

# Cortland NEWS

*"The Good News Newspaper"*

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Serving the Lakeshore Communities

## Celebrating Women's History Month: Honoring The Legacy And Achievements Of Women

By Alex Irman

March marks the celebration of Women's History Month, a dedicated time to honor the remarkable contributions and achievements of women throughout history. This month-long observance provides an opportunity to recognize the impact women have had on society, culture and progress in various fields, highlighting their enduring legacy and continued influence.

The origins of Women's History Month can be traced back to 1981 when Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28, authorizing and requesting the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982, as "Women's History Week." Over the years, this observance expanded to the entire month of March, formally recognized in 1987 following strong advocacy and support from various women's organizations and scholars.

Each year Women's History Month adopts a specific theme to focus on different aspects of women's experiences and achievements. The 2025 theme, "Women Who Tell Our Stories," emphasizes the vital role



women have played in storytelling and the preservation of history through literature, journalism, oral traditions and digital media. From renowned authors like Maya Angelou and Virginia Woolf to pioneering journalists like Ida B. Wells and Nellie Bly, women have shaped narratives, challenged societal norms and inspired generations with their voices and perspectives.

Women's History Month also serves as a platform to acknowledge the ongoing struggles women face in their pursuit of equality and justice. Despite

significant progress, challenges such as gender-based discrimination, pay disparity and underrepresentation in leadership positions persist. This month encourages reflection on these issues and fosters dialogue on how to create a more inclusive and equitable society.

Celebrating Women's History Month involves various activities and events, from educational programs and panel discussions to exhibitions and performances. Schools, libraries, museums, and community organizations come together to highlight women's

achievements and contributions, ensuring that their stories are remembered and cherished. Moreover, social media campaigns and online resources provide a global platform for sharing inspiring stories and raising awareness about women's history.

As we commemorate Women's History Month, let us honor the women who have paved the way for future generations and continue to advocate for progress and equality. Their resilience, courage, and determination serve as a powerful reminder that the pursuit of gender equality is not only a women's issue but a collective endeavor that benefits all of humanity.

By celebrating the achievements of women, we not only pay tribute to their past contributions but also inspire future generations to strive for a world where gender equality is a reality. Women's History Month is a time to reflect on the progress made, acknowledge the work that still needs to be done, and commit to creating a more just and inclusive society for all.

## Lakeview Alumni Jake Reid Named Executive Of The Year In MLS

By Constance Amstutz

An individual's success cannot be measured by a single action, but rather by continuous and persistent efforts throughout a period of time. As quoted by Aristotle, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit."

It is evident by awards and achievements alone, Jake Reid has set a precedence for what it takes to be a leader, innovator, and visionary. His most recent award, as the Sporting Kansas City's President and CEO, Jake was named the Doug Hamilton Major League Soccer's Executive of the Year

for 2024. This award has been given since 1996 and is a prestigious honor.

When Jake joined Sporting KC's front office as an executive in 2010 as Vice President of Sales, his dedication to growth was evident, ultimately leading him to become, at the time, the youngest President in MLS in 2016 at the age of 33. Although it may seem success comes more naturally for some, the hard work and consistent efforts to reach such an achievement started at a young age.

Growing up here in Cortland, Jake was raised by his parents, Duncan and Linda Reid, who still reside in Cortland. Jake and his brother, Jonathan, graduated from Lakeview High School where Jake was a member of the National

Honor Society. He played on Lakeview's basketball team which in his senior year went to the Sweet 16. After graduating from Lakeview, Jake continued his education and basketball career at Grove City College in Pennsylvania. Although he did not maintain playing basketball his entire college career, this was a pivotal moment transitioning Jake on the path he is today.

"I grew up loving sports, playing sports, I played in college for a couple of years," shared Jake. "I thought, if I can't play professionally, I might as well work in sports."

Duncan specifically remembers when Jake came home and shared his vision of where he would be heading.

"Jacob started at Grove City in Electrical Engineering. One weekend, he came home and said he was going to be the President of a Professional Sports team," says Duncan.

After graduating from Grove City College, Jake went to Game Face in Oregon where he took an accelerated two-week program to teach him how to work in selling tickets for sports. This transitioned him to land his first job with the professional basketball team, the Hornets, in New Orleans.

Starting from the bottom working on commission only, Jake eventually moved to working for the Charlotte Bobcats. An opportunity arose in 2008 that led Jake to the United Kingdom where he was the Ticket Sales Manager for a Football Club. Although this giant leap of faith across the pond could have resulted in a thousand different outcomes, Jake ultimately received the request to join Sporting KC in 2010 as the Vice President of Sales, bringing him and his wife, Danielle, back to the states. What started out as what could be a temporary relocation evolved into a trajectory of growth. "I'm in year fifteen of my three-year plan in Kansas City," joked Reid. And when considering where the next five to ten years could take him, Jake shared he has no plans to move on anytime soon. "I love what I'm



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## CORTLAND CITY

CITYOFCORTLAND.ORG

|                        |              |                                    |              |
|------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Mayor .....            | 330-637-4003 | <b>POLICE/FIRE EMERGENCY .....</b> | <b>911</b>   |
| City Hall .....        | 330-637-3916 | Dispatch .....                     | 330-675-2730 |
| Fax .....              | 330-637-4778 | Police - Business .....            | 330-638-1000 |
| Clerk of Council ..... | 330-638-0142 | Fire - Business .....              | 330-637-2891 |
| Service Director ..... | 330-637-4637 |                                    |              |

### MEETINGS

**CITY COUNCIL**  
 First and Third Monday of each month.  
 Monday, March 3 - 7 p.m.  
 Wednesday, March 17 - 7 p.m.

**PARKS AND RECREATION**  
 Second Monday of each month  
 Monday, March 10 - 5:30 p.m.

**CORTLAND CITY COUNCIL**  
 Read the minutes from  
 Cortland City Council meetings at  
 www.cityofcortland.org under City  
 Council Minutes.

**PLANNING & ZONING**  
 Second Monday of each month  
 Monday, March 10 - 7 p.m.

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

## BAZETTA TOWNSHIP

BAZETTATWP.ORG

|  |                     |                                     |              |
|--|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Admin Building .....</b>              | <b>330-637-8816</b> | <b>FIRE - POLICE - RESCUE .....</b> | <b>911</b>   |
| 3372 State Route 5 ...fax:               | 330-637-4588        | <b>Police Department .....</b>      | 330-638-5503 |
| <b>Trustees, Clerk, Zoning Inspector</b> |                     | <b>Fire Station #11 .....</b>       | 330-637-4136 |
| <b>and Cemetery Sexton .....</b>         | 330-637-8816        | 3000 Warren Meadville Rd            |              |
| <b>Road Department .....</b>             | 330-637-8311        | <b>Non Emergency Calls ...</b>      | 330-675-2730 |

### BAZETTA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular meetings the second Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise noted.  
 Tuesday, March 11 - 7 p.m.  
 A 60 minute caucus with department heads preceding.

Meetings held via ZOOM. Visit [www.bazettatwp.org](http://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, March 24 - 6 p.m.

## Area Service Clubs

|   |              |  |              |
|---|--------------|--|--------------|
| <b>Bazetta Cortland Optimist Club</b>                   |              | <b>Four Seasons Garden Club</b>                |              |
| Steve Rock .....  | 330-240-1634 | Nancy Finlay .....                             | 330-637-8931 |
| <b>Cortland Bazetta Historical Society &amp; Museum</b> |              | <b>Johnston Senior Center</b>                  |              |
| Sally Lane .....  | 330-638-2330 | Jim Bacorn .....                               | 330-924-0412 |
| <b>Cortland Lions Club</b>                              |              | <b>Warren City Federation of Women's Clubs</b> |              |
| Dawna Wiland .....                                      | 330-219-9852 | Terri Crabbs .....                             | 330-637-3845 |
| <b>Cortland Masonic Lodge</b>                           |              | <b>American Assoc of University Women</b>      |              |
| Chuck Chagnot .....                                     | 330-307-3405 | Ruth Bradshaw .....                            | 330-307-1151 |
| <b>Cortland Moose Lodge</b>                             |              | <b>League of Woman Voters</b>                  |              |
| Bill Bartholomew .....                                  | 330-637-9957 | Peggy Boyd .....                               | 330-856-5398 |
| <b>Cortland Rotary Club</b>                             |              | <b>Cortland Area Cares</b>                     |              |
| Dennis Nisbett .....                                    | 330-719-8629 | Donna Kittle .....                             | 330-637-0821 |
| <b>Cortland SCOPE</b>                                   |              | <b>Friends of the Cortland Library</b>         |              |
| Terri Donahue .....                                     | 330-980-5363 | (Cheryl Bush or Karen Murphy) ..               | 330-637-2717 |
| <b>Cortland Opal CH 181, O.E.S</b>                      |              | <b>Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship</b>        |              |
| Carla Kahler .....                                      | 330-856-2356 | (LOAF) .....                                   | 330-720-9136 |
| <b>The Opera House (Event Rentals)</b>                  |              |  |              |
| Maribeth Albu .....                                     | 330-219-1488 |  |              |

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

### Our Next Issue ... March 15, 2025

Our theme will be

Springtime

Article Deadline by Mar 3 • Display Advertising Deadline is Mar 5  
 Email articles to [editor@cortlandnews.net](mailto: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.*

### Cortland News SELF SERVE Paper Box Locations

Tr. Co. Health Dept    4 Star Diner    Vasilios  
 Lakeside Sport Shop    Top Notch Diner

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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](mailto:editor@cortlandnews.net)

Display and classified advertising and photographs to:  
[sales@cortlandnews.net](mailto: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.*



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*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](http://www.lakeviewlocal.org).

