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Vol. 20 No.10

For the Community • By the Community

March 6, 2026

Kenston Teams' Sweet Victories!



Kenston Girls Basketball Returns to Postseason with 13-9 Season

The Kenston High School girls' basketball team capped off a memorable season with a 13-9 record and a significant milestone, earning a spot in the postseason playoffs. Throughout the season, the team demonstrated resilience and determination, turning hard work in practice into key plays on the court. Their grit and teamwork propelled them into postseason competition and marked an important step forward for the program. We wish the team good luck as they head into postseason play. Kenston Schools Photo.



Kenston Gymnastics Wins 13 Medals, Claims Third Straight WRC Championship

Kenston Bombers Gymnastics team delivered a dominant performance at the Western Reserve Conference meet, scoring 140.95 points to claim their third consecutive, and sixth in seven years, Conference championship. Kenston athletes swept the medal podium, earning 13 out of 15 possible medals. Junior Sofía Macías captured the All-Around title and was named WRC Gymnast of the Year for her outstanding performance. Coach Martorello was also recognized for her leadership, earning her seventh Coach of the Year award. Kenston Schools Photo.

Our next issue will be delivered March 27, 2026,

and will include local Easter events

and our second of five Spirit Spring Home & Garden Guides.

Editorial Deadline is March 13. Advertising Deadline is March 18.

For more information, email us at spiritofbainbridge@gmail.com.

Easter Egg Hunt March 28

Bainbridge Fire Department's annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 28 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Fire Department.

There will be eggs to find, other activities for children, a visit from the Easter Bunny and donuts, coffee and hot cocoa.

Please contact Phil Anders at the Fire Department if you wish to donate to this fun event.

Inside this Spirit...

- Our "History 101" series of articles continues with Ian Lewis's in-depth view of the League of Nations. Please see page 6.
- Our Spirit Senior Guide is filled with information and resources for the special senior in your family. Don't miss a single page, starting on page 12.
- Our Spirit 2026 Home & Garden Guides signal springtime, beginning on page 21.
- We hope you continue to notice our paperclips scattered throughout this issue of the Spirit. We'll explain their significance in our May 8 edition.



Kenston Boys Basketball Clinches WRC Championship;

Coach Josh Jakacki Becomes Kenston's All-Time Winningest Boys Basketball Coach

Kenston Boys Basketball Head Coach Josh Jakacki was honored prior to the Bombers' final home game of the season against Mayfield, as he was recognized as the program's all-time winningest head coach. This season, Kenston welcomed the successful return of the head coach to the Kenston sidelines after several seasons away coaching at Crestwood. Kenston defeated Willoughby South to secure its 18th win of the season and its first Western Reserve Conference (WRC) Championship since the 2021-22 season. The title was the sixth conference championship of Coach Jakacki's tenure at Kenston and, notably, his 149th career victory, setting a new program record. To commemorate the milestone, Kenston Athletic Director Reid Guarnieri and Kenston Athletic Booster President Jeff Lechak joined Coach Jakacki's family to present him with a commemorative game ball and a special banner marking his achievement. The celebration continued as the Bombers capped the evening with an impressive victory over Mayfield to end the regular season, securing Coach Jakacki's 150th career win. The team will now turn its focus to postseason play, riding the momentum of a record-setting season. Kenston Schools Photo.

Winter, Begone!!!

Yes, we've had quite enough.

Enough of tires trying to find purchase on ice and snow.

Enough dirty grey slush caked under our wheelwells.

Enough mud and ice on floormats.

(But aren't those heated seats a marvel?!!)

Banish snow shovels to the garage corner!

Stash every remnant of winter's bluster!

Enough of leaving in the dark and getting home in the dark, too.

Enough of keeping boots salt-free.

Enough tying scarves so fashionably.

And quite enough lost mittens!

Enough of bare and shivering branches.

Enough stalactite icicles pulling on our eaves.

Enough of colorless landscapes and bleak skies.

And frigid temps that blur our eyes.

We need warmth and sunshine and tulips galore!

We yearn for the phenomenon called petrichor, and

Sandals, shorts, sunsets and more!

Clocks spring forward this weekend!

We have a short-timer's calendar ticking

off each day until spring arrives.

Ah, bliss!

Anne E. North

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Geauga County
Public Library

Bainbridge Library Updates

Geauga County Public Library Bainbridge Branch Programs: March 6-27.

Programs require registration unless otherwise noted. Include an email and phone number when registering for programs to receive updates about all programs. Visit GeaugaLibrary.net for more information.

Library Led Discussions

Bainbridge Branch | Monday, March 9 from 10-11 a.m. *The Lotus Shoes* by Jane Yang

Bainbridge Branch | Monday, March 9 from 2-3 p.m. *The Lotus Shoes* by Jane Yang

Bainbridge Branch | Tuesday, March 17 from 7-8 p.m. *My Next Breath* by Jeremy Renner

Which Fork Do I Use? Dining in the Gilded Age

Virtual Program | Saturday, March 7 from 2-3 p.m. If you have seen shows like *Downton Abbey*, you know that dining etiquette was very different a century ago than it is today. Connect with us on Zoom as we explore dining in the Gilded Age of America and learn about the many rules and norms that governed how food was served and consumed.

MyHeritage Library Version and MyHeritage.com:

Finding Your Old and New World Roots

Virtual Program | Tuesday, March 10 from 7-8:30 p.m. Connect with the Geauga County Genealogical Society and Daniel Horowitz, the public face of MyHeritage and lecturer at Rootstech, on Zoom to learn all about MyHeritage Library Edition, a free resource available to Geauga County Public Library cardholders. Horowitz will showcase how this unique resource can be used to find ancestral records and more to aid in all your genealogy research.

Wings of Spring

Bainbridge Branch | Tuesday, March 10 from 7-7:45 p.m. Winter's thaw brings back migratory birds as they travel north from their warm winter homes. Meet with the Geauga Park District this March to learn about this annual migration pattern and the many different birds you can spot in our area.

Managing Money: A Caregiver's Guide to Money

Bainbridge Branch | Wednesday, March 18 from 7-8 p.m. It's never too early to start planning for the future. Join the Cleveland Area Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association to learn practical tips for managing another person's finances, preparing for future care expenses, and understanding the advantages of early financial planning.

The Ethnic History of Cleveland

Bainbridge Branch | Thursday, March 26 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Curious about the ethnic history of Cleveland, such who settled and worked where? In this special program presented by Cuyahoga Community College, learn this and more via a narrative history of Cleveland and the many ethnic groups that migrated to the area in the early 19th and 20th centuries. We'll explore the places they worked, the neighborhoods they developed, and the effect they had on the history of the City of Cleveland.

Lord of Life Third Graders Receive Bibles

A group of third grade students from Lord of Life Lutheran Church received Bibles as a part of the Sunday morning worship service last month. The Bible presentation is a step in their faith journey as Lord of Life continues to fulfill the baptismal promise to "place in their hands the Holy Scriptures and provide instruction in the Christian faith." The students attended two classes with Pastor Erin Burns to learn more about what the Bible is and how to use it. The Bible is an important resource that helps the students to learn just how much God loves them. This is of utmost importance for their faith journey as they continue to discover who they are physically as well as spiritually.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church is located on Chillicothe Road just south of Rt. 422. For more information regarding Christian Education or any other ministry at Lord of Life, please contact the church office at 440-543-5505 or visit their website loloh.org.

