

CortlandNEWS

"The Good News Newspaper"

Vol. 22 No. 3

November 22, 2025

Serving the Lakeshore Communities

A Light in the Storm: Why Gratitude is the Heart of Thanksgiving

By Alex Irman

As the leaves turn to gold and the scent of roasting turkey fills the air, we approach Thanksgiving, a holiday steeped in tradition and the simple, profound act of giving thanks. Yet, this year, the call to gratitude feels less like a customary obligation and more like a **vital necessity**.

Look around the world, and the headlines paint a picture that can easily foster anxiety and despair. From persistent global conflicts and humanitarian crises to the urgent realities of climate change and economic uncertainty, the weight of the world's challenges is palpable. It is precisely in this climate of uncertainty that the practice of thankfulness, the very essence of Thanksgiving, becomes an anchor for the soul.

The original Thanksgiving story, though mythologized over time, was born not from plenty, but from perseverance in the face of immense hardship. The Pilgrims and the Wampanoag people, in their uneasy alliance, shared a harvest that followed a year of devastating loss and struggle. Their gathering was a moment to pause and acknowledge the survival, the communal support, and the small blessings that had allowed them to endure.

This historical context offers a powerful lesson for today. We do not have to wait for life to be perfect



to be grateful. In fact, cultivating an attitude of gratitude is one of the most effective tools we have for navigating imperfection.

In an era defined by a constant stream of negative news, the deliberate choice to be thankful is a profound act of emotional and psychological resilience. Studies in positive psychology consistently show that gratitude is not just a pleasant emotion; it is a catalyst for well-being. Practicing gratitude—whether through a daily journal, a moment of reflection, or a genuine expression of thanks—has been proven to lower stress, improve sleep, and even enhance overall physical health. It

acts as a sort of psychological immune system, offering a buffer against the constant onslaught of daily stressors and global anxieties.

It forces a shift in perspective. When we are consumed by what is lacking or what is wrong in the world, our focus shrinks. Gratitude, conversely, expands our view. It allows us to hold the reality of global sorrow while simultaneously recognizing the good that still exists in our personal sphere: a loving family, a warm home, a steady job, the kindness of a stranger, or even simply the quiet miracle of a new day.

The importance of gratitude extends beyond personal health; it is

a social glue. Thanksgiving brings us together, often around a table, and compels us to voice our appreciation for the people who enrich our lives. These simple acts of recognition strengthen our bonds, foster empathy, and build a sense of community.

In a world that often feels fractured and polarized, this communal recognition of shared blessings is crucial. It reminds us that we are not isolated units facing a lonely struggle, but interconnected individuals whose lives are supported by a web of relationships and shared resources. By acknowledging the good we receive, we are more likely to be motivated to give good, creating a virtuous cycle that can push back against the despair.

This Thanksgiving, as we gather, let us remember the lesson of that first harvest. Let us not use the current state of the world as a reason to forgo thankfulness, but as a powerful reason to embrace it. Let the feast be more than a meal; let it be a conscious, collective declaration that despite the storms, there is still light, there is still love, and there is still reason to say, "Thank you."

The choice to be grateful in a difficult world is an act of hope. It is the belief that the small, personal blessings we count today can fuel the strength and optimism needed to face the larger challenges of tomorrow.

Shop Local for the Holidays Why Your Dollar Keeps Cortland Thriving

By Alex Irman

The holiday season is officially upon us, and as Cortland residents begin making their shopping lists and checking them twice, we at The Cortland News urge you to consider where your

hard-earned money is being spent. While the siren song of major online retailers and big box stores is strong, the choice to Shop Local this year is more than just a feel-good gesture—it is a critical investment in the economic health, unique character, and future of our beloved community.

Cortland is fortunate to have a vibrant collection of small, independent businesses. From the unique boutiques lining Main Street to the family-owned hardware stores, eateries, and service providers, these businesses are the heartbeat of our town. When you choose to purchase gifts, holiday meals, or services from them, you are participating in a powerful economic cycle that directly benefits your neighbors.

The single most compelling reason to shop locally is the economic multiplier effect. Studies conducted on local economies consistently show that far more of your money stays within the community when you shop small. While a purchase made at a national

chain sees most of its profit whisked away to a corporate headquarters located elsewhere, a purchase made at an independent Cortland store keeps a significant portion of that revenue right here in Trumbull County.

For every dollar spent at a local independent business, a remarkable percentage—often cited to be two to three times more than a chain store—is recirculated locally. This happens because local owners are more likely to hire residents, use local banks, purchase supplies and services from other nearby businesses, and contribute to local non-profits and school fundraisers. When you buy a hand-knitted scarf from a Cortland boutique, that money doesn't just pay for the scarf; it helps the owner pay their local employee, renew their lease with a local landlord, and buy coffee from a Cortland café. This ripple effect strengthens our entire local tax base, which directly funds the public services we all rely on, such as our Cortland schools, roads, and first responders.

To shine a national spotlight on the importance of this choice, the Saturday immediately following Thanksgiving is celebrated across the United States as Small Business Saturday. This year, that date falls on Saturday, November 29.

Small Business Saturday was founded by American Express in 2010 during the Great Recession to encourage consumers to redirect some of their holiday spending away from Black Friday's massive retail chains and Cyber Monday's online giants toward neighborhood shops. It has grown into a nationwide movement, and its impact is staggering. Last year, consumers spent billions of dollars on Small Business Saturday alone, injecting vital capital into local economies across the country, including in Ohio, where small businesses are the backbone of job creation.

What makes Small Business Saturday special isn't just the sales; it's the connection. Small business owners are typically passionate experts in their fields, providing personalized customer

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Continued on page 11



Advertiser Index	2
Business	4, 5, 6
Calendar	3
Faith	10, 11
Finance	15
Government	7, 8, 14
Insurance	18, 19
Library	22
Restaurants/Entertainment	16, 17
School.....	12, 13
Business Card Ads	23

CortlandNews.net

ADVERTISER INDEX

4 Star Diner	17
Action Physical Therapy	14
Apex Exteriors Plus	7
Attorney Bill Brooker	15
Barzak Agency	20
Bazetta Christain Church	4, 10
Bazetta Cortland Optimist Club	4
Beautiful Whirl'd	16
Belltower Security	20
Beth Piper Insurance	13
BodyTech Fitness	3
Bristol Community Church	17
Burkey Burkey & Scher	19
Calvary Bible Church	10
Church of the Nazarene	11
Clearview Lantern Suites	21
Cortland Christian Church	10
Cortland Clothing Consignment Shop ..	3
Cortland Collaborative	16
Cortland Healthcare	5
Cortland Lanes	18
Cortland Mower & The Bird Nest	4
Cortland Pediatrics - Dr. Johnson	19
Cortland United Methodist Church ..	10
Countryside Vet/Adopt A Pet	20
Custom Countertops & Kitchens	18
Daffron Auto Body	18
Eclectic Coffee	16
Edward Jones	19
Emery Agency	5
Enzo's Restaurant	17
Farmington Senior Center	3
Gillette Nursing Home	20
Gingerbread Walk	13
Guidelight Financial Group	20
Hair House	6
Journey Christian Church	10
King Bros. / King's Sanitary Services ..	21
L. Calvin Jones	20
Lakeview Ace Hardware	9
Little Sprouts Learning Adventures ..	7
Livi Steel, Inc	20
Mark Thomas Ford	6
MD Denna Heating and Cooling	6
Mecca Community Church	10
Middlefield Bank	8
Midway Garage Door	14
Music 101	3
Ohio Living - Lake Vista	20
Pearl Street Market	6
Petrosky Brothers	15
Pizza Joe's	17
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church ..	10
Ruddy Insurance Group	15
S.A. Anderson Electric LLC	8
Salvatore's	16
Santa	22
Sparkle	15
Totally Dog	5
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran	11
Vasilio's	17
Warren Trumbull Co Public Library ..	22
Western Reserve Vet Hospital/Adopt ..	9
What's the Scoop	16
Wiley Insurance Services	9
W.T. Schrader Insurance Agency	21

See Business Cards on Page 23

CORTLAND CITY

CITYOFCORTLAND.ORG

Mayor	330-637-4003	POLICE/FIRE EMERGENCY	911
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 Dec 1 - 7 PM
Monday, Dec 15 - 7 PM

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, Dec 8 - 5:30 PM

PLANNING & ZONING

Second Monday of each month
Monday, Dec 8 - 7 PM.

*Meetings and agenda of Council and
Planning meetings area available at
www.cortlandoh.gov*

BAZETTA TOWNSHIP

BAZETTATWP.ORG

Admin Building	330-637-8816
3372 State Route 5 ..fax:	330-637-4588
Trustees, Clerk, Zoning Inspector and Cemetery Sexton	330-637-8816
Road Department	330-637-8311

FIRE - POLICE - RESCUE	911
Police Department	330-638-5503
Fire Station #11	330-637-4136
3000 Warren Meadville Rd	
Non Emergency Calls ...	330-675-2730

BAZETTA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular meetings the second Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise noted.

Tuesday, Dec 9 - 7 PM

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, Nov 24 - 6 PM

Area Service Clubs

Bazetta Cortland Optimist Club	Four Seasons Garden Club
Steve Rock	Nancy Finlay
330-240-1634	330-637-8931
Cortland Bazetta Historical Society & Museum	Johnston Senior Center
Curt Moll/Info@cortlandohiohistory.org.	Jim Bacorn
330-638-2330	330-924-0412
Cortland Lions Club	Warren City Federation of Women's Clubs
Dawna Wiland	Terri Crabbs
330-219-9852	330-637-3845
Cortland Masonic Lodge	American Assoc of University Women
Chuck Chagnot	Ruth Bradshaw
330-307-3405	330-307-1151
Cortland Moose Lodge	League of Woman Voters
Bill Bartholomew	Peggy Boyd
330-637-9957	330-856-5398
Cortland Rotary Club	Cortland Area Cares
Donald Petrosky	Donna Kittle
330-637-7627	330-637-0821
Cortland SCOPE	Friends of the Cortland Library
Terri Donahue	(Cheryl Bush or Karen Murphy) ..
330-980-5363	330-637-2717
Cortland Opal CH 181, O.E.S	Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship
Carla Kahler	(LOAF) Bob Mangold
330-856-2356	330-637-8956
The Opera House (Event Rentals)	<i>Please contact the Cortland News if you would like your organization listed here.</i>
Maribeth Albu	
330-219-1488	

Our Next Issue December 13, 2025

Our theme will be

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year

Article Deadline by Dec 1 • Display Advertising Deadline is Dec 3
Email articles to editor@cortlandnews.net

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

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

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

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

Cortland News SELF SERVE Paper Box Locations

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

PUBLISHER

Fox Run Publishing, L.L.C.
Jim Woofter - Publisher/Owner
330-565-2637 jim@cortlandnews.net

EDITOR

Thom Foley
editor@cortlandnews.net

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Tracy Omerzo

ADVERTISING SALES

Jim Woofter 330-565-2637
Thom Foley 330-727-5688
Ralph McCord 330-219-4879
Tracy Omerzo 330-647-8378
Larry Cline 260-229-8941

FEATURED WRITER

Alex Irman

JOURNALISTS & COLUMNISTS

Rev Brandon Byler
Michael DeToro
Zachary Freeman
Amelia Gavolas
Cait Morgan
Thomas Shortreed
Rev Jonathan Williams

CONTRIBUTORS

Vanessa Bachman
Cindy Bratek
Rachel Butler
Beth Kotwiz Carmichael
Bethany Cluckey
Tracy Cooper
Matthew Derrick
Apryl Gilliss
Sarah Gyure
Joyce Hall
Heidi Harper
Theresa Hutton
D'Lynn Johnson
Stephanie Kommel
Mary Lepisto
Bob Mangold
Dick McClain
Ralph McCord
Chief David Morris
Betzy Peacock
Cathy Phifer
Emily Steinkopf
Cheryl Tynes
Josh Vastag
Robert Wacker
Mike Wilson

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please direct correspondence to:
Cortland News
P.O. Box 56
Cortland, OH 44410
(330) 565-2637
www.cortlandnews.net

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

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

Article submissions to:
editor@cortlandnews.net

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

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



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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
 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 Library page.
<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.

