

WONEN in BUSINESS

INSIDE:

Haas Haas & Associates

Klemenc Construction Co Inc.

Next To Me

Kurt Law Office

Pupcuts Grooming Salon

Red Key Network

Mosack's Religious Gifts

Remax Haven Realty

Mutsko Insurance Services

The Goddard School

Lake County Captains

Kristy's Kritters

Beyond Your Smile

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Mary Duncan, Vice President Certified for Medicare plans

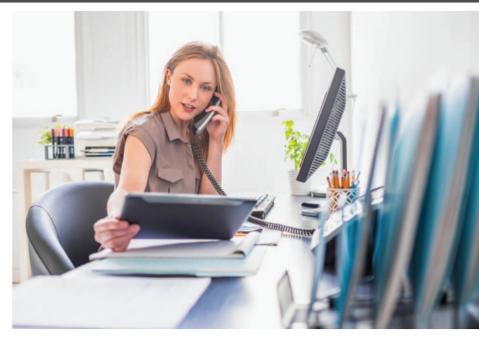


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Lake County Women in Business

Alexis Oatman

aoatman@news-herald.com

To be a woman in business — especially climbing up the corporate ladder — can come with many obstacles. So what is the answer? For many women, it's going out on their own and starting a business. Still, entrepreneurship can have its challenges too.

That's where local organizations come in; organizations like the Lake County Chambers of Commerce. It is their job to promote and advocate on behalf of their members. They encourage business/economic development along with supporting a quality of life for the community.

Christine Weber-Bresky, president and CEO of Mentor Area Chamber of Commerce, said when she first started more than 25 years ago, a lot of the women-owned businesses were in the retail and service industry.

She finds it inspirational that it is much more diverse today, with more women business owners in manufacturing, the trades, the medical field, accounting, restaurants and more.

She went on to say that the amount of love and support women in business give to one another in Lake County is unbelievable.

"We recently had a woman who owns a business in Mentor whose business suffered a devastating fire. The women who rallied around her and offered their help was heartwarming as I was standing back watching it at a chamber networking event. I hear stories and see things like this all the time."

Networking is at an all-time high, according to Karen Tercek, president and CEO of the Willoughby Western Lake County Chamber of Commerce.

"One thing I have noticed is the women business owners have no fear."

The characteristics that help women manage many tasks and schedules at the same time translate into business strengths, she said.

"A lot of women are collaborators. They look to see opportunities in different places, and I think men feel the same way. I think women feel they have to work harder."

Still, Weber-Bresky has bright hopes for the future for women-owned businesses in Lake County.

"I think the future is very bright for women in business; more and more opportunities are coming available in all industries at a much younger age than in the past. I can't wait to continue to watch it unfold. I hope other women are encouraged by the success women in business have had here in Mentor/Lake County and choose to open a business or work in business in our community."

The 6th Annual Women Succeed



The 6th Annual Women Succeed conference will be Friday October 16, 2020 and co-hosts AWIN (Aurora Women in Networking) and Red Key Network invite, and encourage you to save the date!

This outstanding event is a full day of personal and professional development including: keynote speakers, breakout sessions, networking, education, connection, breakfast, lunch, & snacks. Each year this event presents a new focus (Healthy Women Succeed, Connected Women Succeed, etc...)



We are already planning an innovative day as we present CREATIVE Women Succeed this year.

We are currently accepting sponsors who will have the opportunity to interact with all of these amazing women that are part of the day. We will soon be accepting proposals from speakers that have CREATIVE presentations to enhance the educational component of our day. For more information please visit www. womensucceed.org or email info@ WomenSucceed.com

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Getting Ahead on the Fast Track

Business Major Earning Her Associate Degree in 1 Year

By Estelle R. Brown

Bella Jones is a business major at Kent State University's Geauga Campus. She also works as a hairstylist at Jennifer's Hair Obsession in Middlefield. She is also a student employee at KSU-Geauga in Burton. Bella enjoys multitasking and getting a lot accomplished quickly. That's why she loves the partnership that KSU-Geauga has with Auburn Career Center so she can earn her associate degree in half the time

While she always knew she wanted to attend college, as a Berkshire High School student and varsity cheerleader, Bella didn't know what major to pursue or which college would be the best fit for her. But after attending and excelling in Auburn Career Center's cosmetology program (earning the Darrell Park Scholarship and state-level Skills USA awards in 2018 and 2019), she realized she wanted to own a

"So having a business degree will help me achieve this goal because it will teach me what I could do to make sure everything runs smoothly while owning a business of my own," she says.

Convenience, opportunity and savings all played into Bella's choice of where to go for further education. A Burton resident, Bella lives just five minutes from the KSU-Geauga campus, so it's close to home. Bella also earned a Merit Scholarship.

Even better, the partnership between Auburn Career Center and KSU-Geauga allowed her to start her first semester of college last fall with 30 college credit hours — essentially entering as a sophomore — since she had completed the Auburn cosmetology program and had already earned her cosmetology license.

"With this program, I'm able to get an Associate Degree for Business in just one year," Bella explains. "Doing this program gave me a head start on my college experience. Doing this program is just going to help me get my degree faster."