American Red Cross blood donations, various dates. [www.redcrossblood.org](http://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.

### FEBRUARY

22 Warren Women's Club Vegas Luncheon / 11 AM

### MARCH

1 Charity Breakfast / Cortland Masonic Lodge / Benefiting Scout Troop 28  
9-11:30 AM

1 Warren Women's Club Vegas Luncheon / 11 AM

5 The Upton Association "First Wednesday" / Speaker Corane Ladd  
Victorian Women / 10 AM

6 Blood Drive / Maplewood High School / 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

7 Cortland Church of the Nazarene's Monthly Breakfast / 8 AM

8 Small Business Expo / Hosted by NEO Promotions / Benefiting the  
Northeast Ohio Adoption Service / First Baptist Church of Howland / 10 - 5

10 & 11 9th Annual "Bling Prom Boutique" / GFWC Ohio Warren Junior  
Women's League & Champion Schools / in the Flash Zone / 5-7 PM

15 Charity Breakfast / Cortland Masonic Lodge / Benefiting the  
Jobes Daughters -- Rainbow Girls / 9-11:30 AM

18 Blood Drive / Cortland United Methodist Church / 12 - 5:30 PM

19 Cortland United Methodist Church Drive thru Dinner / 4:30 - 6 PM

19 Trumbull Town Hall Celebrity Series / Louis Masur, Authority on  
Abraham Lincoln / Packard Music Hall / 10 AM

22 Blood Drive / Fowler Community Church / 10 AM

22 Tails Of Hope Fund Raiser - 3rd Annual Breakfast at Kittenys / 10 AM

## Business News and Notes

By Thom Foley

**Champion Tax and Insurance** is your year round place to go for insurance and taxes. They have decades of experience helping families like yours.

**Music 101 & Girt's Cortland Music101** are proud to welcome our 2 newest Private Music instructors Ms. Andrea Richards, and Mr Cody Daniel to our team. Now accepting new private band instrument, guitar, piano and voice students. Love music? We do too! Ready to learn? Come join us - It's never too late to play! We're ready to help you reach your goals. We teach all instruments, ages, and levels.

**JoMaries School Of Dance and Gymnastics** has a Spring Special on their Ninja Warrior Room and Gymnastics. You can get 6 weeks of classes for only \$75. Call for details.

**Cortland Mower** has 2 big sales going on at once. They are clearing out the winter equipment - the snow isn't done yet! AND they are getting a jump on spring with some great specials on mowers and other outdoor equipment.

**Totally Dog** has a great offer - check out their ad in this issue.

It's Tax Time and that means its time to call the experts at **Black Cat Taxes LLC**. Let the pros do your returns for you.



## 6th Annual Citywide Garage Sale

The 6th Annual Citywide Garage Sale is scheduled for June 13-14. Registration includes address on our sale list, advertisement in Tribune and on our interactive map. If you live in Cortland you are required to have a permit which you will have to obtain yourself. We are no longer permitted to get your permit for you. Keep in mind that City Ordinance prohibits more than 3 days per sale. Registration will begin May 1 and end May 31. For more information email [Cortlandohgaragesale@gmail.com](mailto:Cortlandohgaragesale@gmail.com) or check the facebook page [www.facebook.com/groups/44410garagesale/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/44410garagesale/)



## Cortland Blood Drives

The American Red Cross announces these upcoming blood drives in our area.

- Thursday, March 6, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Maplewood High School, 2414 Greenville Road, Cortland, Gymnasium.

- Tuesday, March 18, 12:00 PM - 5:30 PM, Cortland United Methodist Church, 155 N. High Street, Cortland, Fellowship Hall

- Saturday, March 22, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Fowler Community Church, 4665 Wilson Sharpville Rd., Cortland, Fellowship Hall

## Upton Association Speaker Series

By Bonnie Hood

The Upton Association will kick off their 2025 "First Wednesday" speaker series on March 5th at the Upton House. The speaker will be Corane Ladd, a retired teacher from the Burton school district. Her program will be "Six Victorian Women of Genius" and will examine the lives of women who achieved greatness in an age when females were denied a formal education. These women stepped outside the boundaries of the restrictive life imposed on Victorian women and their influence is felt to this day.

Refreshments will be served at 9:30, and the free program begins at 10:00. The Upton is located at 380 Mahoning Avenue in Warren. For more information, call 330-395-1840 or visit us at [www.uptonhouse.org](http://www.uptonhouse.org).



## Small Business EXPO

Join fifty small, locally owned businesses on March 8, from 10 am - 5 pm for the Small Business EXPO, hosted by NEO Promotions. Part of the proceeds will benefit the Northeast Ohio Adoption Service. Admission is free and there will be business & job opportunities, lots to shop for, a 50/50 raffle and gift basket raffle.

The event will be held at the First Baptist Church of Howland, 8957 East Market St. Admission is FREE.

### Mahoning Valley

St. Patrick's Day PARADE

Sunday, March 16

2025

1:00 pm

Market Street - Boardman, Ohio

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### Apostolakis Honda Named A Carfax Top-Rated Dealer

Special to The Cortland News

CARFAX is proud to present Apostolakis Honda and Shenango Honda as 2024 CARFAX Top-Rated Dealers! Every year, CARFAX honors dealerships across the nation for their exceptional service based on verified customer reviews. The average rating

for the 2024 CARFAX Top-Rated Dealers was an impressive 4.6 out of 5 stars based on verified consumer reviews. Carfax Top-Rated Dealer Awards Are Based on Verified Customer Ratings.

"We applaud the dealers who have exceeded expectations and have established a strong foundation of trust and transparency with their customers" said Gregg Cleary, Chief Revenue Officer at CARFAX. "With 7.8 million verified ratings and reviews, our Top-Rated distinction is awarded based on customer feedback. We strive to support consumers in their big purchase and want to provide continued help in their servicing needs, connecting them to the nation's most trusted and highly regarded dealers."

"Our customers and their satisfaction mean everything to us. It's why we've been able to stay in business and celebrate nearly 50 years on Elm Rd in Cortland and Shenango" said John G. Apostolakis, President of Apostolakis Auto Group. "Our team always strives for excellence and I'm proud of their continued focus on excellence in customer service!"

Recognition for Apostolakis Honda as a 2024 CARFAX Top-Rated Dealer can be found on the CARFAX Vehicle History Reports the dealership provides to its customers.

CARFAX, part of S&P Global Mobility, helps millions of people every day confidently shop, buy, service and sell used cars with innovative solutions powered by CARFAX® vehicle history information. The expert in vehicle history since 1984, CARFAX provides CARFAX Used Car Listings, CARFAX Car Care, CARFAX History-Based Value and the flagship CARFAX Vehicle History Report to consumers and the automotive industry. CARFAX owns the world's largest vehicle history database and is nationally recognized as a top workplace by The Washington Post.



Storyteller Photography: By Rebecca

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Cortland Rotary Club presented a check to Barb Hummel, advisor of the Champion High Robotics team, to assist with the payment of expenses in the upcoming robotics team competitions. Cortland Rotary has supported the robotics team for several years. Standing from left to right holding the check are: Barb Hummel, advisor, Dennis Nesbitt, Rotary Club President, and Robert Burkey, Rotary Club Treasurer.





# What's "news" in the City of Cortland

### Just The Facts

Which of these facts about Punxsutawney Phil is true?

- a. Phil has been around since 1823.
- b. Phil lives with his mate, Patty.
- c. In 2009, Phil came out of his burrow with a "Terrible Towel" to support the Pittsburgh Steelers.
- d. Phil says that Spring will come six weeks early this year.

Find the answer at the end of this article.