NOVEMBER

- 22 Rehearsal for LOAF Christmas Concert / Prince of Peace Church
490 N High St. Cortland / 10 AM
- 23 LOAF Community Thanksgiving Service / Cortland United Methodist Church / 2 PM
- 25 Bingo / Farmington Senior Center 150 College St. / 5:30 PM
Doors open at 5 / \$20 for 10 games, cash prizes.
- 29 Kick off the Holidays with the Annual Gingerbread Walk!
Starts on W Main St. / 10 AM to 3 PM
- 29 Cortland Christian Church Craft Fair / 10 AM to 3 PM
- 29 Trumbull Art Gallery Special Opening Reception / 11 AM - 5 PM
- 30 Christmas Tree Lighting / Downtown Cortland / 5 - 8 PM
There will be food, hot chocolate, horse and carriage rides, Santa & Mrs. Claus!

DECEMBER

- 3 Cortland Community Band / Howland Scope / 7 PM
- 6 Charity Fund-Raiser Pancake Breakfast / Cortland Masonic Lodge
9 - 11:30 AM/ Benefitting "Sleep In Heavenly Peace"
- 6 Rehearsal for LOAF Christmas Concert / Prince of Peace Church
490 N High St. Cortland / 10 AM
- 6 Annual Christmas Craft Show / Bazetta Cortland Optimist Club
Homemade Haluski. Local artists and crafters! We are looking for vendors!
- 10 Cortland Community Band / Shepherd of the Valley Liberty
1501 Tibbetts Wick Rd / 7 PM
- 10 Blood Drive / Cortland United Methodist Church / 12 - 5:30 PM
- 14 Cortland Community Band LOAF Christmas Concert
Lakeview HS Raidel Auditorium / 2 PM
- 17 Cortland Community Band / Grace Methodist Church
1725 Drexel Ave NW Warren / 7 PM
- 20 Live Nativity Event / Bazetta Christian Church / 4-7 PM
- 21 Cortland Community Band / Eastwood Mall in front of Santa / 3 PM

Business News & Notes

By Thom Foley

Little Sprouts Learning Adventures, 110 Windsor Drive, 234-244-4200 www.littlesproutsLA.com is now open and accepting enrollment applications. We hear they are filling up quickly so call soon. They are locally owned and operated.

Have you stopped by **The Cortland Clothing Consignment Shop** yet? Best bargains on gently worn women's clothing anywhere.

Champion Tax Service reminds you that now is a good time to start gathering your tax information for 2025. While you are at it, call them at Schrader Insurance and schedule a free Insurance review for 2026.

Cortland Bazetta Optimists Annual Craft Show is Dec 6.

Cortland Lanes reminds you to book your holiday party now. They are

filling up fast.

Cortland Mower is having a 10% sale on all in stock Snow Blower Paddles, Oil, Oil Filters, Mower Blades on Nov 28 & 29.

The Bird's Nest [inside Cortland Mower] is having a HUGE sale on suet cakes and select bags of bird seed and wildlife feed. Check out their custom-made gift baskets only on Nov 28 & 29 - what a great holiday gift!

Totally Dog is participating in the Gingerbread walk so be sure to stop by and get some great bargains.

While you are at **Totally Dog**, go across the street and check out the all new '**Cortland Collaborative Makers Market Café & Events**'. There is nothing like it in the Lakeview area. Food, music and so much more.

Farmington Senior Center Seeking Dedicated Volunteers

By Mary Lepisto

The Farmington Senior Center is calling on community members to lend a helping hand and make a difference in the lives of local seniors. Volunteers are urgently needed to assist with daily activities, meal service, and community engagement at the center, located at 150 College Street, Farmington.

Volunteer shifts are available on Mondays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and Tuesdays through Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

"Our volunteers are the heart of the Farmington Senior Center," said Director Mary Lepisto. "They bring warmth, energy, and friendship that brighten every day for our members. Whether serving lunch, helping with

activities, or simply sharing a smile, volunteers play a vital role in making the center a welcoming place for everyone."

Volunteering at the Senior Center is not just about giving back, it's also a rewarding opportunity to connect with others, learn new skills, and be part of a close-knit community. Many volunteers find lasting friendships and a sense of purpose through their service.

Anyone interested in volunteering or learning more about the program is encouraged to contact Mary Lepisto or Tina Mooney at 330-889-2733.

Together, we can keep the Farmington Senior Center a vibrant, supportive space for our community's seniors.

To All Business Owners & Organizations

Dear Cortland Business Owner and/or Organization,

For several years, the city of Cortland has personally delivered "Cortland Welcome Bags" to new residents moving into the city. The bags include a welcome letter from the mayor, a list of important phone numbers, a map of the city, as well as small donations from local businesses and organizations. Gifts such as pens/pencils, magnets, notepads, coupons, key rings, tea bags, letter openers, lip balm, koozies, recipe books, jar grippers, and gifts cards are just a few examples from past welcome bags. Each year, the bags feature unique donations highlighting Cortland's wonderful businesses and organizations.

The city wishes to continue this tradition with your support. If you have been one of the many businesses contributing to the "Cortland Welcome Bags," thank you for your support. If not, please consider participating. It is a great and creative way to advertise your business and welcome new residents moving into the city.

If you are interested in participating in the program this year, please drop off 100 items at City Hall, 400 North High St, no later than Friday, **December 12, 2025**. If you have any questions, please call Rhonda at (330) 638-0142 or email her at rhorn@cortlandoh.gov.

Thank you in advance for your support. Cortland City Council

CORTLAND CLOTHING CONSIGNMENT SHOP



3475 State Rt. 5
Cortland, OH. 44410
330-307-3828
Open: Monday - Saturday
11 am - 4 pm

BINGO NIGHT

Farmington Senior Center, 150 College Street
Tuesday, November 25th at 5:30pm-Doors open at 5pm
\$20.00 for ten games
Cash prizes, come test your luck!
Food to purchase
Your Seat's Saved...Let's Play Bingo!



Music 101
4389 St. Rt. 305 (Fowler Center)
Cortland, OH 44410
330-638-1101



Girt's Cortland Music 101
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Cortland, OH 44410
330-637-GIRT *4478



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Warren, OH



134 N High St,
Cortland, OH

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EXPERIENCE
The Nativity
A True Story
 A Bazetta Christian Church Presentation

Join Bazetta Christian Church for a
LIVE NATIVITY EVENT

drive through our parking lot to witness the story of
 Christ's birth, complete with shepherds, wise men, Mary, Joseph, the
 baby Jesus, a Roman soldier, and real animals (including camels).

Celebrate the season with your family
 from the comfort of your vehicle.
 All are welcome!

Saturday, December 20 ~ 4-7pm
 4131 Hoagland Blackstub Rd. / Cortland, OH

Bazetta Cortland Optimist Club

• **Annual Christmas**
 • **Craft Show** •

Saturday, December 6, 2025
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Chinese Auction, Homemade Haluski and More!
 All proceeds benefit the youth in our community.

2619 Hoagland Blackstub Road, Warren

Cortland Collaborative Makers Market Café & Events Opens

A new café and community hub has opened its doors in the heart of downtown Cortland. Cortland Collaborative: The Makers Market Café and Events is quickly becoming a place where neighbors gather to share food, music, and creativity.

The café isn't just about coffee, it's about connection. With weekly events like live music, yoga, and a walking club, Cortland Collaborative is building a calendar designed to bring people together and celebrate the spirit of community.

Live Music & Local Talent

Already, the café has welcomed performers such as The Uke Kool Lady Paulette Darko, The Hendersons, and the Dulcimer Society. Their performances have filled the space with joy and highlighted the café's mission to showcase local artistry.

Food & Sweet Treats - Guests can enjoy soups, salads, and sandwiches from the eatery, alongside desserts from two beloved local bake shops—The Cake Boutique and Sugar Pop Bakery. The café is also becoming a festive stop for seasonal treats.

Showcasing Local Makers - True to its name, Cortland Collaborative highlights the work of local makers.

From handcrafted goods to creative products, members' talents are proudly displayed, giving artisans a platform and visitors a chance to shop locally.

A Place to Gather - Whether sipping a cappuccino, trying a matcha latte, or attending a community event, visitors are invited to make the café their go-to spot for connection. Founders Jamie & Matt describes the vision as "a hub where local businesses, artists, and residents can share stories, and enjoy one another."

As the holiday season approaches and a new year begins, we invite you to be part of the excitement at Cortland Collaborative: The Makers Market Café Eatery and Events. Check the calendar of community events on our Facebook page to discover live music, yoga, walking clubs, trivia nights, karaoke, and special holiday offerings. Whether you're stopping in for a warm latte, enjoy a piece of cake or pie for the holidays, or joining neighbors for an evening of music, there's always something happening here.

Come see what's brewing in Cortland—your community, your café, your place to connect. They are located at 201 W Main Street in downtown Cortland.



Founders Matt & Jamie

**HUGE
 BLACK FRIDAY SALE
 NOV 28 & 29**

CORTLAND MOWER SALES

 118 Walnut Street
 Cortland, OH 44410
330-637-4976
www.CortlandMower.com
 MON-FRI 8-5 / SAT 9-2 / SUN CLOSED

THE BIRD NEST AT CORTLAND MOWER SALES

SUET PLUS & PINE TREE SUET CAKES
 11 OZ. - 12 FOR ONLY \$11!
 SOME RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY - SEE STORE FOR DETAILS

20% OFF ALL BAGS OF BIRDSEED OR WILDLIFE FEED

10% OFF IN STOCK SNOW BLOWER PADDLES, OIL, OIL FILTERS, MOWER BLADES

RECEIVE A FREE HOMEMADE BIRD HOUSE WITH ANY IN STORE PURCHASE OF \$100 OR MORE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

THE BIRD NEST HAS CUSTOM MADE GIFT BASKETS AVAILABLE!

TORO **Cub Cadet**

Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner

The Rescue Mission of the Mahoning Valley is inviting the community to join us for a free Thanksgiving dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 27. This annual tradition is a way to share a warm meal and fellowship with anyone in need during the holiday season.

Dinner will be served at the Mission from: 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM. The menu includes all the holiday favorites: Turkey, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce, corn, rolls, and desserts.

All are welcome to come and enjoy a meal in a warm, caring environment. This long-standing tradition reflects the heart of the Rescue Mission's work: serving others with love and dignity. Every Thanksgiving, thousands of meals are shared, stories are heard, and lives are touched, all in the spirit of giving thanks.

The Cortland Clothing Consignment Shop



Special to The Cortland News

What started in 2011 as a personal project to give jobs for two young ladies with disabilities, has developed into one of the area's most charming little businesses. The Cortland Clothing Consignment Shop specializes in women's and young ladies' clothing that provides quality clothing and accessories at reduced prices. The boutique-like atmosphere makes it one of Trumbull County's unique shops.

Browsing through the shop you can feel the quality and high standards they maintain. Seeing the brand names on the gently worn, current styles, one can only imagine what stories the clothing might tell if it could talk. Were they worn to fancy events or memorable parties? Perhaps an anniversary or special birthday. They might have been worn during a high-power business meeting or first day on the job. Perhaps someone's important interview.

