

LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER

## Looking and listening for owls



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

Juvenile Great Horned Owls at Clague Park in April 2022.

by MORGAN PASKERT

Owls are some of the most fascinating creatures in Ohio. Their mysterious nature, charismatic expressions and recognizable calls have sparked interest for centuries. Many people will claim to have never seen an owl in the wild, but chances are they have been near one without knowing it.

Eight owl species reside in Northeast Ohio throughout the year. Three of the most common include the Great Horned Owl, the Barred Owl and the Eastern Screech-Owl.

Great Horned Owls can be found across the continental U.S. and are among the earliest to nest in Northeast Ohio. Despite winter's harsh conditions, females are already incubating and can keep their eggs at a temperature exceeding 98 degrees.

► See OWLS, page 2

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## WWAC invites one and all to 'Catch Rising Stars'

by LOUISE SEEHOLZER

Two Baldwin Wallace University Music Theatre seniors will perform at Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Road, on Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. In keeping with its over-35-year history, the Westlake-Westshore Arts Council sponsors this concert of talented, trained performers, free to the community.

The talented BW students, who will perform highlights from their senior recitals, are Lauren Senden and Noah Wohlsen.

Senden loved singing from an early age and began publicly singing in her church and in local theatre productions. Her passion for both music theatre and opera drew Senden to BW. A Minnesota native, Senden lists some of her favorite roles as, Ariel in "The Little Mermaid," Maria in



Lauren Senden



Noah Wohlsen

"The Sound of Music" and Baker's Wife in "Into the Woods." She took part in the Lotte Lenya competition in New York and received honors from the Young Arts Foundation for both singing and acting. Senden plans to move to New York following her BW graduation in May.

Wohlsen, who is from New Jersey, also was lured to Baldwin Wallace Music Theatre. His recent credits include "The Sound of Music" at Blossom Music Center, "The Wild Party" at Baldwin Wallace and "The Wedding Singer" and "State Fair" at the Clinton Area Showboat in Iowa.

The WWAC has a long history of providing multiple and varied art programs free to the community. And though "Catch a Rising Star" will be a taste delight, the WWAC is also providing complimentary refreshments on Feb. 28. ♦

## Lenten Bible study of the Gospel of Mark

by JOHN RINEHART

Dover Congregational UCC will be hosting a Lenten journey through the Gospel of Mark beginning Sunday, Feb. 26. Participants

are asked to read Mark's Gospel and "Meeting God in Mark, Reflections for the Season of Lent" by Anglican Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury.

► See LENTEN, page 2

### DEMON DISPATCH

## Balance is paramount for Westlake students during the winter months

by DR. SCOTT GOGGIN  
Superintendent,  
Westlake City School District

The colder and shorter winter days can often shift our mood to feeling tired and withdrawn. With the academic and extracurricular demands of Westlake students, it's easy to feel overwhelmed this time of year. That is particularly true during the winter when the motivation to achieve may be in short supply. That's why it is essential to remember the balance between the mind and your

physical well-being.

A balanced Westlake student expresses a connection between physical well-being and conscious decisions leading to a healthy lifestyle. They establish and maintain positive relationships by being mindful of others. They retain the ability to organize and self-regulate the demands of daily life.

Self-care is crucial for our mental, physical, and emotional well-being. It's a way to show that we care and respect ourselves enough to make time for self-improvement.

► See BALANCED, page 2

### LAKE ROAD WALKING TOUR

## Lakeside Cemetery, c. 1814

*The third in a series of articles to be published as a walking tour of Lake Road by the Bay Village Historical Society in 2025.*

by WILLIAM KRAUSE

The first pioneer death in Dover township was Rebecca Smith in 1811. Some early sources say that she was buried in this cemetery in

1811 and then moved elsewhere in 1820.

It is more plausible that Mrs. Rebecca Porter and her infant son Dennis, who tragically drowned off Rocky River in 1814, were the first burials in this cemetery because the original land for the cemetery was donated by her brother-in-law Reuben Osborn.

► See LAKESIDE page 2



PHOTO BY WILLIAM KRAUSE





# BALANCED

from front page

In recognition of National School Counseling Week, which was observed earlier this month, I want to thank our counselors who have dedicated themselves to helping us grow mentally, emotionally, and academically. Our counselors are an invaluable source of support for all students and staff.

With so many distractions and challenges, staying balanced can take a lot of work. However, when students prioritize their physical and mental well-being, they learn how to meet their needs and those of others effectively.

They can find methods to stay physically fit and healthy while learning tactics to relax their minds. Additionally, they can spend time studying and engaging in extracurricular activities, all while nurturing meaningful connection.

The knowledge our students are acquiring today will prepare them for what lies ahead and give them the skills to manage their time, work cooperatively with others, and make mindful decisions while protecting their mental health.

Even though it can be tempting to take it easy during chilly months, Westlake students remain inspired and devoted to their goals. They strive to balance time for themselves and stay engaged in their academic assignments and extracurricular activities. It is this balance that keeps them motivated and on track toward success! ●

# LENTEN

from front page

The book focuses on Mark's Passion narrative, making it an ideal devotional guide and study resource. Williams has included a reading guide, questions for reflection, and daily scripture readings in Mark throughout Lent.