### 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](http://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

- March 3rd - City Council - 7 p.m.
- March 10th - Planning & Zoning - 7 p.m.
- March 17th - City Council - 7 p.m.

### Answer

c. In 2009, Phil came out of his burrow with a "Terrible Towel" to support the Pittsburgh Steelers. He supports his home state of Pennsylvania's NFL team!

## Lakeview Alumni Jake Reid

...continued from front page

doing. I love the group that I am with."

While his success today is apparent, it was evident to Jake's parents that even at a young age, Jake was a leader. From being a paper boy delivering for the Tribune Chronicle to managing a staff of over 500 employees, Jake's work ethic and values to do good has carried him through. Jake's efforts continue to be seen by his parents in the work he is doing today. "He's never been afraid of hard work...He's always been able to persevere and take the bull by the horns," said Linda.

Duncan and Linda recall visiting with Jake during game day in recent years. Jake would go in 4-5 hours before the game. One of the routines Jake has is to walk through the entire stadium checking on food service, telecommunications, checking in with employees. Jake has made the work he does personal. Jake believes no one should be above any role.

"Our owner has a saying, 'Everyone picks up trash...' If you see a problem, you deal with it," says Jake. Teams thrive when hard work and efforts are unified. The effects trickle down from top leadership to the rest of the group.

It's no wonder Sporting KC has had tremendous growth over the years, and Kansas City is excitingly the Host City for the FIFA World Cup in 2026. Jake serving as Vice President on the KC2026 Board of Directors shines light on him being an active local leader in the civic community.

Even with being a busy President & CEO of a Major League Soccer team, Jake finds a way to balance and prioritize time for the most important thing - his family. "Work life balance, people mistake for equal time. Pick your moments and find what are the things that have the biggest impact. Be intentional by setting time aside for yourself and your family."

One goal, be home for dinner every night. But even as Jake has said, "Do your best on any given day." Each day may look different, but Jake's principles and morals continue to be the foundation



he lives by.

Linda Reid, while acknowledging and tremendously proud of Jake's success, takes even greater pride in who Jake is as a person. "We're proud of what Jacob's done in his job, but to see how he treats and interacts with his family, it really makes us say, 'Wow. We did such a great job.'"

Jake now resides with his wife, Danielle and their two sons in Overland Park, Kansas. While most parents of teen boys can feel like "glorified Uber drivers," when asked, Jake hopes his children, along with others, can learn a few things from his journey. "Everyone wants some sort of cheat code, an easy button...I hope they find something they love, work hard, are passionate, and don't take short cuts. If you do right by others, good things will happen. No one is above anyone else."

From all of us here in Cortland, congratulations, Jake, on such an honorable award and accomplishment. We wish you continued success on your journey. We will be here rooting for you!

## Masonic Lodge Hosts Two Charity Breakfasts In March

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 1st, and Saturday, March 15th, for the next two charity pancake breakfasts scheduled to be held by Cortland Masonic Lodge. The benefiting organizations will be Scout Troop 28 on March 1st, and then the Jobs Daughters -- Rainbow Girls on March 15th.

The breakfasts are served from 9:00 am to 11:30 am, and they include "all you can eat" pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee, and juice -- with take-out available. The cost is \$9 for adults, \$6 for youth age

6-10, and free for age 5 and under.

All of the supplies are provided by the lodge, meaning that all of the proceeds are donated the benefiting organization. The lodge has provided over \$65,000 to various organizations since the monthly breakfasts were initiated about four years ago. The public is invited to come out, bring the family, and enjoy a great breakfast, all while supporting a local community organization, service group, or youth program.

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## Always Listen To Your Mother

By Cait Morgan

When you talk about strong women my Mom, Eleanor, was right up there among the strongest. But today will not be an Eleanor story. There is another woman who was in my life rather briefly, but in the Grand Scheme of things made a huge difference in my life. Her name was Alice.

Alice worked at the little store right next to my office. She was a tiny woman who worked the midnight shift. It was near a major highway interchange and there was a lot of traffic but no donut or coffee shops then so many folks would get their morning coffee and donuts from her. I would wander in early looking for my chocolate creamstick and Alice would always save me one. Alice was good people.

During her tenure there she was robbed three times in the middle of the night. At gunpoint. The store never lost a single dime in any of those attempts. Not one. She wouldn't hand over the money. One fool tried to argue with her, reminding her that it wasn't her money. Her response was "Well, it's not YOURS either!". She would get mad if they tried to give her the rest of the shift off after the robberies, too. Go home? Why? This is a woman who ran outside to grab a clothes line pole and beat the dickens out of a peeping Tom while chasing him around the yard and yelling for her husband. He finally did intervene, basically to save the poor guy from a further beating. First, though, he

had to stop laughing at the sight.

Stubborn as all get out, she wanted me to meet her son. I was divorced and not interested in dating. I declined. I had to decline a few times. She was persistent. Soon Alice retired and our office moved to a nearby city. I never saw her again. But, did I mention she was stubborn?

Fast forward a few decades. I was engaged to The Curmudgeon and we were driving past my old office - now repurposed into a Dunkin Donuts, go figure. As we passed the store right beside it, Curmie asked if he ever told me about the "donut girl". Seems his marriage was on the rocks and his mother, Alice, decided to fix him up. She told him she always saved a creamstick donut for the girl who worked next door and thought they would be good together and pestered him about meeting her. He declined as he was, afterall, still married.

Alice passed shortly after he divorced. However, she wasn't done with her mission quite yet.

Apparently the fact that she was no longer alive wasn't enough to stop her from getting us together. We don't know how, but somehow she managed to get us to meet and she was so right. We ARE good together.

Suddenly I had a mother-in-law that had made the decision decades earlier even though she passed before making it happen. Truly one strong and very stubborn woman!

## May 30, 1939 - A Dark Day For Cortland

By Cut Moll

May 30, 1939 was a dark day for Cortland in 1939. I have taken some excerpts from Mary Case's book "Cortland - Bazetta Remembered: Personal Reflections of Yesterday". These accounts, submitted by several residents, give a sense of the magnitude of the impact on our town from a huge fire on Main Street.

From Phyllis Payne Hake: "In 1939 Eleanor and Kenny Payne took their son David to Grandma Snow's for the day. The Paynes took off to spend the day at Lake Erie. On their return trip to Cortland, they could see a fire in the distance - but in the direction of Cortland.

The Paynes were living on the corner of Park Avenue and Main Street at the time (what is presently Village Antique and Lamp Shop). The closer they got to Cortland, the surer they felt that their home might be on fire.

When they arrived in Cortland, they discovered it was the old hotel on Main Street that was burning. Warren and Cortland Fire Departments had responded to the call and most of Main Street was gone. The livery and blacksmith shops were lost along with Mac's Clothing Store, Ennis Drug Store, Kaiser Fraizier Garage, the Tin Shop, and McConnell's grocery store."

From Dolores Fredricka "It was 1:00 P.M. when my friend and I stopped for ice cream at Isaly's on Main Street. We both were talking about how quiet Cortland was and how nothing exciting happened here. I then went to work one block away on Lattin Street at the Eastern Telephone Company (now United Telephone). I was scheduled to work from 2:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Shortly after I sat at my position at the switchboard, the call came in. A store was on fire on the south side of Main Street. The operators on duty at the time were to sound the siren - calling firemen to station, tell the first one who answered the location of the fire, and then lean out the window and give them the key to the fire truck.

The fire engulfed several businesses in a row destroying the south part of Main Street. The operators worked around the clock. We could not leave as the switchboard was lit up constantly, and calls came from all over the county. A classmate of mine who was attending the Cleveland Indians game (and lived on Main Street) said they announced over the speaker at the stadium that the town of Cortland was on fire. He hurried home.

"It was an event in my life that will never be forgotten. Operators on duty with me were Alice Hall Patrick and Lucille Thompson Rogers."

From a newspaper story from Luella King. "Tuesday, May 30, 1939 - ruins of three of Cortland's Main Street store buildings and a residence, which were consumed by flames Tuesday in one of the worst disasters in the village's history, still smoldered at noon today. Fire Chief Robert McLaughlin estimated the damage at \$75,000.

