The History Of Valentine's Day

By Alex Irman

Valentine's Day, celebrated annually on February 14th, is a day dedicated to expressing love and affection. While it is widely recognized and celebrated in many parts of the world, its origins are rooted in a blend of history, myth, and tradition.

The history of Valentine's Day dates back to ancient Rome, where a pagan festival known as Lupercalia was held from February 13th to 15th. This festival was a celebration of fertility and included rituals such as the sacrifice of goats and dogs, as well as the slapping of women with the hides of these animals to encourage fertility. Lupercalia was a time of revelry and celebrations, often involving matchmaking and romantic pursuits among the youth.

The name "Valentine" is believed to have been derived from Saint Valentine, a Christian martyr. However, there is some ambiguity regarding which Saint Valentine the day commemorates, as there were several early Christian martyrs named Valentine. The most popular legend involves Saint Valentine of Rome, who lived during the 3rd century.

According to the legend, Valentine was a priest who defied the orders of Emperor Claudius II. The Emperor had decreed that young men were not to marry, believing that single men made



better soldiers. Valentine, however, continued to perform marriages in secret. When his actions were discovered, he was imprisoned and eventually executed on February 14th around the year 269 AD.

Another version of the legend suggests that Valentine attempted to convert

Claudius II to Christianity and was executed for his efforts. Before his execution, he is said to have healed the jailer's blind daughter, and on the night before his death, wrote her a letter signed "from your Valentine."

The early Christian church sought to Christianize the pagan festivals, and Lupercalia was no exception. In 496 AD, Pope Gelasius I proclaimed February 14th as Saint Valentine's Day, in an attempt to replace the pagan festival with a Christian celebration. Over time, the day evolved to honor Saint Valentine and his acts of love and martyrdom.

By the Middle Ages, Valentine's Day had become associated with romantic love. This change is often attributed to Geoffrey Chaucer, a 14thcentury English poet. In his

poem "Parliament of Foules," Chaucer wrote about the mating of birds on Saint Valentine's Day, linking the day with themes of love and courtship. This poetic association spurred the tradition of expressing love and admiration on February 14th.

Valentine's Day continued to evolve through the centuries. By the 18th century, it had become common for friends and lovers to exchange handwritten notes and tokens of affection. The tradition of sending Valentine's cards gained significant popularity in England and later spread to the United States.

The commercialization of Valentine's Day began in the 19th century, with the mass production of Valentine's cards. Esther Howland, an American entrepreneur, is often credited with popularizing the sale of Valentine's cards in the United States. By the early 20th century, the day had become a significant cultural and commercial phenomenon.

Today, Valentine's Day is celebrated in numerous ways across the globe. Couples exchange cards, flowers, chocolates, and gifts, while some take the opportunity to propose marriage or renew their vows. The day is also marked by various events, such as romantic dinners, dances, and getaways.

Although Valentine's Day has evolved considerably from its ancient and medieval origins, its essence remains the same—a celebration of love and affection. Whether through grand gestures or simple acts of kindness, the spirit of Valentine's Day continues to inspire people to express their love for one another.

Ice Fishing On Mosquito Lake: A Winter Wonderland Adventure

By Alex Irman



PRSRT STD AUTO S. POSTAGE PAID WARREN, OH PERMIT NO. 39 Mosquito Lake, nestled in the heart of Trumbull County, transforms into a winter wonderland when the temperatures plummet. This expansive reservoir, renowned for its excellent fishing opportunities during the warmer months, offers a unique and rewarding experience for ice anglers.

When the lake freezes over, typically in late December or January, ice fishing enthusiasts descend upon Mosquito Lake. Anglers can be seen



Colton Logan with crappie / Photo by Scott Omerzo

scattered across the vast expanse of ice, patiently waiting for a bite. The scene is a picturesque blend of winter tranquility and the thrill of the chase.

Mosquito Lake harbors a diverse fish population, making it a popular destination for ice anglers targeting various species:

- Walleye: Known for their hardfighting nature, walleye are a prized catch for ice anglers. Jigging with live bait like minnows or using artificial lures like spoons and jigs are effective techniques.
- Crappie: These panfish are abundant in Mosquito Lake and provide excellent sport for anglers of all skill levels. Small jigs tipped with minnows or waxworms are typically used to entice crappies.
- Bluegills: Another popular panfish species, bluegills are plentiful and offer great fun for both novice and experienced anglers. Small jigs, waxworms, and mealworms are effective baits.
- Yellow Perch: These vibrant fish are a favorite among ice anglers. Jigging with small jigs tipped with minnows or using live bait rigs are common techniques.

Beyond the Fishing - Ice fishing on



Jim Barzak with perch / Photo by Scott Omerzo

Mosquito Lake offers more than just the thrill of the catch. It's an opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the winter landscape, spend quality time with friends and family, and connect with nature. The crisp air, the sparkling snow, and the serene atmosphere create a truly.

Whether you're a seasoned angler or a novice looking to try something new, ice fishing on Mosquito Lake provides a unique and rewarding winter adventure. With its diverse fish population, stunning scenery, and the thrill of the chase, Mosquito Lake is a must-visit destination for ice fishing enthusiasts in Ohio.



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CORTLAND CITY

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MEETINGS

CITY COUNCIL

First and Third Monday of each month. Monday, Feb 3 - 7 PM Wednesday, Feb 19 - 7 PM (Presidents' Day is Mon., Feb. 17th)

CORTLAND CITY COUNCIL

Read the minutes from Cortland City Council meetings at www.cityofcortland.org under City Council Minutes.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Second Monday of each month Monday, Feb 10 - 5:30 p.m.

PLANNING & ZONING

Second Monday of each month Monday, Feb 10 - 7 p.m.

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

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BAZETTATWP.ORG

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Trustees, Clerk, Zoning Inspector			
and Cemetery Sexton	330-637-8816		
Road Department	330-637-8311		

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BAZETTA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular meetings the second Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise noted. Tuesday, Feb 11 - 7 p.m.

A 60 minute caucus with department heads preceding.

Meetings held via ZOOM. Visit www.bazettatwp.org

THE CORTLAND BAZETTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS The Second Wednesday of each month at 5 PM at The Opera House

LAKEVIEW BOARD OF **EDUCATION MEETINGS**

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

Monday, Feb 24 - 6 p.m.