Now they are ready for their next great adventure to make some fortunate women's day a little better at a very reasonable price. Will that person be you? You should stop in and see the ever-changing selection of clothing and accessories. With over 3,000 consignors, the inventory changes constantly. Miss a day – and you miss a lot!

They won't take just any clothing for consignment. It must be gently worn, a current style, odor, stain & wrinkle free. They do not accept clothing in bags or boxes, just hangers. Please don't bring in more than 20 items per day.

It is obvious that the owners, Mother and Daughter Wanda & Cindy, put a lot of love, pride and attention into the items they offer. They want only the very best for their customers.



Owners, Mother and Daughter,
Wanda & Cindy



Presently they are accepting Fall & Winter items through February. Then on March 1st, they will begin to take Spring & Summer clothing and accessories until August. They do not accept out-of-season clothing due to the limited space. The consignor receives 40% of the selling price which is paid monthly. The consignor will receive a phone call when there is money in their account. After 4 months, any items not sold will be donated to a local church or charity.

The pleasant and helpful staff at this fun boutique encourage you to stop in and see what treasures await you. If you don't find something the first time then that is a great reason to stop back again soon.

The Cortland Clothing Consignment Shop is located at 3473 State Rt. 5 [Elm Rd] next to Super Tire. They are open to serve you Monday through Saturday from 11 AM to 4 PM. Their phone number is 330-307-3828.

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We are participating in the Small Business Gingerbread Walk on Nov. 29, with some amazing sales and discounts!

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Girt's Cortland Music 101 Helps Daybreak Music Students

One of the reasons this is *The Best Place In The World To Live* is because of the attitude of the people who live and work here. The Owner of Daybreak Music passed away suddenly recently. In a true spirit of offering a helping hand, one of their competitors has stepped forward to help bridge the gap. Here is a message from Girts Music 101: "To our community from Girt's Cortland Music 101 - 197 South High Street (across from DQ). A heartfelt Welcome to Daybreak Music Students and Teachers - we are hopeful to help bridge-the-gap during this difficult time, and extend a helping hand while the remaining family of Daybreaks

founder continue to work toward the important next-steps to take stock of their blessings and make necessary decisions and changes as they move forward. Watch for important updates and information, as we work together to serve our community."

Girt's Cortland Music 101 offers Lessons, Repairs, 0% Rent-to-own, All area School Band books, Music goods & supplies, Piano tuning services, Luthier services, and much more! Enrolling now! (330) 637-4478

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Mayflower Wollam Insurance Group Joins Forces With L. Calvin Jones Two Trusted Ohio Agencies Unite to Strengthen Client Service and Expertise

Special to The Cortland News

Mayflower Wollam Insurance Group, a trusted name in Northeast Ohio insurance for more than 80 years, has officially integrated with L. Calvin Jones, a leading independent insurance agency serving clients across Ohio, Pennsylvania and the continental United States since 1911.

This integration brings together two agencies with deep local roots, shared values, and a common mission: to provide exceptional insurance solutions and personalized service to individuals, families, and businesses.

By combining the teams' decades of experience and industry knowledge, clients will benefit from enhanced access to insurance carriers, specialized expertise, and an even stronger support network.

Clients of both agencies can expect a seamless transition, with the same familiar team members continuing to provide service and support.

For more information about L. Calvin Jones and its expanded offerings, please visit www.lcalvinjones.com

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84 Buy \$418 Per Month CHANGE TO \$3000 CASH OR TRADE EQUITY. INCLUDES \$795 REBATE AND TAX, TITLE & FEES DUE ON DELIVERY, 8.25%, PLUS TAX, TITLE & FEES DUE ON DELIVERY	84 Buy OR \$388 PER MONTH EMPLOYEE PRICE \$29,404.00, \$2,000 CASH OR TRADE, 84 MONTHS 8.25%
2024 MUSTANG ECOBOOST EMPLOYEE PRICE \$33,548.00 CASH OR TRADE \$3000.00 PRICE \$30,545.00	EXTRA INCENTIVES AVAILABLE: RENEWAL UP TO \$2000 FIRST RESPONDER \$500 MILITARY \$500 TRADE ASSISTANCE \$750 COLLEGE GRADUATE \$750 FARM BUREAU \$500
84 Buy \$422 Per Month EMPLOYEE PRICE \$33,548.00, 8.25% INTEREST WITH \$3000 CASH OR TRADE EQUITY, \$500 REBATE AND TAX, TITLE & FEES AT DELIVERY	2021 Kia Seltos EMPLOYEE PRICE \$22,072.00 CASH OR TRADE IN \$3000.00 OR \$345 /84MO.
2025 FORD BRONCO EMPLOYEE PRICE \$39,482.00 CASH OR TRADE \$3,000.00 PRICE \$36,482.00	2020 Hyundai Veloster EMPLOYEE PRICE \$22,998.00 CASH OR TRADE IN \$3000.00 OR \$359 /84MO.
84 Buy \$528 Per Month EMPLOYEE PRICE \$36,482.00, 8.25% CASH OR TRADE EQUITY, 84 MONTHS 8.25%, PLUS TAX, TITLE, FEES DUE AT DELIVERY	2022 Ford Edge EMPLOYEE PRICE \$23,994.00 CASH OR TRADE IN \$3000.00 OR \$379 /84MO.
2025 MAVERICK 2.0 XL EMPLOYEE PRICE \$39,215.30 CASH OR TRADE IN \$3000.00 PRICE \$26,215.30	2020 Chevy Blazer 2LT EMPLOYEE PRICE \$26,207.00 CASH OR TRADE IN \$3000.00 OR \$409 /84MO.
84 Buy \$387 Per Month EMPLOYEE PRICE \$26,215.30, 8.25% CASH OR TRADE EQUITY, 8.25% FOR 84 MONTHS PLUS TAX, TITLE & FEES DUE AT DELIVERY	2023 Escape ST Line EMPLOYEE PRICE \$26,998.00 CASH OR TRADE IN \$3000.00 OR \$398 /84MO.

USED CARS

2016 Ford Escape SE #A10130 BUY FOR \$15,336 OR \$377 /48MO.	2018 Chevy Equinox LT #A10512 BUY FOR \$18,452 OR \$325 /72MO.	2015 Mustang Convertible #A10884 BUY FOR \$18,600 OR \$439 /48MO.	2023 Nissan Rogue #A10709 BUY FOR \$21,620 OR \$319 /84MO.
2021 Kia Seltos #A10490 BUY FOR \$22,072 OR \$345 /78MO.	2020 Hyundai Veloster #A10919 BUY FOR \$22,998 OR \$359 /78MO.	2022 Nissan Altima #A10777 BUY FOR \$23,388 OR \$365 /78MO.	2022 Escape SE AWD #A10903 BUY FOR \$23,900 OR \$374 /78MO.
2022 Ford Edge #A10796 BUY FOR \$23,994 OR \$379 /78MO.	2020 Chevy Blazer 2LT #A10181 BUY FOR \$26,207 OR \$409 /78MO.	2023 Escape ST Line #P110531 BUY FOR \$26,998 OR \$398 /84MO.	2022 Ford Ranger #A10558 BUY FOR \$32,502 OR \$478 /84MO.
2023 Ford F150 Supercrew #E10920 BUY FOR \$37,400 OR \$585 /84MO.	2021 Ford F150 Crew Cab #A10154 BUY FOR \$41,000 OR \$640 /78MO.	2023 Transit Passenger #A10904 BUY FOR \$42,500 OR \$626 /84MO.	2022 Ford Bronco Outer Banks #A10218 BUY FOR \$46,000 OR \$678 /84MO.

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What's "news" in the City of Cortland

Just The Facts

Why shop local?
 a. to support your community
 b. to help the local economy
 c. for the unique merchandise and services
 d. all of the above

Find the answer at the bottom of the article.

Refrain from Blowing Leaves or Grass into the Roadway

Leaves and grass clippings in the roadway can block storm drains creating the potential for standing water and street flooding. Please do not purposely rake or blow leaves into storm inlets. If you see someone blowing grass and leaves into the roadway, you can report it to the Police Department at 330-638-1000.

Part of the contract that Republic Services provides is that they pick up unlimited yard waste from residential customers. Any leaves and grass clippings should be bagged separately from your regular trash. Thank you for your help in keeping our storm drains clear.

Angel Tree

City Hall and the Cortland Police are participating in The Salvation Army Angel Tree program again this year. If

you decide to join in helping children of families facing hardship, stop in! Choose an angel (or 2) from the tree, shop, and return the gifts by December 1st.

Gingerbread Walk

Kick off the holidays with the annual Gingerbread Walk! It will take place Saturday, November 29th from 10am to 3pm. There will be a horse and carriage to carry you to all of the participating Cortland shops.

Christmas Tree Lighting

Join us downtown Cortland on Sunday, November 30th from 5pm - 8pm as we light the Christmas Tree. There will be food, hot chocolate, horse and carriage rides, and Santa & Mrs. Claus!

Dates to Remember

December 1st - City Council - 7 p.m.
 December 8th - Parks Board - 6 p.m.
 December 8th - Planning & Zoning - 7 p.m.
 December 15th - City Council - 7 p.m.
 * Administrative Offices will be closed Nov. 27th and 28th for Thanksgiving.

Answer

d. all of the above.

Don't forget to shop local!

Cortland Police Say THANK YOU!!

By Chief David Morris

On November 4, voters in Cortland approved an additional 1.5 mil levy to support the Cortland Police Department by nearly 60%. I would like to THANK YOU to the taxpayers for your overwhelming support. The passage of this levy will help ensure we can continue to provide the same level of service you have come to expect.



Warren Post Announces Dispatcher And Trooper Of The Year

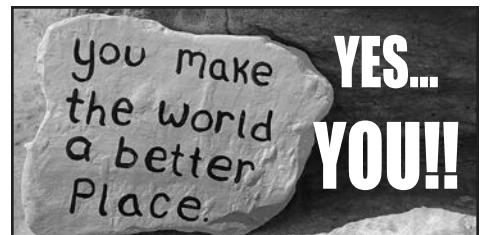
Shelly Higgins has been selected for the 2025 Ohio State Highway Patrol Telecommunications Award at the Warren Post. Higgins joined the patrol in 2003 and served at the Ashtabula, Ravenna, and Warren Post Dispatch Centers. She earned her high school diploma from Maplewood High School in 1992, currently resides in Mecca, and has been blessed with two daughters and two granddaughters.

Higgins has been awarded Dispatcher of the Year eight times during her career. She was also selected as the District Dispatcher of the Year twice, once in 2008 and once in 2018. She is actively involved in her community, volunteering with Special Olympics and supporting local initiatives.

Higgins served as a firefighter and advanced EMT for ten years prior to transitioning her career to telecommunications with the Trumbull County 911 dispatch Center for 2 years before joining the Ohio State Highway Patrol. She is now in contention for the

District and State Telecommunications Award which will be announced later.

In addition, the Warren Post has selected Trooper Adam Smith as their 2025 Trooper of the Year. Trooper Smith joined the Ohio State Highway Patrol in 2023 and has been assigned the Warren Post. Originally from North Jackson, he graduated from Jackson-Milton High School in 2016. He attended Ohio University and Youngstown State University. Trooper Smith currently resides in Brookfield with his 4-year-old daughter. Trooper Smith is now in contention for the District and State Trooper of the Year Award which will be announced later.



Laurel and Hardy Make a Pie [I shall play both parts]

By Cait Morgan

It's been a while since I made an apple pie. In past years I have been told I made a pretty good one. Even had people ask me to bake one for their dinners. In recent years I have been told my pie was a "mess" and asked not to make one. Ok then. So now that it's just the two of us, The Curmudgeon and I, it was decided that I would make us an apple pie.

