MSRP	\$31,430	PKG DISCOUNT	\$1,250	MTF DISCOUNT	\$1,500	RETAIL CASH	\$1,000	REBATE	\$1,750	<p>2016 Ford Mustang #26294 201A PKG, AUTO, PONY PKG, REV. SENSING, NAVI</p>  <p>SAVE \$7,100</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>MSRP</td><td>\$36,065</td></tr> <tr><td>MTF DISCOUNT</td><td>\$2,100</td></tr> <tr><td>DEALER CASH</td><td>\$5,000</td></tr> </table> <p>\$28,965 PLUS TAX, TITLE, FEES</p> <p>LAST ONE!</p>	MSRP	\$36,065	MTF DISCOUNT	\$2,100	DEALER CASH	\$5,000	<p>2016 Ford Edge SEL AWD #T26601 201A PKG, LEATHER, UTILITY PKG, TECH PKG, PANORAMIC ROOF</p>  <p>SAVE 8,000</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>MSRP</td><td>\$42,475</td></tr> <tr><td>PKG DISCOUNT</td><td>\$1,300</td></tr> <tr><td>MTF DISCOUNT</td><td>\$2,000</td></tr> <tr><td>RETAIL CASH</td><td>\$2,500</td></tr> <tr><td>FMCC CASH</td><td>\$1,000</td></tr> <tr><td>BONUS CASH</td><td>\$1,500</td></tr> </table> <p>\$34,375 PLUS TAX, TITLE, FEES</p> <p>1 AT THIS PRICE, 7 OTHERS AVAILABLE</p>	MSRP	\$42,475	PKG DISCOUNT	\$1,300	MTF DISCOUNT	\$2,000	RETAIL CASH	\$2,500	FMCC CASH	\$1,000	BONUS CASH	\$1,500
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THE GOOD, BAD AND UGLIEST WEDDING GIFTS EVER

(StatePoint) For many couples, there's nothing more exciting than creating wedding wish lists. Almost half (45 percent) of U.S. adults who are or ever have been married or engaged have had a bridal registry, according to a recent Moen survey conducted online by Harris Poll.

Registries can help you avoid receiving disappointing gifts. Respondents to the Moen survey told tales of getting such gaffes as a meat griller for a vegetarian couple, and even "ball and chain underwear." Good gifts ranged from cookware to dream vacations.

However, even with a registry, many realize post-nuptials their list may have been less than ideal. If you're headed down the aisle, plan ahead to avoid these common registry mistakes:

- Including impractical items:

Think twice before registering for large or specialty products that take up storage space but may never get used, like a panini press or ice cream maker.

- Aspirational registering: Register for pieces that fit who you really are, not who you want to be.

- Sticking too much to tradition: Don't register for traditional items, like silver flatware or formal china, unless you'll truly use them.

"Instead of registering for traditional items you'll rarely use, consider requesting gifts to make daily life better, like a kitchen faucet with a pull-down hose for easy clean-up, or a soothing rainshower showerhead to provide relaxation after a long day," suggests Andrea Maher, senior marketing communications specialist, Moen.

SOME COUPLES INVEST IN THEIR FUTURE IN WAYS OTHER THAN A DIAMOND RING

By Nathaniel Sillin

What does an engagement ring look like? For many people, my wife included, the answer is a diamond ring. While that's a concept that didn't become widely accepted until the diamond industry's marketing campaigns in the mid-1900s, it's one that holds strong today. However, some couples are going in an alternative direction. The intention isn't to be cheap, but rather to use the savings to make a different kind of meaningful investment in their future together.

When and how a proposal happens can be a surprise, but hopefully, the answer won't be. That is likely doubly true if the question is popped without a diamond engagement ring, or perhaps without a ring at all. As always in a relationship, communication is key. While some people may be excited by the

idea, it could be a deal breaker for others.

What will a meaningful investment look like to the both of you? A friend of mine recently shared with me the story of how he proposed to his now wife, and the decision to forgo an engagement ring altogether.

When they first started discussing marriage and engagement rings, she said she'd rather put the money towards a down payment because starting a home together was more meaningful to her than a ring. He didn't ask right away, but when he did take a knee, ringless, and ask her to marry him - clearly she said yes. Today they live in the home the savings helped buy, wear only wedding bands and he says neither of them regrets the decision.

A down payment might not make sense for you, but there are other ways to invest in your future together. For some couples, paying down debts or saving for their wedding so that they don't go into debt might be a better fit. Or, you might want to start a travel or honeymoon fund.

Consider your options if you want to buy a ring. Understandably, the idea of proposing without an engagement ring isn't for everyone, and there is a middle ground. A less expensive engagement ring with the savings going towards your shared goal.

Here are few options you could discuss with your significant other:

- **Alternative stones.** There are a variety of alternative precious and semi-precious stones you could pick for the ring. Matching a stone's color to the person's eyes or choosing their birthstone could imbue the ring with a personal touch. However, be careful about picking a "soft" gem that could be easily scratched if it's worn daily.

- **Diamond look-alikes.** You could choose a synthetic diamond or a stone that looks similar to a diamond but costs much less, such as a cubic zirconia. Some of the man-made and alternative options can look more brilliant than genuine diamonds, and you don't need to worry about whether or not the stone is conflict-free.