Area Service Clubs

Bazetta Cortland Optimist Club	Four Seasons Garden Club
Steve Rock	Nancy Finlay
Cortland Bazetta Historical Society & Museum	Johnston Senior Center
Sally Lane	Jim Bacorn
Cortland Lions Club	Warren City Federation of Women's Clubs
Dawna Wiland	Terri Crabbs
Cortland Masonic Lodge	American Assoc of University Women
Chuck Chagnot	Ruth Bradshaw 330-307-1151
Cortland Moose Lodge	League of Woman Voters
Bill Bartholomew	Peggy Boyd 330-856-5398
Cortland Rotary Club	Cortland Area Cares
Dennis Nisbett	Donna Kittle
Cortland SCOPE	Friends of the Cortland Library
Terri Donahue	(Cheryl Bush or Karen Murphy) 330-637-2717
Cortland Opal CH 181, O.E.S	Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship
Carla Kahler 330-856-2356	(LOAF)
The Opera House (Event Rentals) Maribeth Albu	Please contact the Cortland News if you would like your organization listed here.

Our Next Issue February 22, 2025

Our theme will be Women's History Month

Article Deadline by Feb 10 • Display Advertising Deadline is Feb 11 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

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.

Cortland News SELF SERVE Paper Box Locations

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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: sales@cortlandnews.net

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



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.

Community Events

Cortland City/Bazetta Township and Lakeview School Board meetings and schedules. See pg. 2 & 15

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.

Cortland Public Library - Check out the ongoing events on page 18 https://wtcpl.org/locations-hours/cortland-library/

Cortland Senior Center - Open Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Cortland Christian Church.

Charity Benefit Pancake Breakfast, [1st Saturday] 9 a.m.-noon, Cortland Masonic Lodge, 3263 Everett-Hull Road (E. Main Street).

Church Events - See the Church News and Notes on the Faith pages.

Trumbull County Combined Health District has numerous free upcoming Vaccine Clinics. See their website or the article in this issue.

- 1 Pancake Breakfast / Masonic Lodge / Benefiting the Boy Scouts / 9 AM -12
- Cortland Healthcare Center Staying Healthy at Home **Senior Series luncheon** / 11 AM / The event is FREE to Seniors
- 12 Blood Drive / Cortland United Methodist Church / 12-5:30 PM 155 N. High Street, Cortland
- 15 Blood Drive / Cortland Masonic Lodge / 3263 Everett Hull Rd., Cortland 9 AM - 2 PM
- 15 God Provides A Meal / Cortland United Methodist Church / 11 AM 1 PM
- 20 Cortland Christian Church Soup and Sandwich / 11 AM 1 PM
- 23 Pawz & Pours Fundraiser / Benefiting All About the Pawz Dog Rescue Birdfish Brewery - Columbiana, Ohio / 1-7 PM

Shelving The Idea Of Love

By Cait Morgan

My huge assortment of shoes needed a shelving unit. I found something but it had been sitting in the box for months, Finally, we decided to put it together. The directions said it would take 20 minutes.... Bwaaahaaahaa!!!!

The first order of business was to determine what went with what. We had plastic joint connector doofunkies, plastic sheeting, short tubes for the risers, medium tubes for the shelf sides and long tubes for the shelf fronts and backs. The Curmudgeon laid them out on the kitchen floor and sat down, I used a dog bed as a pillow and sat down there, too. This would prove to be an enormous tactical error.

We grabbed a plastic thing and inserted the rods for front and back into the pockets provided. We grabbed a doofunkie and initially had it upside down, then had it going the wrong way but eventually achieved the wisdom of a 12-year-old which was needed to get the three female ends in proper placement for each doofunkie to hold one shelf front, one side and one riser. One down, ten to go. By the fourth one, we had it down to a science which was working out well until I needed to get off the floor. Ugliness set in quickly thanks to two fake knees.

Curmudgeon: Can you get up? Me: Does it even look like I can get

up? really.... Can I help?

Me: Grab me something I can use to kneel on. Maybe a towel or something He threw me a folded pile of wiping

cloths. Problem was I needed to somehow roll out of the dog bed and that wasn't happening. That got me laughing hysterically as every time I tried I slid back into the bed. He decided to pull me up. Have any of you tried to pull up an over-stuffed sack of sand that only has one good arm and no good knees? Add in a slippery dog bed on a slippy-slidy kitchen floor. Let me assure you, it doesn't work.

C: Ok (gasping for breath), what

Me: I will lay here til I die. Please bring me a pillow and some blankies at night and maybe a little TV to watch. Some food once in a while would be

C: Too bad we didn't put this together in the living room.... You can get traction on the carpet...

Me: THAT'S IT!!! Slide me over to the carpet!! Use the dog bed as a sled! Just don't push on my shoulder blades or shoulders...

So he grabbed the dog bed, I leaned back while holding my legs up as high as I could get them in front of me and he pushed me across the floor with both of us cackling like lunatics until he unceremoniously dumped me out into the living room. From there I could get traction to position myself to get up off

After getting the shelving up into C (starting to laugh): Well, not the room where I needed it, Curmie realized I may want to move a few things around, and left to pick up his script at Walgreen's. The man is many things – stupid is not one on them....







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Rotary's New Member

Cortland Rotary Club proudly welcomes its newest member, Jan Poncar, on right, being presented his membership badge by Dennis Nesbitt, club president, on the left. The presentation was at the 1-14-25 meeting. Rotary has been serving our community for decades. Call a Rotary member today to see how you can help make this the best place in the world to live.







Lou Wollam Chevrolet Donates Guardian Helmet Covers For Lakeview Football

By Mark Novotny

Lou Wollam Chevrolet and the Chevy All-Stars generously sponsored the purchase of ninety Guardian helmet covers for the Lakeview football program. The donation of over \$5000 will allow all football players in grades seven through twelve to wear this protective covering next football season.

The Guardian covers are designed to reduce the impact of head collisions and help reduce the risk of concussions. Steve Prindle, Executive Director at Lou Wollam, said, "Lou Wollam and the Chevy All-Stars try to pick a cause every year that will benefit the community. This year we decided to do the Guardian helmets to help keep the kids safe."

The Lakeview football program will utilize these covers when the season starts next fall, with head coach Ron Dejulio Jr. adding, "We are going to practice with them, at least and what we are hearing from the NFL they're going to reduce head injuries during practice." The Chevy All Stars, Lou Wollam Chevrolet and the Lakeview athletic department are all proud to be partners in bringing the helmets to our kids.

Lou Wollam Used Car Manager Matt Fye added, "A lot of our customer base and current employees go here (Lakeview). There's nothing better than giving back to something and you can go right up the road and see the results."

Cortland Moose Supports Our Community

By Kaitlyn Camp



The Moose Board of officers, with the OH Branch K9 Search and Rescue Team K9 Gibbs.