Step one: get cutting board, apples, container to mix apples in, knife and apple peeler. Find pie pan, rolling pin, apple crust rolls (I cannot make a good crust, I admit that freely) and pad to roll the dough. Can't find the pad. Hit head on cupboard door while looking for the pad. Call the pad a nasty name, get two flexible cutting boards to put together. Off to a good start!

Step two: Take apple in left hand, peeler in right hand. Slice off end of left little finger with peeler. Swear, call peeler a name and head upstairs. Bandage finger then wrap in plastic. Return to kitchen, throw out apple, sanitize peeler, sanitize work area start over. Get apples peeled and sliced and into container. Clean the sink. Getting

rough, but I can do this.

Step three: Mix the spices, sugars and such and dump over the sliced apples, set the lid on container and shake. Clean up the counter, add more spices and sugars and shake again - this time with the lid on tightly. Drizzle with a little vanilla. Splash some into your face. Declare it as perfume. Clean the counter and the cupboard. Why did I decide this?

Step four: Roll out the dough and transfer to pie plate. Roll out top dough and do the same. Remove top dough from the pie plate and put apples in the stupid thing this time. Dot with butter. Roll out dough again and cover apples, stick thumb directly through it making large hole. Swear loudly. Remove crust and reposition, pinch and cover with egg wash and sugar. Finally get the stupid thing into the oven. Explain to your husband that he is on cleanup and you will make dinner in 20 minutes after you regroup.

Maybe there IS a reason I shouldn't cook anymore. But I have to say, it WAS tasty.



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The Cortland and Bazetta Police recently participated in Civic Day with Lakeview High School and the City. Pictured are Cortland Mayor Dieder Petrosky, Superintendent Ashley Handrych, Bazetta Police Chief Christopher Herlinger, LHS students Hudson L., Noah E., Cadence E., Cortland Police Chief David Morris.

Cortland & Bazetta Celebrated Halloween

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² Special Program Notes: The descriptions herein are summaries only and do not include all terms, conditions and exclusions of the Benefits described. Please refer to the actual Guide to Benefit and/or insurance documents for complete details of coverage and exclusions. Coverage is provided through the company named in the Guide to Benefit or on the certificate of insurance. Insurance Products are not insured by the FDIC or any Federal Government Agency; not a deposit of or guaranteed by the bank or bank affiliate.

Cortland & Bazetta celebrated Halloween like they always do – with lots of community support, fun costumes and, of course, CANDY and COSTUMES!

Here are just a few of the happy Trick or Treaters



Twin-witch - Sutton Malone & Dinosaur - Easton Malone



Pop Cans - Madison Ouellette, Tessa Malone, Pixie North & Calli Bush



Two Broken Dolls, Emma Benton & Kelsey Malone.

It's Never Too Late To Fall In Love

Special to The Cortland News

Two Cortland residents found love in their 80s, proving that love is ageless. On September 14, 2025, Michael Piros and Sharon Hofmann celebrated their union with a blessing ceremony, surrounded by more than 60 family members and friends.

The two had lost their spouses and, with the help of a mutual friend, arranged to meet. Their first meeting took place at Panera Bread on Elm Road. Both were nervous, with Mike telling Sharon that he hadn't had a blind date since high school.

The couple quickly discovered that they shared many of the same interests, such as travel, music, concerts, and a love of dancing. They plan to travel to Florida to reunite with the friend who brought them together.

Although their families were a little hesitant about the relationship at first, they now couldn't be more delighted

seeing Mike and Sharon happy and enjoying life together.

Congratulations to Mike and Sharon, and to all those in love at any age!



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Let no one ever come to you
without leaving happier."

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D. Brushless Random Orbit Sander, 2862977
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Faith News




Brought to you by

Cortland United Methodist Church

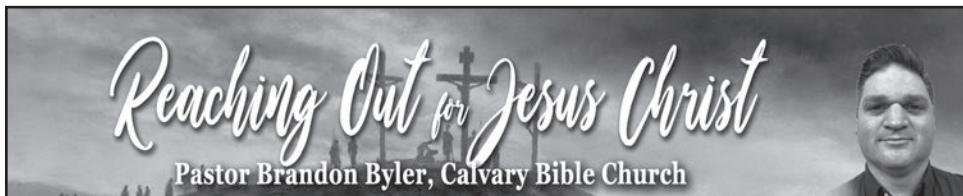
Rev. Jonathan Williams, Pastor

Service 10:00 am Sunday

155 N High St - Cortland OH 44410

330-637-2571

CortlandUMC1880@gmail.com



A Call To Thanksgiving

By Rev Brandon Byler, Pastor Calvary Bible Church

When you think about being thankful, what comes into your mind? I fear many would look at being thankful as an attitude only and not an action. When you read the Old Testament, God gave laws that allowed His people to express their thanksgiving through a sacrifice. In Leviticus 29:22, God gives this instruction to Israel: "When you offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Lord, offer it of your own free will." That is the foundation of expressing thankfulness.

I truly enjoy the holiday of Thanksgiving, but if the only day we think about being thankful is the fourth Thursday of November, how thankful can we say we are, especially if it's not entered in joy?

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul writes a lot about being thankful. I find it interesting that the word in the Greek for the English word thanksgiving is eucharistia. My Catholic friends will immediately recognize the word "eucharist." It makes sense that we would approach the Lord's Table with an attitude of thanksgiving. Remembering what Jesus has done for us. How can we not be thankful?

Jesus came to earth willingly, born of the virgin Mary, was raised

in obscurity, then began His earthly ministry revealing the nature of God to mankind. That Jesus was hated so severely and put to death is shocking to us. When we hear His own testimony about His ministry, we should not be shocked (Matthew 20:18-19). Jesus came to die for mankind that we can be redeemed from the penalty of our sin.

Jesus offers up the memorial of His death brilliantly, saying the bread represents His body which was broken for us, and the wine represents His blood which was shed for us. When we remember the sacrifice Jesus has made for us and His resurrection which secures our salvation, how can we not be thankful?

Dear Christian, let us not just talk about being thankful, let's demonstrate it. This can be letters of appreciation to a parent, friend, or teacher. It can be a token of love with talents. If you can bake, give away some cookies or bread. If you can fix things, offer services to widows and the less fortunate. Use your imagination. Let us move away from the idea that Thanksgiving is just an attitude. Let us embrace actions. Let us remember how Jesus saved us and let us do for others as He did for us.

I had a retail job once. Seven years working for the same company; and in that time, seven holiday shopping seasons.

I didn't enjoy any of them.

I worked longer hours than usual stocking shelves, updating sale prices, and being constantly reminded that my sales quotas were now higher than they had been for the past ten months. And as my stress level went up and stayed up, my overall sense of joy and job satisfaction went down.

I worked for a moderately large corporation, so I had known from the beginning that I was relatively expendable to them, and that I would never have any real ownership over anything I sold. Even though what I sold was useful and helpful to people, none of it was anything that I had made, designed, or even necessarily cared about. But it was a good job, and I learned a lot from working there: I learned that the people who work in retail jobs deal with a lot of stress. I learned that the companies who employ them don't always care about them, the customers they deal with don't always appreciate them, and the merchandise they sell doesn't always inspire them; and the holidays make all of that feel

heavier.

There are stores where the merchants care about their employees, where customers tend to be more respectful to them, and everyone there is more passionate about what they sell. Many such shops - though not all - are the smaller shops and companies that struggle to compete with large corporate stores.

I no longer work retail, but its lessons are still important. So, I invite you, as the holiday shopping season begins, to keep them in mind:

When you are shopping, try to seek out stores that treat their people well, and where what is being sold actually seems to bring them joy. Also, remember in every instance that most of the workers around you are under a lot of stress, and the things they are selling might bring you far more joy than they bring them.

So be patient, be kind; be mindful of where you shop, and who you interact with, and how.

And, if you have the opportunity to support a small store where the people really love what they do, take it. Because giving and receiving gifts made with love is what the Christmas season has always really been about.

Holiday Church Services

Trinity Lutheran Church

Thanksgiving Eve Service Wednesday, November 26th at 5:30 pm we will celebrate Thanksgiving in Worship. We hope you can join us.

Prince of Peace

December 24: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church of Cortland will be having a Christmas Eve Service @ 6:00 p.m. Open Communion.

Cortland United Methodist Church

Christmas Eve Services - 4:30 pm Fowler United Methodist Church and 7:00 pm Cortland United Methodist Church

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.
~ COLOSSIANS 3:15

Live Nativity Event

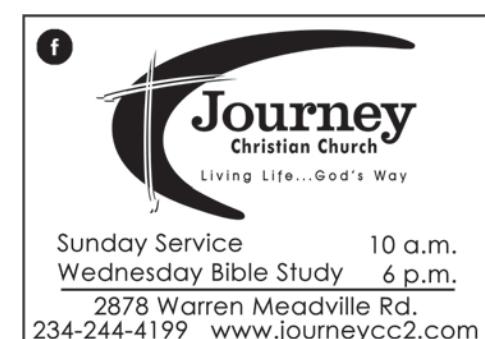


Join Bazetta Christian Church for a drive through their parking lot to witness the story of Christ's birth, complete with shepherds, wise men, Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus, a Roman



soldier and real animals (including camels).

Celebrate the season with your family from the comfort of your vehicle. All are welcome! Saturday, December 20 from 4 to 7 PM. Please join us!



Journey Christian Church Welcomes New Pastor

Special to The Cortland News

Journey Christian Church, 2878 Warren Meadville Rd, is proud to welcome their new Pastor, Rev. Dan Squezello, MDiv, BCC. Rev Squezello was born and raised in Stratford Connecticut which is located about an hour away from New York City on Long Island Sound. He grew up in church but was self-focused until his life was changed forever when he went on a mission trip to Deer Springs Mission in Nageezi, New Mexico on the Navajo Indian Reservation.

It was there that he truly dedicated himself to Christ as well as to serving Him. He received his seminary



education in San Diego at Southern California Seminary and pastored his first church in the mountains of northern California.

"My family and I moved to the area for me to pastor a church in 2018, but things didn't go as I expected. Right when I was lost and unsure of what the future had for me God opened the door for me to be a Chaplain at St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital" Rev. Squezello said.

"I have been blessed with the opportunity to walk with patient's families and staff through some of their most difficult moments. Today my fulltime vocation and calling is as the Chaplain Team Supervisor at St. Es but over the past year or so I have felt God's calling to step up and serve Him even more. Peter exhorts pastors to 'Shepherd God's flock among you' in 1 Peter 5:2. While this is something I have the privilege of doing at St. Es, I truly felt convicted to do more. This, of course, is why I am stepping in, and up, as Pastor of Journey Christian Church. "I look forward to leading Journey to be a light for Christ in the community along with my wife Tabbethia and daughters Cameron and Cadence."

Journey Christian Church invites everyone to come and worship with us as we welcome Rev. Squezello to our community. God Bless you all.

Church News And Notes

Cortland Christian Church

Craft Fair is November 29th from 10 am -3 pm. with about 35 Crafters and vendors and lots of new ideas this year. A Gingerbread House contest with prizes for different ages and categories is being planned. Call for registration form or watch on Facebook. We will be advertising with The shops in Cortland. Watch for signs all around town and on the electronic sign at Speedway. Lunch is available at a reasonable price. One raffle prize will be presented to one of the free tickets given at the door and many other Raffle baskets will be featured. Join in with all the shops in Cortland to make this "ONE FUN" day. Any questions call 330-637-4611.