The study of Mark will begin on Feb. 26 during Coffee Hour after Sunday worship at Dover, and end on Palm Sunday. An alternative study time will be offered via Zoom on Wednesday evenings during Lent, beginning on Wednesday, March 1, at 7 p.m.

The study sessions will be facilitated by Dover's Minister of Justice, the Rev. Dr. John Rinehart. Books are available at Dover's office for \$15 or you may order your own from Amazon Books. Zoom guests are invited to register by calling the Dover office at 440-871-1050 for the Zoom link.

Mark's Gospel is the oldest and shortest of the four gospels. It uniquely does not include the familiar birth narrative found in Matthew and Luke, or the philosophical Gospel of John. It also ends abruptly at the open tomb of Jesus, with no post-resurrection appearances.

Mark does not follow an historical narrative, rather, he relates stories of miracles, healing, forgiveness, parables, and ends with a lengthy passion narrative. Mark invites his readers to meet Jesus, the one from God, who consorts with all sorts of sinners.

He was the personification of the radical claim that all are welcome before the Lord. Mark's Jesus is a trooper for justice, making his Gospel a suitable guide for our time. ●

# OWLS

from front page

After a successful nesting season, owlets will hatch completely featherless and heavily reliant on their parents around late February, and will remain near their parents until the end of summer. Great Horned Owls live in a broad range of habitats, most typically in woods interspersed with open land. They may be difficult to see at night, but a deep series of hoots will indicate one is near.

Barred Owls are common to Northeast Ohio, but difficult to find as they are well camouflaged in large, mature oak and evergreen forests. Barred Owls claim their territory and tend to revisit the same location for months at a time. If they cannot be spotted, listen for their famous hooting call that resembles the phrase: "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?"

One of the smallest and the most common owl in Ohio, the Eastern Screech-Owl, remains in the state year round. These owls cope with winter exceptionally well, despite their size of 12 ounces. Their hearing is so well developed that they can hear their prey move as it tunnels under the snow, making them successful hunters. Listen for their loud trilling call from the trees in most types of woods, city parks and even your own backyard.

Join Lake Erie Nature & Science Center for its annual Owl Prowl on Friday, Feb. 24, at 6 p.m. Enjoy up-close encounters with the Center's resident owls, experience nocturnal sights and sounds in the planetarium, participate in an owl scavenger hunt, and head outdoors on a hike in hopes of spotting or hearing wild owls in the surrounding forest.

Tickets are available at [www.lensc.org](http://www.lensc.org) or 440-871-2900. ●

# LAKESIDE

from front page

It was the first public burying ground in Dover Township, an area that today includes Bay Village, Westlake and the northern portion of North Olmsted. Additional land was purchased by township trustees in 1877, expanding the cemetery to a total of about one-half acre.

There are over 270 known burials including veterans from the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II and the Korean War.

An Ohio Historical Marker was erected in 2002, and in 2005 money was raised to replace the fences surrounding the cemetery.

In 2021 owners of slivers of land surrounding the cemetery donated funds to construct barriers to prevent further erosion by Lake Erie. ●