- **A solid band.** While it won't have the same flash as a ring with a large gemstone, choosing a smaller diamond or solid metal band with a symbolic meaning could be just as meaningful to your partner.

Family heirlooms can also make for memorable engagement rings and often there isn't a price tag attached (although a lengthy discussion might be in order). A vintage ring could appeal to some people's style, or the center stone could be reset in a modern band. In either case, there's something special about wearing a gemstone that's been in one of your families for generations.

Decide on your priorities as a couple and act accordingly. According to The Knot's 2015 Real Weddings Study, an average of \$5,871 was spent on engagement rings. For some, there's no better way to spend money. After all, it's a ring that's going to be worn for decades.

However, you can discuss engagement ring expectations before you ask someone to marry you. If a diamond isn't particularly important, an alternative ring or gemstone, or no ring at all, can be an equally timeless and beautiful gesture of love when you both know the money is going to an important step in your future together.



Thomas P. Shortreed
Ameriprise Private Wealth Advisor



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CONTROLLING HEALTH CARE COSTS IN RETIREMENT

It's no secret that health care becomes a bigger concern for most of us as we grow older. More ailments are likely to develop, which means more money spent to visit health professionals and buy medication. Even if you remain healthy through your later years, the costs of preventative care and preparing for potential unexpected health situations are rising.

Health-related expenses will likely be one of the biggest components of your retirement budget. You need to be prepared to pay for comprehensive insurance coverage and potential out-of-pocket costs for care. Here are three strategies to help you manage this critical expense in retirement.

Understand how Medicare works

The good news for Americans age 65 and older is that you qualify for Medicare. That makes increased dependence on health care services more affordable. At age 65, most people automatically qualify for Medicare Part A at no cost, which primarily provides coverage for hospital stays and skilled nursing care. Medicare Part B must be purchased (approximately \$109 per month in 2017 for most retirees). Part B covers the costs of visiting a physician, but with some deductibles. Many people purchase additional coverage to use for out-of-pocket expenses, such as a Part D prescription drug plan or a Medicare Supplement policy.

With Medicare, timing is important. Signing up when you first qualify for coverage will keep costs at the lowest level. If you maintain insurance through your employer after turning 65, you can delay Medicare enrollment without risking late penalties.

If you retire prior to age 65, you will need to purchase insurance on the open market to cover health-related expenses until you become eligible for Medicare. Individual coverage tends to get more expensive as you grow older, so work the cost into your retirement budget. Some employers offer retiree health insurance as a benefit. Check with your human resources department to see if this option is available to you.

Allocate sufficient funds for health care costs

As you develop your retirement income strategy, make sure you have money set aside for health expenses that will be your responsibility. By

one estimate, the average 66-year-old couple will need to tap more than half of their lifetime pre-tax Social Security benefits to pay for health care expenses throughout retirement¹. Most people will likely have to rely, in part, on their own savings to help offset some medical expenses.

Along with other retirement savings, you may want to establish a health savings account (HSA) during your working years. HSAs are designed to help build tax-advantaged savings to pay for out-of-pocket medical expenses you incur during your working years. However, any leftover funds can be applied to health expenses later in life, including premiums for Medicare and long-term care insurance. Keep in mind that you must be enrolled in a high deductible health plan to open an HSA.

Focus on your own health

One way to potentially keep health care costs under control in retirement is to create or maintain a healthy lifestyle. Small changes you make today, such as eating right or prioritizing sleep, could reduce the likelihood that medical issues will impact you later in life. Being physically active may also benefit your finances in retirement - according to the American Heart Association, it could potentially help you save \$500 a year today on health-related expenses².

Having a plan doesn't guarantee that you will avoid health issues, but you may find comfort in knowing how you can tackle health care costs in retirement.

Elizabeth O'Brien, "Here's What You'll Pay for Health Care in Retirement," *Money*, May 10, 2016. (<http://time.com/money/4340299/what-youll-pay-healthcare-in-retirement/>)

² Cliff Goldstein and Andrew Fitch, "5 Ways to Cut Health Care Costs in Retirement," *USA Today*, Nov. 1, 2014. (<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/personalfinance/2014/11/01/retire-health-care-medical-expenses/18186541/>)

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

VINTAGE VALENTINES EXHIBIT AT THE SUTLIFF MUSEUM

The Sutliff Museum invites all to view its new exhibit, "Messages from Cupid: Vintage Valentines from 1840-1930." The exhibit features Valentines from the U.S., England and Germany, spanning the years from 1840 until 1930 and will be shown until April 4. This exhibit will give you ideas for your own Valentine's Day cards.

The Sutliff Museum, operated

by The Warren Library Association, is located on the second floor of the Warren-Trumbull County Public Library at 444 Mahoning Ave., Warren, his free and fully handicapped accessible. It is open from 2 to 4 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday. For further information visit www.sutliffmuseum.org or call 330-395-6575.

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MY INSURANCE DOESN'T COVER WHAT?

Owning an insurance policy for your home or apartment should provide a sense of security, but Ohio Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor said residents may need to think again about the details of their coverage before an incident brings them unexpected repair delays or costs.

"Make it a goal to review your insurance, to understand your coverage better and talk with your agent to ensure you insurance needs are met," said Taylor, also director of the Ohio Department of Insurance.