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Bainbridge Civic Club's 74th Annual Pancake Breakfast

It's that sweet time of year, when members of Bainbridge Civic Club host their pancake breakfasts. This year's dates are Sundays, March 1, 8 and 15 with serving from 8 a.m.–1 p.m. at the Kenston High School.

There are two ways to enjoy your delicious breakfast.

Dine-In: Enjoy our sit-down service with unlimited pancakes and coffee!

Delivery: Have a family meal delivered and keep everyone happy with any combination of 20 pancakes and French toast, plus 10 sausage patties and 15 oz. of fresh Geauga County maple syrup.

All orders include sausage, coffee, milk, syrup, butter, applesauce, orange juice, and unlimited pancakes or French toast. Additional sausage patties can be purchased. Pancake flavors include plain (buttermilk), blueberry, and buckwheat. Unfortunately, none of the above offerings are gluten free.

Delivery meals must be ordered online prior to 11 p.m. on Saturday (the day before you want your order) so we can provide the highest quality remote dining experience. Order at www.TheCivicClub.org.

The 74th annual Bainbridge Civic Club Pancake Breakfast remains unique. The sausage is an exclusive recipe, ground and made fresh each week by Mazzulo's Market. The Geauga Maple Syrup is fresh from this season's harvest and is brought to your table warm. No standing in food lines and self-serving. You are seated at tables with chairs in a beautiful sun-filled cafeteria, NEO weather permitting. Community volunteers take your order and bring your freshly prepared, hot food to your table. The event is till "green" after all these years. Your meal is served on china plates, with china mugs and metal silverware!

Established on April 22, 1941, the all-volunteer Bainbridge Civic Club is a 501(c)3 organization. Our mission is concisely summarized by our "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" tagline. The funds we raise are used to support the Bainbridge Area Food for Friends pantry, provide scholarships, and fund the club's local community-driven, philanthropic endeavors.

Please contact Mark George at 440-591-1819 or email BainbridgeCivic@gmail.com for more information about the pancake breakfast, joining the BCC, or becoming a sponsor.

Celebrate Unpaid Family Caregivers with Restorative Power of Music April 11

April is National Stress Awareness Month, observed annually to increase understanding of stress and its impact on physical and mental health. Courage to Caregivers uses this time to raise awareness of caregiving-related stress and the importance of strong support systems to empower carers on their journeys. In recognition of the power of music to cope with and manage stress, Courage to Caregivers is hosting a fundraiser, Musical Health™ with Steinway Artist Hsing-ay Hsu, on Saturday, April 11 at 7 p.m. at Federated Church, 76 Bell St. in Chagrin Falls. Tickets will be sold until sold out. Tickets are available via Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/MusicalHealth>

Musical Health with Steinway Artist Hsing-ay Hsu

Join us for a special community-building event with Ohio's own Courage to Caregivers, as we celebrate the restorative power of music to foster connection and resilience at our first-ever Musical Health™ Summit.

Steinway Artist Hsing-ay Hsu will share her caregiver journey, perform works by Chopin and Liszt, and lead interactive experiences based on her Conscious Listening™ approach — a whole-brain method for engaging with music and life.

This inaugural summit highlights Courage to Caregivers' mission to empower and equip caregivers through tools and peer support.

Steinway Artist Hsing-ay Hsu is focused on the art of listening. As an international prizewinner, producer, teacher/educator, studio owner, and adjudicator, she joyfully demonstrates how to use music as a catalyst to build multidimensional awareness and to make sense of the human experience. Since her stage debut at age four, Ms. Hsu has been performing at such venues as Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center (NYC), and in Europe and Asia. Her thoughtful interpretations and "explosions of energy" (*NY Times*) have won her the Juilliard William Petschek Debut Award, William Kapell International Competition Silver Medal, Ima Hogg National First Prize, Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship, Public Voices Fellow of the Op-Ed Project, Gilmore Young Artist Award, and U.S. Presidential Scholar of the Arts Award from President Clinton.

This season's appearances include the Aspen Music Festival, Cleveland Chamber Guild Series, Englewood Arts in Denver, TEDx Yale, and Yale School of Music. Ms. Hsu produces Classical Music Explorations in NYC among other projects to promote public awareness of the value of listening skills.

Artist residencies include the Klavierhaus NYC and Boulder Chamber Orchestra. She was formerly Artistic Director for Pendulum New Music at the University of Colorado – Boulder. Owner of the Nutmeg Studio NYC, a retreat for lifelong learners, Ms. Hsu has developed several unique online courses to infuse creativity into traditional concepts. She serves on the summer faculties of Kaufman Center NY, Chautauqua Institution Special Studies NY, and Rocky Ridge in CO. Ms. Hsu is a regular contributor at *Psychology Today* on the topics of creativity, arts education, and artistic intelligence in the age of AI. Born in Beijing, Ms. Hsu is an alumna of Juilliard, Yale University, and the Courage to Caregivers program. Follow her at www.hsingayhsu.com, on Youtube, and @Hsingayhsu.

About Courage to Caregivers

Founded in 2017, Courage to Caregivers is a nonprofit organization based in Northeast Ohio. Our mission is to empower and equip carers to navigate their journey. We believe it is essential for caregivers to put on their own "oxygen mask" of self-care first. We help caregivers develop the inner strength required to support their loved ones and, most importantly, to care for themselves. We offer one-to-one certified family peer support, support groups/group coaching, suicide prevention programming, and educational resources. Courage to Caregivers remains committed to supporting and empowering unpaid family caregivers in their journey of providing care to those they love. For more information, contact Kristi Horner at Kristi@CourageToCaregivers.org or (216) 536-7699 or visit www.CourageToCaregivers.org.

School Child Advocate:

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If procedures are followed correctly, parents CAN get an Independent Educator Evaluation (IEE) and get the school district to PAY the evaluation fee. If you do not ask for a needed service, your child will likely NOT receive it. All educational services are based on the NEEDS of the child.

Zoom, Facetime, library conference room or phone conferences are available anytime.

440.487.0829 David A. Hancock, MA professordhancock@gmail.com







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From Your Township Officials...

By Michael Bates
Bainbridge Twp. Trustee

I know it may be too early to say, but it seems like the worst of winter is over and we are moving to more comfortable, moderate weather conditions here in Bainbridge Township. As the weather warms and the days get longer, we are all looking forward to being able to be outside more and enjoy what will hopefully be a much warmer spring season.

The Bainbridge Board of Trustees would like to give a big shout-out and thank you to our Service, Police and Fire Departments for the work they have put in over this difficult winter season. While there were certainly challenges brought on by multiple-day snow events, our service department has done an excellent job of keeping our roads clear and safe. In addition, the poor conditions also make things challenging for both our Police and Fire/EMS personnel. Thank you to all of them for keeping our community safe.