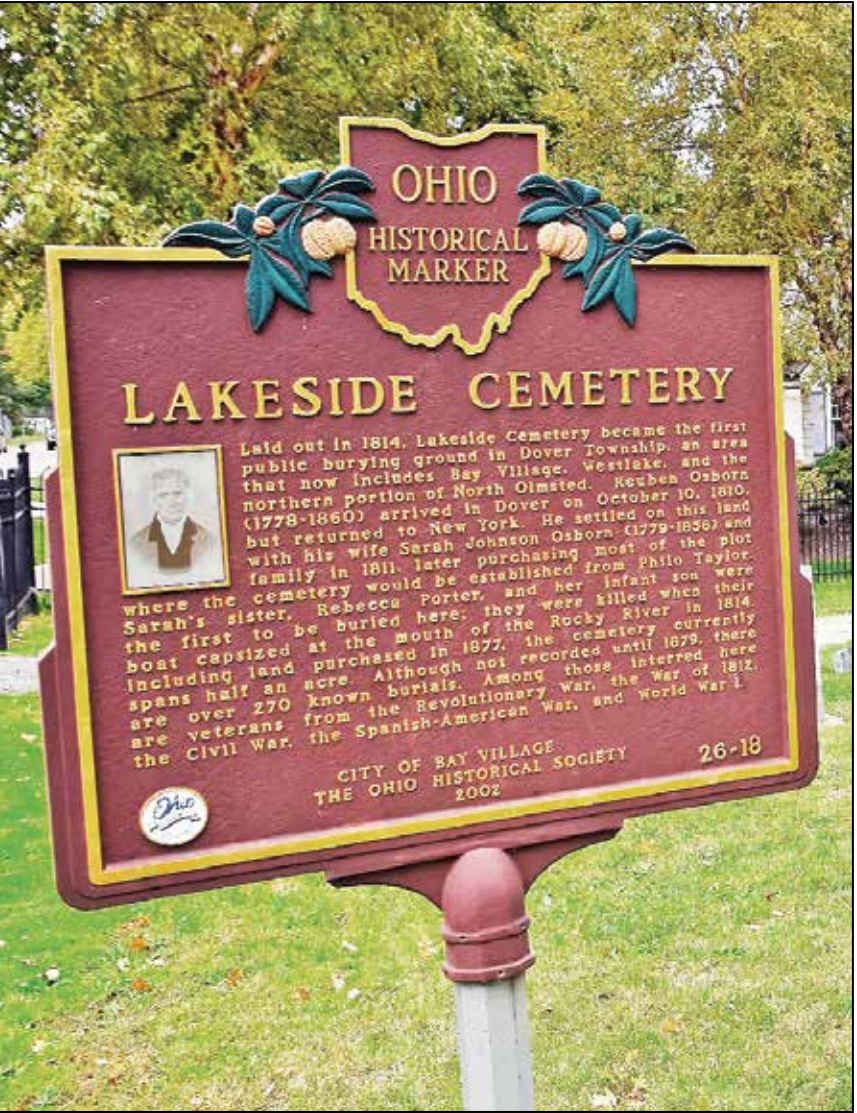


PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

WESTLAKE | BAY VILLAGE  
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**NATURE & ENVIRONMENT**

# Sea Scouts fight toxic algae blooms

by ADDISON GRAHAM, BECKET TUMNEY, ORION RIDDELL and RILEY CAMPBELL

The coast of Lake Erie is an idyllic place to live. We are fortunate to have an abundance of drinking water and a plethora of leisure activities that the lake affords us. We use the lake for swimming, boating, fishing, and a host of other activities. It's also a beautiful view.

Unfortunately, those activities and even our drinking water can sometimes be shut down or interrupted because of pollution or harmful algal blooms. In August 2014, the city of Toledo had to stop providing drinking water for three days because of a harmful algal bloom on Lake Erie. Every summer, there are water quality alerts for dangerous bacteria levels at Huntington Beach.

What's causing this, and is there anything that we can do about it so that we can enjoy the lake more? These are some of the questions that a group of seventh-grade Bay Sea Scouts hopes to answer with research and a scientific experiment.

Our team took a field trip to Stone Lab, The Ohio State University's research facility on Gibraltar Island, this past September. While there, we got to discuss and learn from students, researchers, and faculty about the harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie's western basin. We learned that one of the causes of the harmful algal blooms is nitrogen and phosphorus that end up in the lake. The nitrogen and phosphorus come from fertilizer applied to farmers' fields and the lawns of homes and businesses. What happens on the land affects what happens in the water. It is an interconnected system and community.

All of our lakefront communities, including Bay Village, are a watershed. A watershed is a land area that channels rainfall and snowmelt to creeks, streams, and rivers and eventually to outflow points like Huntington Beach,



Pictured, from left: Orion Riddell, Riley Campbell, Mrs. Bochmann, Becket Tumney, and Addison Graham.

the Bay Boat Club, Columbia Beach Falls, and Sperry Creek.

You may have noticed that all the drainage grates and curb inlets have signs that read "drains to the lake." This is because the land absorbs some of the rain when it rains, but the excess mixes with what is on the land and becomes run-off. If the land is planted with plants that have lots of roots, the roots of the plants can take up the rainwater and any excess nitrogen and phosphorus before it gets to the creeks and eventually the lake.

The team wanted to know what plants do a good job absorbing nitrogen and phosphorus. We spoke to Cuyahoga County Soil and Water Conservation District. We helped plant a rain garden in Rocky River. We talked to several local nurseries and chose five native perennial plants to test over time to see how they do taking up nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizer. At the end of the experiment, we recommend some plants that homeowners along the creeks can use to plant in their riparian zones.

In the meantime, there are a few things that all of us can do. First, we can reduce the amount of fertilizer we

use. Try to use only as much as you need to, apply it specifically to the area that needs it, and pay attention to the weather forecast, not apply it before heavy rain. Second, pick up pet waste, even in your own yard. Pet waste contributes to the bacteria levels in the lake.

The homeowners living along the creeks have a special opportunity to help. The first thing they can do is not mow up to the edge of the creek's bank. It is best to leave an unmowed strip of several feet. The roots of the grass will grow deeper if the grass is not trimmed regularly. Plant native trees and perennial plants along the creeks and waterways. Plants with deep roots will help reduce run-off, stabilize the banks, improve water quality, and provide a habitat for wildlife.

We all enjoy the lake and want to continue to do so. With some effort, we can directly impact the water quality and how much we can all enjoy Lake Erie!

Our team, sponsored by Bay Sea Scouts, is entering our project in the eCyberMission STEM competition sponsored by the U.S. Army Education Outreach Program. ●

## Clague Playhouse presents 'The Frank & Dean and Then Some Show'

by KIMBERLY MITSCHKE

Clague Playhouse will be holding a special fundraising event, "The Frank & Dean and Then Some Show," on Wednesday, March 22, at 7:30 p.m.