Taylor provided tips on common insurance coverage questions for standard policies:

Am I protected from flood damage?

Standard insurance generally does not offer protection against flood losses. Flood insurance needs purchased through the National Flood Insurance Program. Your agent can assist you. Also, coverage for sewer drain back up is not included – or is limited in scope – and must be added.

What about natural disasters like earthquakes and tornadoes?

Damage from an earthquake is not usually covered in a standard policy. You need to purchase separate coverage. Tornado, wind and hail damage are typically covered.

What fire coverage is provided?

A typical policy will issue payment to replace or repair anything inside the home damaged by flames, smoke, soot and ash. While fire and lightning are

usually covered, don't be surprised if your insurer requests an inventory. The company is only required to pay for personal property you can prove you owned at the time of loss.

How does insurance apply to explosions?

Standard insurance will typically cover damage caused by explosions due to certain causes such as a gas leak.

What if someone breaks in and steals my belongings?

Most standard policies cover items that have been stolen. Certain categories like jewelry, antiques and art often have payout limits unless you purchase additional coverage. If valuable items exceeding those limits are stolen and you don't have the extra coverage you may receive payment far less than the value.

What else isn't typically covered?

Other risks not usually covered in a standard policy includes: terrorism, war, nuclear accident, landslide, mudslide, sinkhole and any others listed in your policy.

Remember to complete a home inventory. It will help you assess your coverage needs and prove vital if you file a claim. Visit www.insurance.ohio.gov for a home inventory checklist or download the free myHOME Scr.APP. book app. Call the Ohio Department of Insurance at 1-800-686-1526 with your insurance questions.



FACING THE TAX CHALLENGES OF SELF-EMPLOYMENT & PHASEOUTS AND REDUCTIONS

Today's technology makes self-employment easier than ever. But if you work for yourself, you'll face some distinctive challenges when it comes to your taxes. Here are some important steps to take:

Learn your liability. Self-employed individuals are liable for self-employment tax, which means they must pay both the employee and employer portions of FICA taxes. The good news is that you may deduct the employer portion of these taxes. Plus, you might be able to make significantly larger retirement contributions than you would as an employee.

However, you'll likely be required to make quarterly estimated tax payments, because income taxes aren't withheld from your self-employment income as they are from wages. If you fail to fully make these payments, you could face an unexpectedly high tax bill and underpayment penalties.

Distinguish what's deductible. Under IRS rules, deductible business expenses for the self-employed must be "ordinary" and "necessary." Basically, these are costs that are commonly incurred by businesses similar to yours and readily justifiable as needed to run your operations.

The tax agency stipulates, "An expense does not have to be indispensable to be considered necessary." But pushing this grey area too far can trigger an audit. Common examples of deductible business expenses for the self-employed include licenses, accounting fees, equipment, supplies, legal expenses and business-related software.

Don't forget your home office! You may deduct many direct expenses (such as business-only phone and data lines, as well as office supplies) and indirect expenses (such as real estate taxes and maintenance) associated with your home office. The tax break for indirect expenses is based on just how much of your home is used for business purposes, which you can generally determine by either measuring the square footage of your workspace as a percentage of the home's total area or using a fraction based on the number of rooms.

The IRS typically looks at two questions to determine whether a taxpayer qualifies for the home office deduction:

1. Is the specific area of the home that's used for business purposes used only for business purposes, not personal ones?

2. Is the space used regularly and continuously for business?

If you can answer in the affirmative to these questions, you'll likely qualify. But please contact our firm for specific assistance with the home office deduction or any other aspect of filing your taxes as a self-employed individual.

Phaseouts and Reductions: A Tax-Filing Reminder

As tax-filing season gets into full swing, there are many details to remember. One subject to keep in mind – especially if you've seen your income rise recently – is whether you'll be able to reap the full value of tax breaks that you've claimed previously.

What could change? If your adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeds the applicable threshold, your personal exemptions will begin to be phased out and your itemized deductions reduced. For 2016, the thresholds are \$259,400 (single), \$285,350 (head of household), \$311,300 (joint filer) and \$155,650 (married filing separately). These are up from the 2015 thresholds, which were \$258,250 (single), \$284,050 (head of household), \$309,900 (joint filer) and \$154,950 (married filing separately).

The personal exemption phaseout reduces exemptions by 2 percent for each \$2,500 (or portion thereof) by which a taxpayer's AGI exceeds the applicable threshold (2 percent for each \$1,250 for married taxpayers filing separately). Meanwhile, the itemized deduction limitation reduces otherwise allowable deductions by 3 percent of the amount by which a taxpayer's AGI exceeds the applicable threshold (not to exceed 80 percent of otherwise allowable deductions). It doesn't apply, however, to deductions for medical expenses, investment interest, or casualty, theft or wagering losses.

If your AGI is close to the threshold, AGI-reduction strategies (such as making retirement plan and Health Savings Account contributions) may allow you to stay under it. If that's not possible, consider the reduced tax benefit of the affected deductions before implementing strategies to accelerate or defer deductible expenses. Please contact our firm for specific strategies tailored to your situation.

