

Every day in YourTown, we spotlight a different Lorain County community:

MONDAY: Avon/Avon Lake
TODAY: Amherst/Vermilion/South Amherst
WEDNESDAY: Wellington/Oberlin
THURSDAY: North Ridgeville
FRIDAY: Grafton/LaGrange/Columbia
SATURDAY: Lorain/Sheffield/Sheffield Lake
SUNDAY: Elyria/Elyria Township

YOURTOWN AMHERST VERMILION & SOUTH AMHERST

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Performance to fund documentary

‘Cruise to Murder’ dinner theater will help to tell the story of Ohio’s first female presidential candidate

Rini Jeffers

The Chronicle-Telegram

VERMILION — An upcoming “inland cruise” will help solve a murder mystery and raise money to highlight a national scandal.

While that sounds ambitious, it is precisely the plan behind the “Cruise to Murder” dinner theater production Feb. 28 at German’s Villa.

The performance by Priceless Productions will invite passengers to eat, drink and make murderous while solving the mystery of the evening. Proceeds from the event will go to Eden Valley Productions’ newest project, a documentary of Victoria Woodhull, the first woman to run for president of the United States.

Ohio is known as the mother of presidents, counting eight of 45 presidents as Buckeyes. But it also is the birthplace of Hull, who was born in Gallia County in 1838 to a scoundrel.

Woodhull once was the most famous woman in America and has become largely a footnote, often only occasionally mentioned in passing in presidential election years, said Bette Lou Higgins, artistic director of Eden Valley. The theater company is hoping to change that by producing a documentary about Woodhull to coincide with the 100th anniversary this year of the 19th Amendment, granting



PROVIDED

Victoria Woodhull

women the right to vote.

In her youth Woodhull became a working medium, claiming psychic abilities that were put to use in her family’s traveling medicine show.

The ambitious Woodhull eventually married a few times, became part of New York City society, and became a stockbroker with her also-psychic sister. They were tagged the “Bewitched Brokers,” and were the first women in the industry, making a small fortune, according to information from the

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

“Madam President: The Story of Victoria Woodhull” by Eden Valley Productions will be:

- noon March 4, at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 330 Second St., Elyria.
- 6 p.m. March 10, Elyria Public Library West River Branch, 1194 West River Road. N., Elyria.
- 1 p.m. April 13, Avon Lake Library, 32679 Electric Blvd., Avon Lake.

production company.

The pair then started an intermittently-published newspaper that didn’t shy away from controversial topics, including Woodhull’s declaration to campaign for the presidency, running against Ulysses S. Grant in 1872.

On election night, Woodhull was in jail, having offended the sensibilities of Anthony Comstock, secretary of the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice. The sisters had published an account of a brutal assault in which the attackers bragged about what they had done, and an account of an extramarital affair of a prominent minister who was the brother of famed abolitionist and author of “Uncle Tom’s Cabin,” Harriet Beecher Stowe. While

no one disputed the facts of the stories, Higgins said, Comstock arrested Woodhull on the claim that she was not allowed to publish it. She eventually was freed and exonerated but the scandal damaged her slim prospects.

The year before, she became the first woman to speak before a United States House of Representative committee. While suffragists were pushing to give women voting rights, she argued that women already had the right to vote, according to the 14th and 15th amendments.

Woodhull’s campaign fizzled, and she eventually moved to England and remarried again. A pioneer in the women’s rights movement, her desire to win the presidency didn’t diminish, and she returned to America in the 1890s to float the idea once more.

She never held public office but many of the ideas of her Equal Rights Party, once thought to be absurd, have become considered mainstream, such as suffrage, public housing for the poor and minority representation in Congress. Woodhull died in 1927 — seven years after women finally secured the right to vote in America.

“All this stuff she basically was building her presidential platform on is all now normal,” Higgins said. “She campaigned for voting rights for all people, and for women to have

the right to divorce, and for medical rights.”

By press time, the murder mystery dinner was sold out. But Eden Valley still is soliciting donations to help film a short documentary about Woodhull to use to secure grants for a longer production.

The Elyria-based group produced “Trail Magic: The Grandma Gatewood Story” in 2015 about Emma Gatewood, an Ohio native who was the first woman to hike the entire Appalachian Trail at the age of 67 after raising 11 kids and surviving domestic violence. The documentary went on to win awards and was nominated in 2017 for a regional National Association of Television Arts and Sciences Emmy award.