The Cortland Moose Lodge ended 2024 with 2525 members, donating over \$230,000 back into our

community! \$208,000 were donated to local 501c3 organizations due to the gaming that we have at our facility. The remaining \$27,000 was donated to members in need, baseball & soccer teams, local benefits, Christmas gifts for children and so much more!

Here is the info on the end of year donations we did. We donated \$45,000 to Maplewood, Lakeview & Bristol Schools. \$45,000 to Johnston, Greene & Mecca Fire.



The Cortland Moose donated \$15,000 towards improvements and equipment needed within the Fire Department.

The Moose Board of officers,
Johnston Township Trustee &
Johnston Township Fire Chief.



Platt Insurance Honored With Industry Designations

By Amelia Gavolas

Platt Insurance, a local independent insurance agency in Howland, is proud to announce the significant professional milestones achieved by its team in 2024. Agency Owner Ellie Platt earned the prestigious Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC) designation on December 31 following her completion of a rigorous education program through the Society of Certified Insurance Counselors. This certification reflects Ellie's commitment to excellence in the insurance industry and expertise in areas such as personal and commercial lines, risk management, and agency operations.

In addition, the majority of Platt Insurance agents earned their Certified Insurance Service Representative (CISR) designations in 2024. This certification highlights their comprehensive industry knowledge and dedication to delivering exceptional service to clients. Together, these achievements demonstrate Platt Insurance's focus on professional growth and staying at the forefront of the insurance industry.

Platt Insurance, founded by Ellie Platt in 2011, specializes in auto, home, life, business and farm insurance. With deep roots in the Mahoning Valley, the agency is committed to providing personalized service, innovative solutions, and reliable protection for clients.





Cortland Moose Lodge staff & members gathered at Mosquito Lake to take the Plunge! Together this year's Mosquito Lake Plunge was able to raise \$16,718 to Support Special Olympics Ohio.









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Rev Dave Vensel, Prince of Peace Church



The Light of God's Love

highlights love and its designated holiday. We have just come through the Christmas season, which in the church year is followed by Epiphany, highlighting the Light of God's Love manifest and revealed to the world in Jesus Christ. Hence, the season of Epiphany is known in some circles as the Season of Light, lasting until the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday (or the day after Fat Tuesday, Mardi Gras and the day for pancake and paczki lovers!)

I enjoy the dark of night being illuminated with all the Christmas season house and yard lighting decorations, plus those inside yet visible through windows. It is always a little saddening for me to see darkness suddenly prevailing where those lights had been shining but are now absent. At our house, Christmas lights remain up and on through the day of Epiphany, January 6, the 12th Day of Christmas.

It occurred to me this year, Why not let that Light of God's Love shine all

This issue of The Cortland News year? I'm not talking about the holiday decoration lights. I'm encouraging the Light of God's Love and Life intentionally shine in and through each of us all year.

> The apostle Paul describes that Love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a. The Love that is of God is patient, kind, truthful, bearing believing hoping and enduring all things. It is not envious, arrogant, boastful, rude, selfish, irritable, resentful or wrongful, nor does it remember wrongs. This Love of God, and therefore the Light it shines, is never ending.

> This kind of Love goes beyond momentary or contextual emotion. This Love requires disciplined intentional effort at all times, but as applied and expressed, it can shine lifegiving brightness, hope and experience into lives clouded with the darkest of darknesses. My friends, we can make the entire year a season of illuminating this world with the Light of God's Love as we live and move and have our being. And that, for others and for ourselves, can be very Good News.

Matthew 22:36-40

³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."



Cortland United

Methodist Church

155 N High St

Cortland OH 44410

330-637-2571

CortlandUMC1880@gmail.com

Rev. Jonathan Williams, Pastor

Service 10:00 am Sunday





What Do You Mean You Love me?

strange word, not in its meaning but in the way we use it. Love can be used to convey the highest sense of commitment and care for another human being - "I love you from the bottom of my heart!" But we can turn around and use the word love less sincerely- "I love this hamburger!" What is interesting is that no one thinks the latter when someone tells us they love us. This tells us something about ourselves: we are made to give and receive love.

The Bible tells us that mankind alone is made in God's image. That doesn't mean that we look like God physically, but it means that at our creation, God placed in humanity His characteristics. The Bible is clear that love is one of the most cherished of God's characteristics, for it speaks of His motivation towards mankind. Even non-religious people know John 3:16, which says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in [Jesus] shall not perish but have everlasting life." Jesus spoke these words to Nicodemus, a man seeking truth.

What's interesting about that exchange between Jesus and Nicodemus

The word love in the English is a is Nicodemus was a Pharisee, and Pharisees saw Jesus as their enemy. Jesus turns around and tells Nicodemus He loves Nicodemus, for Nicodemus is part of the world. As you read that exchange in John 3:1-21, Nicodemus is basically asking the question, "How can these things be?"

> Maybe you hear the Bible's message that God loves you and think, "If you only knew how bad I was, you wouldn't say that!" The shocking truth is God knows exactly how bad everyone is, and yet He says, "I love the world so much that I sent My Son to save you!" What makes this message even more amazing is the word for love in the Greek is the word agape (a-gah-pay) and it is the kind of love that is deeper than the love you have for a friend or a spouse. This is a strong, loyal love that is given to people who do not deserve it.

> If you have never experienced this love before, a love that only God can give, let me encourage you to go to church this Sunday and talk to a trusted friend or even a pastor or elder and ask them to show you from the Bible how to know God and experience His love.

Lakeview Outreach And Fellowship (L.O.A.F) Celebrates 2025

By Theresa Hutton

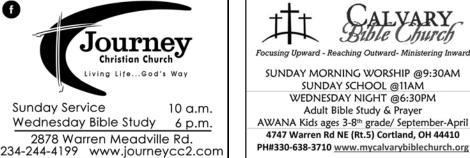
Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship (L.O.A.F) is an interdenominational faith based, spirit filled, fellowship of churches in the Cortland and Bazetta areas since the 1940s. L.O.A.F has continuously strived to extend its impact, bringing people together through love, service, and meaningful connections.

its community engagement through various outreach programs. Some of the key initiatives include Easter Sunrise Service at Mosquito Lake, Vacation Bible School, Stout Scholarship Fund, Booth at the Annual Cortland Street Fair, Community Thanksgiving Service, Adopt-a-Foot Program (for children and youth), Cortland Community Band and Choir Concert, Salvation Army Service Unit, Cortland Area Cares (CAC), Cortland Humanitarian Outreach, American Red Cross Blood Drives.