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

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ST. STEPHEN PARISH TO HOLD 'LUCK OF THE IRISH' FUNDRAISER MARCH 18

St. Stephen Parish in Niles will hold its annual "Luck of the Irish" fundraiser on Saturday, March 18 at Ciminero's Banquet Center in downtown Niles. The "Luck of the Irish" is a fun-filled evening with a buffet-style dinner, desserts and an open bar. There will be over \$7,000 worth of cash prizes and other

prizes that include three jackpots of \$500, \$750 and \$1,500; a lottery tree; a restaurant gift card tree; a gift basket "Irish" auction as well as other fun and exciting ways to win. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50 and may be purchased by calling the parish office at 330-652-4396.



HOUSING AUTHORITIES DEVELOP AND OPERATE LOW-INCOME HOUSING IN OHIO

Q: *What is a housing authority?*

A: A public housing authority (PHA) is a public body authorized by the federal government and created by a state to help develop and operate low-income housing under the U.S. Housing Act of 1937. There are more than 3,000 PHAs in the United States, and 75 of them are in Ohio. PHAs are primarily funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and regulated by federal law. PHAs administer the two major programs in Ohio: public housing and Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher programs.

Q: *What is the public housing program?*

A: The public housing program provides safe, decent and affordable rental housing to low- and very low-income families, the elderly and persons with disabilities. Under this program, a PHA owns the properties rented to public housing tenants and acts as the landlord. HUD provides operating and capital subsidies to PHAs, and the PHAs are responsible for general property management, ongoing program compliance, and, in some cases, for providing supportive services to residents.

Q: *How can I get help from the public housing program?*

A: Generally, PHAs determine eligibility based on: 1) annual gross income; 2) whether you qualify as elderly, a person with a disability, or as a family; and 3) your U.S. citizenship or eligible immigration status. Your income must be 80 percent or below of the Area Median Income (AMI), which HUD sets annually. At least one person in your household must be a U.S. citizen or have eligible immigration status. When determining eligibility, PHAs may also consider rental payment and utility payment history, check references and perform criminal background checks. Typically, PHAs will deny admission to any applicant whose habits and practices may be expected to have a detrimental effect on other tenants, staff or the surrounding community.

Q: *What is the Housing Choice Voucher Program?*

A: The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program is the federal government's largest housing assistance program, and more than two million low-income families currently receive help. PHAs administer this program, but assistance is not tied to a specific PHA-owned unit, as in the public housing program. Through the HCV program, the PHA issues eligible families a housing voucher, and the family searches for its own housing in the private rental market.

Q: *How does the Housing Choice Voucher Program work?*

A: The PHA first determines that you are eligible, and then must make sure that the privately owned unit you've chosen meets the program's housing quality standards and that the rent is reasonable. You and the landlord will enter into a lease agreement, while the landlord and the PHA sign a housing assistance payments contract.

The PHA pays the housing subsidy to the participating landlord on your behalf, and you pay 30 to 40 percent of your income in rent. The voucher pays the balance of your rent, up to a standard based on HUD-determined local fair market rents.

Q: *If I have a criminal conviction, might I still be eligible for the public housing or Section 8 HCV programs?*

A: It depends. HUD requires a background check for all adult household members applying for the public housing or Section 8 HCV programs. PHAs can adopt their own reasonable criminal history policies, but HUD rules say that applicants must be automatically denied for certain crimes. These crimes include methamphetamine production, sex offenses requiring sex offender registration, and any household member's eviction from federally subsidized housing because of drug-related activity within three years before applying for housing. Also, households that engage in any drug-related activity, violent criminal activity, or any other criminal activity that is a threat to the life, safety or property of others may lose their housing assistance.

Q: *What is "fair housing" and "reasonable accommodations"?*

A: PHAs must comply with state and federal fair housing laws and ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Fair Housing Act of 1938 protects people from housing discrimination based on their race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability or family status. Also, in 2012, HUD published the Equal Access Rule, which requires HUD-assisted housing programs to be open to all eligible individuals regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status. A "reasonable accommodation" is a change made to a policy, program or service that allows someone with a disability to use and enjoy housing, including public and common use areas. Examples of reasonable accommodation include: providing rental forms in large print, providing a reserved accessible parking space near a resident's unit, allowing a resident with a disability to live with a companion animal, and installing ramps or other modifications to a unit. Generally, PHAs will grant requests for accommodations if the request is reasonable and does not create an "undue financial and administrative burden" for the agency, or result in a "fundamental alteration" of the program or the service offered.

This "Law You Can Use" consumer legal information column was provided by the Ohio State Bar Association (OSBA). It was prepared by attorney Jennifer Heapy, CEO of Greater Dayton Premier Management. Articles appearing in this column are intended to provide broad, general information about the law. This article is not intended to be legal advice. Before applying this information to a specific legal problem, readers are urged to seek the advice of a licensed attorney.

OHIO RESIDENT JOINS IN NATIONAL EFFORT TO IMPROVE VISION FOR MILLIONS OF AMERICANS

Bradly D'Souza, a member of the Prevent Blindness, Ohio Affiliate Board of Directors is calling on Congress to unlock eye care for 15 million Americans. The new effort from Prevent Blindness and See Now is asking Congress to commit \$6.3 million toward preventing blindness, a problem that costs the United States \$145 billion a year. Costs in Ohio alone are \$5.4 billion annually.