Cortland United Methodist Church

LOAF Community Thanksgiving Service held at Cortland United Methodist Church, November 23, 2:00 pm. Also, we are hosting a Blood Drive, December 10, 12:00 - 5:30 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church

Katharina's Closet Donation drop off is the first Monday of the month from 4:30 pm-6:30 pm. We are

receiving donations of Diapers, Wipes, and Baby Clothes. If you would like to drop off donations at another time please call Pastor Wacker at 330-647-6402 to arrange a time. Please do not leave donations on the narthex porch or by the parking lot entrance. We will have to dispose of such donations. The next distribution day will be Thursday November 20th, from 4:30 pm-6:30 pm.

Bible Studies Our congregation invites you to join us as we dive into God's Word in our Bible Studies. Bible Studies on Sunday are at 9 am on the first, third, fourth and fifth Sundays September through May. We are making our way from Genesis to Revelation. We are currently going through the book of Exodus. Wednesday Bible Studies at 5:30 pm and we are studying what the Bible says about Angels and Demons.

Sunday School is at 9 am on first, third, fourth and fifth Sundays during the school year. 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.

Christmas Community Band And Choir Coming To Town!

By Theresa Hutton

The sights and sounds of Christmas are returning to Cortland! You are warmly invited to an afternoon filled with joy, harmony, and holiday spirit as LOAF proudly presents its Annual Christmas Concert, featuring the Cortland Community Band and Community Choir. The concert will be held on Sunday, December 14, at 2:00 p.m. at Lakeview High School - Raidel Auditorium.

This free community concert has become a beloved holiday tradition - a time for families, friends, and neighbors to come together, lift their hearts in song, and celebrate the true meaning of the season. Through the beauty of music, we are reminded of God's gifts of peace, joy, and love shared among us.

A freewill offering will be joyfully received to support this year's chosen mission, Sleep in Heavenly Peace - Trumbull Chapter. This dedicated group of volunteers hand-builds bunk beds for children in need, providing not only the beds themselves but also mattresses, bedding, and the assurance that "No Child Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town."

After the concert, everyone is invited to stay for a cookie and refreshment reception - a sweet time of fellowship and reflection as we celebrate the warmth of the Christmas spirit together. Come and be part of this joyful gathering as the music of the season fills our hearts and our community once again!

Shop Local ... *continued from front page*

service and unique, carefully curated products you won't find anywhere else. They offer the kind of thoughtful, one-of-a-kind gifts that make the holiday season memorable. By prioritizing a visit to our local shops on November 29th, you are not just checking items off your list; you are celebrating the unique character that defines Cortland.

Your Support: The Engine That Keeps The Cortland News Going: Finally, as you plan your shopping itinerary through Cortland this holiday season, we want to deliver a heartfelt and critically important reminder.

The Cortland News is proud to be a free community newspaper, delivered to your homes and available throughout the area at no charge to you, the reader. This model is only possible because of the businesses that choose to advertise their services and products within our pages.

The local businesses you see featured in our ads - whether they are

Realtors, restaurants, mechanics, or retailers - are the engine that allows us to cover local news, report on school events, feature community stories, and keep you informed without a subscription fee. When you shop locally and support the advertisers in *The Cortland News*, you are directly funding the ability of this newspaper to continue publishing, printing, and distributing the free community journalism that connects all of us.

So, as you prepare for the holidays, please remember the Cortland multiplier. Choose your local retailer first. Mark your calendar for Small Business Saturday on November 29th. And most importantly, know that by supporting the businesses that support us, you truly ensure that Cortland remains a vibrant, thriving place for everyone.

Happy Holidays, and happy shopping!

Calvary Bible Church Welcomes Youth Minister

Special to The Cortland News

Pastor Michael Matejka began at Calvary Bible Church on Warren Road in April 2025. He is a graduate of Moody Bible Institute with a bachelor's in biblical studies. He grew up in the Cleveland area and felt called to ministry shortly after graduating high school. Throughout his time studying he spent time working as a groundskeeper both in Cleveland and Chicago.

Michael is the middle child with an older brother Ryan and younger sister Lauren. As the middle child he jokes that he is either forgotten or blamed. He has a very close relationship with his family and travels home to Cleveland often to spend time with them. His parents have been very influential in his life; he credits them for fostering the environment that cultivated his love for the Lord and desire to serve King Jesus in Ministry.

Michael has a heart for apologetics and teaching people the truths of the Gospel. He is an avid disc golfer and spends many hours out on the course. Other hobbies include guitar, ultimate



frisbee, board games, and reading.

At Calvary Bible Church Michael heads up the Youth Ministry for students from 7th to 12th grade. Calvary seeks to build mature believers who love Jesus, not only because of their heritage, but because they have personally encountered the Living God and have walked away changed.

The Evangelism/outreach team has also started up, Michael and Calvary church member Adam have begun teaching classes with future outreach events planned.

CHURCH OF THE NAZAREN
EVERYONE WELCOME
Pastor Chuck Hargenrader
9:30 am Sunday Adult Connection Group. (Bible Study)
10:45 am Traditional Worship
10:30 am Wednesday Faith Lesson & Soup
293 E Main St, Cortland
570-567-4486

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Rev. Robert Wacker, Pastor
Sunday Service - 10:15am
Tuesday Service 4 PM
Pastor Cell: (330) 647-6402
Pastor Email: pastortrinitywarren@gmail.com
(330) 372-1897
trinitylutheranwarren@gmail.com
2742 North Rd NE Warren, OH 44483
www.trinitylutheranwarren.org

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Sunday Service 9:30 am
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church - Cortland OH
490 North High St.
Reverend David Vensel, Presiding

Mecca Community CHURCH
Welcome home!
est. 1822
Pastor Steve Garces
Sunday School 9 AM / Morning Worship 10 AM
Kids Crusaders & Youth Groups Age 4- Grade 12 ~ Weds 6PM
5920 Phillips Rice Rd - Cortland, OH
330-638-5537
www.meccacommunitychurch.com
mcc@meccacommunitychurch.com



Lakeview School News

Sponsored by

Apostolakis
Honda



Meet Aurora Hall: Bulldog Wrestler on the Rise

- Grade: 11 • Sport: Wrestling • Claim to Fame: Qualified for the 2025 OHSAA State Meet
- Fun Fact: Aurora has wrestled under the Lakeview name while training with Girard High School's coaching staff. Now she gets to be at "home".
- Off the Mat: When she's not wrestling, Aurora enjoys track and soccer while maintaining a 3.6 GPA.

Quote from Aurora:

"Wrestling has taught me discipline, toughness, and how to be more open and social. I'm excited to finally compete for Lakeview!"

Four LHS Seniors To Continue

Athletic Careers In College

By Mark Novotny

Lakeview Local Schools is honoring seniors Mackenzie Stowe, Isabella Isenberg, Makenna Doran and Annabelle Humphrey who will be continuing their academic and athletic careers at the college level.

Mackenzie Stowe will be continuing her softball career at Kent State University. Mackenzie is a 4-year letterwinner in softball and basketball. Mackenzie set records as a Junior with 11 home runs and 53 RBIs to help lead Lakeview to its first ever State Tournament appearance. Mackenzie has earned 1st team NE8 honors in both basketball and softball, as well as NE8 Player of the year her Junior season.

Isabella Isenberg will be continuing her softball career at Otterbein University. Isabella is a 4-year letterwinner in softball and basketball. Isabella has earned multiple

all conference selections and helped lead Lakeview to its first ever State Tournament appearance.

Makenna Doran will be continuing her soccer career at Clarion University. Makenna is a 4-year letterwinner in soccer. Makenna finished her career with 65 goals and 52 assists. She was 2-time 1st team all-District, 2-time first team all-Conference, and 1st team all-state as a Junior.

Annabelle Humphrey will be continuing her soccer career at Edinboro University. Annabelle is a 4-year letterwinner in soccer and basketball, as well as 2-year winner in track. In Soccer, she has earned all-NE8 honors 4 times, 3 time all-District 3 times, and earned all-state honors as a senior.

**Congratulations to all
four Lady Bulldogs!!**



Annabelle Humphrey, Makenna Doran, Mackenzie Stowe and Isabella Isenberg.

The Lakeview High School Marching Bulldogs



The Lakeview High School Marching Bulldogs participated in the Halloween football game dressed in their favorite costumes. They shared the Halloween spirit with the entire community!

Class of 2026 Spotlight Bulldog

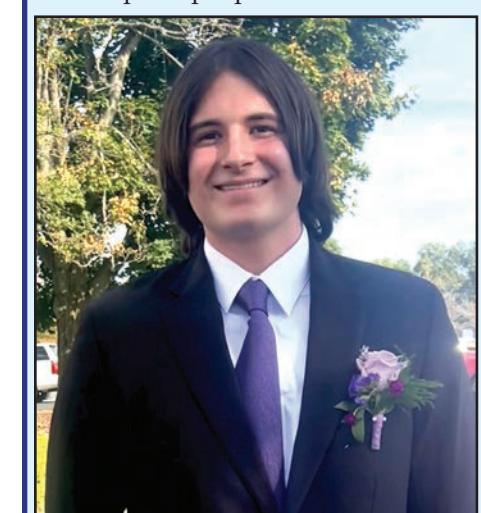
By Michael DeToro

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 Nathan Thomas, an all-around outstanding student and role model among his peers. Nathan is the son of Lyndsay and Jared Thomas and has proudly been a Bulldog since kindergarten. Nathan's academic schedule includes a mix of classes at Lakeview High School and college courses through Youngstown State University. At school, he has been an active member of the football program and contributes to both the school newspaper and yearbook. Outside of school, Nathan enjoys working out at Global Gym, while also spending time improving his art and storytelling skills. Additionally, he works at Avalon Country Club, where he has been part of the bell staff for the past three years. Looking ahead, Nathan plans to attend Fire School with hopes of becoming a firefighter and EMT.

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

- 1.) What is something that you do exceptionally well?
- I like to write and draw. I like storytelling and visual storytelling.
- 2.) What is your favorite part of the Lakeview Local School District?
- The community.
- 3.) Where is your favorite place to eat in Bazetta/Cortland?
- Brother's Pizza. It's a classic.
- 4.) Where is your favorite place to hang out in Bazetta/Cortland?
- The Eastwood Mall.
- 5.) Describe your fashion style.
- Casual
- 6.) You might catch me ...
- Drawing or lifting at the gym.
- 7.) What is something you are watching, listening to, or reading right now?
- I'm rewatching Stranger Things.
- 8.) What are your future aspirations?
- I just want to go to Fire School and help as many people as I can. I also want to build a writing career as well and help out people there too.



Lakeview Launches Club Wrestling Team For 2025-2026 Season

By Michael DeToro

For the first time in a very long time, Lakeview students will have the opportunity to compete in wrestling under the Lakeview name as an official team. Beginning this winter, both male and female student athletes will take the mat as members of the new Lakeview Wrestling Club.

In past years, several Lakeview wrestlers competed through cooperative agreements with other schools. One of those athletes, current junior Aurora Hall, qualified for the 2025 OHSAA State Meet while wrestling for Lakeview under the guidance of the Girard High School coaching staff. Now, Lakeview wrestlers will finally have a home program of their own.

The effort to bring wrestling to Lakeview was led by Ryan Williams, a Cortland resident and former head coach at Liberty High School. Williams reached out to the Lakeview administrative team with the idea of forming a club team, a first step toward establishing a full interscholastic program.

"The interest from students was immediate," said Williams. "We've had a great response, and the energy in the room has been incredible."

Because the program is currently designated as a club sport, it is self-funded. Coaches are volunteering their time, and the team covers expenses such as uniforms, some tournament entry fees, and occasional travel.