The show captures the fun, the comedy and the music of the original Rat Pack. Damion Fontaine (Frank) and Scott Brotherton (Dean) have been entertaining together for 18 years using a mixture of song and comedy to create a "Vegas Style" format that is fun and crowd interactive.

From Frank's "Fly Me to the Moon" to Dino's "That's Amoré," they also celebrate the music of Tony Bennett, Nat King Cole, Bobby Darin, Michael Bublé, Elvis, The Blues Brothers, Neil Diamond and more!

Reserved seat tickets are \$25 for the two-hour show with an intermission. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Clague Playhouse Box Office at 440-331-0403, Wednesday through Saturday from 1-6 p.m. or visiting [www.clagueplayhouse.org](http://www.clagueplayhouse.org). Clague Playhouse is located at 1371 Clague Road in Westlake.

Proceeds will be used toward operating costs of the 2022-23 Clague Playhouse season. ●



Damion Fontaine as Frank Sinatra and Scott Brotherton as Dean Martin will perform at Clague Playhouse on March 22.

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APPLICATIONS  
DUE FEBRUARY 28TH  
Download application from  
[thebayvillagefoundation.org](http://thebayvillagefoundation.org)  
and for more information.

The Bay Village Foundation supports projects that improve the quality of life in the City of Bay Village. Projects must be responsive to community needs. The Foundation will also consider requests for support of programs that benefit the citizens of the City of Bay Village. To be eligible, an organization must be a non-profit located in or provide services to residents within the City of Bay Village.

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# Bay High School students' creativity recognized

by KAREN MISCIAGNA

The 2023 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards were announced recently, and 36 Bay High School students won 60 awards in categories such as poetry, sculpture, flash fiction, photography and more. Of those 60 awards, 22 were Gold Keys, 14 were Silver Keys and 24 were Honorable Mentions. The Gold Key award is the highest honor of distinction in this competition.

Bay High School Gold Key art winners: junior Gianna Crimaldi, photography; junior Laila Florentino, photography; junior Mallory Fry, painting; senior Emilia Gulley, sculpture; freshman Martin Haus-

ler, painting and drawing & illustration; junior Danielle Lentes, painting; sophomore Olivia McIntire, sculpture; junior Annie McMerrell, painting; freshman Sebastian Sabre, photography; senior Larson Toil, photography; and senior Emilia Ullom, painting and art portfolio. Emilia is also one of only five students in the Greater Cleveland Region nominated for an American Visions award.

"The amount of talent within this group is exceptional," said Thomas Schemrich, chairperson of the Bay High School Art Department. "I have no doubt that many of these students will go on to successfully pursue art careers in college and beyond."

Bay High School Gold Key writing winners: senior Amelia Bohac, personal essay & memoir; senior Isabella Fusco, poetry; junior Aaron Ingraham, personal essay & memoir; senior Charlotte Reising, personal essay & memoir; and junior Faith Teutschbein, poetry.

"We are very proud of these students and their teachers for their hard work. The Scholastic Awards are a



Bay High School Scholastic Award Winners from left to right: Amelia Bohac (1 Gold Key in Writing), Emilia Ullom (4 Gold Keys in Art), Emily Wander (1 Silver Key in Art), and Laila Florentino (1 Gold Key in Art).



Bay High School Gold Key award winners for the Scholastic Writing Contest. From left to right: Amelia Bohac, Isabella Fusco and Faith Teutschbein. (Not pictured: Aaron Ingraham and Charlotte Reising.)



Senior Mia Gulley's piece "Father's Plane" Sculpture Gold Key Art Award 2023.

fantastic showcase for the talent and creativity of our students," said Dr. Beatrix Bishop, chairperson of the Bay High School English Department.

Faculty from Cleveland Institute of Art served as judges for this annual Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition. ●



Bay High School junior Annie McMerrell's "True Colors" painting won a Gold Key at the recent Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition.

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**WESTLAKE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

# WEF's car raffle winner is lucky...again!

by MARY ESSIG

**H**ow lucky can one person be? Just ask Leigh Luzar. Last year, he won \$250 from the Westlake Alumni Association when he purchased raffle tickets to support the Westlake Educational Foundation's car raffle. This year, Leigh again purchased car raffle tickets and won the grand prize – a 2022 Chevy Malibu LS!

Due to the generosity of Serpentine Chevrolet of Westlake, who donated the 2022 Chevy Malibu, the Westlake Educational Foundation recently held its 3rd Annual Car Raffle.

As in prior years, the Foundation partnered with other organizations within the school district who support various aspects of Westlake student life. By promoting the raffle, Westlake Demons Athletic Boosters, Westlake Music Boosters, Westlake PTAs, and Westlake Alumni Association shared in the ticket sales proceeds. With their involvement and support, the Foundation's third car raffle exceeded \$25,000 in ticket sales proceeds.

These proceeds will help the Foundation and its partner organizations support their respective missions, ultimately enhancing the curricular and extra-curricular activities of

Westlake City Schools' students. For example, the Foundation recently awarded over \$30,000 in grants to teachers at Westlake High School and Lee Burneson Middle School for equipment and materials that support creative and innovative teaching experiences in their respective classrooms.