See Now is a new global initiative created by The Fred Hollows Foundation, aimed at increasing awareness of eye health and mobilizing the public to end avoidable sight loss.

Unfortunately, many adults and children do not have access to eye care. Seven years ago, Prevent Blindness stepped in and provided 13-year-old Bradly with an eye exam and a new pair of glasses when his family could not meet the costs.

"Since receiving glasses I've had a completely different experience in life. I've been chosen for a youth scholarship award, been invited to the Nobel week in Stockholm, was elected to serve on the board of directors of Prevent Blindness, graduated college and started my first job," said D'Souza. "The new glasses from Prevent Blindness came at a time in my young life when my family had nothing, and those glasses made all the difference to

make me feel part of my community, take part in school and be with my friends."

As part of the See Now campaign, Bradly's story is featured in video testimony, along with other patient ambassadors from Pennsylvania and Texas, sharing their stories of how access to eye care has changed their lives. Additionally, Prevent Blindness is urging the public to join the See Now campaign and commit to calling on Congress to increase funding. The petition can be found here.

"Fortunately, we were able to help provide Bradly with the help he needed to access quality eye care and put him on the path to a lifetime of success," said Sherry Williams, president & CEO of the Ohio Affiliate of Prevent Blindness. In fact, Bradly was so grateful for the positive impact that healthy vision had upon his educational success, he donated his first job paycheck to Prevent Blindness while still in high school. "Sadly, there are thousands more that still need our help. We ask the public to get involved by signing the See Now petition, and ask our nation's leaders to provide the resources we need to save sight." For more information on Bradly's story, or the Prevent Blindness/See Now initiative, please visit here, or call Prevent Blindness, Ohio Affiliate at 800-301-2020.

Make a New Years Resolution to get your finances in order for 2017!

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Q: Need part time or seasonal help but can't find anyone reliable and knowledgeable?
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AG LEADERSHIP, ADVOCACY TRAINING PROGRAM SEEKS APPLICANTS

The leadership and advocacy development program AgriPOWER is now accepting applications for participation.

The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation's AgriPOWER Class IX will include 20 individuals who are committed to improving their understanding of important issues and are willing to develop skills to become effective advocates for the farm and food community. Applications are due April 17.

The AgriPOWER program consists of seven multiday institute sessions across 17 days between July 2017 and March 2018. Two sessions will be held out of state including one in Washington, D.C.

Participants will experience a personal strengths assessment, communications training and various levels of leadership development. Subjects to be explored include local, state and national government and politics, farm and food policy issues, understanding

activists and advocacy, the role of farm organizations, economic issues, food production systems, traditional and social media, and more.

Ohio Farm Bureau offers a limited number of scholarships to help defray the \$4,500 per person tuition fee. There also is a \$400 deposit, which is refunded based on attendance and completion of the program. County Farm Bureaus are encouraged to consider nominating applicants. Other farm organizations or employers may also help with an individual's tuition.

To learn more about the program, see specific session dates, read about past participants' experiences and complete an application, visit ofbf.org/agripower.

Ohio Farm Bureau is the state's largest and most inclusive farm and food organization. One of its highest priorities is to help develop exceptional community leaders.



ANTIPERSPIRANTS, ANYONE?

Dear Mark: I love the El Cortez in Las Vegas that you lauded recently, except for one thing: They sure do sweat the money. It is probably one of the sweatiest shops in Las Vegas. Otherwise, as you said, you just cannot beat the low limits, limited deck sizes, and the rules. Tommy C.

"Sweating the money," Tommy, is a casino term that describes how some casino employees react when a gambler wins money from the house. When a pit boss is gawking a dealer who is dumping the tray, you're witnessing it.

In reality, dealers have no control on whether or not a player wins any money. At the end of any shift, all blackjack table results are combined for an aggregate sum, which translates to a win/loss volume, with variances acknowledged for large bettors. To the suits upstairs, it just pencils out as either a good or a bad day. However, on the gaming floor, certain shift supervisors, floor managers, pit bosses, and yes, to some extent, dealers - they want you to win, that is, as long as they are being tipped - sweat the money.

The iconic El Cortez Hotel and Casino, the cornerstone of downtown Las Vegas, is the longest continuously running hotel and casino in Las Vegas. What you see is what you get: no gimmicks, no glitter. However, Tommy, as you noticed, if you use any spread at the El Cortez, they tend to back you off. You can probably get away with spreading bets between \$10-\$25, but if you go to \$10-\$50, a floor supervisor rubbernecking your game will probably make you flat bet that

kind of action, or, worse yet, move you along. Unfortunately, in today's gaming environment, you are not going to see many decent blackjack games at these smaller, "where the locals go" joints, but, at least, the El Cortez still delivers the best playing conditions in Vegas.

Nevertheless, the last thing some pit bull wants is for some counter varying their bets from one hand to the next, knowing full well whether the next hand will favor either the player or the house. Your average pit boss does not want these monetary opportunities in high-count situations, specifically with a decent wad of cash on the layout, changing a negative expectation game into a positive one, especially on their watch.