Lakeview's administration will monitor the program's growth over the next five years. If participation remains strong, the district plans to adopt wrestling as an official interscholastic sport, which would bring school funding for equipment, salaries, and transportation.

Coach Williams successfully petitioned the Eastern Ohio Wrestling League (EOWL)—one of the premier wrestling leagues in the region—to include Lakeview as a participating school. The Bulldogs will also compete



The Lakeview High School Band held its annual Halloween Parade and they collected Toys For Tots. The marines were there from the Vienna Airbase. Toys were collected to help kick off their Toys for Tots holiday season.

in events within the Northeast 8 Conference, giving athletes a full schedule of matches against local and regional opponents.

Currently, 32 student-athletes in grades 7 through 12 are participating in the team's preseason conditioning program. The enthusiasm is already spreading throughout the community. Fans can follow the team's progress on Facebook and GameChanger, where schedules, results, and updates will be posted throughout the season.

The Bulldogs will make their home debut on Wednesday, December 17, at 5:30 p.m., when they host Leetonia High School for their first-ever dual meet in the Lakeview gym.

"This is just the beginning," said Williams. "We're building something special for these kids and for Lakeview."

"Look for us in our new location!"

EASTWOOD MALL

(JC PENNEY corridor)

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Join us at our
Annual Gingerbread Walk

We will be working with local businesses to help steer you towards
ALL CORTLAND SMALL BUSINESSES

Shops that will be participating are...

Cortland Christian Church

Totally Dog

Pearl Street Market

Furniture Decor and More

Cortland Nutrition

Coopers Cycle and Fitness

I Want That

Mr. Hero

Handle It Coral, LLC

Little Charlies Bake Shop

Girls Cortland Music 101

Heritage Florist

Awesome Aquatics

The Cortland Collaborative

The Birds Nest @ Cortland Mower

Pizza Joes

What's the Scoop?

Visit each business with your punchcard to be entered into a drawing for gifts and gift certificates donated by each shop!



SAVE THE DATE
Saturday ~ November 29
10am-3 pm

134 N High St, Cortland, OH

This will be the most amazing & fun
SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY EVER!!!

We will have a
HORSE DRAWN WAGON
stopping between
the shops to transport people
from place to place.



SANTA & MRS. CLAUSE
will be at Coopers for pictures and gifts, plus prizes will be given out.

FOOD & COFFEE AVAILABLE FOR SALE

CRAFTERS

please contact me at 330-978-5937 to reserve your table.

Heating Assistance Available To Help Ohioans Avoid Chill Of Winter Months

As temperatures start to drop across Ohio, the state is stepping in to help families keep the heat on by easing the burden of high energy bills.

Effective Nov. 1, income-eligible Ohioans can receive one-time assistance with their home energy bill through the Ohio Department of Development's Home Energy Assistance Winter Crisis Program.

"We're proud to show up for Ohioans when they need us most, especially when Ohio winters create challenges for individuals and families," said Lydia Mihalik, director of the Department of Development.

"The Winter Crisis Program is here to provide critical support so people can stay safe, healthy, and warm through our coldest time of the year." Last year, the Winter Crisis Program assisted more than 73,000 households in Ohio, providing \$25.5 million in benefits.

The Winter Crisis Program assists Ohioans facing service disconnection, those who have already been disconnected, individuals needing to establish new service, and those required to pay for a service transfer. It also supports households with 25 percent or less of bulk fuel in their tank to maintain service. Qualifying

households must have a gross annual income at or below 175 percent of the federal poverty level. For a family of four, that is \$56,262.50.

Households serviced by a Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)-regulated utility must sign up for PIPP or another payment plan if there is still an outstanding balance on the utility bill after receiving assistance.

Ohioans can start their application online but must schedule an appointment with their local energy assistance provider to complete the application. Depending on the agency, the appointment may be in person, on the phone, or remote. The application and list of providers can be found online at energyhelp.ohio.gov.

Clients need to bring copies of the following documents to their appointment:

- Their most-recent energy bills, if available.
- A list of all household members and proof of income for the last 30 days or 12 months for each member.
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members.
- Proof of disability, if applicable.

For more information about the Winter Crisis Program, visit energyhelp.ohio.gov.

County Court Judge Campbell To Run For Probate Court

Special to The Cortland News

Judge Thomas A. Campbell of the Trumbull County Central District Court has announced that he will be a candidate to become the next Judge of the Trumbull County Probate Court in the 2026 election. Current Probate Judge, James Fredericka, cannot run for re-election as he will have aged-out under the Ohio Constitution.

Campbell has served as Judge of the Central District Court, in Cortland, Ohio, for more than 30 years. He was appointed to that position by Governor George Voinovich in 1995, and has been elected and re-elected to the court six times. He is also the Presiding and Administrative Judge for the Combined Eastern and Central District Courts. He has also actively practiced law for 37 years, primarily in business, estate planning and probate matters. Judge Campbell stated that he believes his years of service demonstrate that he has earned the public's trust, and he intends to put that trust and experience to work for the public and the taxpayers at the Probate Court.

If he is elected, it will be a homecoming of sorts. Judge Campbell worked full-time at the Probate Court under Judge Thomas Swift from 1981 to 1986, while he was also attending classes as a night student at Kent State University Trumbull Campus and at the University of Akron School of Law.

Judge Campbell said he believes that the Probate Court, under Judge Fredericka, is well run, and he does not anticipate making any drastic changes.

However, he does have some ideas for improvement. One improvement Judge Campbell plans is to expand public access to records via the internet, by upgrading the on-line docket to provide images of actual public records on file rather than just a docket reference to those records.

Judge Campbell would also like to establish a Help Desk/Resource Center program to assist family members of decedents better understand the probate process, and how to handle smaller, less complicated estates, possibly without the expense of hiring an attorney.

He would also like to explore the possibility of creating an Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program to help address issues in the commitment and treatment of those suffering from mental health crisis's in more economical and less restrictive, safe environments. Earlier this year Judge Campbell demonstrated his commitment in this area by redirecting \$100,000.00 from restricted funds held by his current court to the Mental Health and Recovery Board for a treatment program for prisoners in the Trumbull County Jail.

Judge Campbell previously served as councilman and as mayor of Orangeville, Ohio, where he was raised as the sixth of seven children of James and Evelyn Campbell. Judge Campbell now makes his home in Cortland, Ohio with his wife, Marleah Campbell.

Judge Campbell, a life-long Republican, will be running as a Republican in the May primary.

Local Girls Scouts Honor Over 200 Local Veterans

By Sarah Gyure

Over 200 flags placed by Girl Scout Troop 80161 waved silently through rain and snow on North High Street. For the third year, a flag display honoring local veterans adorned the yard of their Girl Scout leader.

The project began when the troop leader's military family moved to the area and noticed a lack of support for Cortland's veterans. Vowing to teach the girls the value of our military members, the project was born.

The girls collect community veteran submissions throughout the year and make informational cards for the flags. Often, a family will send a story about their veteran that helps the



girls connect the name to the person they are—or were. While planting the flags, the girls are asked to pause and say the name of the veteran out loud to recognize their service.

When the weather cooperates, you can see veterans and their families walking among the flags, taking pictures, and reminiscing about days gone by.

Community service lies at the foundation of Girl Scouting, as reflected in the Girl Scout Promise "to help people at all times" and "make the world a better place." The girls hope to continue growing the project and appreciate the community's support.

If you wish to submit your veteran for next year's display, please email gsneotroop80161@gmail.com.



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THE WI\$E INVESTORS

By
Guidelight Financial Group



Prepare for the Financial Side of the Holidays

The start of the holiday season often brings increased demands on both time and financial resources. From buying decorations and gifts to attending celebrations with family and friends, the responsibilities can accumulate quickly. To help you navigate the 2025 season with greater ease and enjoyment, consider these planning tips designed to reduce stress and enhance your holiday experience.

Create a holiday spending plan and track your expenses. The final months of the year offer many opportunities to splurge. Prevent unfettered spending by setting a "do-not-exceed" dollar amount for holiday-related expenses. Include all purchases tied to the season, from gift giving to refreshing your holiday wardrobe, buying decorations, entertaining and more. Your holiday budget does not have to be exact but having a ballpark idea of how much you want to spend can help provide more intentionality when making purchases. A budget is only useful when you track your expenses against it. Keep an ongoing estimate of how much you spend after each shopping excursion and adjust if necessary.

Shop early. This year you may want to give yourself plenty of time to do your holiday shopping and be flexible if substitutions on your shopping list need to be made. Economic uncertainty, market volatility and changes to trade policies may raise the price of goods as well as impact shipping times. If you

have a specific item on your shopping list, this might mean you have to spend more time shopping or waiting for your goods to arrive. Plan to pad in some extra time in case uncertainty impacts the items on your family and friend's wish list.

Give differently. If the gifts you want to buy are in short supply or "things" aren't your thing, consider ticking off your gift list by giving experiences. Provide a gift card or cash gift for a loved one to dine at a local restaurant or attend an event at a theatre or sports stadium. You could also consider giving financial gifts to your loved ones such as a partially funded savings account, Roth IRA, savings bond or an appointment with a financial advisor. And finally, charitable donations are an impactful holiday gift, particularly if the donation is to a non-profit that is meaningful to the recipient.

The holidays are best enjoyed in the company of loved ones – not burdened by financial stress if it can be avoided. Consider taking the proactive steps above to make the most of the holiday season. A financial advisor can help create a plan that makes sense for your festive affairs and financial goals.

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Cortland Lions Club Recycles 12,600 Pair Of Used Eyeglasses

By Ralph McCord

Due to the kindness of area residents and area Optometrists, the Cortland Lions Club recently recycled 12,600 pair of used eyeglasses.

You may be wondering what we do with all the donated glasses? Our Sight and Needy Chairman Basil Jarrett and Lion Jim Gorse recently delivered your donated glasses to the Uniontown (Ohio) Lions Club-Paul Ruley Eyeglass Recycling Center. The glasses are cleaned, the prescriptions read and the glasses are tagged. To date, since 2001 the Uniontown Lions Recycling Center has processed 404,039 pair of glasses.

The Cortland Lions Club collects and recycles thru the Uniontown Lions Club the following: types of glasses: Single Lens, Bifocals, Trifocals, Readers, Prescription and Non-Prescription

Sunglasses, Display Frames, Low Vision Glasses for Special Mission Efforts and TWO NEW ITEMS-Contacts and Hearing Aids. These recycled glasses are offered to Low Vision Services, Inner City Clinics and Medical Missionaries World-Wide by the Uniontown Lions Club-Paul Ruley Eyeglass Recycling Center.

You may be wondering where can you donate your items? We have Eyeglass Donation Boxes strategically placed in the Cortland-Warren Area. We also have a Eye Glass Donation Box (for Contacts and Hearing Aids also) in front of the Lions Club Building 197 W Main St-Cortland. This box is unattended but open 24 hours per day 7 days per week for your convenience.

Thank you everyone for your support.



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Exciting Holiday Weekend In Cortland Annual Gingerbread Walk & Tree Lighting

Cortland will be happily celebrating Christmas very soon. The Cortland small businesses are happy to announce that we will again be hosting the Gingerbread Walk. On November 29th (small business Saturday), from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., there will be so many wonderful things in Downtown Cortland. Participating businesses have hired a horse and carriage to take people from shop to shop. Santa will be at Coopers Cycle and Fitness for pictures and to hear each child's Christmas list. There will be over 50 vendors at different businesses. Visit each business with your *punchcard* to be entered into a drawing for gifts and gift certificates donated by each shop.

