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Opinions

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Resident seeks stop (to) sign

It has been said "You can't go home again." But I did. I was born and bred in Lewiston, moved away for many years and returned to the village five years ago after I retired. I was delighted to find Lewiston was still the same in many ways ... the small charming and friendly town I remembered. However, I was disappointed to see that so much had taken place which did not retain Lewiston's

unique historical integrity. In the same vein, I recently learned that the Village Board has been exploring and made an application to place a large double-sided digital/electronic color sign at the corner of Center and Portage streets, near the veteran's memorial at Academy Park. It would be used to advertise events in Lewiston. I oppose this plan for several

reasons. This type of large color digital sign does not belong in an historic town. Is this what we want visitors to see when they enter this quaint, historic village that is one of the top 10 small towns in the United States? I also feel it is inappropriate to place it between the veteran memorial and the historic statue at Portage and Center streets and may be a distraction at a busy intersection. Addition-

ally, this might be an expensive project. The estimate for a much smaller version of this sign and the brick or stone to support it is over \$57,000. I feel this money could be used in better ways to improve our village. Hopefully, if enough of us speak out, this plan will never be passed and we can preserve the integrity of this charming, historic village. Joan Maulis

Start a 'gratitude campaign'

In the last couple of years of political polarization, racial realities, a worldwide pandemic, and now a war in Ukraine, I have found myself feeling isolated and unconnected. This has probably been the experience of many of us. The negativity has sapped my energy and has lessened my basic interactions with others, holding me hostage in unnamed anger and angst.

Considering all of this, I have decided to make a simple change in how I go about my day. Instead of simply driving past various workers, I plan to stop, roll down the window, and say a simple "thank you" for what they are doing to help all of us. With this small gesture, I want to reclaim a sense of connectedness. I want to make eye contact and acknowledge out loud the good they are doing for

our community. As I thank utility workers, street improvement crews, pothole menders, letter carriers, and those who keep the water flowing, I'm finding that these simple gestures make a positive difference in how I feel. I hope that showing my gratitude feels good to the receivers, but even more, I hope it changes my overall attitude as it may bring a smile, at least sometimes, to

those receiving my thanks. So, will you join me in a little "gratitude campaign"? With small steps like stopping and thanking, we can gradually reclaim our shared humanity that will be nourished when we show simple gratitude to those who make our lives livable and comfortable. Sister Beth Brosmer, OSF

Intandem's foundation supports disabled citizens in Ukraine region

Intandem is honored to support the work of a Cattaraugus County local nonprofit Positive Ripples and its European partner, MAD-Aid, to bring aid to people with disabilities in the war-torn areas of Ukraine. Positive Ripples is a joint effort of several St. Bonaventure University clubs and groups, including BonaR-responds, to make the world a better place by starting ripples of hope, knowledge and kindness around the globe. MAD-Aid runs programs in the U.K. and Moldova that "Make A Difference" in the lives of Moldovan children and adults with special needs. Intandem President and CEO Mari Howard learned from St. Bonaventure University professor Jim Mahar, leader of Positive

Ripples, that many families with disabled children were isolated without resources because there was no suitable transportation to bring wheelchair-bound individuals to safety at the Ukraine-Moldova border. There was an opportunity to acquire a used wheelchair-accessible van, but this was only possible if a donation of \$11,000 could be secured. Howard shared this story with the Intandem foundation board, which immediately approved an expenditure of \$11,000 to Positive Ripples, which in turn sent the money to MAD-Aid in Moldova. The van was purchased and is now operational, being used to transport families with disabled and non-disabled children to safety, as

well as distributing emergency and humanitarian aid to other families in need. This van will continue to transport disabled children, youths and the elderly for as long as necessary. In arranging for the donation, Intandem Chief Development Officer Larry Sorokes said, "As an agency that works daily to support people with disabilities, we at Intandem could not ignore the plight of so many families and children with disabilities who have been marginalized by the fighting in their country and region. When made aware of both the situation and a potential remedy, Intandem's foundation board of directors immediately took action." MAD-aid consultant/volunteer

Francisca de Zwager expressed gratitude to Mahar and Positive Ripples for making the connection with Intandem, and to the Intandem foundation for responding quickly and generously to aid people with disabilities who were uprooted and imperiled by the recent violence in Ukraine. She noted, "We at MAD-Aid believe it's true that, with a small act of kindness, one creates ripples of hope and impact that spread out slowly yet go far. Please join us in thanking Jim Mahar and Positive Ripples for finding the way to connect with Intandem, and huge gratitude to Intandem's foundation, which supports people with developmental disabilities and behavioral health concerns in Cattaraugus and Niagara counties."

CBP warns of phone scams

U.S. Customs and Border Protection announced it is aware of numerous telephone scams targeting residents nationwide. It stated: Individuals nationwide have received unsolicited calls from scammers posing as U.S. Border Patrol agents, CBP employees and U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, as well as public affairs officers. Residents are reporting calls with a prerecorded message

stating, "a box of drugs and money being shipped has your name on it and has been intercepted." Others are reporting calls from individuals claiming to be CBP employees and informing call recipients that there is a warrant for their arrest or requesting information in exchange for Bitcoin. In either case, the resident is instructed to provide banking information or other personal identifiable information, such

as Social Security numbers or dates of birth. These calls are phone scams/phishing attempts and have been around for the last few years. Residents are urged to not provide the caller with any information. The Department of Homeland Security and CBP does not solicit money over the phone, nor does it use Bitcoin other digital currency or gift cards. If such calls are received,

people should make a note of the number and any other pertinent details about the call and immediately hang up, and then report the incident to your local police department and the Federal Trade Commission at https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/. If you would still like to talk to someone from CBP, please contact the CBP information center at 877-227-5511.

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