With the Cortez's player-friendly rules, in their mind, backing you off the game, makes sense. They are there to protect the casino's profits. They realize you are trying to beat the math of the game, but they disapprove because they rely on the same simple arithmetic to make money. And yet, they also know that few players play basic strategy perfectly, and even fewer can execute counting down a deck, beat the tar out of them, and ask for the keys to the front door.

It's been my 40-year observation that these sharpened players are so few and far between that I decided early on in my career to NOT sweat the money for every Tom, Dick or Harry sitting tableside. Believe me, when I say, I could count down a deck with the best of them; but I can also count on one hand how many players I chased off a game, and how very few times, we, the casino that is, got the crap kicked out of us.

The real deal here, Tommy, is that gamblers will go to any establishment where the dealers are friendly, the game has decent rules, the cocktails are flowing, and the casino doesn't sweat the money, too much. On a whole, the non-counting player probably won't draw much heat, so, in my humble opinion, the El Cortez fits that bill.

MAKING FIREPLACE SAFETY A PRIORITY IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD

(StatePoint) Getting cozy this winter? You'll definitely want to make use of your fireplace. But remember, you'll need to take extra precautions to keep everybody and everything safe.

The use of a safety screen is a must -- in fact, they're required on all fireplaces manufactured after Jan. 1, 2015 -- so if your fireplace didn't come with one or if it is not in good shape, get a retrofit

safety screen. Even with a screen, it is also crucial that you give your fireplace clearance, keeping little ones, pets and flammables away.

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Cortland Christian's popular Soup and Sandwich Lunch is the third Thursday of every month through March, and consists of sloppy joe or chicken salad sandwiches for \$3 and homemade soups - chicken noodle, ham and bean and vegetable beef. A bowl is \$2.50; pint, \$4; quart, \$6. A wide variety of pies are available at \$2.50 per slice. Lunch is served in the Fellowship Hall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., dine in or carry out. Delivery is also available to businesses and homebound by calling 330-637-4611; Fax, 866-200-2708. Place delivery orders Monday to Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to noon or by 11 a.m. Thursday. This month's luncheon is Feb. 16. The church is located at 153 Grove St., Cortland.

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POLAR PLUNGE 2017

By Sally Lane



Compared to the last 10 years, this year's Polar Plunge at Mosquito Lake Park was like a jump in a pool...an unheated pool. But with the water at 37.5 degrees it wasn't as tough to take a quick dunk before splashing back to shore, and the 60-degree air temp made for an enjoyable party before and after the actual plunge. Last year's plunge was one of the coldest, with Mosquito Lake frozen. A path needed to be chopped through the ice. What a difference a year makes. In fact it hasn't been that warm on Jan. 21 since 1959.

More than 120 participants raised money for Special Olympics Ohio. The goal was to raise \$20,000, a little more than last year's \$18,000. There were 11 teams as well as individuals registered for this event, with several coming from all over northeastern Ohio. Party music set the tone for the day as the parking lot filled and the costume contest began.

Costumes ranged from comical to outrageous, and the names of the teams were creative. The winning team for costumes was named the Polar Plungers who sported toilet plungers on their heads and played a wild game of ring-toss. John F. Kennedy, dressed as the Royal Oaks Baby Doll, was the individual costume winner.

The first plunge was made by Minnie Wolfe, who admits to being 85+ years old. She has participated in all 11 Polar Plunges. After that the teams were announced on their way into the water. Visit our website at www.thecortlandnews.com to see more photos and video of the day.

TMM EXEC SPEAKS TO JUNIOR WOMEN



Trumbull Mobile Meals Executive Director Rebecca Edwards was the guest speaker at the January meeting for GFWC Ohio Warren Junior Women's League's general meeting. Edwards told the members the history and the importance of having this service available to the community. Presenting a donation to Edwards are WJWL 1st Vice President Becky Bucco, Edwards, and WJWL President Julie Vugrinovich.

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TRUMBULL COUNTY SENIOR PRODUCTION CO. OFFERING \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP

Trumbull Senior Production Company (TSPC), a musical group for adults 50 and older, is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a Trumbull County high school graduating senior who plans to major in performing or theater arts. Half of the scholarship money will be given to the winner prior to the first semester and the other half prior to the second semester if the student maintains a B average and does not change his/her major.

Information is being sent to all Trumbull County high school guidance counselors, band and choir directors and drama coaches. Deadline for applying is March 31, 2017.

TSPC is a non-profit corporation that provides enrichment for seniors through annual musical productions. This year's show, "Downtown Rhythm," will be presented April 22 and 23 at Champion High School. Proceeds from the show provide money for the scholarship.

For further information send inquiries to TSPC Scholarship at 3323 Parkman Road NW, Suite 8, Warren, OH 44481.

TRUMBULL COUNTY KIDS CRUISING INTO KINDERGARTEN

A Trumbull County Kindergarten Transition Fair will be held on Saturday, Feb. 4 at the Eastwood Mall from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Children and parents can meet teachers, learn about kindergarten registration, board a bus and more. The event is open to all Trumbull County children entering kindergarten in 2017. There will be prizes, giveaways and learning stations. The event is sponsored by the Cafaro Foundation, Psycare and the Trumbull County Mental Health and Recovery Board.