Upon hearing that he had won the car, Leigh and his wife, Karen, were initially shocked and thought it was a prank. When they realized they actually had won the car, Karen turned to Leigh and said, "Now you can both retire," meaning Leigh and his 11-year-old car.

Leigh and Karen are North Olmsted residents, having sent their four children to North Olmsted city schools. Their three youngest children are triplets, and when they began driving, Leigh and Karen bought a 2000 Chevy Malibu for their daughters to share. That car went to the University of Toledo with the girls, then to grad school at Cleveland State University, and beyond. Leigh joked that he never got to drive that car, but



Leigh and Karen Luzar receive the keys to their new car from Mary Essig, Westlake Educational Foundation President; Scott Goggin, Superintendent and Foundation Chairperson; and Ann Beyer, Foundation Secretary.

now he'll have his own, brand-new Chevy Malibu to drive. "This was a blessing to us since I just turned 70 and was in the market for my retirement car."

Leigh summed up his reasons for supporting the Westlake Educational Foundation's car raffle when he said, "We will continue to support the Westlake Educational Foundation

because we know how important it can be when one teacher, coach, certain class subject, can influence a student for the rest of their life."

In addition to the Chevy Malibu grand prize, FOUNT at Crocker Park donated a leather tote bag and each of the Westlake partner organizations donated prizes for the

raffle. Michelle Johnson won the FOUNT bag. Tammy Parker won the Westlake Music Boosters gift basket. Jill Miner won the Westlake PTAs "W" Car Wash Bucket. Carrie Rendziak and Walt Nimylowycz each won \$250 from the Westlake Alumni Association. Lori Negron won the WDAB "W" Shop and Demon Derby Gift Pack. ●

# Diagnosed at 30: An autistic woman's journey

by AUTUMN ZIEMBA MCKENZIE

**W**estlake resident Carly Millis Jalowiec looks and acts like your typical 30-something. With long blond hair and big eyes, she is both engaged and engaging as she talks a mile a minute, smiling and laughing. The average person would likely never label her as autistic. But she is.

"I've always known that I was different, even from when I was little," Carly says, "and a lot of my struggles were more internal and misunderstood."

Carly is part of a rapidly-growing population of adults seeking an autism diagnosis. The interest is often spurred after a diagnosed family member, or increased awareness of the signs of autism.

For Carly, it was in 2020, and she had just celebrated her 30th birthday.

"I was looking up autism for something else and suddenly there I was, in all

the articles and the books. And I thought, this explains everything."

Carly says it all made sense. The 15 years of therapy, multiple diagnoses and coping mechanisms, but never much improvement. She attempted college three separate times, but never graduated. She bounced from job to job, working as a theater technician, a real estate agent, and a veterinary assistant, just to name a few. She thrived at work, but would ultimately get burned out and resign. All things that, until this point, she had attributed to her mental illness.

That's when Carly turned to Milestones Autism Resources for guidance. Milestones, based in Warrensville Heights, connected her with the only available resource at the time for adults seeking an autism diagnosis in the Cleveland area.

"They had literally one name for me, which is a testament to the lack of providers and support that exists for recognizing

adult autism," Carly explains.

Milestones co-founder and Executive Director, Ilana Hoffer Skoff, says with limited experts in adult diagnosis, it's not uncommon for adults to self-diagnose before they're able to get a formal diagnosis.

"I think that for autism, it's something that affects every person differently," Hoffer Skoff explains. "You may have been struggling with things but didn't have a name or a label for it."

For Carly, getting the official diagnosis was life changing.

"There's no relief like realizing you aren't a mistake, you're just built a little different, and so that was huge for me."

Autism is a developmental disability that is most commonly diagnosed in children. It's often associated with differences in communication and social skills. But Carly says that is another stereotype that ultimately makes getting diagnosed more difficult for women.

Carly met her husband, Ethan, online and got married at 25. They own a home together. She has no trouble living independently, and has lots of friends. She realizes she doesn't necessarily fit the perceived "mold" of autism.

"The adult female presentation can look very, very different. I am very lucky that I did receive my diagnosis. I'm in support groups with other women who have completely given up on that process because they're dismissed as, 'Oh you have friends, oh you make eye contact.' There are all these [misconceptions] that we have not learned to recognize are outdated," she says.

Carly now works on the Milestones team, as the organization's education assistant. Since her diagnosis, Carly's husband and father have both gone on to receive their own autism diagnoses, with help and support from Carly. And that's what she loves – helping others who are walking the same path.

To learn more about Milestones Autism Resources, visit [milestones.org](https://milestones.org). ●



**St. Raphael  
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Lenten **Fish Fry**  
Fridays from Feb 24<sup>th</sup> thru Mar 31<sup>st</sup>  
Parish Activity Center  
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Entrée choices include fried Perch, baked Haddock, macaroni & cheese, shrimp or Pierogies. Sides: mac & cheese, pizza, Pierogies, and shrimp. All meals include French fries, coleslaw, and dessert. Iced tea and lemonade served. Soda available for purchase.