Fanned by a brisk wind, the blaze, the origin of which is not yet determined, swept a drug store operated by Lester Lowe, a tinner's shop owned by Frank Graham, and an unclaimed freight concern operated by Max Ross. Occupants of two of four residential apartments above the store

Continued on page 12



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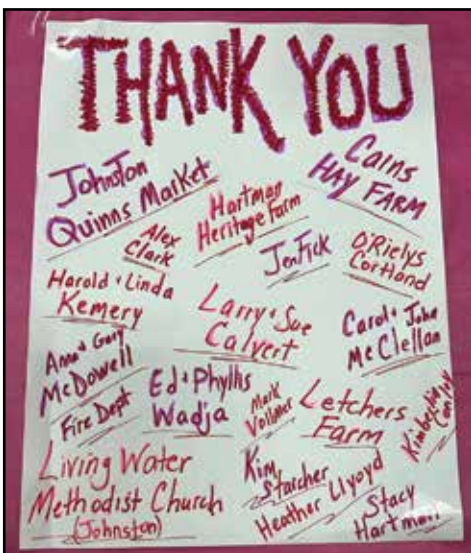
## First Annual Valentines Fun Day

By Kim Starcher

The Johnston Activities Committee held it's First Annual Valentines Fun Day for children at the Johnston Fire Department. The children made over 80 cards that were delivered to local nursing homes. They were able to create their own Valentines and also design their own rice crispy treats. All the children received bags of candy as they entered the door along with a chance to win one of four door prizes.

We would like to thank the community for helping us with this fun filled day!

This committee has just begun this year and we can't wait to watch it grow.



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The members of Cortland Rotary club donated \$226 to NewLife K-9s Ohio in memory of Dan Schultz. Dennis Nesbitt, Cortland Rotary club president, presented a check to Karen Lutz, contact for NewLifeK-9s Ohio.

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## Just Tie a Rope to My Leg

By Rev. Dr. Dave Gilbert, Cortland Christian Church

Wherever and whenever we worship, whether at home in private or with our church, synagogue, or mosque, worship is serious stuff.

At the heart of the temple in ancient Jerusalem was a room called the "Holy of Holies." It was so sacred that only one person could enter it, the High Priest, and he but once a year on the Day of Atonement. The room was empty except for a single throne, which was itself empty. Two gold cherubim spread their wings above it, facing each other across the place where nothing was. When the High Priest entered, he had to do only one thing. He had prepared to do it for months. He was to utter the ineffable name of God, a name made up of four letters of the Hebrew alphabet, all vowels, a name no one quite knew how to pronounce. Maybe it meant "I Am Who I Am." It was said that this Name of Being was simply the sound of breathing, so when the High Priest went into the Holy of Holies maybe he just breathed.

Rabbi Lawrence Kushner who retells this story, writes: "Creation has at its center an empty throne in an empty room in which the unpronounceable Name is spoken but once a year and the sound of its name is the sound of breathing."<sup>1</sup> Kushner then adds a wonderful detail. Before the High Priest went in to the Holy of Holies, they tied a rope around his leg. Just in case he should faint in the presence of God, they would have a way to drag him out without going in there themselves.

There's a question that I know many of you probably ask each other after going to worship. I confess that I have asked it myself. "What did you get out of that service?" There's

nothing wrong with critiquing worship. I'm not getting defensive, but it's a backwards question. It's a backwards question because it assumes that the whole thing was for me. But worship is not really about you or me. Yes, we can be comforted and challenged by it, find inspiration and solace in it, but that is not exactly the point, not ultimately at least. In worship we turn toward Some One greater than ourselves, to The-One-Who-Is-Beyond-Me. If this old world of ours has one core problem, it is the tendency of every last one of us to see him - or herself as the center of the universe, the one around which everything revolves like the planets around the sun. Worship simply turns it around and sets it right.

Every time we darken the door, we're challenged to give ourselves over to a power greater than ourselves. When I come through the door, I am challenged to turn away from me and all my "me-stuff." When I sit in the pew, I'm pulled to recenter myself on the One Who Really Is the Center of the Universe. When I pray, I'm challenged to climb off that little throne I like to sit on and pretend to be a little "g" god. More than anything else, worship is nothing less than weekly practice at not being God. The more you practice, the better you get at it; and in the end, not being God is a very good thing. Not being God will make you and me much better human beings, much happier, healthier, maybe even smarter, human beings. But even that is not exactly the point.

In the Name of the One Who Really Is the Center. Amen.

<sup>1</sup> *God Was in This Place and I, I Did Not Know It*, pages 96-97.

## Church News & Notes

**Cortland United Methodist Church**  
 Drive thru Dinner \$ 14. Corned beef and cabbage with potatoes, green beans, and a cookie. Wednesday, March 19 from 4:30 - 6:00 pm. Please pre-order at 330-637-2571 or 330-638-6728

**Trinity Lutheran** Lenten Services begin Wednesday March 5th with our Ash Wednesday Service at 5:30 pm. Bible Studies: Our congregation invites you to join us as we dive into God's Word in our Bible Studies on Sundays at 9 am. On Sundays we are making our way from Genesis to revelation. We are currently going through the book of Exodus.

Wednesdays at 5:30 pm. we go through the Book of Romans. We look forward to exploring the Bible together.

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.

Katharina's Closet: Donation drop off is the first Monday of every month from 4:30 pm -6:30 pm. If you are unable to drop off donations during that time or have other questions please call Pastor Wacker at 330-647-6402



The Cortland Church of the Nazarene's monthly breakfast is no longer just for men, anyone can join us for a delicious meal. Consider joining us on the first Friday at 8 am. Recently we were blessed with music from Larry (Papa) Lo Verme.

## All Good Things At Tails Of Hope

Ever since Tails of Hope opened their doors in 2017 as the first-and still the only, non-profit Spay/Neuter clinic in Mercer County, PA., All Good Things Thrift Shoppe has been a meaningful supporter of their lifesaving mission.

Recently Tails of Hope held a plaque dedication and naming ceremony to honor All Good Thing's entering the 9th year of monthly donations totaling to date over \$57,000. A celebratory lunch was provided from Haitian Sensation of Sharon, PA, for All Good Things Board of Directors and volunteers. Donations help support the Spay & Neuter Angel Program (SNAP) which ensures basic and essential veterinary services are accessible and affordable to all pet parents despite their ability to pay.

"All Good Things has always supported animal causes from the very beginning almost 11 years ago," said Connie DiCola, Board President of All Good Things. "We understand the need for Spay and Neuter facilities in order to control the pet population. Tails of Hope is an outstanding program, and we are lucky to have such a facility in our area! We are happy to continue to support Tails of Hope as part of our Giving Agenda."

The door to the outdoor dog park area at Tails of Hope now proudly displays the plaque that recognizes it is named with deepest appreciation for All Good Things.



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## Tails Of Hope Fund Raiser

WHAT: 3rd Annual Breakfast at Kitten's

INCLUDES: 9 games of Bingo for designer purse or cash prize (\$1,000 in total cash prizes available!); 2 Door Prizes; Breakfast Buffet with cash bar; Basket Raffles, Silent Auction, 50/50 Raffle, Special Raffle Items, Lottery Tree Raffle, and more!

WHEN: Saturday, March 22, doors open at 10 am

WHERE: The Corinthian, 47 Vine Ave., Sharon, PA 16146

WHY: All proceeds benefit Tails of Hope

TICKETS: \$40/single or \$300/Reserved Table of 8. Tickets are available

online thru <https://tailsofhopewpa.org/> or for cash purchase at Tails of Hope, 2450 Hoezle Rd., Hermitage, PA 16148, Monday-Wednesday or Friday 9 am-4 pm. Tickets have been sold out in advance for the past two years. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT: Special Raffle Items are available online - attendance to the event is not required to win these prizes. Go to the website to check them out and enter.

SPONSORSHIPS AND RAFFLE DONATIONS are also available. Info is available at <https://tailsofhopewpa.org/> or contact Tails of Hope: 724-346-4673. The deadline is February 22.

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## Seniors Benefit From Free AARP Tax Preparation With SCOPE

By Mike Wilson

If you are a Trumbull County older adult S.C.O.P.E. Senior Services assists with various programs and services. S.C.O.P.E. stands for 'Senior Citizens Opportunity for Personal Endeavors' and is one of many agencies supported financially by the Trumbull County Senior Levy.

One of SCOPE's largest projects is our partnership with the AARP Foundation Tax Aide program with their free tax preparation. The months of February, March, and April are quite busy at our centers with this worthwhile and needed project.

Over thirty volunteer tax preparers assist senior citizens, disabled, veterans and any age low-income residents with free tax preparation throughout the valley. Led by regional AARP representative Bob Kovach these volunteers, who are thoroughly trained,

support close to 3,000 people with their federal and state taxes. The volunteers are provided with over 20 hours of training through the IRS system making it the number one volunteer tax preparation in the country.

The Warren Preparation site will be at the Warren Trumbull County Public Library on Mahoning Ave. Mondays - Fridays. Stop by Warren SCOPE Senior Center (former YWCA building) to pick up a tax packet at 375 N. Park Ave next to Carl W. Hall funeral home between the hours of 9 am till 3 pm. Please Do Not stop by the library to pick up packet or make a reservation.