 Western Reserve COUNTRY STORE 312 SOUTH MECCA ST CORTLAND Mon-Fri 8am-6pm Sat 8am-2pm Sun Closed 330-637-4015 www.wrfc.com	\$3.00 OFF any purchase of \$50.00 or more <small>With coupon. Not good with other offers. Expires 3/8/2017</small>	\$5.00 OFF any purchase of \$100.00 or more <small>With coupon. Not good with other offers. Expires 3/8/2017</small>
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LAKEVIEW KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION PARENT MEETING IN MARCH

There will be a Parental Information Program regarding kindergarten transition on Tuesday, March 9 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Lakeview Elementary School, 2755 Bazetta Road N.E., Warren.

Key discussion points include:

- Learn about enrolling your child for next year.
- Prepare for the social and emotional changes that take place during their transition from pre-school to kindergarten.
- Skills that can be worked upon prior to August.
- In addition you will have the opportunity to tour the school, meet the principal, kindergarten teachers and other school personnel.

Students must be 5 by Aug. 1, 2017 and live in the Lakeview School District to attend kindergarten in the 2017/2018 school year. To register for this meeting contact your child care center or Lakeview Elementary at 330-638-2145. You must register by March 5.

This event is hosted by your Child Care Centers, Head Start, Lakeview Elementary and Trumbull County Early Childhood Consultant.

KENT STATE TRUMBULL'S LINK GALLERY WELCOMES CLEVELAND-BASED ARTIST

Kent State University at Trumbull's Link Gallery is honored to present "Immutable Vapor," an exhibition of paintings by Cleveland-based artist Mark Keffer. The exhibit runs through Feb. 16.

Keffer earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from Kent State University in 1988 and then completed a Master of Fine Arts degree at The Ohio State University.

He describes his work as balancing act, influenced by the ancient philosophical treatise of the Tao Te Ching, pairing existential austerity with a playful visual approach. He creates imagery that, while nearly abstract, is suggestive of both the celestial and

the microscopic. Keffer is interested in the dual nature of life (easy/difficult, joyous/painful) and how these opposing states are dependent on each other based on context. He hopes his viewers will respond to the work in a contemplative manner, in a sphere of philosophical questioning. "As we navigate a world of turmoil, I believe our best hope is to look inward to recalibrate our understanding of our better selves."

The Link Gallery is open Monday through Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m. and is located in Kent State Trumbull's Classroom/Administration Building, located at 4314 Mahoning Ave. N.W. in Warren.

TRTA ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

New officers for Trumbull Retired Teachers Association were recently elected. They are Dolores Sullivan, financial secretary; Linda Cowin, secretary; Sue Datish, president-elect; Diana Bauman, president; and Denise Deltondo, ORTA trustee. The next meeting for the group will be Feb. 14, at Ciminero's Banquet Centre in Niles, with a noon luncheon. Lunch is \$11.75 and reservations



can be made by contacting Dee Sullivan, 1125 Townsend Ave.; Youngstown, OH 44505-1267. Carrie Shockey will talk about ways to communicate love. TRTA will collect coloring books, crayons and storybooks for Akron Children's Hospital at the February meeting as well as yarn, postage stamps, candles and glasses. New members are welcome. For more information, visit the web www.trumbullrta.blogspot.com. Photo by Roselyn Gadd.

KENT TRUMBULL LAUNCHES "EXCITE TO WRITE" CONTEST FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Local high school students are invited to compete in this year's Excite to Write contest sponsored by Kent State University at Trumbull. The contest, which is open to high school seniors, juniors and honor students, offers two options: long submission (research papers that are between 1,000-1,700 words) and short submission (essays and narratives that are 700-

1,000 words).

Winners in each category win a \$100 Barnes and Noble gift card. Runner up wins a \$50 Barnes and Noble gift card. Winners are also invited along with their family and teachers to a special reception.

The contest deadline for April 16. For more information and to submit an entry, visit www.kent.edu/trumbull/excite-write.

SPELLING BEE WINNERS

Lakeview Elementary held its Spelling Bee on Jan. 27. The winner was Nate Erupe (left) and the runner-up was Preston Polakoff (right). Nate will represent the school in March at the Tribune Chronicle at KSU Trumbull spelling bee.



Also participating were Claire Marble, Annabelle Humphrey, Kristopher Kyser, Claire Remmick, Gianna VanValien, Brandon Cash, Nate Erupe, Maria Goske, Izy Ash, Preston Polakoff, Brianna Navarra, Nathan Thomas, Ethan Wang, Lilly Haines and Sophia Shuster.



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www.thelaketavern.net

AUDITOR YOST ANNOUNCES LAKEVIEW LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AS RECIPIENT OF "AUDITOR OF STATE AWARD"

Auditor of State Dave Yost is pleased to announce that the Lakeview Local School District has received the "Auditor of State Award" for its clean audit reports. Eight other school districts in Ohio were also selected.

The Auditor of State Award is presented to local governments and school districts upon the completion of a financial audit. Entities that receive the award meet the following criteria of a "clean" audit report:

- The entity must file timely financial reports with the Auditor of State's office in accordance with GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles);
- The audit report does not contain any findings for recovery, material citations, material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, Single Audit findings or questioned costs;

The entity's management letter contains no comments related to:

- Ethics referrals
- Questioned costs less than \$10,000
- Lack of timely report submission
- Reconciliation
- Failure to obtain a timely Single Audit
- Findings for recovery less than \$100
- Public meetings or public records

No other financial or other concerns exist that involve eligible entity.