Each of the eight participating churches are represented by both pastors and lay leaders. L.O.A.F meets the first Thursday of each month at 10 AM at the rotating church within the fellowship. As we move into 2025, the The current churches involved fellowship is committed to deepening include: All Saints Community, Bazetta Christian, Cortland Christian, Cortland Church of the Nazarene, Cortland United Methodist, Prince of Peace Lutheran, Ohio Living Lake Vista and St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church.

> L.O.A.F warmly invites new members and encourages everyone to connect via their Facebook page for updates and further details.





American Pickers To Film In Ohio

to return to Ohio! They plan to film episodes of The History Channel hit television series throughout our area in March, 2025. AMERICAN PICKERS is a documentary series that explores the fascinating world of antique "picking" on The History Channel. The hit show follows skilled pickers in the business, as they hunt for America's most valuable antiques. They are always excited to find historically significant or rare items, in addition to unforgettable Characters and their collections.

As they hit the back roads from coast to coast, the Pickers are on a mission to recycle and rescue forgotten relics. Along the way, they want to meet characters with amazing stories and fun items. They hope to give historically significant objects a new lease on life while learning a thing or two about America's past along the way.

The Pickers have seen a lot of rusty gold over the years and are always looking to discover something they've never seen before. They are ready to find extraordinary items and hear fascinating tales about them.

The American Pickers TV Show

The American Pickers are excited is looking for leads and would love to explore your hidden treasure. If you or someone you know has a unique item, story to tell, and is ready to sell ... we would love to hear from you!

> Please note, the Pickers DO NOT pick stores, flea markets, malls, auction businesses, museums, or anything open to the public. If interested, please send us your name, phone number, location and description of the collection with photos to: americanpickers@cineflix. com or call (646) 493-2184 OR Facebook: @GotAPick



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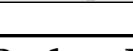
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Church News & Notes

Cortland United Methodist Church Trinity Lutheran Church God Provides A Meal. Saturday, February 15, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. Menu: Lasagna, salad, breadstick, dessert & beverage.

Cortland Christian Church

Soup and Sandwich is on Thursday, February 20th from 11 am-1 pm. Best soups and sandwiches around. Freshly made that day. And a large variety of pies, mostly homemade. Come over dine with us to see what you are missing. Cortland Christian Church on Grove Drive in Cortland. We will be watching for you.

You are invited to join them for Bible Study as we dive into God's Word on Sundays at 9 AM. We are making our way from Genesis to revelation. We are currently going through the book of Exodus.

Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. On Wednesdays we are going through the Book of Romans. We look forward to exploring the Bible together.

Sunday School: On Sundays at 9 AM we have Sunday School for the kids K-12th (preschool if parents stay with child). The children are working on learning the basic Bible Stories and confessions of the Christian faith.

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Sunday Services: 9:00am & 11:00am Men's Bible Study, Womens Bible Study Tuesdays at 8:00 am.

Wildare Church

W/:11

Home Luncheon The Cortland Healthcare Center is

holding a "Staying Healthy at Home" Senior Series luncheon, Tues Feb. 4th, 2025 at 11:00 am. The event is FREE to Seniors. Please Register by calling the facility at 330-638-4015 or by following our link and scanning the QR code. https://www.facebook.com/ CortlandHealthcareCenter

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Lakeview School News

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From The Desk Of The Superintendent

Exciting Changes Coming to Lakeview High School for the 2025-2026 School Year: Preparing Students for the Future Workforce

By Ashley Handrych

As we step into the 2025-2026 school year, we are thrilled to announce a transformative shift in how we prepare our students for success beyond the classroom. Lakeview High School is embracing a new structure that aligns with emerging career fields and strengthens the pathway from education to the workforce. This change is designed to help our students develop the skills, knowledge, and real-world experience needed to thrive in their future careers.

As a District, we've heard from multiple stakeholders that we needed to diversify course offerings and adopt more electives. Our high school administrators and guidance department have worked to make that a reality within the confines of our staffing footprint. The team took a deep dive into our current offerings and how they align with the clusters listed below. They then created academic pathways that will help guide students based on their future interests.

We will begin by adding a course to all of our 7th and 8th graders in the 2025-2026 school year that will allow them to explore career pathways and set them on a course for their high school experience. In order for this to grow, it is imperative that we set the foundation with our students in middle school. Our current high school students that will not have the middle school foundational class can still look forward to several new courses next year. You can review each pathway and course offerings at the following link: www.lakeviewlocal. org/pathways

New Career Clusters for a Changing Workforce

- Agricultural & Environmental
 Systems
- Engineering, Technology, and Transportation

- Health Science and Public fety
- Business, Finance, Accounting, and Law
 - Arts & Communications
- Education, Hospitality, and Human Service

Strengthening Community and Industry Partnerships - Our approach will start in the classroom, but we hope to grow beyond those walls. We know it isn't just about what happens in the classroom. We are committed to creating strong connections with local businesses, industry leaders, and higher education institutions. Through internships, mentorships, career fairs, and guest speaker events, students will gain invaluable insights into their chosen fields and build professional networks that will serve them well after graduation.

We will also continue our strong collaboration with local colleges and technical schools to provide students with dual-credit opportunities, certifications, and direct pathways to higher education and apprenticeships. This ensures that students are not only academically prepared but also careerready by the time they walk across the stage at graduation.

Looking Ahead - The future is bright for Lakeview High School students as we continue to evolve and adapt to the needs of the 21st-century workforce. The career clusters are just one of many exciting developments we have planned for the 2025-2026 school year. Our commitment to excellence in education, combined with a focus on real-world preparedness, will provide students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in whatever path they choose.

We look forward to an exciting and transformative year ahead. Together, we will shape the future leaders of tomorrow.



Michael Danso and Jewelia Figeroa

Michael Danso Wins LES Spelling Bee

By Melissa Kmetz

On Monday, January 6th Lakeview Elementary School held our annual spelling bee. It started the week of December 9th, with all third and fourth grade classes holding individual classroom spelling bees. Classroom bees are 3 rounds long and the two top spellers advanced to the school bee. Each homeroom's spelling bee was three rounds long and took place over three separate days (1 round each day). For each round, the top five spellers received points (the top speller five points, runner up 4 points, 3rd place 3 points, 4th place 2 points and 5th place 1 point). There was a total of 18 students, 10 from third grade and 8 from fourth grade who participated in the School Bee.

3rd grade participants were Meredith Hileman, Lawren Rawl, Jaykob Benton, Caris Ryan, Nora Manovich, Giada Rhodes, Gabrial Miller, James Sutliff, Jack Susa and Everest Esposito.