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SPORTING VIEWS

It's (truly) the most wonderful time of the year

by JEFF BING

Every time the holiday season rolls around, we hear Andy Williams croon on incessantly about how "It's the most wonderful time of the year." Now, it's baseball season (in the form of Spring Training), which is wonderful news, for a couple of reasons. For one, we know that spring is no longer a million miles away, and secondly, it means the Browns' season is very far off over the horizon. (The order of importance is debatable).

But back to the music. Ladies and gentlemen, I'm here to tell you that you've been duped. Not only that, but (and I hope you're sitting) the lyrics for Andy Williams' version of his Christmas song were blatantly stolen and altered ... from us. Say it ain't so, Andy.

Recently unearthed evidence by yours truly shows how "Altering Andy" took the lyrics from its

original source, the then-Cleveland-Indians-but-now-Cleveland-Guardians, and shamelessly turned a wonderful baseball song into yet another so-called "Christmas Classic." (Shouldn't we have just stopped when Alvin and the Chipmunks broke into the Top 10?)

Consider the current lyrics to the Christmas jingle as opposed to what the lyrics used to be (when they really meant something), and then meet me in the copyright office.

NOW: "It's the most wonderful time of the year"  
USED TO BE: "It's an ideal time for a cold beer"  
NOW: "With the kids jingle belling"  
USED TO BE: "With the fans loudly yelling"  
NOW: "And everyone telling you be of good cheer"  
USED TO BE: "To buy the vendor's worthless souvenir"  
NOW: "It's the most wonderful time of the year"  
USED TO BE: "There's another stanza coming, we fear"  
NOW: "It's the hap-happiest season of all"  
USED TO BE: "Want to be in the playoffs come fall"  
NOW: "With those holiday greetings and gay happy meetings"  
USED TO BE: "We know that fame is fleeting and with the Astros still cheating"  
NOW: "When friends come to call"  
USED TO BE: "We must win it all!"

NOW: "It's the hap-happiest season of all"  
USED TO BE: "Baseball's the good, better, best season of all!"

Someone needs to make Andy and his posse pay, agreed? Seriously, where's Tim Misny when you need him?

A couple of quick pros and cons regarding our beloved baseball team as it embarks upon what should hopefully be an encore performance to last year's surprise of the season: The Cleveland Guardians!

Pros: Everything the organization did last year worked out wonderfully, clearly better than anyone in this city dreamed possible. Additionally, all of the surprising young talent from last year will have a season of Major League Baseball under their collective belts - including playoff experience - and should be all the better because of that.

Cons: In sports, there are always surprises: some pleasant, some not so much. With everything that went right last year, it is difficult for this writer to predict everyone will just take another giant step forward - that's just not how sports work - especially in this town.

But so what? Would it be better if we had lost 100 games last year and were simply hoping for .500 ball? I think not.

Go Guards! ●

Westlake Porter Public Library's upcoming calendar of events

Following is Westlake Porter Public Library's upcoming calendar of events. All programs are subject to change. Please check westlakelibrary.org or follow the library on Facebook and Twitter (@WestlakePorter) for the latest updates.

by ELAINE WILLIS

Wednesday, Feb. 22 (7-8 p.m.) **Adult Creative Writing Group: Celebrating Black History Month** - Join us for an hour of creative writing prompts to inspire you to start and keep writing. Creativity is more than putting pen to paper. It's about breaking away and trying something new! This meeting will be a celebration of poetry in honor of black history month. Please register.

Thursday, Feb. 23 (10-11:30 a.m.) **Internet and Email Basics with Introduction to Northstar** - Learn the basics of the internet, using email, and how to access Northstar Digital Literacy for self-paced online learning.

Please register.

Thursday, Feb. 23 (10-10:30 a.m.) **Black History Month Storytime** - Celebrate Black History Month with a fun and educational storytime! Learn about African American trailblazers through books, songs, and fingerplays. Ages 2-6, siblings welcome.

Thursday, Feb. 23 (3:30-4:30 p.m.) **Roblox Arcade** - We have some private servers set up for Tweens in grades 4-6 to hang out with their friends and enjoy some of the most popular games via Zoom. Join us in person on online. Please register.

Friday, Feb. 24 (4-4:45 p.m.) **Fun Science Friday: Static Electricity** - Join Mrs. K as we explore the shocking science of static electricity. Discoveries will be made through hands-on experiments, active participation and a simple take-home project. Ages 4-6, up to Kindergarten. Please register.

Saturday, Feb. 25 (11 a.m.-noon) **A Zest for Cooking** - Children with disabilities will learn some important cook-

ing skills while making 2 or 3 recipes. Tasting is not required. Previous kitchen experience isn't necessary. Ages 8-12. Typical peers or siblings welcome. Call the Youth Services Desk at 440-250-5471 if you have any concerns about allergens or other dietary issues. Please register.

Saturday, Feb. 25 (3-4 p.m.) **Illustration Creation** - Learn about a featured illustrator and then create a project inspired by their art. Grades 1-3. Please register.