The Champion site will be located at the First Presbyterian Church on State Rt. 45 on Tuesdays. Appointments are required.

The Hubbard site will be located at the Hubbard Library 436 West Liberty St. on

Mondays. Make an appointment for either the Hubbard Library site or the Liberty Administration Building on Wednesdays by calling the library direct at 330-534-3512 to find out the times and days.

What to bring is a question we get often. AARP suggests bringing all the paperwork from last year's filing. Please bring to your appointment photo ID(s), Social Security Card(s), Last year's return, income information, Affordable Care Act Forms 1095 or proof of hospitalization insurance. If you plan to have a direct deposit of your refund, then bring a copy of one of your checks with you. Both the taxpayer and spouse should be at the appointment.

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## Lita Ford Show Fundraiser "For Rock The Rich Center"

By Jake Ellis

Lita Ford, widely recognized for her accomplishments as a solo artist and as a founding member and lead guitarist for the groundbreaking all female group, The Runaways, is bringing her high-energy and hard-rocking show to Youngstown. Known for thunderous hits like "Cherry Bomb", "Kiss Me Deadly" and her collaboration with Ozzy Osbourne on "Close My Eyes Forever", the widely regarded 'Queen of Metal' will be headlining at Youngstown Foundation Amphitheatre on May 31 for Rock The Rich Center.



Doors open at 6:30 pm and the show begins at 7:30 pm. Joined by very special guests and hometown favorite, The Vindys, this show is poised to kick off the 2025 concert season in grand style while bringing awareness and raising money for a great cause. Rock The Rich Center is an annual fundraiser that benefits The Rich Center for Autism and the autism community it serves. With the Center for Disease Control currently reporting that 1-in-36 children ages eight and younger are being diagnosed with autism, there is a clear need for increased support and services across the Mahoning Valley and the entire state of Ohio.

The Rich Center is named in memory of Paula and Anthony Rich who perished when U.S. Air Flight 427 crashed near the border of Ohio and Pennsylvania shortly after departing Pittsburgh International Airport on September 8, 1994. The crash left no survivors but from tragedy grew hope and a dream to help those affected by autism.

With The Rich Center's 30th anniversary occurring in 2025, this will be the first time Rock The Rich Center is held at Youngstown Foundation

Amphitheatre and with multiple artists performing. The Vindys, now taking the stage for Rock The Rich Center for the third consecutive year, with the addition of the legendary Lita Ford, will bring one of the hardest rocking shows to the area with the ultimate goal of generating awareness and support for not only The Rich Center but the entire autism community.

"Not only is this show going to absolutely rock but it is the perfect fit for this benefit concert," Rich Center Community Engagement and Event Operations Coordinator Jake Ellis said. "Each year Rock The Rich Center grows larger. It was time to move the show to the amphitheater to accommodate the crowd. We have two amazing female vocalists and musicians with Lita Ford and Jackie (The Vindys) putting on a show to benefit our Center that was founded in 1995 by a group of very dedicated and determined women."

Sponsorships for the concert can be purchased now at [www.rocktherichcenter.com](http://www.rocktherichcenter.com). Individual tickets are available now at Ticketmaster.com using the code RICH.

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# Lakeview School News

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## LES Spelling Bee



These are the 18 finalists from the LES Spelling Bee last month. These winners all survived at least 7 rounds showing poise and confidence. "Students took the challenge very seriously and put hours into practicing. We are so proud of everyone of them" said Ms. Kmetz, 3rd grade teacher and Spelling Bee coordinator.



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 in that moment. "I practiced a lot and it really helped."

## 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 Tommy Pavlansky, an outstanding student and the son of Kate and Tom Pavlansky. A proud member of the Lakeview community since kindergarten, Tommy is a valedictorian candidate for this year's graduating class. Academically, he excels in a rigorous combination of high school and College Credit Plus courses through Youngstown State University. Beyond the classroom, music is where Tommy shines. An accomplished pianist and saxophonist, he is an active member of multiple bands and had the incredible opportunity to perform at Severance Hall in Cleveland with the Stambaugh Youth Concert Band. Tommy is also a varsity letter winner in cross country as well as track and field, and an engaged member of the Student Council, National Honor Society, and Senior Beta Club. In addition to his school activities, he gives back to his community by serving as an altar server at St. Robert Bellarmine Church. Looking ahead, Tommy plans to pursue a degree in chemical engineering at either the University of Toledo or YSU.

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

- 1.) What is something that you do exceptionally well? One of the things that I would point out is band. I am pretty thankful that I have put all of this time in.
- 2.) What is your favorite part of the Lakeview Local School District? The football games and pep rallies. I like to go out on a Friday night and perform in front of the stands.
- 3.) Where is your favorite place to eat in Bazetta/Cortland? Brother's Pizza.
- 4.) Where is your favorite place to hang out in Bazetta/Cortland? Meeting up at the school with my cross-country teammates to run.
- 5.) Describe your fashion style. I have a lot of Lakeview clothes but it's mostly sports like Browns, Cavs and Buckeyes.
- 6.) You might catch me ... Running in my neighborhood or somewhere else like Downtown Cortland.
- 7.) What is something you are watching, listening to, or reading right now? I'm really paying attention to the NFL Super Bowl and NBA season right now.
- 8.) What are your future aspirations? I want to get a job in Ohio. I would prefer Northern Ohio to stay close to home.



Caris Ryan, a 3rd grader, was eliminated on the word 'partner' even though she had practiced with her Mom and also knew the word. "I practiced but couldn't remember when asked."

## 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 March 24.



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## Maplewood Varsity Makes History



By Norm Yannucci

The Lady Rockets are the undefeated, 14-0, NAC Champions (Stars Division). Their overall record thus far is 20-0, with an undefeated home record of 10-0! This is the 3rd best regular season in Maplewood history.



Morgan Himes has broke the school record of steals in a single game. Thirteen steals is now the number to beat!

## Applications Still Open For LHS Athletic Hall Of Fame

By Michael DeToro

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.

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.





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## Bling Prom Boutique

Plans are underway for the GFWC Ohio Warren Junior Women's League and Champion Schools 9th Annual "Bling Prom Boutique" on March 10 & 11 from 5-7 pm in the Flash zone (auditorium entrance). Dressing rooms are available.

The cost of prom has risen considerably, making attending prom financially unattainable for some. This prom dress event is FREE to all high school ladies in the Tri-County area. Warren Junior Women's League, Champion High school and the community have donated hundreds of dresses, purses, shoes, jewelry and to make up to make this event possible.

Last year 40 girls attended, 29 dresses were selected and unmeasurable amounts of accessories. Everyone received a gift bag containing skin care and make up.

As a member-funded, volunteer non-profit organization, WJWL relies on its members and community to continue the annual event. In the past, the generosity and support from the community have made a difference in the lives of so many local young women. If you have a donation, please contact Becky at 330-720-8995 or drop off at Champion High school's main office during school hours.

## A Dark Day ...continued from page 6

buildings were driven to the street by the flames after saving only a portion of their belongings.

The adjacent residence, occupied by the John and Gerald Townsend families, is practically a total loss. Buildings across the street, on the north side - more than 100 feet away - which were ignited by the flames were extinguished before any great damage was done there.

Believed to have started about 3:30 P.M. in the tin shop, the flames quickly spread to the adjoining frame buildings and in less than a half hour the section was a raging inferno. Power lines melted, cutting off current in most of the village. A section of the black-top street was ruined by the intense heat."

The Mary Case Book is available for purchase at the Cortland Opera House on Fridays from 1 to 3pm. Other stories are available on our Web Site [www.CortlandOhioHistory.org](http://www.CortlandOhioHistory.org).



## THE WISE INVESTORS

By  
Guidelight Financial Group

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### Managing Aging Parents' Finances: What To Know

Making financial decisions takes time, attention and energy at any age. In the case of elderly adults, it may become increasingly difficult to manage finances, particularly if their health is declining or they're experiencing a cognitive issue. If you're providing support to aging parents - or plan to in the future - here are some tips on how to handle the situation and prepare for what's to come.

**Don't wait to start talking about money.** While it may be uncomfortable to ask your parents to discuss their finances with you, it's essential that you are familiar with their intentions for future care and what plans they have in place. The first time you broach the subject, emphasize that you are looking for only a high-level overview so that you can have more peace-of-mind that your parents will be well cared for. This initial conversation can help set the groundwork for future discussions.

**Create a contact list.** If your parents experience a sudden change in their health that affects their ability to manage their own affairs, it's important to have a game plan for what happens next. If you anticipate stepping in to pay bills, make insurance claims and handle other financial tasks, start by asking your parents for a list of contact information for the professionals they work with and where their accounts are held. Keep in mind that you may need to be an authorized user or power of attorney to be allowed access to certain accounts. Consult a lawyer to talk through what permissions may be necessary for you to step in if the need arises.