4th grade participants were Roan Gilliam, Harper Paxton, Kristina Curtis, Jewlia Figeroa, Owen Gill, Kathryn Miller, Michael Danso and Hazel Gramelt.

Miss Kmetz was the spelling bee coordinator and Mrs. Carlotta Sheets from TCECS was the caller. Judges were LES teachers Christy Liber and Crystal Faatz along with Rachael Miksit from TCESC.

Family members of those participating in the school bee were invited to attend. The school bee was broadcast to classrooms in the building

 $Continued\ on\ page\ 9$

Class of 2025 Spotlight Bulldog

By Michael DeToro

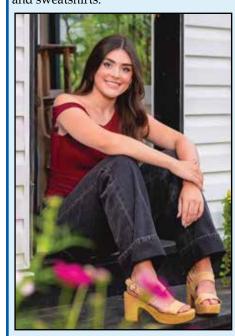
This tri-weekly installment will spotlight an outstanding graduating senior at Lakeview High School. Each showcased student will be someone who represents their family, Lakeview Schools, and most importantly, our Bazetta/Cortland community with integrity, commitment, and loyalty.

This issue's Spotlight Bulldog is Addison Nicholas, an outstanding student and the daughter of Jason and Jennifer Nicholas. Addison has been a proud member of the Lakeview community since kindergarten and is a valedictorian candidate for this year's graduating class. Academically, Addison excels in a mixture of high school and College Credit Plus courses through Youngstown State University, consistently demonstrating mastery and excellence. Beyond the classroom, Addison was a letter winner for the varsity golf team and is an active participant in the National Honor Society.

When she's not studying or golfing, you might find Addison working at Northwood Golf Course in Champion. Looking ahead, Addison plans to pursue a degree in engineering at either Miami University or The Ohio State University.

Get to know Addison better with a quick 60-second rapid-fire interview.

- 1.) What is something that you do exceptionally well? Time management. I prioritize my time and get stuff done promptly.
- 2.) What is your favorite part of the Lakeview Local School District? I like the closeness between the teachers and students because it helps us learn and makes us excited to come to school.
- 3.) Where is your favorite place to eat in Bazetta/Cortland? I love Brother's pizza
- 4.) Where is your favorite place to hang out in Bazetta/Cortland? The lake. I like to be there with my friends.
- 5.) Describe your fashion style. I definitely like to dress comfortably in school and be relaxed in sweatpants and sweatshirts.



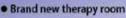
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Applications Open For Lakeview High School Athletic Hall Of Fame Class Of 2025

By Mike DeToro

Did you know that in 1913, Cortland High School student Howard Ward won the OHSAA state championships in discus, shot put, and the 120-yard hurdles? Or that 1975 Lakeview High School graduate Steve James earned OHSAA state championships in discus three years in a row as a sophomore, junior, and senior? And did you know that 1977 Lakeview High School graduate Vicki Lawrence was an all-state basketball player who went on to a stellar collegiate career at Youngstown State University?

These remarkable athletes are proud members of the Lakeview High School Athletic Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame honors former students, coaches, teams, and community members who have made significant contributions to the athletic programs at Bazetta, Cortland, or Lakeview High Schools. By celebrating these achievements, the group aims to preserve the rich tradition of Bazetta, Cortland, and Lakeview High Schools and inspire future generations to pursue excellence. After a hiatus since 2010, Lakeview's new superintendent, Ashley Handrych,

has taken the initiative to revive the Hall of Fame. She has organized a committee comprising of alumni, school administrators, and former teachers and coaches. This team is committed to inducting multiple "catch-up" classes over the next few years, with additional classes being added on a cyclical basis.

Applications are now being accepted for the Lakeview High School Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2025. Inductees will be celebrated during an induction weekend that includes recognition before the varsity football game and a post-game mixer on Friday, September 12, 2025.

The celebration will continue with an awards dinner on Saturday, September 13, 2025, at DiLucia's Banquet & Catering Facility. Nomination forms can be accessed online at lakeviewlocal. org/athletics or through the district's Facebook page.

The deadline for nominations is April 15, 2025. For more information, please contact the Lakeview High School Athletic Department at (330) 637-8821

Lakeview BOE Sets New Meeting Day

The Lakeview Board of Education has changed their monthly meetings to the 4th Monday of each month at 6 PM. They meet at the LHS Media Center. The next meeting will be February 24.

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LES Spelling Bee ... continued from page 8

so all students at LES could watch.

Fourth grader Michael Danso emerged as the winner with 4th grader Jewlia Figeroa as the Runner Up. Danso said that practice was the key to his success and recommended that all students practice as much as they can. "I practiced a lot with my Mom and it really helped" he said.

Figeroa was eliminated with the word 'velvet'. "I knew how to spell it but just forgot at the moment" she said. When Danso was able to correctly spell it along with an additional word, he became the Champion.

Kathryn Miller, 4th grade, went out on the word 'chuckle'. Like others, she said she knew how to spell the word but just couldn't do it an the moment. "I practiced a lot and it really helped."

Caris Ryan, a 3rd grader was eliminated on the word 'partner' even though she had practiced with her Mom and also knew the word.

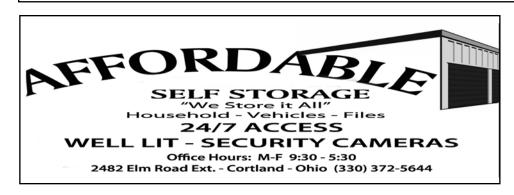
"The students all took this so seriously. They really worked hard and practiced a lot" said Kmetz. "During the classroom bees there was absolute silence and a lot of respect for the process. The students supported and consoled each other throughout the entire process. All of the teachers are so proud of all the students and the effort and maturity they showed."

As the winner of the Lakeview Elementary Spelling Bee, Danso will advance to the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee at Stambaugh Auditorium on March 1st. The winner of that bee will advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC.



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THE WI\$E INVESTORS

By Guidelight Financial Group



New Savings Opportunities: Changes Coming to 401(k)s in 2025

Congress passed the Secure 2.0 Act in 2022 to expand saving opportunities for individuals who have access to savings vehicles like 401(k)s and workplace savings plans. Several of the bill's provisions go into effect in 2025 and if you're like many workers, your 401(k) or workplace savings plan is likely the foundation of your retirement savings strategy. Explore the changes happening to 401(k)s below to determine if your retirement savings strategy may be affected.