KENT STATE TRUMBULL ANNOUNCES FALL 2016 PRESIDENT'S AND DEAN'S LISTS

Kent State University at Trumbull recently announced those students who were named to either the President's or Dean's lists for their academic achievements during the fall 2016 semester.

Katie Hamilton of Cortland was named to the President's list. To be named to the President's list, a student must have a 4.00 grade point average for the fall 2016 semester and completed at least 15 letter-graded (A, B, etc.) credit hours by the end of the semester.

The following students have been named to the Kent State Trumbull Dean's List. They earned a 3.40 grade point average or above for the fall 2016 semester and completed at least 12 letter-graded (A, B, etc.) credit hours by the end of the semester.

Students included: Rachel Bockelman, John Brooks, Jared Cain, Braxton Caldwell, Kevin Carpenter, Nicole Chaney, Jacqueline Fischer, Jamie Franks, Bethany Hayes, Sarah Hildreth, Imanpreet Kaur, Tyler Oriti, Ashlan Phillips, Cordell Ramsey, Rodney Reiner, Thomas Scott, Catherine Sekora, Joshua Sponsler, Taylor Stull, Jordan Szabo, Dana Uber and Amber Woofter. They are all residents of Cortland.

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BAZETTA CHRISTIAN CHURCH HELPING OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Members of Bazetta Christian Church (BCC) took time during the past holiday season to make Christmas a little brighter for many within the community. A variety of giving and service projects were organized to assist community members in need, including their 13th annual Angel Tree program. Through generous donations, this ministry program ensured that over 100 children from the Lakeview and Maplewood school districts received Christmas gifts this year. Other activities included a food drive for Cortland Area Cares, the baking and delivering of cookies

to people who worked on Christmas day; including emergency personnel in Bazetta and Cortland, ringing the bell for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign, donating new children story books to Akron Children Hospital, and raising money so that local children would be able to receive new pairs of shoes through Adopt-A-Foot and Neal's Shoes. A special thanks to Mrs. Margie Petrunia, from Lakeview Elementary School, who has provided BCC the opportunity to make Christmas merrier for thousands of children over the last 13 years.

CHRISTMAS IN CORTLAND BENEFITS CAC PANTRY



For the second year Lakeview Outreach And Fellowship has organized a Christmas in Cortland Concert. The event was held Dec. 21 in the auditorium at Lakeview High School and featured a Community Choir from the seven churches in the LOAF organization as well as the Cortland Community Band. Our mayor, Jim Woofter, also took part in the concert with a band/narration of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. LOAF celebrated 70 years in 2016, and the Cortland Community Band has been part of the community since 1983. The event raised nearly \$1,000 for Cortland Area Cares.

CHRIST EPISCOPAL PRESENTS PIANIST JACKIE WARREN

Christ Episcopal Church "Arts on Atlantic" series presents jazz pianist Jackie Warren on Saturday, Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased for \$15 and are available at the parish office, 2627 Atlantic St. NE, Warren. The office can be reached at 330-372-4998.



Jackie can be heard regularly at such local venues as The Velvet Tango Room, Nighttown, and Belinda's Nightclub, and also on numerous recordings, including "Near You" and "Live at the Wi-Fi Cafe" under her own name, "Steppin Out" (Jazz Heritage Orchestra), "Salsa con Sabor" (Sammy Deleon y su orquesta), "Midwest Coast" and "Into the Night" (Josh Rzepka).

HEALTHY HABITS THAT CAN HELP BOOST YOUR IMMUNITY

(StatePoint) While some aspects of health are beyond your control, there are plenty of proactive steps you can take to support a strong immune system.

"Building a strong immune system can improve and even extend your life," says Larry Robinson, PhD, and vice president of Scientific Affairs, Embria Health Sciences, a manufacturer of natural, science-based ingredients that support wellness and vitality.

Robinson and the experts at Embria are encouraging people to try these great health and wellness tips.

Be Social

It's easy to hole-up during these cold winter days, but it's not very good for your health or immune system. Research shows that people that have more human interactions are better combating cold weather challenges.

So make sure to chat with your coworkers during the day and make plans with your friends after work. Not only will this boost your immunity, but social activities may also help reduce stress and depression.

Supplement

While a well-balanced diet of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains can support good health, getting the proper vitamins and nutrients in sufficient quantities every day can prove challenging.

Consider offering your immune system targeted support with a supplement designed to boost healthy immune function. One of the best immune strengthening ingredients is EpiCor fermentate, which has been clinically shown to support the body's ability to initiate the proper immune response when needed, support rapid immune response and maintain healthy immune function.

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Rest and Relaxation

Rest and relaxation can go a long way toward supporting good health. Ongoing sleep deficiency is linked to a number of major health problems and can impair the way your immune system responds, according to the National Institutes of Health. What's more, too much stress can compromise immune response. So whether it's spending time with friends, going to yoga or taking a bath, make sure your schedule includes time for both sleep and for stress-reducing activities.

Improve your health from the inside out. By focusing on boosting your immunity as a goal, you will naturally adopt healthy habits.

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