**Build a support network.** Talk with siblings or other trusted family members about what a possible care plan could look like for your parents. While this conversation can be tough to initiate, know that it's often easier to bring everyone together while your parents are still healthy and in good mental capacity. Discuss who can realistically provide support - and in what way and at what cost. Proactively deciding who can drive your parents to doctor appointments, manage financial affairs, care for their home, and handle other tasks can help avoid a strain on

your time and energy down the road.

**Anticipate future lifestyle changes and challenges.** Even if they aren't yet needed, explore the options and costs of various assisted living and memory care services. Check your parents' insurance policies to see if and how services might be covered. You may also want to explore whether their home or yours could be modified to provide additional space or comforts, such as wheelchair access. Knowing what choices exist and how your parents feel about each one can help you make future decisions with more confidence.

**Know your rights at work.** The Federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) allows covered employees up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to provide care for a family member with a serious health condition.<sup>1</sup> Consult your Human Resources department to learn what your company's policies are for employees who are caring for a parent and how to initiate a claim if you need to. Many employers have access to resources and support groups to help you manage your responsibilities at home and at work.

**Maintain momentum on your own financial goals.** It's understandable to want to provide your parents with as much support as you can. It's prudent to look at your finances to see how much support you could provide, if that is needed, without jeopardizing your own retirement and future health care needs.

It's hard to imagine - let alone talk about - what caring for an ill or aging parent may look like. For additional support in having family conversations, evaluating financial options and creating a plan for your parents, contact your financial advisor and lawyer. These experts work day-in and day-out with families in similar situations and can help you take the steps necessary to feel more confident about your own plan.

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### Dreams By Langston Hughes

Hold fast to dreams, For if dreams die,  
Life is a broken-winged bird, That cannot fly.  
Hold fast to dreams, For when dreams go,  
Life is a barren field, Frozen with snow.

## Simply Slavic Secures Long-Term Home At Youngstown Foundation Amphitheatre

We are excited to share some major news about the future of Simply Slavic! After the successful 2024 festival at the Youngstown Foundation Amphitheatre, we are proud to announce a five-year agreement with JAC Management Group, making Simply Slavic the first nonprofit event to secure a long-term contract at this premier

downtown venue.

This partnership ensures that Simply Slavic will continue to grow while remaining rooted in the heart of Youngstown, providing an even better experience for attendees, performers, vendors, and sponsors. Mark your calendars for the 2025 festival on Friday, June 13 and Saturday, June 14!

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## As Insurance Rates Rise, Turn to Independent Agents for Better Deals

By Amelia Gavolas, Platt Insurance

With insurance rates on the rise, more consumers are taking a closer look at their policies and shopping for better deals. But where should they turn? Many are discovering the benefits of working with an independent insurance agency, which offers more choices, better service and significant savings.

Unlike captive agents, who only represent a single company, or online agents, who lack a personal touch, independent agents work with multiple insurance carriers to find the best coverage at the best price. This means consumers

don't have to spend hours comparing policies on their own—an independent agent does the legwork for them.

Beyond saving money, independent agents act as advocates, helping clients navigate claims and policy changes with ease. Plus, having a local agent means personalized service—whether it's answering questions or providing guidance when it matters most.

If you're feeling the pinch of rising premiums, now is the time to shop smart. Reach out to see how an independent agent can help you save.

## Medicare IRMAA Premium Adjustments For High Income Beneficiaries

Medicare Part B & Part D premiums can vary based on income. While most people will receive Medicare Part A with no premium and Medicare Part B for a standard premium, some individuals will be subject to additional premiums from the Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount also known as IRMAA. IRMAA was first enacted in 2003 as part of the Medicare Modernization Act to address the financial hardships of Medicare. At this time, it only affected Part B premiums. In 2011 as part of the Affordable Care Act, IRMAA was expanded to include Part D premiums for prescription coverage.

The Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount is imposed as a surcharge on Medicare Insurance Part B and Part D premiums for higher income beneficiaries. It is primarily based on your Modified Adjusted Gross Income from your tax return 2 years ago. Therefore, the 2025 premiums are based on your 2023 tax return and the premiums for 2026 will be based on the 2024 tax returns that are currently being filed. This year the additional premium amounts are assessed if your 2023 income was \$106,000 or more for an individual or married couples filing separately, and \$212,000 for couples filing jointly. For example, while most people will pay \$185 per month for 2025 an individual with a MAGI between \$106,000 and \$133,000 on their 2023 tax return will pay a Part B premium of \$259 per month for 2025 and an additional \$13.70 on the Part D premium. The part D premium adjustment is assessed on both stand-alone Part D Prescription drug plans

and Part C Medicare Advantage Plans. A complete table showing the different Part B and Part D premium levels can be found at Medicare.gov.

If you are subject to the IRMAA premium increase, you will receive a letter from Social Security with details and premium amounts. Part B premiums for Medicare Insurance are paid directly to Medicare. If you receive monthly Social Security benefits your Medicare Insurance premiums are deducted from your monthly Social Security benefit payment. If you do not receive Social Security benefits Medicare will send a statement, typically quarterly, for the premium owed or you can set up an automatic payment on the Medicare.gov website.

If you believe you have been charged the extra premiums incorrectly or if your life circumstances have changed and your income has decreased, you can appeal the decision by contacting Social Security and asking for a redetermination. Since these amounts are based on your MAGI, it may also be helpful to consult your financial advisor or tax professional to plan ahead for the next year's premium calculation.

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

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## Troopers Urge Motorists To Move Over, Slow Down

The Ohio State Highway Patrol reminds all motorists to do their part in keeping roadway workers safe by moving over a lane and slowing down when you see an emergency vehicle on the side of the road.

Over the last four years, 55 Patrol cruisers were involved in crashes while stopped on the side of the road due to drivers failing to move over and slow down. These crashes resulted in two deaths and 29 injuries to the public, as well as 16 injured troopers. Alcohol and/or drugs were a factor in 27% of "move over" crashes. Most of these types of crashes took place on interstates, unlit roadways and surfaces covered in snow, ice or slush.

"These crashes are avoidable when drivers pay attention, slow down, and move over," said Governor Mike DeWine.

Ohio's Move Over Law requires all drivers to move over to an adjacent lane when approaching any vehicle with flashing or rotating lights parked on the roadside. If moving over is not possible due to traffic, weather conditions or a second lane not being available, motorists should slow down and proceed with caution.

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## Free Estimates



The Rotary Club of Cortland welcomed recently installed Trumbull County Sheriff Mike Wilson to the Feb 11th club meeting. Sheriff Wilson updated the club about his new position and plans for the department. Sheriff Wilson thank you for your time and service. Left to Right Sheriff Wilson and Dennis Nesbitt, Rotary Club of Cortland.

## Trumbull County Women's History Committee

By Terri Crabbs

The Trumbull County Women's History Committee was the hostess club for the January Warren City Federation meeting. They will sponsor the Women's History Celebration "Hollywood's Golden Age" on March 22 at DiVieste Banquet Center. Tickets cost \$35. Contact Terri Crabbs, reservation chair at 330-719-9345 for more information and tickets.

The next meeting for Warren City Federation of Women's Clubs will be held on Tuesday, March 11 at Salvatore's Restaurant in Howland. For reservations contact Debi Patchin at dp420s@aol.com or 330-716-1955.



Members of The Trumbull County Women's History Committee. Front: Pam Vines, Esther Gartland, Chair, and Theresa Salcone. Back: Sandy Mahaffey, Terri Crabbs, Susan Smith, and Donna Beatty.



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**JOLENE**  **ROXY**




Jolene is a gorgeous mid-sized female dog with a beautiful gray coat. She has a gentle and affectionate nature and loves to make new friends. Jolene is a friendly dog who loves getting affection from her loved ones. She enjoys spending her days lounging around the house and going on walks. She came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't know much about her history with other dogs. However, with her sweet demeanor she is sure to win any other pup over. Jolene is a loving and wonderful dog and would make the perfect addition to any family.

This is Roxy who deserves a second chance at happiness. She came to us two weeks ago when her owner passed away. At 18 years young, she has received all necessary vetting and is ready to thrive. Would you be willing to open your heart and home to this beautiful senior gal and give her the love she deserves?

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Konner is a young male dog with a lot of love to give! He is a quiet, independent, and smart dog who loves to show affection. He is a very gentle and sweet. Konner is about a year old and was an owner surrender. He is a very curious dog and is always eager to learn new things. He would be the perfect loyal companion. If you're looking for a furry friend who will stick by your side through thick and thin, look no further than Konner!