Sunday, Feb. 26 (1:30-2:55 p.m.) **Adapted Storytime** - Join us for this storytime designed for children who may not be successful in a typical storytime. Content is geared toward ages 3-7. Registration begins one week before each session.

Sunday, Feb. 26 (2-3 p.m.) **Art Smarts** - Explore some works of a well-known artist and then use what you've seen to create an art piece of your own! Grades 4-6. Please register.

Monday, Feb. 27 (10-10:30 a.m.) **Music Monday** - Develop pre-reading skills with music, movement and rhythm through stories, songs and rhymes. Ages 2-6.

Monday, Feb. 27 (7-8:30 p.m.) **Simple Steps for Starting a Business: Session 1** - Join us for this five-

part series exploring the many facets of starting a business. This session will explore the advantages and disadvantages of owning a business, the most profitable form for your business, and more. Presented by SCORE Cleveland. Please register.

Tuesday, Feb. 28 (9:30-9:55 a.m.) **Stories and Signs** - Enjoy an interactive storytime while learning a few words in sign language! Ages 0-3, siblings welcome.

Tuesday, Feb. 28 (4-5 p.m.) **Virtual Author Talk: Sadeqa Johnson** - Join us online for an invigorating conversation with highly acclaimed author Sadeqa Johnson as she talks about her brand new novel, "The House of Eve." Streamed live. Please register.

Tuesday, Feb. 28 (7-8:30 p.m.) **Ghosts of Amistad: Movie Screening & Discussion** - This movie, produced and created by award-winning historians and filmmakers, explores the roots of the Amistad slave rebellion in Africa. "Ghosts of Amistad" explores Sierra Leone to discover the roots and local memories of the slaves who rebelled aboard the Cuban slave ship in 1839.

To register for any of the programs, please visit westlakelibrary.org/events. ●

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Questions? Call 440.360.7752 or email tpussel@saintraphaelparish.com

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THE DIGITAL WORLD

# Mom goes from a flip phone to a smartphone

by TAK SATO

When I was visiting my family this past December, my wife suggested upgrading my mom's flip phone. Just like in the U.S., Japanese cellular service providers are sunsetting the "3G" (third generation mobile communication standard/protocol) in 2023.

Since she enjoys FaceTime (Apple's video chat app) with us every morning using a hand-me-down Apple iPad, finding a smartphone to replace her flip phone was rather trivial after all things considered. I followed the same methodologies/curriculum I had developed,

born from my career experiences, for Center for Aging in the Digital World's "Digital Literacy Series" classes offered free to seniors since 2016, to teach my Mom the use of her new smartphone.

First, to select a smartphone for my mom, this two-year-old article – [wbvobserver.com/read/2020/12/01/appropriateness-while-technology-shopping](http://wbvobserver.com/read/2020/12/01/appropriateness-while-technology-shopping) – still rings true when it comes to the importance of "appropriateness" of a personal technology device such as a smartphone, tablet, or computer to your use case. I quickly arrived at the conclusion that an Apple iPhone SE 3rd generation would be the most appropriate for her "basic" use case.

Second, when the iPhone was charged up, I hid many of the pre-installed icons that populated each screen to avoid overwhelming her. This article – [wbvobserver.com/read/2016/01/05/simplify-to-embrace-new-technology](http://wbvobserver.com/read/2016/01/05/simplify-to-embrace-new-technology) – even older at seven years, is still very relevant today. I also know it's relevant because time and time again I receive feedback from seniors in the nonprofit's "Discover Digital Literacy!" classes that the sea of icons is intimidating.

Six weeks went by quickly but with repetition, practice and me answering her questions, she was introducing apps she was curious about at her own pace. For example, she likes watching Asian dramas on Amazon Prime Video app on her iPad and she found out that she can now watch it also on her iPhone on the go.

If she can do it, I know you can too! ●



Tak Sato's mom with her new iPhone.

PHOTO BY TAK SATO



Huck Kurinsky received a proclamation from Mayor Paul Koomar in recognition of his BMX success.

PHOTO BY KEIR KURINSKY

# Bay Village 8-year-old sets BMX record

by KEIR KURINSKY

Huck Kurinsky, who just turned 8, won the USA BMX amateur series in the U8 division earlier this year at the U.S. Cycling Olympic Training Center in Woodward, PA. Huck began riding at 6 years old, and set a world record for youngest to land a backflip on a BMX bike.

Now in second grade at Normandy Elementary School, Huck participated in the USA BMX amateur series, which traveled across the country for eight different competitions. He capped off the Finals with a National Championship win. Huck ranks fourth in the world for kids 12 and under, and is the best 8-year-old in the world. Huck is also a two-time Ohio State National Champion.

This summer Nowear BMX, a non-profit charity based out of Nebraska, launched the Huck frame – Huck's signature bike with frame stickers that pay tribute to Bay Village. Huck is coached

by the current USA Cycling Olympian Nick Bruce and is part of the ODI (Olympic Development Instruction) academy held in the U.S. Cycling Olympic Training Center in Woodward, PA.