We hope that you plan to attend and bring your children to participate in our Fire Department's annual Easter Egg Hunt, to be held on Saturday, March 28 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Fire Department. There will be eggs to find, other activities for children, a visit from the Easter Bunny and donuts, coffee and hot cocoa. Please contact Phil Anders at the Fire Department if you wish to donate to this fun event.

Make sure you mark your calendars and join us for the annual Bainbridge Township Clean-up Days which will be from May 4-9. During that week, you are invited to gather up those bulky items that you want to get rid of and bring them to the Service Department, where our service personnel will help you dispose of them. As in the past, there will also be document shredding available on May 9 at the Service Dept. building for your convenience. Call Christina at the Service Dept. with any questions about hours or limits on what you can bring.

The township is also continuing its partnership with the Geauga County Dept. on Aging (GCDA) by offering to pick up any bulky items for our residents who are 60 and older. Please call the Service Dept. to schedule a time for pick up. Last year, we served a record number of resident seniors, so make sure you call to schedule a time if you wish to have items picked up.

Please plan to attend and honor our fallen veterans at our Memorial Day observance at Restland Cemetery on Sunday, May 24. The Bainbridge Historical Society, in cooperation with our local Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, hosts this annual tradition to honor and remember those from Bainbridge who have given the ultimate sacrifice. The event always includes a local speaker and the reading of the names of fallen soldiers from every war in American history.

Bainbridge Township and all of Geauga County is excitedly preparing for our nation's 250th birthday! There will be events throughout the county in the months leading up to July Fourth. Here in Bainbridge, plan on attending our annual fireworks display on July 3 this year at the Kenston Schools campus. As usual, there will be food trucks, a live band, children's activities and opportunities for all of us to celebrate together, culminating with a fireworks display after dark. If the weather does not cooperate, the rain date will be Monday, July 6, with fireworks only.

Finally, as the weather continues to warm up and opportunities to be outside increase, I would invite you to check out our newest wetland at the former Paterek Lake at Centerville Mills. Since its conversion, the site has continued to evolve into a beautiful spot to walk and observe nature, with several new species of birds already taking up residence there. More features will be added in the months and years to come to make this a great destination for our residents and visitors to the township.



2026 Have a Heart Offers Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program

The 2026 Have A Heart low cost spay/neuter program sponsored by Valley Save-A-Pet began on March 2. This program offers cat and dog sterilizations at a discounted rate to pet owners. Volunteers are available to answer calls on Monday and Wednesday between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Calls will also be answered on the first Saturday of the month beginning in April. Call (440) 232-2287 (PETS) for more information or to apply for a spay/neuter certificate. Modest additional charges are required for any pet not current on vaccinations and for large dogs whose weight might require additional fees.

With the cooperation of local veterinarians Valley Save-A-Pet has been able to offer this vital service to pet owners for 50 years. The support of the veterinarians in Cuyahoga, Geauga, and Portage Counties has been vital to the success of the Have A Heart program and has helped reduce cat and dog overpopulation in Northeast Ohio. Pet owners and feral cat caregivers are encouraged to take advantage of this program.

To learn more about Valley Save-A-Pet's programs and events, visit www.valleysaveapet.org.

Local Resident Named to William & Mary Dean's List

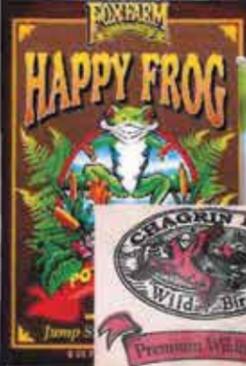
Lukas Tomsich of Chagrin Falls was recently named to the Dean's List at the College of William & Mary for the fall 2025 semester.

In order to achieve Dean's List status, a full-time degree seeking undergraduate student must take at least 12 credit hours and earn a 3.6 Quality Point Average during the semester. William & Mary is the second oldest institution of higher learning in the United States.

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**Spirit of Bainbridge
Mission Statement**

*Our mission at the
Spirit of Bainbridge
is four-fold:
To enhance the
Bainbridge-Auburn area
with a positive sense of
our shared humanity.
To be a catalyst of
community pride
for local businesses and
assist in publicity for
community-minded groups.
To promote the
Fourth Estate
with truth and trust.
To continue our founding
support of
Bainbridge Area
Food For Friends and
A Taste in Bainbridge.*

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**History 101: League of Nations
World Peace and International Cooperation**

By Ian Lewis

“Only a peace between equals can last. Only a peace the very principle of which is equality and a common participation in a common benefit.”

— President Woodrow Wilson

A war-weary world held hope for The Treaty of Versailles

Created following the Paris Peace Conference, which ended World War I, the Treaty would utilize arbitration and diplomacy to resolve disputes, maintain peace and encourage international cooperation.

The United States never joined this initial effort, the Covenant of the League of Nations, dedicated to maintaining peace. The British Empire, France, Italy and Japan committed to the cause, headquartered in Geneva.

While President Wilson believed arbitration and discussion should always be undertaken first, with war always considered last, some leaders considered the League idealistic, a “paper tiger” and no insurance against war.

Senate opposition, led by Henry Cabot Lodge, argued joining the global organization would limit Congressional ability to declare war and preferred to avoid entanglements in European issues.

Beyond preventing smaller wars, the organization worked toward bettering education, labor relations and public health and limiting arms and drug trafficking. Ultimately, with no military force, The League of Nations was slow to act and sanctions were ignored. It failed to prevent WWII. The Axis powers — Germany, Italy and Japan — and the British Empire and France — could not be stopped.

The League dissolved in 1946 and transferred the remaining assets to the United Nations.

Peace, dignity and equality on a healthy planet

Near the end of WWII, with many nations of the world devastated, representatives of 51 countries, led by the “Big Four” — United States, United Kingdom, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and China — gathered on April 25, 1945, at the United Nations Conference on International Organization in San Francisco. Led by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Secretary of State Cordell Hull, the organizers pledged to draft a charter, an international treaty, **an instrument of national law**, outlining the major principles of international relations, the sovereign equality of the states, and prohibiting the use of force in international relations.

According to the charter, the United Nations (so named by President Roosevelt) is “open to all peace-loving States that accept the obligations contained in the United Nations charter and in the judgment of the Organization are able to carry out these obligations.”

In addition to Hull, who later received a Nobel Peace Prize, other influential UN leadership included Winston Churchill, also

credited with creating the title “United Nations,” who continued to champion the UN, especially during his 1946 “Iron Curtain” speech, beseeching members for a temple of peace, not a “Tower of Babel.”

President Harry Truman continued FDR’s efforts

Ralph Bunche, also instrumental in drafting the charter, later was the first African American to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

Eleanor Roosevelt not only was the first U.S. delegate to the United Nations, she helped write the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and initially chaired the UN Commission on Human Rights.

While the United Nations’ charter was signed on June 26, 1945, ratifications continued until Oct. 24, when permanent members China, France, Soviet Union, United Kingdom and the United States officially activated the organization.