Participating businesses are Cortland Christian Church, Totally Dog, Pearl Street Market, Furniture Decor and More, Cortland Nutrition, Coopers Cycle and Fitness, I Want That, Mr. Hero, Handle It Coral, Little Charlies Bake Shop, Girts Cortland Music 101, Heritage Florist, Awesome Aquatics, The Cortland Collaborative, The Birds Nest @Cortland Mower, Pizza Joes, and What's the Scoop.

The next day, November 30th, from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Cortland will celebrate its annual Christmas Tree lighting. We have so many amazing things in store for our residents. Pizza Joes will be selling pizza slices and pepperoni rolls. The horse and carriage were kindly donated by The Cortland Community Foundation and the Cortland Rotary. The Cortland Rotary thankfully arranged our Santa and Mrs. Clause to make a stop and have hot chocolate at the Cortland Collaborative. The police presence was kindly donated personally by Mayor Petrosky.

There will also be crafts that were donated by the Lakeview PTO. Thank you so much for all the kindness that helped both of these functions to go on. Girts Cortland Music 101 has worked to find our wonderful friends to supply the music that night. We hope that you will all come out both days and celebrate Cortland together.

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IN CORTLAND
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and The Cortland Rotary

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Out & About in Trumbull County

~ FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT ~



"Sleep In Heavenly Peace" Charity Breakfast December 6th

The next charity fund-raiser pancake breakfast at Cortland Masonic Lodge will be held on Saturday, December 6th, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am at the Lodge, which is located at 3263 Everett-Hull Rd. (E. Main St.) in Cortland. As always, the public is invited.

The beneficiary will be "Sleep in Heavenly Peace", a volunteer organization which raises money and builds beds for children who do not have a bed to sleep on. The charity breakfasts are held once or twice each month by the Masonic Lodge, which provides all of the meal supplies, and

cooks the menu, so that 100% of the breakfast proceeds can be donated to a local charity.

During November, the Masonic Lodge held two breakfasts --- marking over \$100,000 raised by the lodge for various local organizations and charities since the breakfasts were initiated about 5 years ago.

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

The Trumbull Art Gallery "Trees At The Gallery" Holiday Marketplace

The Trumbull Art Gallery is again holding its popular "Trees At the Gallery" Holiday Marketplace event at the gallery in downtown Warren from now through January 3, 2026. Admission is free.

This annual event features a curated walk-through marketplace with over 20 displays showcasing unique gift items handcrafted by local artists including art, pottery, woodworking, jewelry, seasonal and holiday décor and more. Additional items will be on display and available for purchase in the TAG Gift Shop.

Artists are encouraged to use imagination when designing their spaces—to enhance presentation of their handcrafted and unique items.

Holiday shopping begins November 19 and continues through

Continued on page 18



BRISTOL COMMUNITY CHURCH ANNUAL FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER

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Green Beans - Sweet Potatoes - Roll - Cranberry Sauce
Pumkin Pie**

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12" Round Pizza W/ Cheese & 2 Toppings
\$15.00

8 Cut
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Any Two Strombolis
\$17.00

No limit
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\$7.50

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Any 12-Cut Specialty Pizza
\$19.00

8 Cut
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The Cortland Community Band

By Stephanie Kammel

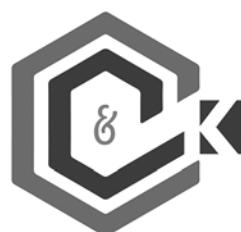
The Cortland Community Band is off to a strong start for our holiday concert season. We've had several new members join since we started rehearsals again in September and have over 60 active members, which is fantastic!

The band is comprised of members aged from their early 20's to several who are in their mid-80's, and members of all levels of ability are welcome to join. We have no membership fees of any type and there are no auditions. If you're interested in joining you can email cortlandcommunityband@yahoo.com, or come to a rehearsal. We meet on Wednesdays when school is in session at the Lakeview P-8 building in the band room from 7-9 pm. If school is cancelled, there is no rehearsal, and if rehearsal is cancelled for any other reason we will post on the Cortland Community Band Facebook page and email our members as well.

Our Christmas concert schedule is full, with five concerts this year. They're listed below. Come out and give us a listen, I promise it'll be an enjoyable experience.

CCB 2025 Holiday Concert Schedule:

- Wednesday, December 3rd, Howland Scope, 7pm, 8273 High St NE, Warren, OH 44484
- Wednesday, December 10th, 7pm, Shepherd of the Valley Liberty, 1501 Tibbets Wick Rd, Girard, OH 44420
- Sunday, December 14th, 2 pm, LOAF concert at Lakeview High School auditorium, 300 Hillman Dr, Cortland, OH 44411
- Wednesday, December 17th, 7pm, Grace Methodist Church, 1725 Drexel Ave NW, Warren, OH 44485
- Sunday, December 21st, 3 pm, Eastwood Mall, in front of Santa, 5555 Youngstown Warren Rd, Niles, OH 44446



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January 3, 2026. Daily hours are Wednesdays (Noon-4:00 pm); Thursdays (Noon-6:00 pm); Fridays (Noon-4:00 pm); and Saturdays (11:00 am-4:00 pm).

In addition to a holiday tree raffle featuring a fully-decorated tree, visitors to the show can also enter a second raffle for a collection of handcrafted ornaments donated by participating artists. A third raffle features a TAG Gift Certificate that can be used to purchase an item in the Gift Shop or Gallery or used towards a TAG class. The drawings will take place Saturday, December 20 at 3:00 pm. Winners need not be present to win.

A special Opening Reception will take place Small Business Saturday, November 29 from 11:00 am-5:00 pm

you have. They know the local weather patterns, the school districts, and the small businesses that make up your neighborhood. And when something goes wrong, whether it's a storm, an accident, or a claim, you have someone right here to call, not a 1-800 number.

Independent agencies also play a vital role in supporting local economies. They sponsor youth teams, support nonprofit events, and contribute to community initiatives. Every policy written through a local agency helps keep jobs, dollars, and decisions close to home.

At a time when insurance companies are tightening underwriting and rates are rising, having a trusted local advocate who understands your situation can make all the difference.

So, before you turn to an online quote or a national carrier, consider reaching out to a local independent agent. You'll get more than a policy — you'll get a partner who's invested in protecting what matters most to you and your community.

TAG...continued from pg 17

and will include music, holiday treats and hot cocoa.

And as it has since 2021, TAG will again continue its "Angels for Art Education" fundraising campaign. Proceeds generated by the sale of handcrafted angel ornaments made in the Clay@TAG Studio provide financial assistance to those who cannot otherwise afford the opportunity to attend any of TAG's classes or workshops.

The Trumbull Art Gallery, which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit formed in 1957, is located at 158 North Park Avenue on Courthouse Square in downtown Warren.

To find out more about this holiday event visit TAG's website at www.TrumbullArtGallery.com or check the gallery's Facebook page.

Trumbull County Democratic Party Fall Fundraiser

By Cathy Phifer

The Trumbull County Democratic Party held their Fall Fundraiser on October 30. The sold-out event was held at Enzo's Restaurant in Warren. Dinner music was provided by Mr. Kwan Austin.

Trumbull County Democratic Party Chairman, Mark Alberini, welcomed keynote speaker Ohio Democratic Party Chairwoman, Kathleen Clyde. Chairwoman Clyde gave an inspiring speech to the attendees that included Party committee members, elected officials, business owners, organization leaders and members of the community.

Kathy DiCristofaro, Vice Chair introduced additional speakers who spoke on redistricting, the upcoming statewide and congressional races, tariff

Continued on page 22

INSURANCE ANSWERS

By Amelia Gavolas, Platt Insurance Agency



Why You Should Shop Local Especially For Insurance

By Amelia Gavolas- Platt Insurance

In today's world of quick online quotes and national call centers, it's easy to forget the value of working with someone local, especially when it comes to protecting your home, business, and family. Choosing an independent insurance agency in your community isn't just about buying coverage; it's about building a relationship with someone who truly understands your needs.

Independent agencies aren't tied to one insurance company. Instead, they work with multiple carriers to find the best coverage at the best rate. That means more choices, more flexibility, and someone who can shop around on your behalf — especially as the insurance market continues to shift and change.

But the real difference comes down to personal connection. When you work with a local agent, you're working with someone who lives in the same community, drives the same roads, and faces many of the same risks

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BOWL TWO GAMES

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- BIRTHDAY SET UP

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- ONLY \$16 PER CHILD

- NO DEPOSIT REQUIRED

- DESSERT NOT INCLUDED

- 2 HR TIME FOR PARTY

ADULT LEAGUES

MON - SENIORS 10:00 AM

TUES - LADIES 6:30 PM

WED - SENIORS 1:00 PM - MENS 6:30 PM

THURS - LADIES 10:00 AM - MENS 6:30 PM

SUN - MIXED 4:45 PM



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You can get coverage in two ways: a stand-alone plan with Original Medicare or through a Medicare Advantage Plan that includes prescription coverage. Part D premiums and prescription costs vary from company to company, and each company may have several plans to choose from. Therefore, it is important to take into consideration your specific medications including dosage, form and the frequency they are taken, as each individual company and each individual plan within that company can differ in both premium, price and costs of individual medications. Plan premiums and medications costs are adjusted each year and there can be significant changes from year to year even within the same plan.

Although there are many different plans available, each insurance company must follow these guidelines set by the government and offer at least a minimum standard level of coverage. For 2026 there will be three phases to Part D coverage costs: deductible, initial coverage and catastrophic coverage regardless of if the coverage is stand-alone prescription plan or included in a

Medicare Advantage plan. For 2026 the annual deductible can be \$0-\$590. After the deductible is met, the initial phase is where you pay a copay or coinsurance, and the plan pays part of the costs of the medication until your total cost reaches \$2,100. At that point you enter catastrophic coverage and pay \$0 for the cost of the drug through December 31st.

One exception to this is insulin medications. There are insulin savings programs that limit the cost of insulin to \$35 per month without regard to the different Part D phases. Each plan can decide if they will participate in the program and which specific insulins they will include for this price. Each insurance company develops their own drug formulary that lists which drugs they will offer and classifies each specific drug into a tier. They also set their own plan premiums and cost sharing amounts based on these tiers. Typically, the lower the tier the lower your cost for that medication. Some companies will also waive the deductible for the lower tier medications in their formulary.

It is important to review your plan each year during the Annual Enrollment Period, October 15th through December 7th. Your local agent can look at your medications and the plans available in your area to see what might work well for your specific situation.

Zachary Freeman is a licensed insurance agent with Wiley Insurance Services, located at 3470 Warren Meadville Rd, Cortland. He can be reached at 234-244-4014 or Zachary@awileyinsurance.com.

Lakeview Middle School Launches "Prepared for Success" Helping Students Chart Their Future

Special to The Cortland News

Lakeview Middle School is taking an exciting step forward in preparing students for life beyond the classroom with the launch of its new course, *Prepared for Success*. This innovative class is designed to help students begin exploring who they are, what they're interested in, and how those passions can shape their future educational and career goals.

At its heart, *Prepared for Success* uses a career exploratory curriculum that introduces students to a wide range of professions, skills, and pathways. Whether a student is drawn to healthcare, technology, education, the trades, or entrepreneurship, the course provides opportunities to investigate each field through engaging lessons, hands-on activities, and real-world connections.

One of the most impactful aspects of the program is its partnership with the Mahoning County Educational Service Center, whose career counselors work directly with Lakeview students. These professionals guide students through self-assessments, goal setting, and planning steps that help them see how their interests connect to future opportunities. The collaboration ensures that students are not only thinking about "what they want to be," but also learning *how* to get there.