For information about the project, the book “Victoria Woodhull: Shattering Glass Ceilings,” visit victoriawoodhullforpresident.org or to make a donation, visit edenvalleyenterprises.org or email blheve@edenvalleyenterprises.org.

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NOTEBOOK

Vermilion High to host Winter Showcase

Vermilion High School will host the Vermilion Guard Winter Showcase 7 to 9:30 p.m. Feb. 28.

Admission is \$5, and children younger than 6 are free.

Eleven performing groups from area high schools will perform, including Avon, Cloverleaf, New London, Springfield, Brook Park and North Ridgeville. The school is at 1250 Sanford St.

Winery event

Vermilion Band Boosters will hosts its annual fundraiser at 7 p.m. March 20 at Paper Moon Vineyards, 2008 State Road, Vermilion. For more



Submit your Amherst and Vermilion news to Rini Jeffers
Phone: 329-7155
Email: ctnews@chroniclet.com

details, visit the Vermilion Band Boosters page on Facebook.

Eisenhower dinner

Celebrate Presidents Day by

having dinner with Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower, courtesy of the Amherst Historical Society. This year’s the group will highlight the Eisenhowers as part of its popular “presidential dinner” annual events.

Costumed actors will portray the historical figures, and guests are encouraged to wear period costumes as well. The dinner will be 5 to 10 p.m.

Feb. 22 at Amherst Veterans of Foreign Wars, 165 Cleveland Ave.

A cash bar will open at 5 p.m. and a presentation on the Eisenhowers will be at 5:45 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. and the Swing City Big Band will perform at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$50 or \$90 per couple. To reserve tickets,

call (440) 988-7255 or visit ahsfundraising.com.

Paint for a cause

Support the Harbortown Fine Arts Center, 736 Main St., Vermilion, and paint the Vermilion lighthouse at a fundraiser 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the center. Participants will be provided with a template, and the event is BYOB, with snacks. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$40. To purchase tickets and register, call Bobbi at (440) 452-6725 or visit venmo.com/bobbi-white-2.

Ritter Public Library events

■ Join a discussion about liter-

ature and “new journalism” at a special discussion at 7 p.m. today. The talk will look at the evolution of a new class of journalists that began post-World War II, using different approaches to nonfiction, highlighting authors such as Hunter S. Thompson, Joan Didion, Tom Wolfe and Truman Capote.

■ Members of the Speech and Debate Club at Vermilion High School will discuss the goals, talents and strengths of their organization at a special program 7 p.m. today.

■ Kids ages 8 and older can fold their way to greatness at Origami Club every first Thursday. Meet in the craft room of the children’s depart-

ment at 5 p.m. Thursday.

■ Use your sewing or knitting skills to make clothes, blankets or toys to donate to the Resource Mothers program in Lorain 10 a.m. to noon Saturday. Bring your own supplies and projects.

■ Kids ages 2 to 12 can learn to stretch and strengthen with simple yoga poses and creative meditation at 10 a.m. Saturday. Heidi Boone, a teacher from Vermilion Elementary School, will lead the class. No registration is required.

Ritter is at 5680 Liberty Ave., Vermilion. For information, call (440) 967-3798 or visit vermilion.lib.oh.us.

CRIME WATCH

Vermilion police

Monday, Jan. 27

11:06 a.m. — 2300 block Sunnyside Road, burglary complaint; homeowners reported a front window out of place and a broken rear sliding glass door.

Wednesday, Jan. 29

3:40 a.m. — 3700 block Liberty Ave., traffic stop; citation issued for driving under suspension.

3:33 p.m. — 2900 block Liberty Ave., shoplifter reported at Vermilion Farm Market; the suspect was gone when officers arrived.

Thursday, Jan. 30

10:31 a.m. — 5300 block Sailorway Drive, a possible sex offense was reported between a juvenile male and juvenile female at Sailorway Middle School; an investigation continues.

8:46 p.m. — 1300 block Sunnyside Road, an unknown man attempted to enter a home; the suspect was not found, despite heavy patrols, and extra patrols were requested.

Friday, Jan. 31

12:36 p.m. — 1200 block Sanford St., two boys, ages 14 and 15, were charged with unruly juvenile after refusing to go to class and hiding in a school bathroom for more than an hour; both boys, whom police said have a long history of disciplinary problems, are facing a court case involving an assault of another student at school.