The UN operates by member states:

General Assembly of 194 members determine budget, new memberships and other significant issues

Security Council maintains international peace and security and makes binding decisions

Secretariat/Secretary General leads the day-to-day operations. Antonio Guterres, former Prime Minister of Portugal, currently serves as the chief administrative officer.

The UN’s Pact for the Future, adopted at the 2024 Summit of the Future, is a wide-ranging and inclusive agreement containing two annexes: the Global Digital Compact — digital cooperation and artificial intelligence governance — and the Declaration on Future Generations — long-term thinking and intergenerational responsibility.

A year ago, President Donald Trump issued an executive order withdrawing the U.S. from the World Health Organization (part of the UN), an act formalized Jan. 22, due to the organization’s approach to the COVID-19 pandemic. The U.S. ceased funding of, and participation in, WHO-sponsored activities.

The United States also will withdraw from United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at the end of the year, declaring support is not in the interests of the country and counter to America First foreign policy.

While addressing vast issues of humanitarian crises, conflict, human rights, poverty, inequality, basic services, economic instability, fair access to technology and climate change, the UN faces “imminent financial collapse,” said Guterres, due to unpaid dues. The United States alone owes at least \$4 billion.

In addition to funding shortfalls, the organization faces existential crises, disrespect for international law, trust and cooperation issues and calls for structural reform. With Guterres’s tenure concluding this year, selection of his successor is crucial, and comes at a particularly complicated and challenging time for the United Nations.

In Memoriam: The Demise of The Fourth Estate

By Anne E. North

This, my friends, is an article that I never thought I would write. From the time I was 13 years old, I understood the power that written words hold. Words can make readers laugh, cry, think, act.

My career as a cub reporter at my hometown newspaper strengthened my belief in the written word. Back then, we reporters existed on endless coffee and cigarettes. When I quit smoking, I wrote my weekly column about cause and effect — I coughed less, my clothes and perfume smelled better, a health scare I had encountered diminished. A reader wrote to me. “Because of your article, I quit smoking. Thank you!” I cherished that note!

I learned the press was termed The Fourth Estate when my dad was National Commander of The American Legion in 1974-75. The Legion annually awarded their Fourth Estate Award to a member of the press, and that year’s recipient was noted columnist and author Jim Bishop (look him up!) whose column I read religiously. I was in awe, being able to meet this stellar example of journalism at its finest. I remember today — a half century later! — the words of advice he gave to me like a gift: “If you can use a shorter word instead of a longer one, do it.” I think he would be pleased that his words impacted my career!

If you ever doubt the strength of words, you need look only to your backyard. My words in *Bainbridge Banter* and *Spirit of Bainbridge* built a local food pantry which is in its 35 year of operation, serving our neighbors in their time of need. That’s the power of words becoming tangible.

Which is precisely why I am livid about recent events in the publishing world. And I have been in communication with former colleagues in the press and they concur. A fellow writer from the ‘70s wrote, “It began with the dumbing down of America, with a

weakening of civics/government/education. The guardrails... with the Fairness Doctrine in broadcasting and media monopolies. Mix in corrupt politicians and an unbalanced Supreme Court... add a pinch of crazy and conspiracy theories...and you have the perfect s**t storm!” Yeah, Roy was never one to mince words.

Another former colleague wrote, “I absolutely abhor how reporters, especially females, are diminished when those in power don’t like the questions.”

Maybe, because you have always enjoyed the freedoms of speech and press the First Amendment affords us, you won’t face reality until those freedoms are stripped away. Well, that’s precisely what’s occurring now.

Those with billions of dollars are attempting to control the media — television, newspapers, social media — all of it. First, it was entertainers Jimmy Kimmel and Stephen Colbert who came under fire. (And remember that pushback from the public worked!) Now look at “60 Minutes” and *The Washington Post*. These esteemed entities, like

Spirit of Bainbridge, have survived recession, internet, social media and other obstacles, but now are faced with the true litmus test: Standing up for what is right, telling the truth to their viewers and readers.

Will the Ellisons be impartial as they monopolize the media? Media has long prided itself on maintaining a moral compass. No longer. Media should not be political, people.

And when veterans and athletes are called “losers” — well, that is the negative power of free speech.

Our basic freedoms are being threatened. Are we as citizens willing to fight for our First Amendment rights?

**Media has long
prided itself on
maintaining a
moral compass.**

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

We should all agree with Cardinal Schools Board of Education member Anita Marlowe voting against the resolution allowing two unidentified qualified employees who have been certified with required training to carry firearms on campus and other athletic events and school activities out of a personal conviction of "There is no place for guns in school." The Middlefield Police Department is a block and a half away from the school. However, if Rip Van Winkle were to come back today there are only two places he would recognize: schools and prisons. It's unfortunate the SRO (School Resource Officer) was no longer funded by a grant. How about a GoFundMe or wealthy Geauga County Republican Party denizen donating to re-hire an SRO?

Some schools do not have an SRO. They have therapy dogs roaming around. Great Danes, Golden Retrievers, Black Labradors. Probably better than Pit Bulls or Dobermans! At Notre Dame Cathedral Latin School in Geauga County, therapy dogs are making regular rounds, not as a response to trouble, but as a gentle boost to students, teachers administrators, and staff well-being. The program currently includes seven certified therapy dogs and their handlers licensed through Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs. Visits take place in the Learning Commons and, on good weather days, in the school courtyard. Visits occur every Wednesday and every-other-Friday. Murphy and Ozzy, two gentle, 155-pound Newfoundlands; Benzie, a yellow Labrador; and Teddy, a standard poodle. The connection between therapy animals and mental health is well-documented. Lower cortisol levels, ease stress, enhance mood, and help students manage their emotions and behaviors which reduces the number of unhappy people.

During my teaching/counseling career from 1969-2003 in the Cleveland Heights University Heights public school district and as an Adjunct Professor Educational Psychology Student Teacher Supervisor at a few local colleges, I have observed that in high-poverty, low-resourced schools with large numbers of students of color, SROs send the message that their work is to protect students from each other and to protect teachers and other adults in the school from students. Noticeably, in better-resourced schools with larger numbers of white students, SROs are viewed as those who protect those in the school from outsiders. In short, a central question is this: What role might SROs play in creating, cultivating, and maintaining safe and effective schools while avoiding prison-like contexts where students feel surveilled and controlled? SROs can contribute to a school-to-prison pipeline.

David Hancock
Chesterland

Dear Editor,

I initially planned to write a letter full of complaints regarding the seemingly endless logging on Haskins near Lake in the Woods. I know many others have felt equally helpless watching countless trees fall for months now.

Instead, I have settled on a haiku:

Melancholy Milling

*Sawmill whirs at dawn
Decimating habitats.
Goodbye, ancient trees.*

Best regards,
A Bainbridge Resident

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BAINBRIDGE AREA FOOD FOR FRIENDS: Donations of non-perishable food and toiletry items, etc., may be dropped off at Bainbridge Library (lobby bin) or at the pantry (temporarily at Centerville Mills). Cash donations may be made at PNC Bank, Solon. If you or someone you know needs the assistance of the pantry, call 708-9829 (please leave a message). Bainbridge Area Food for Friends is **not** affiliated with Harvest for Hunger or Geauga Hunger Task Force and receives no government funding.