Expanded standard contribution limits for all. For those that are able to "max out" their workplace savings plan, there is an increased contribution limit in 2025. Employees of any age will have the ability to save up to \$23,500 (or 100% of their income, whichever is less) in their 401(k) plan. This is a \$500 increase over the 2024 contribution limit1.

Special rules for those ages 60 to 63. Under SECURE 2.0 Act provisions, 2025 brings new savings limits for those who turn age 60, 61, 62, or 63 by the end of the calendar year if their plans offer catch-up contributions. Individuals in this age segment can take advantage of a new, special catch-up contribution limit that enhances their savings opportunity. Rather than the standard \$7,500 catch-up contribution, those ages 60-63 can save \$11,250 in 20251.

The new savings limits create an important opportunity, particularly

for those who later in life might be in a financial position to dedicate larger sums toward retirement savings. For those ages 60-63, total 2025 401(k) contributions top out at \$34,7502. The special catch-up provision means someone turning 60 in 2025 could set aside close to \$140,000 in tax-deferred retirement savings over a critical four-year period. Once you turn 64, the standard catch-up contribution limit of \$7,500 again applies. Talk to your financial advisor to determine if taking advantage of these increased contributions limits makes sense for your retirement plan.

Automatic enrollment. SECURE 2.0 Act provisions expand automatic enrollment in 401(k) and 403(b) plans to companies that have employees who are not already enrolled. Under the rules, plans established on or after Dec. 29, 2022 must, in 2025, implement an automatic enrollment feature. This means that employees, by default, will be enrolled to participate in the plan. The minimum automatic enrollment contribution percentage for 401(k) or 403(b) plans is 3% of annual income and cannot exceed 10%. It also requires that the amount deferred into the plan increase by 1% per year until the 10% deferral level is reached 2. Employees can choose to opt out of plan participation, but this automatic enrollment feature is set to encourage employees to take advantage of workplace retirement savings plans. Check with your employer to see if the automatic enrollment feature will affect your contributions.

Determining how much to set aside for retirement and in what types of savings vehicles is best decided through careful planning. The start of a new year is a great time to consider if you want to change or start contributions to these types of accounts. Discuss your retirement strategy with your financial advisor and consult with a tax professional on all tax-related matters.

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ON COUR

Navigating your Insurance Needs





Life Insurance Basics

By Jill Freeman

The beginning of the year is good time to look at financial circumstances and consider if changes need to be made. There are many reasons you may want to consider a life insurance policy. Life insurance is meant to replace income and/or cover expenses that are left when a person passes. Some things to consider:

- Are there family members that rely on your income for housing, food, utilities, childcare, etc.?
- Do you have outstanding debts that would need to be paid?
 - *Are your funeral costs covered?*

There are many different types of life insurance with varying costs and terms that can be designed to meet individual needs. Typically, the younger and healthier you are when you first purchase a policy, the less you will pay for that policy. There are three main types of life insurance: Term, Whole and Universal Life.

Term life insurance is typically the least expensive option. However, these policies usually have an initial period, such as 10 or 20 years, during which the rate remains the same and after that time the rates can increase as you age. With Term Life, the benefit is generally only paid upon the death of the insured with no other benefits or cash value to the policy.

Whole and Universal life insurance are more expensive options, but the rates will typically not increase, and most policies will build up a cash value that can be accessed if the policy is surrendered prior to death. Universal life differs from whole life in that the premium payments can be flexible if the policy is funded properly. Both policies will remain in effect for life without loss of coverage if premiums are paid

timely. These policies can be tailored to individual needs through add-on options or "riders". Some examples of riders would be a benefit where premiums are paid automatically if vou become terminally ill, or if there is a cash value built up with the policy, you could choose to have the premiums paid from that cash value instead of making payments.

Some parents or grandparents will purchase whole life policies for children that can be transferred to the child when they become an adult. The main benefit in doing this, is that the policy premiums are based on the child's age and health when purchased and therefore lower and more reasonable than they would be for someone older. Once transferred, the policy can be maintained throughout life without the higher premium that is incurred when a policy is purchased at an older age.

There is a lot of television advertising for "Final Expense Insurance". This is a type of whole life insurance. It is usually purchased by someone who is over 50 and is intended to be used to cover burial and other final expenses. There are different types of policies, but the approval process is usually streamlined and easier than other life insurance policies. Benefit amounts are typically smaller (\$5,000 - \$25,000) and just enough to cover final expenses. The premiums are designed for people on a fixed budget with consistent and controlled costs that are paid monthly until the time of death.

Jill Freeman is a licensed insurance agent with Wiley Insurance Services, located at 3470 Warren Meadville Rd, Cortland. She can be reached at 234-244-4014 or JFreeman.WileyInsurance@gmail.com.

Pawz & Pours Dog Rescue Raffle **Fundraiser At Birdfish Brewery**

By Nate Mazur

All About the Pawz Dog Rescue, a and meet some dogs. Thank you for local dog shelter and rescue group based out of Youngstown, will be hosting their Rescue! 2nd Pawz & Pours fundraiser event at Birdfish Brewery in Columbiana on Sunday February 23rd from 1:00 to 7:00 PM.

The event will feature a basket raffle, a "Getaway" raffle with several hotel stay prizes, as well as dog goodie bag and T-shirt sales. Dogs are welcome to attend, and there will be a Bark Bar set up to serve bone broth based "puptails" for the dogs.

Live music will be performed by local band Late Night Drive from 2:00 to 5:00 PM. Red Rican Food truck will serving authentic and delicious Puerto Rican food as well. Adoptable dogs from All About the Pawz will be making appearances throughout the day.

Birdfish Brewery is generously donating \$1 for every beer poured to All About the Pawz.

Please stop out and check out the raffle, grab a beer, listen to some music supporting All About the Pawz Dog



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Prom Dresses Needed

By Becky Bucco

When you do your New Year cleaning and run across gentle worn fancy Prom and Homecoming dresses, shoes, jewelry, or purses, GFWC Ohio Warren Junior Women's League and Champion Schools are accepting donations for their "Bling Prom Boutique" in Spring 2025. This is a free prom dress event in its eighth year providing dresses, shoes, jewelry, purses, and makeup free to high school young ladies in Tri-county area.

If you have items to donate, Text msg Becky at 330 720 8995 or drop off at Champion high school.



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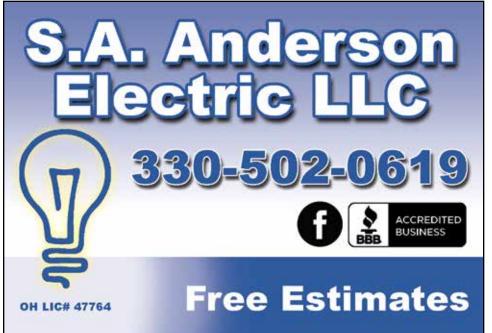


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Just The Facts

The flags were at half-staff in January in honor of ?