Saturday, Feb. 1

11:16 a.m. — 3400 block Edgewater Drive, a resident reported entry was made to the home and items were missing; an investigation continues.

Sunday, Feb. 2

3:19 a.m. — 4800 block Liberty Ave., assisted Erie County deputies with a felony arrest following a stabbing in another jurisdiction.

3:16 p.m. — 200 block Aldrich Road, violation of protection order reported.
9:36 p.m. — Berkley Road, traffic stop; citation issued for driving under suspension.

Amherst police

Sunday, Jan. 19

7:04 p.m. — state Route 2, traffic stop; reports of a reckless driver led officers a car stopped on the side of the highway, with the driver unconscious from an overdose. Nicholas Parson, 35, Lorain, was revived with naloxone and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated, weaving, reckless operation, crossing marked lanes and willful wanton disregard of safety.

Monday, Jan. 20

10:39 p.m. — North Leavitt Road, traffic stop; Rainey Moscato, 42, Lorain, was charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated, failing to stop at a red light and crossing marked lanes.

Tuesday, Jan. 21

7:23 p.m. — state Route 58, traffic stop; citations issued for expired plates, possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

Thursday, Jan. 23

2:41 p.m. — 4700 block Middle Ridge Road, domestic disturbance; a juvenile was charged with felonious assault, domestic violence and aggravated menacing.

Friday, Jan. 24

7:26 p.m. — North Leavitt Road, traffic stop; citations issued for driving under suspension and display of plates.

9:02 p.m. — North Lake Street, traffic stop; citation issued for driving under suspension.

9:50 p.m. — North Leavitt Road, traffic stop; citation issued for driving under suspension and expired registration. Driver was taken into custody for active warrant

and released to deputies.

Saturday, Jan. 25

12:12 a.m. — North Dewey Road, report of a vehicle off the road and stuck in mud. The vehicle, whose driver was 17, was towed; police noted an empty egg carton in the floorboard.

7:42 p.m. — 2200 block Kresge Drive, traffic stop; driver taken into custody for an active warrant and he was released to Lorain police.

10:42 p.m. — state Route 58, traffic stop; citations issued for driving under suspension, window tinting, open container.

10:48 p.m. — 200 block Park Ave., a fight reported between a man and a woman in Cedar Pub, but the man left before officers arrive; under investigation.

11:05 p.m. — 5500 block Linn Road, 911 hang-up; a woman was removed from the residence for the night.

Sunday, Jan. 26

9:26 a.m. — Police station; a woman reported her phone was stolen from a bar the previous night; an investigation is underway.

6:50 p.m. — 47000 block Middle Ridge Road, a woman reported her ex-boyfriend harassing her.

Monday, Jan. 27

No time given — Police station, criminal damage reported, occurring Jan. 23; after an investigation, a juvenile was cited with criminal damaging, into the diversion program.

8:34 a.m. — 300 block Pebble Creek Court, the project manager of Ryan Homes reported someone has been dumping trash on the property; investigation is underway.

Tuesday, Jan. 28

1:53 p.m. — Police station, the owner of Jimmy Johns reported an employee stealing; charges are pending.

Wednesday, Jan. 29

3:36 p.m. — 400 block Church St., a resident reported missing jewelry; forwarded to detectives.

8 p.m. — state Route 2, a vehicle rollover occurred west of Oak Point Road, a passenger was found with an active warrant, taken into custody and released to deputies.

Thursday, Jan. 30

12:16 a.m. — Cleveland Avenue, traffic stop; citations issued for driving under suspension and cracked taillight.

3:44 p.m. — 400 block Sunrise Drive, a woman reported her ill husband was missing with her phone and car; the man was later located.

9:06 p.m. — Kresge Drive, traffic stop; citations issued for driving under suspension, no headlights, possession of paraphernalia and open container and driver was taken into custody on an active warrant and released to Sheffield police.

11:06 p.m. — 200 block Church St., a caller reported a man with several warrants was at RC’s Brewhouse. Officers located Derrick Doan, 35, Amherst, who was taken into custody on warrants including a traffic offense and menacing by stalking; he was released to Sheffield police.

Friday, Jan. 31

9 a.m. — Amherst Junior High, a juvenile was cited into the diversion program for possessing tobacco.

10:28 a.m. — Dodge Drive, dogs running loose; citation issued.

10:48 a.m. — Dodge Drive, dogs running loose; one dog damaged a fence while temporarily restrained.