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This Lent, Remember Lot's Wife

By Marcia Peiffer

Some of us have a hard time with Lent. We want to skip the contemplative, repentant 40 days of reckoning and rush to the Easter bunny, Cadbury caramel eggs, and bright pink dresses. Like children, we have a hard time leaning into the sorrow. We'd like to skip the journey and get straight to the final destination. We just want the fun. But on that journey? That's where we grow.

Lament means grieving who we are so that we can receive the grace and joy of the cross Resurrection on Sunday, April 5 with true appreciation. Some of us attended church Ash Wednesday and received ashes on our foreheads. Ashes that remind us we "are dust" (Genesis 3:16), fragile and broken human beings. And like the King of Nineveh in the book of Jonah, we metaphorically "sit in our ashes" during the 40 days of Lent to remember our sin.

It may be insulting on some level but it is true — we are sinners. Like Naaman in 2 Kings, we possess what Tim Keller calls an "inner leprosy" eating away at us. Most of us know this deep down even if we care not to admit it. Our guilt and shame generally surfaces in one way or another to remind us we feel ultimately accountable to someone. Somewhere. We cannot escape the nagging feeling that something is fundamentally wrong with us. We cannot hide our humanness. Our fallenness.

But we are also shallow. We make commitments we can not keep. Our efforts to improve ourselves generally fall short. Which is why some of us are fasting from sugar, caffeine, chocolate, meat or maybe more internal things like "harmful words" (per Pope Leo's suggestion) or "self-righteousness" (the need to always be right). Whatever we "give up", Lent is a reminder to go deeper than our superficial Jesus-adjacent lives and to pray, confess, and turn towards the living God for true redemption.

Kathy Keller (of Redeemer NYC's City to City organization) led a Bible Study last week pulling from an old J.C. Wyle sermon "Remember Lot's Wife." If you are not familiar with the story, God destroyed the wicked city of Sodom and Gomorrah by fire, warning Lot's family to flee the burning flames. But they hesitated. They resisted. Lot's family struggled to let go of their past, their home, their community, their comfort. God had to send angels to physically grab the family by the hand to extricate them from death and destruction. And in a final act of disobedience, Lot's wife did not heed the instruction to go forward in faith and "not look back" at sinful Sodom. She chose to look back. And thus was turned to salt.

J.C. Wyle explains that Lot's wife, "had a godly man for her husband, she had Abraham, the father of the faithful for her uncle by marriage. The faith, the knowledge, and the prayers of these two righteous men could have been no secret to her. All this Lot's wife must have seen and known...when Abraham first received the promises, it is probable Lot's wife was there, when he built his tent between Hai and Bethel, it is probable she was there...yet what good effect had all these privileges on the heart of Lot's wife? None at all."

All around Lot's wife were expressions of faith. She had the "privileges" of witnessing God's power and love in her daily family interactions. But Lot's wife never made her own choice. She never claimed what surrounded her as her own faith, her guiding compass. Ryle explains "she allowed herself to be passively towed along in his (her husband's) wake: but all this time her heart was wrong in the sight of God...it requires something more than privileges to save souls. Joab was David's captain; Gehazi was Elisha's servant; Demas was Paul's companion; Judas Iscariot was Christ's disciple; and Lot had a worldly, unbelieving wife. These all died in their sins. They went down to the pit in spite of knowledge, warnings, and opportunities; and they all teach us that it is not privilege alone that men need. They need the grace of the Holy Spirit."

Jesus refers back to the story of Lot's wife in Luke 17 when He tells his disciples, "Remember Lot's wife!" In other words, remember your sinful nature. Remember not to cling to your sinful past. There is nothing there for you. Don't settle for comfort, for what "comes naturally." Cling to what comes "supernaturally", be set apart, pursue holiness from the inside. Don't rely on your family, your spiritual trappings, the religious practices other people see — lay your heart bare before God. Let Him see who you really are. So He can begin the good work in molding and changing you.

This is the story of Lent. It is a story of grief. Of remembrance. Of repentance. Followed by a story of hope when Jesus "passed over" us with the blood of the cross. He is the "lamb of God" who took our sin upon Himself and frees us from the shackles of sin. Lent is just the beginning of that story. A story that ends in hope, freedom, and resurrection.

Lord of Life To Host Pancakes & Eggs March 14

The Family LIFE group at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Bainbridge is always on the lookout for ways to share the Good News of Jesus' love and participate in mission events together. On Saturday, March 14, the group will host a "Pancakes & Eggs" event.

Families are invited to join for a pancake breakfast at 9:30 a.m. and then the children will enjoy an Easter egg hunt! Children are not to worry if they find an empty egg in their hunt. The meaningful part is in knowing the empty egg is to remind us that Jesus is risen! Families who would like to attend this event need to register by March 5 at www.loloh.org/current-events

For more information about Lord of Life's Family LIFE Ministry, or any of our other programs, please visit our website loloh.org or contact the church office at (440)543-5505. Lord of Life is located at 17989 Chillicothe Rd. in Bainbridge Twp. just south of Rt. 422.

Goodbye Winter Haiku

**Cold, snowy weather,
ebbing daily, we return
to warmer temps soon!**

Cecil West

The Wearin' of the Green

'Tis true —

Everyone is a bit Irish on March 17!

Let the shennigans begin!

Join in the frivolity!

*Savor corned beef and cabbage,
and perhaps indulge with a
pint of Guinness.*

*Wear your brightest green —
shirt, suspenders, hat, jewelry!*

Glam it up!

*So, dance a jig,
speak your blarney.*

Imagine you're in the rolling green hills of Ireland

where roundabouts abound,

and you savor a sausage on a roll

before the mad dash to the airport and home!

Oh, what a day that was —

now a decade has passed!

Sláinte!

Anne E. North
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Finding Resilience: Cozy

By Kathleen Kupiec

Until a few weeks ago, I had a café nearby that I would frequent. The coffee was some of the best in town, but, maybe more importantly, the tone the staff set was just positive, uplifting, and welcoming. You always got a friendly "Good morning!" when you walked in and a "Thank you!" when you walked out. A regular or not, the vibe said, "You belong here in this moment." I walked in one day and the barista asked me how I was. I was on auto-pilot so the words flew out of my mouth before I even paused to consider what she asked me. "I'm good, thanks." But I'd gotten to know her a little, and that answer felt immediately inauthentic. I shook my head and said something like, "No, I don't know why I just said that. I'm not great. It's been a week." She smiled at me and said, "Well, you made it to the coffee shop!" It was as if she gave me the permission to exhale. And all I could say in response was, "And that caramel brownie you're about to give me will help." But what I felt in that moment was so much more. In that moment, that bright inviting coffee shop was cozy. The perfect antidote to the turmoil I was carrying within. And a few weeks later, I circled back and told her so.

"Ah! There is nothing like staying at home, for real comfort."