Equally important are the local business partnerships that bring the community into the classroom. Local employers and organizations are stepping forward to share insights, host visits, and provide authentic experiences

that show students what different careers look like day to day. By bridging education and local industry, Lakeview Middle School is helping students see that the skills they're developing now have real value and application in their community and beyond.

A key feature of *Prepared for Success* is that it directly connects to the career pathways offered at Lakeview High School. The course helps students identify their interests early on, making it easier to select high school electives and programs that align with their goals. Whether they choose to pursue college, technical training, or enter the workforce after graduation, students are learning to make intentional choices that support their long-term success.

Principal Josh Vastag shared that *Prepared for Success* "is about giving students direction and confidence at a critical time in their development. We want them to leave middle school not only academically ready, but also personally and professionally curious." In a world where the future of work is constantly evolving, Lakeview's forward-thinking approach sets an example for how schools can equip students with both vision and purpose. *Prepared for Success* is more than a class – it's an investment in the next generation of problem-solvers, innovators, and community leaders.

Lakeview Middle School is showing that when schools, families, and communities come together, students truly can be *prepared for success*.

Lynn M. Johnson
Board Certified Pediatrician MD

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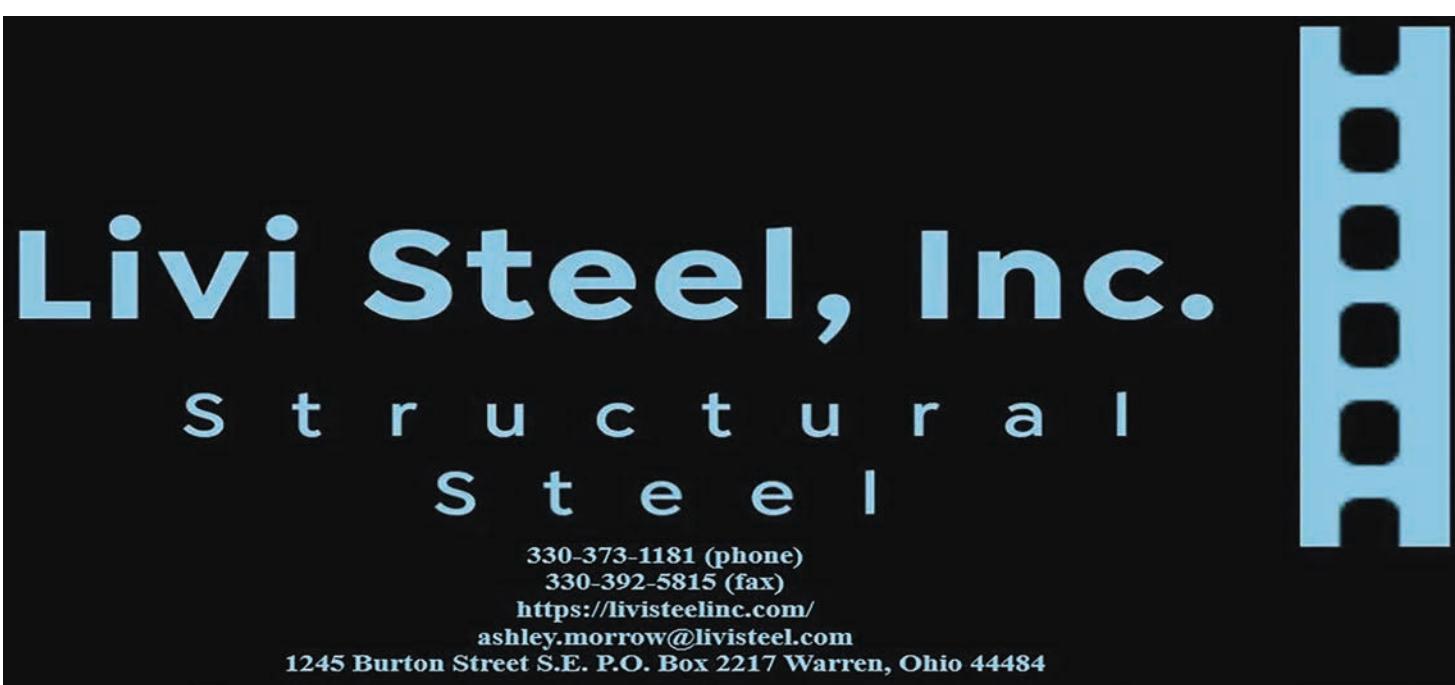
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Human Trafficking Awareness

Trumbull County Republican Women's Club attended a Seminar "Human Trafficking Awareness" hosted by Judge Natasha Natale, Warren Municipal Court at the Living Lord Lutheran Church in NE Warren. This event, featured, speakers: Bill Cranston, Stacey Altieri, Laura Bartchak and Dr Alisha Alls, all with extensive professional experience and personal insights into prevention and protection.



Bill Cranston, Briana Postlethwait, Judie Shortreed, Natasha Natale, Sharyn Siber



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TIBERIUS



I'm only about 2 years old, which means I'm officially old enough to know I deserve snacks... but young enough to still trip over my own feet sometimes. I'm sweet, clingy, and would very much like to be professionally snuggled at your earliest convenience. Honestly? I'm kinda confused about what's going on. I keep hearing words like adoptable, good girl, and who's a baby?? (me... the answer is always me). All I know is:

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Three Local Girl Scouts Earn Bronze Award

By Sara Gyure

Adalyn G, Afenix P & Lily H from Girl Scout Troop 80161 of Cortland installed a dog waste station at Pearl Park to complete their Bronze Award. A Girl Scout Bronze award is defined as the Junior Girl Scouts identifying a problem within their community and working to solve the problem through leadership, planning and implementation.

Each girl spent 21.5 hours between May 2025 and November 2025 making their Bronze award come to life. The girls worked alongside the Mayor of Cortland Deidre Petrosky, the City of Cortland Parks & Recreation Board and Pet Waste Eliminator to complete the project.

The Girls Scouts observed a significant amount of dog waste on

the soccer/baseball field at Pearl Park posing a sanitary concern for users. This issue affects public health, the enjoyment of the recreational facilities and the overall cleanliness of the community space. To mitigate this problem they installed a dog waste station to encourage responsible pet ownership and provide a convenient disposal option for dog owners.

The dog waste station and all supplies for installation were donated by Valewood Electric. The City of Cortland will receive a year's supply of dog waste bag refills to ensure the smooth transition to the city for maintenance and sustainability.



Samantha Ensminger Completes The Ohio Tourism Leadership Academy

Trumbull County Tourism announced that Samantha Ensminger has successfully completed the Ohio Tourism Leadership Academy (OTLA), a six-month leadership program sponsored by the Ohio Travel Association. The experience strengthens participants' leadership skills, industry knowledge, and statewide networks, tools that Samantha will put to good use for Trumbull County.

"This is part of our commitment to ongoing professional development." Said Beth Kotwiz Carmichael, CEO of Trumbull Tourism. "These are durable skills that strengthen our work now and support our staff as their careers grow in the years ahead."

Ensminger added, "OTLA was an enriching experience that gave me a much deeper understanding of the travel industry. I'm excited to use the tools I gained to help us deliver accountable marketing that supports our local businesses and strengthens Trumbull County's economy."



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November Events at Bristol Public Library

By D'Lynn Johnson,
Youth Services Coordinator

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Cortland Library Events Nov-Dec 2025

Holiday Closings and Delays

All Warren-Trumbull County Public Library locations will be closed or delayed for the following dates: Thanksgiving All locations will close at 5 p.m. on Wed., Nov. 26 and will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 27 and on Friday, Nov. 28.

Delayed Opening All locations will open at 12 Noon on Tues., Dec. 16.

Christmas All locations will be closed on Wed., Dec. 24 and Thurs., Dec. 25 for the Christmas holiday.

New Year's All locations will be closing at 5 p.m. on Wed., Dec. 31 and will be closed on Thurs., Jan. 1, 2026, for the New Year's holiday.

EVENTS - All events are at the Cortland Library, 578 Lakeview Dr.

Toddler Tales

Mondays at 10 a.m.: Nov. 24, Dec. 1, 8 A fun and active Storytime for toddlers ages 19 - 35 months with a parent or caregiver. Free.

Preschool Storytime

Tuesdays at 10 a.m.: Nov. 25, Dec. 2, 9 Preschool Storytime 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.

Daebak, it's K-pop!

Tues., Dec. 2 from 4 - 5 p.m. Teens ages 12 - 18 can make light sticks, decorate photocards, and make wish bracelets! The library's Teen Advisory Board is running this event. Registration is required by Nov. 26. Sign up online at www.wtcpl.org/events or call (330) 638-6335. Free.

Cleveland's Favorite Holiday Tradition Returns "A Christmas Story" At Cleveland Play House

Cleveland Play House (CPH) presents the holiday classic A Christmas Story Sunday, November 30 - Sunday, December 21, 2025 in the Allen Theatre at Playhouse Square. One boy. One holiday wish. One triple-dog-daring good time! Cleveland's favorite holiday tradition returns to Cleveland Play House in all its pink-bunny-suit, glowing-leg-lamp, frozen-flagpole-licking glory. Be a holiday hero and bring your brood downtown to experience the joy of creating memories you'll hold onto all year long.

This staged version of A Christmas Story is a laugh-out-loud, heartwarming adaptation of the original film and Jean Shepherd's beloved stories. Fans will delight in every familiar moment: the Chinese dinner scene, the Old Man's battle with the furnace, Ralphie's daydreams of heroism, and that legendary triple-dog dare. Pure, nostalgic holiday fun for the whole family.

"This is Cleveland's holiday story," says director Jackson Gay who also directed last year's production. "It belongs to everyone who grew up laughing at these characters and recognizing a little of their own family in them."

Cleveland Play House Artistic Director Michael Barakiva says, "It is thrilling to get to bring A Christmas

Friends of the Cortland Library Members Meeting

Wed., Dec. 3 from 1 - 2 p.m. The Friends of the Cortland Library is a non-profit, volunteer group dedicated to the support and advancement of the library. Members and those interested in joining the group are invited.

Midweek Mayhem

Wednesdays from 3 - 4 p.m.: Dec. 3, 10. Teens ages 12 - 18 can enjoy games, activities, and a small snack at the library's weekly teen hangout! Free.

Teen Advisory Board

Tues., Dec. 9 from 3 - 4:30 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 who like collaborating on creative ideas can be a part of the Teen Advisory Board! Free.

Cortland Holiday Open House

Thurs., Dec. 11 from 6 - 7 p.m. A holiday event featuring festive music, crafts for kids, and a visit from Santa! For all ages! This program is made possible with the support of the Friends of the Cortland Library. Free.

Holiday Movie Night

Mon., Dec. 15 from 6 - 7:45 p.m. Adults can enjoy watching a holiday movie on the library's big screen. Refreshments will be provided. For the title of the movie to be shown, visit www.wtcpl.org/events or call (330) 638-6335. Free.

Homework Hangout

Tues., Dec. 16 from 3 - 4 p.m. Teens ages 12 - 18 can enjoy the library's homework hangout, with calming music and tea. Teens can take the time to study, read, or write that paper. Free.

Story back this year, especially with Dan Butler in the role of the Narrator (older Ralph). Most of you probably remember him as 'Bulldog' from Frasier, but he's also a nationally renowned theatre actor making his CPH debut!"

Performances run November 30 - December 21, 2022, at the Allen Theatre in Playhouse Square Wednesdays through Sundays at 7:30 PM, with weekend matinees on Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 PM.

Pay What You Will tickets are available for Sunday evening performances, making it easier than ever to experience the magic of live theatre. For tickets and more information, visit clevelandplayhouse.com or call the Box Office at 216.241.6000. Tickets are on sale now and expected to sell quickly.



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