We hope to bring the All Kids Bike program to the Bay Village Schools. All Kids Bike is a national movement led by the Strider Education Foundation to place Kindergarten PE Learn-To-Ride Programs into public schools. Huck has offered the program to Normandy at no cost to the school. We have had several meetings with Principal Sebring and Robert Hoon and are waiting on their feedback.

Huck has teamed up with the Ohio chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics to help promote bike helmet safety. The "Put a Lid on It!" Bike Helmet Safety Awareness campaign donates free bike helmets to pediatrician offices, county health departments, police and fire departments, schools, and dozens of other organizations ●.

READER'S OPINION

# Be careful of your sources

by COLLEEN HARDING

I recently read an article in the New York Times about an etiquette expert who committed a true faux pas. This individual has been educated and has a show on Netflix. Although no one is perfect, and we all make mistakes, I would have expected differently from an individual in this profession.

We are a nation flooded with experts. The amount of information we receive daily from newspapers, radio, TV, podcasts, the internet, billboards, etc., is exhausting. We are inundated with experts telling us everything from what to do, where to go, who is bad, who is good, who is right, and who is wrong, and we take it for gospel.

This goes to the question of what is

the truth and whose truth is really "The Truth"? I think many people have different ideas about what the truth is.

Is there more than one truth? There are many interpretations, and there might be a little truth in each.

We tend to believe the people whose thoughts and ideas align with our own. It makes us feel good and whole, but how do we know if this information is accurate and if this person is credible?

We are all searching for the correct answer and the truth, but we need to question our sources. Opinions are everywhere, and everybody calling themselves an expert has one. Some come with many letters after their names to make them more believable. Remember the cliché: What do you call the medical student at the bottom

of his class? Doctor.

There has never been a time when critical thinking isn't necessary. It is our responsibility to research before we believe everything we hear or read. Consider the source and where this information originated.

Is this source reliable, credible, or known for inflating the news? Are they seasoned in objective journalism and reporting facts? Is this source able to convey information that doesn't align with their opinion or employer? What is

the other side of this opinion, and why do people believe differently? Is this source professional in presence and content, or more interested in creating mass hysteria to boost ratings?

My brother once told me that you have to watch all the stations and read all the articles to form an educated opinion. Consider those who disagree with you and why to develop an accurate view.

The bottom line is to be careful what and who you believe. One person's gospel may be another person's carnival. ●

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

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Saturday, Feb. 25, noon-4 p.m.  
VFW POST 8686 OPEN HOUSE

All are invited to attend an open house at the Post. Pizza and sodas will be provided. This is your chance to see what a VFW is all about and visit with our many local veterans who have served and protected our great country. *VFW Post 8686, 577 Harris Rd., Sheffield Lake*

Monday, Feb. 27, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
CAHOON CREEK/FRONTAL LAKE ERIE WATERSHED DISCUSSION

The Bay Village Garden Club welcomes Meg Hennessy from the Cuyahoga Soil and Water District. Her topic is the Cahoon Creek/Frontal Lake Erie Watershed. The

focus is on restoration of critical areas to help improve water quality for aquatic, avian, and terrestrial habitat. Reservations are required; contact Sharen at 440-871-9098 or [rjsvec@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rjsvec@sbcglobal.net), or email [bvgardenclubohio@gmail.com](mailto:bvgardenclubohio@gmail.com). Become a member and enjoy the company of others interested in nature and plants! Learn more about us on Facebook. *Bay United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 29931 Lake Rd.*

Wednesday, March 1, 1-2:30 p.m.  
GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH HELP

Members of Cuyahoga West Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society, will be available to offer assistance with your family history/genealogy research. Bring your laptop,

iPad or use the library equipment. *Westlake Porter Public Library, Computer Lab, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.*

Friday, March 3, 6:30-9:30 p.m.  
BV60+ TRIVIA MEET & GREET

Bring a snack to share and your favorite beverage(s) and enjoy an evening of trivia and socializing! Please arrive before 7:00 to participate in the one-hour trivia. Open to residents age 60+ from Bay Village and surrounding cities. Learn more about the BV60+ program and upcoming activities. Free. Please register by March 2 on [MyActiveCenter.com](http://MyActiveCenter.com) or by emailing [twendell@cityofbayvillage.com](mailto:twendell@cityofbayvillage.com). *Bay Lodge, 492 Bradley Rd.*

Herb Guild offers scholarship

by BARBARA ARMSTRONG

The Herb Guild Garden Club is offering a \$1,600 scholarship to graduating high school seniors, as well as Lorain County Community College and Cuyahoga Community College current freshmen and sophomore students.

Applicants must be Ohio residents and U.S. citizens (international or foreign exchange students are not eligible). Only students with a proposed academic study in agriculture, agriscience, botany, culinary arts, environmental science, forestry, greenhouse and nursery management, horticulture, landscaping, and natural resource management are eligible for this scholarship.

To obtain an application, visit [theherbguild.org](http://theherbguild.org) or call Karol Polkinghorn at 440-554-7755. Deadline for applying is April 5. ●

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