— Jane Austen

I think I've been a bit conditioned to think of "cozy" as something that only happens when the conditions around me make it possible. Those snowy wintry nights spent under a fluffy blanket watching a feel-good movie. Tucking into a warm bowl of soup on a blustery fall day. Endless summer rain that just gives you reason to stay home with no plans other than a good book in hand. But cozy doesn't come from those things. Not really. Those are just easier to recognize because we can point to what's helping us feel cozy. But at its core, cozy is laced through the ambiance. The intangibility. Cozy comes from within, from how we feel, and is simply in response. Cozy connects us to ourselves. Its lack of expectations to be anything. To do anything. Just to enjoy and savor a moment of internal and emotional warmth. And even when we recognize that these are ways to help evoke that feeling, we can't demand Mother Nature set the tone so we can access it.

Slowly, "cozy" has been creeping up as one of my favorite words. It evokes something so wholesome. Centered. Settled. At peace. Calm and warm and fuzzy. Quiet, but in a gentle way. Relaxed. Connected. Familiar. Safe. So what is it, really? I think cozy comes from relief. Or maybe the permission to release...to set down what we're carrying, even if only for a little while. But it's not just that feel-good vibe, it's something soul-soothing that we crave. A way of feeling held and supported in a deep but quiet way. And if "cozy" has been on my mind a lot lately, I wonder if my subconscious is nudging me. Sending me reminders to take the time to feel it. To allow myself those moments of emotional warmth and internal connection. To reset, to relax, to soften, to feel comfort with and within myself. To find that home in myself, to be and feel at home with myself.

We like to feel cozy because, in those moments, we feel true, authentic, and safe. Like we belong, as is. Thankfully, cozy can be all around us. So, where can you go, what can you do, what mindset can you adopt to feel cozy? Gift that to yourself this week.

Positivity and love!



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Geauga Growth Partnership Names Dr. Heng Wang Distinguished Service Award Recipient

Geauga Growth Partnership (GGP) is proud to announce Dr. Heng Wang, MD, PhD, FAAP, as the 2026 recipient of the Frank Samuel Distinguished Service Award, the organization's highest honor recognizing exceptional leadership, service, and lasting community impact.

A board-certified pediatrician and Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. Wang has served as Medical Director of DDC Clinic since its founding in 2002. Under his leadership, the clinic has become internationally recognized for its groundbreaking work in rare genetic disorders and compassionate care for children and families worldwide.

Born and raised in China, Dr. Wang became one of the country's youngest physicians after graduating from Anhui Medical University at age 20. His academic journey led him to earn a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of Liège in Belgium, followed by advanced research and clinical training in the United States, including postdoctoral work at Baylor College of Medicine and a pediatric residency at Arkansas Children's Hospital.

Since joining DDC Clinic, Dr. Wang has served more than 1,100 patient families and has been instrumental in identifying numerous novel genetic conditions, including ganglioside GM3 synthase deficiency, TMC01 defect syndrome, and SAMS association. He has co-authored more than 80 peer-reviewed scientific publications in leading journals such as Science, Nature Genetics, PNAS, and Cell.

In addition to his clinical and research leadership, Dr. Wang serves as a faculty member at Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic, contributing to the education and mentorship of future healthcare professionals in Northeast Ohio.

"The Frank Samuel Distinguished Service Award recognizes individuals who combine extraordinary professional achievement with deep community commitment," said Kimm Leininger, President & CEO of Geauga Growth Partnership. "Dr. Wang's lifelong dedication to children, families, and scientific advancement — paired with his lasting impact on Geauga County — makes him an exceptional and deserving honoree."

Burton Station Fixture Honored with Excellence in Manufacturing Award

Geauga Growth Partnership (GGP, in coordination with MAGNET) is proud to recognize Burton Station Fixture as the recipient of the Excellence in Manufacturing Award, honoring the company's leadership in innovation, operational efficiency, and long-term business sustainability.

Burton Station Fixture, a Geauga County-based manufacturer and longtime GGP member, has demonstrated exceptional commitment to manufacturing excellence through the strategic expansion of its business model, a successful transition to next-generation leadership, and a strong focus on continuous improvement.

In partnership with the Manufacturing Advocacy and Growth Network (MAGNET), Burton Station Fixture has implemented process improvements and workflow efficiencies that have strengthened operations, enhanced productivity, and positioned the company for long-term growth in an increasingly competitive manufacturing landscape.

"The Excellence in Manufacturing Award recognizes companies that are not only successful today, but are intentionally building for the future," said Kimm Leininger, President & CEO of Geauga Growth Partnership. "Burton Station Fixture's investment in innovation, leadership transition, and operational excellence reflects the best of Geauga County manufacturing."

The Excellence in Manufacturing Award honors manufacturers that have implemented smart manufacturing processes, strengthened workforce practices, and demonstrated measurable results through innovation and efficiency. Burton Station Fixture's achievements reflect a balance of tradition and forward-thinking leadership, serving as an example for manufacturers across the region.

Burton Station Fixture will be formally recognized through GGP and MAGNET platforms, including featured storytelling and award presentation as part of GGP's annual recognition efforts.

For more information about Geauga Growth Partnership or the Excellence in Manufacturing Award, visit www.geaugagrowthpartnership.com

Community Spirit

BTHS February Museum Exhibit Celebrates Ohio Innovations

Bainbridge Twp. Historical Society is joining the America 250 celebration of Ohio's Innovators through a new exhibit at our museum located at 17870 Chillicothe Road, Bainbridge. Ray and Koop Ferwerda were two brothers living in Lake Lucerne, Bainbridge, who invented the Gradall excavator in 1944. The patent was sold to Warner & Swasey and the Gradall became an international sensation in the industry. As one of the most successful inventions contributing to the modernization of road and bridge construction, the Gradall and the Ferwerda brothers will be honored at our Bissell-Tucek Museum with a special exhibit including movies, photos, books and designs of the excavator. To allow for more people to experience this special exhibit, our museum will have expanded hours for the month of February. Stop by to marvel at this invention that has forever changed the construction industry. Hours are: Feb. 16 and 28 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Also, Feb. 15 and 21 from 1-4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, see www.bainbridgehistoricalsociety.org.

Geauga Young at Heart Plans Activities

Geauga Young at Heart meets at 11:30 a.m. at St. Anselm's Parish Center, 12969 Chillicothe Rd. in Chesterland on the first and third Friday of the month. Entertainment and refreshments are provided. Anyone who is 55 or older and a resident of Geauga County may join. Come to a meeting or call Monica Gromek at (216) 659-8117 to join.

Save the Dates: Friday, March 13, will be a trip to the Seneca Allegany Casino. On Wednesday, June 17, we're off to Playhouse Square Palace Theatre for "The Great Gatsby." Everyone is welcome on Young at Heart trips. For further information, call Kimber at (440) 668-3293.