- a. Valentine's Day
- b. Jimmy Carter
- c. Peace Officers
- d. Firefighters

Find the answer at the bottom.

eNews

The city issues a weekly e-News (email) with events happening in our community and news items as well as agendas for City Council and Planning & Zoning Commission meetings. You can subscribe at the bottom of our website www.cityofcortland.org or by sending an email to admin@cityofcortland.org.

Communication

When the city has news advisories such as parking bans or boil alerts, we communicate in the following ways:

- Notice on the Community Sign in front of Speedway
- Notice on our website www. cityofcortland.org

- Notify local media outlets
- E-mail to our e-news subscribers
- City of Cortland Police and Fire Department Facebook Pages

Parking

The city makes every effort to keep our roads safe during winter storms. Even if a parking ban has not been issued, residents can help our plow drivers and keep the roads safer by not parking on the street until the snow has been removed.

Dates to Remember

Feb. 3rd - City Council - 7 p.m. Feb. 10th - Planning & Zoning - 7 p.m. Feb. 17th - Presidents Day - City Offices

Feb. 19th - City Council - 7 p.m.

Answer

b. Jimmy Carter. The United States flags were flown at half-staff in honor of the life and legacy of our 39th President until sunset on January 28th, 2025.

Museum Of Science Fiction & Fantasy Arts Inaugural Exhibit: "Sci-Fi + Hollywood: The Art of John Zabrucky"

By Beth Carmichael

The Museum of Science Fiction and Fantasy Arts is thrilled to announce the opening of its first exhibit, "Sci-Fi + Hollywood: The Art of John Zabrucky," hosted at the beautiful Medici Museum of Art. This groundbreaking exhibit will showcase the extraordinary work of John Zabrucky, a renowned artist whose visionary designs have shaped the world of science fiction and fantasy in Hollywood.

The exhibit will feature a stunning collection of Zabrucky's iconic artwork, including original sketches, concept art, and props from some of the most beloved sci-fi and fantasy films and television series. Visitors will have the unique opportunity to explore the "behind the scenes" craftsmanship of their favorite movies and shows, gaining insight into the artistry and imagination that bring these fantastical worlds to life.

"We are incredibly excited to launch our first exhibit with John Zabrucky's donation and the catalyst for the new museum," said Meghan Reed, Executive Director of the Trumbull County Historical Society and the Museum of Science Fiction and Fantasy Arts. "His contributions to the genre are unparalleled, and we are honored to present his art to the public in Warren, his hometown and the Medici

Museum of Art."

Katelyn Amendolara-Russo, Director of the Medici, says, "The Medici Museum's contemporary art setting provides a perfect backdrop for this exhibit. The fusion of modern artistic expression with the imaginative world of science fiction allows visitors to experience these iconic props and settings in a new and exciting way."

The exhibition runs through June 28, 2025.

In conjunction with the Sci-Fi + Hollywood exhibit, the Medici will also unveil "Alex Garant: Mirages." This exhibit showcases the mesmerizing work of Alex Garant, an esteemed Canadian Contemporary Figurative OP Artist renowned as the Queen of Double Eyes. Garant's unique style, characterized by hypnotic, multi-eyed portraits, challenges viewers to explore the boundaries of perception and reality. Her intricate and captivating pieces promise to offer an unforgettable visual experience, making "Mirages" a must-see for art enthusiasts and curious minds alike.

Both exhibits have been curated by Alex Jesko, Curator of the Medici Museum of Art. Entrance to the museum and exhibition is free, and contributions are always appreciated.



The Santa Clause

By Kim Starcher



Monica Szilagyi and Kim Starcher

A donation/fundraiser was held recently called "The Santa Clause" in honor of "Jimmy Szilagyi" who was a student at Maplewood High School. Jimmy was a Junior when he tragically lost his life in 2006 in a fatal car accident. His parents "Jim and Monica" have held several fundraising events in 'Jimmys" memory. They included Golf Outings, Spaghetti Dinners, Chinese Auctions and even a Paint & Sip. The proceeds from those events went to Scholarships, Epilepsy Awareness and Ohio Special Olympics.

This year Monica wanted to do something for his High School. So she reached out to Kim Starcher who is an employee at that school and asked her where they had a need and what they needed the most of. Kim runs the Food Pantry, the Hygiene Pantry and the School Supply Pantry all out of her classroom, so she let Monica know exactly what was needed. So the two of them reached out to Social Media and their friends and family to raise funds and items for Maplewood High School. All supplies will be distributed into the proper pantry where they belong, then the students will be able to utilize those pantries as needed. "Jimmy" was a student at Maplewood when he sadly lost his life, but his parents wanted his legacy to live on through these donations in honor of him. His picture now hangs proudly in the classroom where the pantries are located, so that he can look upon the students that he so gratefully donated to.

May "Jimmy" always be proud of who he was and proud of what his parents have done for him to keep his memory alive here at Maplewood High

Kilpatrick Wins Punter-Of-The-Year

By Brenda DeMonica

Brendon Kilpatrick, Lakeview alumnus and Youngstown State student-athlete, University has been honored by being named the 2024 FCS (Football Championship Subdivision) Punter-of-the-Year. This national recognition was awarded by the Augusta Sports Council Board of Directors.

The six-foot-two standout National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division 1 player's strong leg has kicked him into the record books. Brendon's 2024 season at YSU was filled with success. His longest punt was an amazing 65 yards, which he accomplished in two games. He also boomed an average punt of a notably long 46 yards. How many times did he succeed with kicks of 50-plus yards? An impressive fourteen times.

Not just numbers - in addition to statistics, award criteria include leadership, self-discipline and positive contributions to team success. At Stambaugh Stadium and away, this dedicated YSU Penguin fills two critical roles: punter and holder.

Son of Lakeview alumnus Kyle Kilpatrick and his wife Pam, Brendon has always loved sports. Prior to joining YSU's roster, his football journey began with Youngstown Youth Flag Football Association and Lakeview Little Bulldogs, followed by punting and kicking for Lakeview High School (2017-2020). A multi-sport athlete, he earned varsity letters in football, baseball, basketball and soccer.

A Valedictorian for Lakeview's class of 2021, Kilpatrick's off the commitment to academics

continues. He will graduate in 2025 from the YSU James and Coralie Centofanti School of Nursing with a Bachelor of Science, a degree also earned by his older brother Bailey. Just like a punter, nurses must perform well in high-pressure situations requiring mental toughness, consistency and accuracy.