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## Health District Warns About Higher Levels Of Influenza A and B

The Trumbull County Combined Health District and the Warren City Health District are alerting residents of potential higher transmission levels of influenza A and B in our community. A recent report from the Ohio Department of Health Bureau of Environmental Health and Radiation Protection states there are increasing viral concentrations in wastewater at the Warren Water Pollution Control Facility, which is often indicative of eventual higher transmission, higher case counts and hospitalizations. This data serves as an early warning sign of heightened influenza activity in the community, emphasizing the need for preventative measures to protect public health.

The Trumbull County Combined Health District and the Warren City Health District use data provided through the Ohio Disease Reporting System to monitor local hospitalized influenza cases weekly. "The increase in influenza viral loads is a clear signal that flu activity is on the rise in Warren and its surrounding communities," said John May, Deputy Health Commissioner of the Warren City Health District. "We urge residents to

take preventative steps, such as getting vaccinated, practicing good hygiene with frequent handwashing, and staying home when sick, to help reduce the spread of illness." Influenza viruses can spread through droplets from infected individuals cough, sneezing, or talking throughout the common influenza season of early October to late March. The most effective way to prevent contracting influenza, being hospitalized due to influenza, or dying from influenza, is to receive an influenza vaccination.

Both the Trumbull County Combined Health District and the Warren City Health District offer the current influenza vaccine.

The Trumbull County Combined Health District has walk-in hours at their main office located at 194 W. Main St. Cortland, OH 44410. Please contact Trumbull County Combined Health District at 330-675-2489 for further information.

The Warren City Health District encourages residents to visit their website at [www.warren.org](http://www.warren.org) or contact them at 330-841-2596 for further information.

## Board Of Health Member Appointment

By Johnna Ben

The Trumbull County Health District Advisory Council and the Trumbull County Board of Health are seeking interested persons who want to apply for appointment to a 5-year term on the Trumbull County Board of Health. This Term would begin March 26, 2025 and run through February 2030.

Interested candidates should be aware that this is an appointment to a seat on the Board of Health, and not a staff position. Board of Health members receive \$80.00 per Board of Health meeting attended and are required to complete two hours of continuing education each year. Meetings are held monthly on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 1:00 PM, at the Trumbull County Combined Health District's office.

Health District Advisory Council requires all interested parties to

complete a Nomination Petition for Appointment to the Trumbull County Board of Health, a copy of which can be obtained from the Trumbull County Combined Health District office or via their website [www.tcchd.org](http://www.tcchd.org).

In order to qualify for appointment to this Board of Health vacancy, a Candidate must be a U.S. Citizen, and an elector (registered voter) residing within the Health District, and must complete and file a nominating petition on a form prescribed by the Health District Advisory Council. Residents of the city of Warren are ineligible.

Applicants should submit a letter of interest, resume and nominating petition to Trumbull County District Advisory Council, c/o Johnna Ben, Trumbull County Combined Health District, 194 W. Main St., Cortland, Ohio 44410, by 4:00 P.M., Tuesday, March 4, 2025.



The Senior Showcase cast, a production of SCOPE, recently held its cast party which included awards and a lot of music and dancing.

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## Final Series Of The Trumbull Town Hall Celebrity Series

By Roberta Sheilds



debater, masterful writer, and ranks with Washington in the pantheon of American presidents. A century and a half after his assassination, his life still offers critical lessons about leadership. On April 30, Lt. Governor Jim Tressel will conclude the series.

Doors open at 9:30 AM, programs begin at 10:30 AM at Packard Music Hall. The cost of single tickets are \$35 at the door the day of the program. Or Call Trumbull Town Hall at 330-240-1706 or call Packard Music Hall at 330-841-2619

The final two lectures in the long running Trumbull Town Hall Celebrity Series will be held in March and April. On March 19 the American Historian, Authority on Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War,

Louis Masur will speak. He is a Distinguished Professor of American Studies and History at Rutgers University. As a cultural historian he has authored numerous books and has been the recipient of several teaching awards from several universities including Harvard.

He will share his expertise of Abraham Lincoln. President Lincoln was born in humble circumstances, had only a year of formal schooling, struggled with mood swings, and endured repeated political disappointments. Yet he became a prosperous lawyer, skilled



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## TCTC Partners With NAPA

By Morgan Tondo Cretella

Trumbull Career & Technical Center (TCTC) proudly announces that it has partnered with Hometown Auto Parts, a locally-owned NAPA auto parts store, to launch the NAPA Auto Care Apprenticeship Program for high schools in Mahoning Valley. This collaboration aims to enhance career opportunities for students pursuing automotive services careers.

As a locally-sponsored high school, TCTC's Auto Service Technology program now offers students the unique chance to earn a NAPA Auto Care Certification—a credential essential for employment at NAPA-affiliated auto care centers. It gives aspiring technicians a roadmap to in-demand positions in the automotive industry, enabling them to transition directly into the workforce with a pathway to work for one of the 24 auto care centers in the Mahoning Valley.

The partnership originated when David Beachler, Auto Service Technology instructor at TCTC, engaged with Hometown Auto Parts owner Ron Potyonek, who owns eight NAPA stores in the Mahoning Valley. The two brought their newfound relationship to NAPA, who have historically participated in and funded scholarships aimed at supporting technician education.

"NAPA is no stranger to partnering with colleges and high schools for technician education," said Beachler. "Through this initiative, NAPA and TCTC are supporting young talent by providing them with a pathway into a fruitful career in the automotive trades, a need we know continues to grow every year."

Additionally, TCTC instructors now have access to NAPA Auto Tech, a curriculum designed for advanced automotive skills training currently available to NAPA technicians, as well as discounted equipment like a new tire changer and wheel balancer, and a donation of NAPA's shop management system, NAPA TRACS, which streamlines vehicle service with its VIN capture app, enhancing efficiency for both students and technicians.

"The TCTC high school initiative partnership will not only benefit local Ohio high school students, but also hopefully set the stage for similar programs nationwide," said Mike Merhnert, Sales Manager at Hometown Auto Parts. "Knowing how important filling the technician pipeline is to the industry, partnerships like this aid in fostering talent and providing career options for aspiring young technicians."

*About TCTC: Trumbull Career & Technical Center (TCTC) enables students to become productive members of society by providing a comprehensive combination of academic and career-technical skills and experience in a safe, non-hostile diverse environment. TCTC prepares students to select from the widest possible range of post-secondary career and educational options that are commensurate with the students' aptitudes and interests.*

*About NAPA Auto Parts: Through nearly 6,000 auto parts stores and over 16,000 auto care and collision centers in the U.S., NAPA has America's largest network of parts and care. The NAPA Network is supported by nationwide distribution centers with approximately 800,000 available parts, accessories and supplies.*



## YSU Faculty Member Makes History With Unprecedented Academic And Athletic Accomplishments

Dr. Michael Latessa, Executive Director of The Rich Center for Autism, has etched his name in Youngstown State University history as the first individual ever to earn a bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degree while also excelling as a national champion student-athlete. Latessa's historic achievement was completed in December 2024 when he graduated with his doctorate degree, capping a remarkable journey of academic success and athletic distinction.

Latessa's unparalleled accomplishments are rooted in both his academic excellence and his commitment to athletic achievement. A proud member of the 1997 YSU Penguin football team, Latessa helped guide the team to a national championship under the leadership of legendary head coach Jim Tressel. His contributions to YSU's storied athletic legacy, combined with his outstanding academic pursuits, make him a shining example of what it means to be a Penguin.

"Michael Latessa is a true embodiment of the values that define Youngstown State University," said YSU President Bill Johnson. "His dedication to both his studies and his athletic career sets a standard of excellence for all of us. He has not only achieved the highest levels of academic

success, but he has also played an integral role in advancing the mission of The Rich Center for Autism, showing that leadership extends beyond the classroom and the playing field."

Latessa's support for YSU continues to extend beyond his own achievements. As Executive Director of The Rich Center for Autism, he remains deeply involved in the university community and continues to make a positive impact through his philanthropic efforts. His leadership, both on and off the field, serves as an inspiration for current and future generations of YSU students.

"Doctor Latessa deserves every bit of credit for his amazing accomplishments," said Rich Center for Autism Coordinator Jake Ellis. "He's a perfect example of Youngstown and YSU values. He's Youngstown born and raised and exudes determination, perseverance, and leadership. He does it all while keeping one of the calmest and most positive demeanors I've ever seen in an individual."

Latessa's story serves as a powerful reminder of the profound impact of perseverance, dedication, and service to others. His legacy at YSU will forever be celebrated, as he continues to inspire fellow Penguins with his exceptional accomplishments.