How Sweet It Is! Ohio Maple Trail March 7, 8, 14, 15

Taste the sweetness of spring! Indulge your curiosity on a self-guided, drive-it-yourself tour of the Maple Producers of Northeast Ohio's sugarhouses March 7, 8, 14 and 15 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Witness the magic of maple syrup come to life as you explore unique sugarhouses and discover the secrets behind this delicious natural sweetener. Each sugarhouse offers a one-of-a-kind experience, perfect for a fun-filled and educational family adventure. Plan your sugaring adventure today! For more information on the places to tour and hours, visit www.mpneoh.com to embark on a maple syrup odyssey.

BTHS Celebrates History of Women Air and Space March 11

Explore the role of women in aviation and aerospace with a speaker from the International Women's Air & Space Museum. Learn about the first woman to fly a hot air balloon in the 18th century, and hear about Bessie Coleman's dream to establish a flight school. These stories and more will be told at the Bainbridge Library, 17222 Snyder Rd. at 7 p.m. and are presented by the Bainbridge Twp. Historical Society. Free admission. www.bainbridgehistoricalsociety.org

Kenston Foundation Purse Bingo March 14

The Second Annual Kenston Foundation Purse Bingo will be held Saturday, March 14. Doors open at 4 p.m. at Adams Hall, 11455 Washington St., Chagrin Falls, OH 44023. \$75 gets you 10 bingo cards, dinner catered by Augies, desserts and a chance to win a designer bag including Coach, Kate Spade, Michael Kors, Dooney and Bourke and more! For more information or to register online, go to the website: <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/2nd-annual-kenston-foundation-purse-bingo-2026/items>. Additional ticket options available this year; please see the link provided. Proceeds benefit Kenston Foundation's senior scholarships and teacher grants.

Bissell-Tucket Open House March 21

The Bissell-Tucek House Museum will be open on Saturday, March 21, from 1-4 p.m. The museum is at 17870 Chillicothe Road, just south of the fire station. Stop by to see our exhibit of the invention of the Gradall excavator by two Bainbridge residents. Operated by the Bainbridge Historical Society, the museum contains many local artifacts. Free admission. For more information, see www.bainbridgehistoricalsociety.org.

Czech Easter Bread "Mazanec" for Sale at DTJ

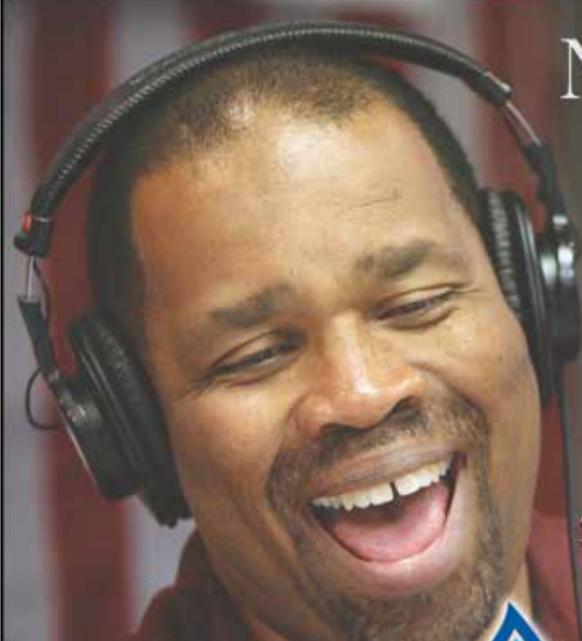
Who doesn't remember the smell of fresh baked goods from Mom's kitchen at Easter? Mazanec, or houska, is a sweet dough with golden raisins and almonds baked into a round loaf with a cross cut into the top. DTJ will again be selling the traditional Czech Easter bread by order only. Cost is \$15 for a two-pound loaf. Orders must be in by March 26 and can be picked up March 29. Call 440-543-8494 to place orders.

Apricot, Nut, or Poppy Seed Rolls for Sale at DTJ

DTJ bakers will be selling these rolls again by order only. Cost is \$15 each. Orders must be in by March 12 and can be picked up March 15. Call 440-543-8494 to place orders and for more information about DTJ events.

DTJ Taborville is located at the corner of Quinn and Bartholomew roads in Auburn Township.



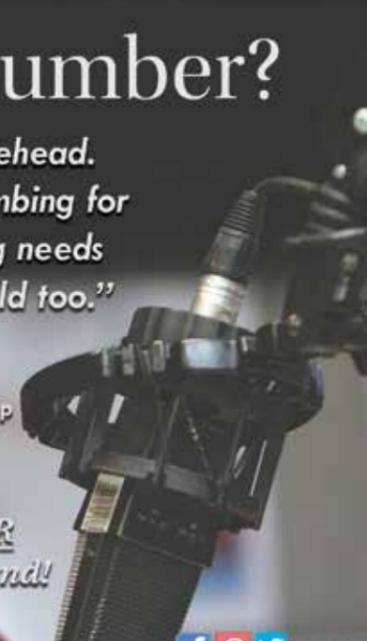


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Obituaries

Thomas F. Florkiewicz

Thomas F. Florkiewicz passed away peacefully on Feb. 14, 2026 with his children by his side. He is reunited with his beloved wife and forever Valentine, Sally. Tom was the devoted father to TJ (Coleen) and Sally Anne (Scott); cherished grandfather to Tommy, Charlie, and Miranda (Jordan); great-grandfather to Cal and Lucy. He was loving brother to Barbara Schick (Peter, deceased) and treasured uncle and great-uncle to many.

Tom was born on Sept. 6, 1944, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to the late John and Helen Florkiewicz. He grew up in Penn Hills and graduated in 1962 from Central Catholic High School where he ran track and cross country. He went on to earn a degree in Chemical Engineering from Penn State University in 1966, becoming the first person in his family to graduate from college. This accomplishment brought his parents and extended family great pride. Later he earned an MBA from Case Western Reserve University.

Tom married Sally in 1968 and settled in Chagrin Falls where they raised their family. Tom was a steady role model to TJ and Sally Anne. He taught them to work hard and supported them through every endeavor. Tom was an active part of the community. During the early years he was a CAA coach and referee for youth basketball and baseball. He was a board member of the Chagrin Valley Recreation Center for two decades and was president for one year. He was a member of the Popcorn Ball Drop committee for 14 years, was the emcee for many drops, and could be seen on NYE dancing in the gazebo at midnight. He also helped bring the Chagrin Documentary Film Festival to the community and did whatever was needed to help with the annual event. He was an election poll worker and accompanied Sally to countless political events. In 2009 he was elected as a Chagrin Falls Township Trustee and served for 16 years. He also served as President of the Trustees for many years.

Tom loved his family home in Chagrin Falls. He and Sally lived life to the fullest in their house of 54 years filled with love, laughter and tradition. Tom could always be seen outside working in the yard, garden, and around the barn. He took great pride in making sure his house looked its best for every holiday and filled it with beautiful flowers all summer. On Halloween he would dress as a live Dracula on the porch to the entertainment and fright of neighbors and grandchildren alike. Tom went to great lengths to prepare the home for the annual Blossom Time parade and he always wore his best red, white, and blue attire with a squirt gun in hand.

Tom built a distinguished career as an engineer with Diamond Shamrock, OxyTech, and Eltech specializing in chlorine cell technology. His work designing and constructing chlorine plants took him to remote corners of the world, and he embraced every opportunity to explore new places and cultures.