8:47 p.m. — Cooper Foster Park Road, traffic stop; driver taken into custody on active warrant and released to Sheffield police.

9 p.m. — state Route 58, traffic

stop; citations issued for driving under suspension.

Saturday, Feb. 1

2:44 a.m. — Sands Avenue, residents reported an unknown woman showed up in their driveway, making nonsensical statements. The woman was charged with intoxicated disorderly conduct.

9:23 a.m. — 700 block N. Leavitt Road, officers reported to a scene of an adult male arguing with his mother and displaying erratic behavior. He was handcuffed but continued to struggle and injured an officer. Terrance L. Williams Jr., 28, Lorain, was charged with assault, resisting arrest, obstructing official business, all felonies, and misdemeanor counts of persistent disorderly conduct and disturbing the peace.

6 p.m. — 8000 block Oak Point Road, theft reported at Target; Erika Hartman, 31, of New London was charged with theft, criminal tools and during under suspension.

9:29 p.m. — Cooper Foster Park Road, traffic stop; citations issued for 12-point suspension and speeding and driver was taken into custody on an active warrant and released to North Ridgeville police.

Sunday, Feb. 2

12:13 a.m. — Milan Avenue, traffic stop; three teens were cited into the diversion program for curfew violations; one teen was cited for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. All were released to parents.

12:21 a.m. — North Ridge Road, traffic stop; Brian Zilka, 29, Lorain, was charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated, refusing to submit to alcohol tests, possession of marijuana, open container, weaving, crossing marked lanes.

10:39 p.m. — 6100 block S. Broadway, Lorain; officers responded to The Nord Center for a report of a sex offense; referred to investigators.

STUFF TO DO

March 21

The Vermilion Police Association and FOP Lodge 125 annual steak fry, 6 to 11:30 p.m. at German’s Villa, 3330 Liberty Ave., Vermilion. Tickets are \$25 per person and include, steak dinner, dessert, pop and beer. Cash bar, side raffles, gun raffle, and 50/50 raffle. Contact any Vermilion Police Department member for tickets.

Ongoing

Progress through Action, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Nord

Center, 6140 S. Broadway, Lorain, is a free education and support group conducted by trained NAMI peer educators/facilitators. Recovery topic is selected by group members and is taught and discussed followed by recovery support and goal-setting for the following week.

Connections support group meets 7 to 8:30 p.m. the first and third Thursdays of the month at Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 355 E. Lorain St., Oberlin. The program is open to those diagnosed with anxiety, mental illness and depression. Participants will learn from each

other’s experiences. For more information, call NAMI of Lorain County at (440) 233-8181, ext. 224.

NAMI family support group for families who have loved ones suffering from mental illness meets 7 to 8:30 p.m. every third Thursday of the month at Grace Lutheran Church, 310 W. Lorain St., Oberlin. Reservations are required for all groups at office@nami-ic.org or call (440) 233-8181, ext. 224.

Vaccine clinic weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays at Lorain County Public Health, 9880

S. Murray Ridge Road, Elyria. Children younger than 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Bring current immunization record, insurance card and cash or check. Walk-ins are welcome. For appointments, call (440) 284-3206.

“Boxes from Home” to deployed personnel of any military branch are available free of charge. Sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society of St. Vincent de Paul Church, 41295 North Ridge Road, Elyria. To submit information to have a loved one or friend receive a box, provide name, rank, branch of service

and overseas mailing address by calling Diane at (440) 365-3788.

Multiple sclerosis support group meeting, 6 p.m. at The Abbewood Retirement Center, 1210 S. Abbe Road, Elyria, is open to all including patients, caregivers, friends and families the first Tuesday of each month. For more information, call Teresa at (440) 522-8937 or email msmeetinglc@yahoo.com.

Free clinical breast exam/screening provided by Community Foundation Lorain County, Catholic Health Partners and the Women’s Health Center (Pink Ribbon Fund). For more

information or an appointment, call (440) 960-3624.

Adult Basic Education/JED classes at Lorain County Joint Vocational School Adult Career Center in Pittsfield Township has classes 9 a.m. to noon Mondays to Thursdays for individuals who want to strengthen their skills in reading, writing and math. Call (440) 774-1051, ext. 250 or 241.

Submit calendar items at least two weeks prior to the event by faxing to (440) 329-7282 (Attention: Amherst-Vermilion news) or email ctnews@chroniclet.com.