## Geauga Home And Garden Show Brings Spring Buzz To NEO Amish Country!

By Kim Breyley

Get ready to jump-start your spring plans with the 18th Annual Geauga Home and Garden Show, happening Friday, March 28, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday, March 29, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Heritage Marketplace, 15848 Nauvoo Rd, Middlefield. This popular, two-day event is now bigger than ever. Admission is \$5 and children under 18 are free.

Whether you're planning a home renovation, looking for garden inspiration, or hunting for that perfect décor piece, the Geauga Home and Garden Show has it all. With roofing specialists, builders, landscapers, and home improvement experts all under three roofs, visitors will find everything they need to kick-start their spring projects. From tools and materials to furniture and finishing touches, you can shop

directly from trusted local businesses—many of them offering exclusive deals and inspiration for your next project.

Set in the heart of Northeast Ohio Amish Country, the show also highlights the rich craftsmanship of local artisans, featuring handmade home goods, furniture, garden accessories, and more. Don't miss the chance to explore the beautiful and unique products from the area's finest makers and suppliers, all in one convenient location.

The Geauga Home and Garden Show offers visitors a chance to win amazing prizes throughout the weekend, including lawn furniture and a storage building courtesy of Pine Craft Storage Barns! Plus, you can enter many silent auctions and take home plenty of valuable door prizes.



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### Student Fishing League

By Harry Emmerling

The SFL, Student Fishing League, is a grassroots competitive Youth Fishing League. It began eleven years ago with eight kids and four boats. It is located in northeast and north central Ohio, Western PA, northern WV. Thirty four different school districts are represented.

In the 2024 season, there were 102 kids registered and 62 boats.



The new 2025 season will have many events including 2-3 winter meetings; 4 bass series tournaments high school, and junior high division; 2 open bass tournaments; Bass fishing camp (10 hours); Danny Schafer Memorial All Species Derby (71 kids last year); the 5th Annual Ohio vs Pennsylvania Youth All-Star Bass Tournament; a Back-to-School Bass Bash (56 participants last season); and a Christmas party! (last year, 60 to 70 kids all left with more than a bag full of donated fishing tackle)



This year, May 11th and June 1st, there will be Bass Fishing Tournaments located at Mosquito Lake! Would you like to come join the fun or help volunteer?

The League feeds all the kids, boaters, volunteers, parents and spectators at every event! Roughly 800 meals last year in total. The League also provides Place awards, Angler-of-the-Year awards, Memorial awards and 4 Participation awards. At the derby over 200 awards are given out every season.

We offer our sponsors opportunities on our Facebook page with 2.2k followers, videos of live fishing during events, banners, tournament trailer (mobile billboard), announcements, and many other opportunities.



Charity work is done by students every year at the United Way of Youngstown Muransky BASS Classic. The SFL transports fish to assisted living facilities so that the patients can have fun fishing and telling tale tales. The students are involved in cleanups at local lakes and rivers to teach them how to take care of and love our environment.

The SFL gives students a head start in life. Two past members are currently serving in the military. Five past members are currently fishing at the college level (1) on scholarship and nine past members have come back to be coaches and mentor to younger kids

in this fabulous league.

The League is always in need of volunteer coaches. They must have a boat to take two high school age students fishing for seven hours.

For more information contact Harry Emmerling at (330) 383-1194, harrystemmerling@yahoo.com. Visit our Facebook at SFL Student Fishing League.



The children in Miss Mary Ann's Green room made Valentines for their loved ones. They all had a great time. The children of Cortland Playroom hope all of you had as much fun on Valentine's Day as they did.

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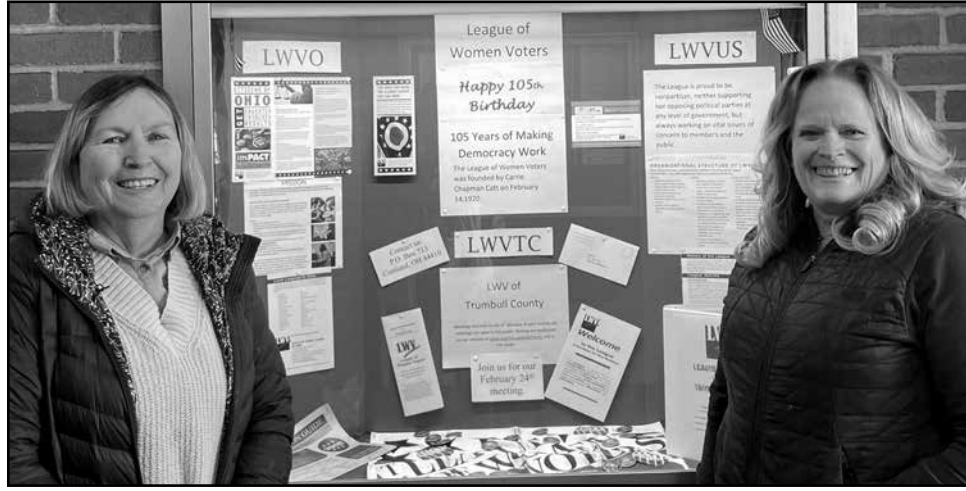


## League Of Women Voters Of Trumbull County

By Peggy Boyd

The League of Women Voters throughout the United States celebrated their 105th birthday on February 14. The League was born out of women's long, arduous fight to win the right to vote. It took 72 years and multiple generations of women refusing to give up their right to be part of our democracy. The ratification of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution is the culmination of the largest movement in our history.

With this, another milestone was also happening. The formation of the League of Women Voters in Chicago on February 14, 1920. The League of Women Voters of Trumbull County invited the public to view their nonpartisan display featured in the entrance hall of the Warren Library on Mahoning Avenue. Local and State events are on show with information on joining the League.



Danita Davis and Diane Lewis



## Cortland Library February & March Events

By Apryl Gilliss

### Toddler Tales

Mondays at 10 a.m.: Feb. 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 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. 25, March 4, 11, 18, 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. 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26 Teens ages 12 - 18 can enjoy games, activities and a small snack at the library's weekly teen hangout! 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.

### Mardi Gras Murder Mystery

Tues., March 4 from 4 - 6 p.m. Teens ages 12 - 18 can participate in a Mardi Gras party murder mystery event. Each participant will be assigned a character

at registration. Registration is required by Feb. 28. Sign up online at [www.wtcpl.org/events](http://www.wtcpl.org/events) or call (330) 638-6335. Free.

### Teen Advisory Board

Tues., March 11 from 4 - 5:30 p.m. Teens ages 12 - 18 who have ideas about what they'd like to see at the library, want to earn service hours, or collaborate on creative ideas can be part of the Teen Advisory Board! Free.

### Family LEGO Night

Thurs., March 13 from 6 - 7 p.m. Practice problem-solving and engineering skills while building with the library's collection of LEGO bricks. Finished projects will remain at the library. For families with children ages 3 and older. Free.

### Movie Matinée Celebrating Women's History Month

Sat., March 15 at 1 p.m. In honor of Women's History Month, a movie will be shown on the big screen in the library's meeting room. Call the library at (330) 638-6335 for the title of the movie to be shown. Free.

### Live Music

Thurs., March 20 at 6 p.m. All ages can enjoy classic hits played by guitarist Tyler Guerrieri. Free.

### Totally Tweens

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

### What's in the Sky Tonight?

Sat., March 29 at 3 p.m. Ever been curious about celestial objects? Children ages 5 - 12 and their families can learn about the constellations and planets that are visible in the current night sky through a planetarium-style presentation. Free.

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## Warren Women's Club Las Vegas Luncheon

The Warren Women's Club, located at 708 North Park Avenue in Warren will sponsor two Spring Luncheons; themed "Celebrating Las Vegas". The Historic house will host these daytime events on Saturdays beginning February 22 and March 1, 2025. Each over-the-top festivity will begin at noon with guests arriving at 11 am. Patrons to the casino style atmosphere will be treated to the glitz & glamor noted in Las Vegas before they are welcomed to the grand buffet table. Seating is limited and reservations are a must. Tickets are \$25.00 per person and can be obtained by contacting Sandy Mahaffey at 330-518-6927.

## Stage Combat Class To Be Held At JCC

The JCC of Youngstown is offering "Stage Combat: Swashbucklers & Swords" for ages 8 to 13 at 6:30 p.m. Mondays from March 3 to 24 at the

JCC, 505 Gypsy Lane. Registration is required by Feb. 24.

This course is designed to provide a safe and fun environment for participants to learn the fundamentals of stage combat. Under the guidance of an experienced instructor, students will explore basic techniques, sword handling, and choreography to bring thrilling, realistic fights to the stage.

This class will prepare students for the upcoming Camp JCC Theater Camp original production, "A Pirate's Life for JCC." All experience levels are welcome. There will be a parent presentation at the end of class the final week.



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