The future is bright for this Cortland native who proudly wears YSU's #40 jersey and kicks with precision. Kilpatrick will be presented with his Punter-of-the Year award in Augusta, Georgia later this year.



LES Teacher Named "Teacher Of The Month"

LES teacher Christy Liber was named January's 'Teacher of the Month' by Howland business Caleena & Company. According to Rachel Vince, who represents Caleena & Co., they wanted to recognize area teachers for their hard work, dedication and the many things they do to develop our children and prepare them for life.

A contest was held nominating several area teachers and Ms. Liber was the winner. She has been teaching and changing lives for 23 years. Caleena awarded her several prizes to show their thanks.

LES principal Eddie Mackiewicz said "Christy's Teacher of the Month award is a testament to her unwavering dedication to her students. Her passion for teaching shines brightly in the classroom, fostering a love of learning in each child. Lakeview Elementary appreciates her commitment and the positive impact she makes on our students every single day."

Congratulations to Christy - and thank you for changing lives everyday.



Rachel Vince of Caleena 7 Co., Christy Liber and Eddie Mackiewicz.



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SALLIE MAE Sallie Mae is a gorgeous young female



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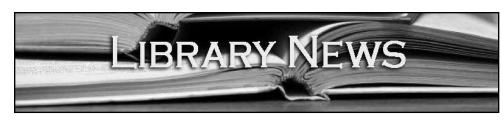
Trumbull County Travel Club

By Peggy Boyd

The Travel Club presents "Light Houses, Beaches, Islands & History beginning April 23-28, 2025. First on tap is the port city of Norfolk, Virginia featuring the Nauticus, a cruise and the International Tattoo Military Show.

Three days on the Outer Banks of North Carolina stopping in the Wright Brothers, light houses and a dune jeep ride to see the wild horses. Call 330-609-3971 for a detailed flyer Limited seats remain on this spring vacation.





Cortland Library February Events

By Apryl Gilliss

Upcoming Closings

Presidents' Day All Warren-Trumbull County Public Library locations and services will be closed on Monday, Feb. 17, for Presidents' Day. This includes the libraries in Brookfield, Cortland, Howland, Liberty, Lordstown, and Warren; the Bookmobile; and outreach services.

Toddler Tales

Mondays at 10 a.m.: Feb. 3, 10, 24 A fun and active story time for toddlers ages 19 - 35 months with a parent or caregiver. Free.

Preschool Storytime

Tuesdays at 10 a.m.: Feb. 4, 11, 25 Preschool story time features stories, songs, and movement activities and reinforces the development of early literacy skills. For children ages 3 - 5 with a parent or caregiver. Free.

Midweek Mayhem

Wednesdays at 3 p.m.: Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26 Teens ages 12 - 18 can enjoy games, activities, and a small snack at the library's weekly teen hangout! Free.

Homework Hangout

Thurs., Feb. 6 from 3 – 4 p.m. Teens ages 12 - 18 can take time to study, read, or write that paper while listening to calming music and sipping tea! Free.

For the Love of Chocolate

Mon., Feb. 10 from 4 - 5 p.m. Teens ages 12 - 18 can try various types of chocolate candy and chocolate desserts. Registration is required by Feb. 3. To sign up, call (330) 638-6335. Free.

Teen Advisory Board

Tues., Feb. 11 from 4 – 5:30 p.m. Teens ages 12 - 18 can join the Teen Advisory Board to share what they'd like to see at the library, earn service hours, and collaborate on creative ideas. Free.

Family Trivia Night

Thurs., Feb. 13 from 6 - 7 p.m. Come as a family to test your knowledge of fun facts and figures. Each family will compete as a team, and everyone will leave with prizes! For families with children ages 3 and older. Free.

Teen Yoga and Mindfulness

Thurs., Feb. 20 from 3 - 4 p.m. Teens ages 12 - 18 can bring their own mat or use one from the library for this relaxing yoga and meditation session. Registration is required by Feb. 18. To sign up, call (330) 638-6335. Free.

Family Crafternoon

Sat., Feb. 22 between 2:30 - 4 p.m. Families with children ages 3 and older can let their imaginations run wild and make creative projects to take home. Call (330) 638-6335 or stop by the library a week before the event to find out what projects will be offered. Free.

Only Murders in the Library

Mon., Feb. 24 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. This discussion group focuses on a true crime topic, with the case being selected from group members' suggestions. The group will use and share resources such as books, articles, and podcasts.

Totally Tweens

Tues., Feb. 25 from 3 - 4 p.m. Tweens in grades 5 – 8 can let their creative juices flow with crafts and activities at the library. Free

Scout Troop Pancake Breakfast On Saturday Feb. 1st

The next charity fund-raiser pancake breakfast will be held on Saturday, February 1st, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am at the Cortland Masonic Lodge located at 3263 Everett-Hull Rd. (E. Main St.) in Cortland.

The breakfast will benefit Champion Boy Scout Troop 4025. The charity breakfasts are held monthly by the Masonic Lodge, which donates all the meal supplies so that 100% of the proceeds can be donated to a local charity.

As of the two charity breakfasts held last month, a total of nearly \$64,000 has been raised by the lodge for local charities since the breakfasts were initiated about 4 years ago.

The "all you can eat" breakfast costs \$9.00 for adults, and \$6.00 for youth aged 6 to 10, and FREE for any children age 5 and under. Included are pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice, and coffee, with take-outs available.







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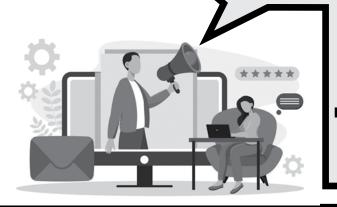
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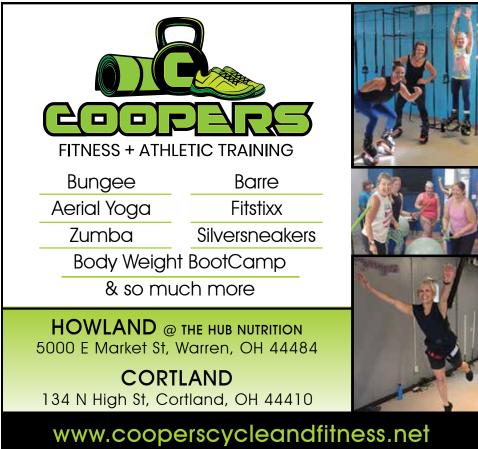


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