Tom was a passionate traveler who planned countless family adventures around the United States and the world with a packed itinerary that included all the must-see attractions. He achieved his goals of visiting all 50 states and every National Park in the contiguous United States. Tom always bought a t-shirt at every stop and could talk for hours about everything he learned. For 30 years he enjoyed annual trips to Holden Beach, North Carolina with family and friends. Tom and Sally also spent winters in Venice, Florida.

Tom's love of sports was lifelong. A dedicated runner, he logged five to seven miles every morning before work and completed two marathons. He was an avid Cleveland sports fan who attended Browns, Indians and Cavs games. He loved Penn State Nittany Lions football and attended many Chagrin Falls sporting events. Tom took great pride in watching his son coach his grandsons, Tommy and Charlie. Grandpa nurtured the boys' athletic interests by throwing pitches and footballs with them, and he never missed their football, basketball, or baseball games.

Tom was a great, honorable man known for his humor, kindness, and unwavering loyalty. He is the ultimate warrior who fought his cancer battle for 34 years.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 24 at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church. Burial followed at Evergreen Hill Cemetery. The family suggests making contributions to: Chagrin Rec Center, P.O. Box 84, Chagrin Falls, OH 44022. (Please note on check Memorial Gift for Tom Florkiewicz.)

Winifred J. Holt

Winifred (Winnie) J. Holt (nee Scott), age 85 of Auburn Township, passed away peacefully on Feb. 15, 2026. Winnie was born on May 23, 1940, in Cleveland, and was a 1958 graduate of Chagrin Falls High School, where she met the love of her life.

Ted and Winnie eventually settled in a home on the Franks Farm in Auburn Township. Winnie raised five children, chaperoned many school field trips, and hosted family gatherings almost every Sunday. Winnie worked on the Franks Farm for 17 years, milking cows twice a day, seven days a week, and gathering sap for making maple syrup.

Winnie was a child of God and a follower of Jesus. Winnie's faith was evident in her everyday life and her infectious smile would light up any room. Winnie and her husband, Ted, always put God and family at the forefront of their marriage. Later on in life, Winnie and Ted loved taking road trips to the Kinzua Viaduct Railroad Bridge in Pennsylvania and would frequent Bradford, Pennsylvania as well.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Theodore Jr., father, Winfield Scott, mother, Ethel Scott (nee Thoren), sibling Carol Deau (nee Scott), and son, Theodore III (Rebecca). Winnie is survived by her sibling, Cindy Scott (Miriam), daughter, Holly Ward (Chris Sr.), sons Thomas, Michael (Denise) and Christopher (Justine). Winnie was grandmother to 14 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and aunt to many nieces and nephews.

Memorial service was Feb. 24, 2026, at St. Mark Lutheran Church. The family will have a private burial at Shadyside Cemetery in Auburn Township. Donations can be made to the Women's League of St. Mark Lutheran Church, 11900 Chillicothe Rd. Chesterland, Ohio 44026.

Jayne E. Collier

Jayne E. Collier, age 89, of Bradenton, Florida, formerly of Chagrin Falls, passed away on Feb. 17, 2026.

Cherished daughter of the late Walter E. and Ann E. (nee Jackson) Collier; beloved wife of Robert Koehnke for 20 years. Jayne was born and raised in Chagrin Falls. She was a graduate of Baldwin Wallace College where she attained a Masters Degree. Jayne worked as a lab technician in the medical field, and also worked in the cosmetics industry and concluded her career as a supervisor for the Ohio Turnpike. She had lived in Twin Lakes in Kent and in Pittsburgh, PA, before moving to Florida. Jayne was an excellent downhill skier and enjoyed dancing and travelling.

Jayne and her husband, Robert, traveled to 150 countries in 20 years. They did the "Great Loop" in a boat, going 7,000 miles in seven months. They also attended 25-30 concerts a year over a 20-year period.

Arrangements were handled by St. John Funeral Home, Chagrin Falls. Burial was in Evergreen Hill Cemetery.

William Harrison Bierman Jr.

Bill passed away peacefully at the age of 88 on Feb. 23, 2026, surrounded by his family. Bill was born in Pittsburgh, PA.

He was devoted husband to Mary Ann Bierman (nee Sherry) for 63 years; loving father to Anne Caja (Paul), Kathy Bierman, Bill Bierman III (Mary-Karen); proud grandfather to Kevin Caja (Stephanie), Kristin Yokota (Daiki), Jack Bierman, and Nick Bierman; and cherished great-grandfather of three. He was preceded in death by his parents, W.H. and Celestine Bierman, and his brother Edward.

Bill was raised in Pittsburgh. He graduated from Pittsburgh Central Catholic H.S. and continued his education at Bullis Prep in Maryland and the University of Dayton. He proudly served in the U.S. Air Force. Bill enjoyed a distinguished 30-year career with U.S. Steel which brought him to Cleveland in 1967. Bill and Mary Ann raised their family in Chagrin Falls, where they built a loving home and resided until his passing.

Bill is known for his passion for sports, especially football. He enthusiastically cheered for his hometown Pittsburgh Steelers. He was an avid golfer, known for his competitive spirit and great sense of humor. Bill will be remembered for his strong work ethic, deep love of family, and enduring enthusiasm for sports and life.

Arrangements were handled by St. John Funeral Home. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 28 at St. Joan of Arc. Interment private at a later date in Calvary Cemetery, Pittsburgh, PA.

The family requests donations to Tunnel to Towers Foundation (t2t.org), the Wounded Warrior Project (woundedwarriorproject.org), or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (stjude.org).

Anna Davis

Anna Jane "Janie" Davis (nee Ripley), age 94, of Chagrin Falls, passed away on Feb. 25, 2026.

Janie dedicated her life's work to education. She taught for Kenston, Newbury and Orange Schools. Janie spent two years teaching in Harbel, Liberia in West Africa. Summers were spent in Europe with AIFS.

Janie attended Ashbury College and received a Master's of Education degree from Kent State. She continued her education at Londen University, St. Andrews University, Dundee University, Cambridge University and other universities.

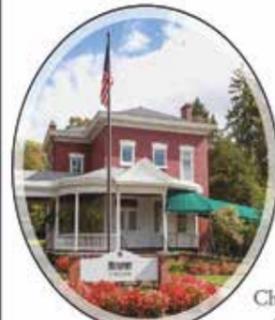
Later in life Janie was involved with Friends of the Geauga Library. She spent many years delivering books to Amish schools.

Her hobbies were genealogy, reading, writing, travel, and family. She enjoyed spending time organizing family photos.

Janie was preceded in death by her husband Hiram Joe; her brothers Ben, Forrest, and Paul and her sister Bernice Bode. She is survived by her sons Alan (Robyn) and Kendal (Eileen); grandchildren and great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; and her sister Kathryn Ripley.

The family suggests donations be made to Lord of Life Church, 17989 Chillicothe Rd., Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023, or a charity of your choice.





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SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

9:00 A.M.
Traditional Service

10:30 A.M.
Contemporary Service