After earning her degree, Bella plans to continue working at Jennifer's Hair Obsession to build up her clientele. Then, "I believe that if my clientele gets good enough, I would like to one day open or manage a salon.

Meanwhile, Bella also works at the KSU-Geauga student services desk. "It really affects my working abilities in a positive way," she says. "While I'm working, I answer phone calls, make appointments, deliver mail, and help organize and do anything



that needs to be done. I believe that it helps me get a head start on the business experience."

The campus workplace has also become a source of encouragement for Bella. Bethany Begeot is an admissions advisor at KSU-Geauga and was also Bella's First-Year Experience instructor.

"With Bethany as one of my instructors and working with her in the office, she has really helped me through a lot," Bella says. "She never lets me give

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7>



Women

Klemenc Construction Co. proudly supports and salutes the women that are "trailblazers, innovators, explorers and disrupters who encourage, motivate and push us to reach new heights -- in business and in life."

> Susanne Klemenc, President Rlemenc Construction Co., Inc.













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Geauga County Office:

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Discover My Cleveland

As the premier destination marketing company in Northeast Ohio, Discover My Cleveland co-owners Lynda Nemeth and Pegi Dickson work with all types of groups to showcase all that NE Ohio has to offer! 2019 saw Discover My Cleveland doing everything from coordinating trips for VIPs at the MLB, to celebrating Christmas in July with motorcoach groups; assisting with a record setting event for the Guinness Book; to facilitating shore excursions for cruise ship guests exploring the Great Lakes!

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Pamela Kurt owns the firm and has since 2009. She graduated from Cleveland-Marshall, Cleveland State College of Law with a dual degree - her Master's in Public Administration and her Juris Doctorate in 2003.

She is a member of the Lakeland Hall of Fame and National Association of Professional Women. Pamela cares about families and children and how to help them through what can be the most difficult times in their lives. She believes in community and participates in many areas and non-profit events.

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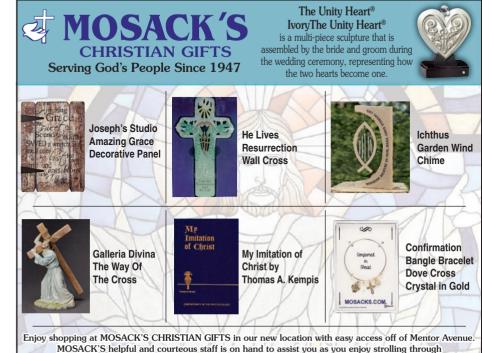
Located at 120 N. Lake St. in Madison. Contact us at 440-428-2424

FAST TRACK FROM PAGE 4

up. She pushes me to continue further. She is someone where if you need help with anything, she is there. She is also someone where if you are having a bad day, she will do anything to get you to laugh or smile."

Bella goes on to say that the Burton regional campus offers opportunities and support for students on any track. "KSU-Geauga provides an amazing environment. I would suggest people to come here anytime. They have amazing staff and faculty that are such wonderful people. They are always willing to help in any way."

To learn more about articulation agreements between KSU and area high/tech/vocational schools, follow this link: https://www.kent.edu/techprep/articulation-agreements.



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Kristina Turk, PhD is the owner/ Operator of the Goddard School located in Concord Twp., and Beachwood, Oh. Our school utilizes an emergent/inquirybased curriculum.

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In the sports industry, where a majority of employees have consistently been men, the Lake County Captains are proud to be led by a number of talented female staff members. General Manager, Jen Yorko serves as the first General Manager with the Captains and is one of two female General Managers currently in the Midwest League. In addition to Jen, the Captains success has been a result of key leaders, Nicole Owens, Director of Finance and Kate Roth, Director of Ticket Sales. In addition to the leadership team, the Captains staff has been excited to welcome additional staff members, Olivia Vocke in ticket sales and Kasev Konte in operations. With over 25 years of experience, the female driven leadership team has



welcomed over four million fans to the ballpark and is excited about welcoming fans to the ballpark in 2020! The Captains season kicks off at home on Monday, April 13 at 6:30 PM and features a fleece blanket giveaway, courtesy of Lake Health. The entire Captains staff looks forward to welcoming you to the ballpark this season.

Pupcuts Grooming Salon

Pupcuts is a local grooming salon that has been open 15 years in the Lake County area. Winner of "The Best of the Best" award from The News Herald for 5 years! Kelly and her staff provide quality grooming and compassionate care to all breeds of cats and dogs. Putting owners at ease knowing their pets are in great hands since 2005. Located at 3451 N. Ridge Rd. in Perry. Give us a call 440-259-4849.



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Mary Duncan, Advisor and Friend to Area Seniors



Starting her career as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), it's not surprising that Mary Duncan went on to spend years in the management of a family owned and operated nursing facility, both a

member of their board of directors and involved with all facets of operations. In 2003, Mary embarked on yet another career, entering the insurance business.

"I love working with people one on one," she notes, "People have needs, someone to be a sounding board, and can give direction and offer solutions;

insurance is just one of the areas in which I can assist."

Mary is licensed in Life & Health Insurance as well as Property & Casualty. Her dedication to service resulted in her naming as vice president of Haas, Haas + Associates, and of the Haas Healthcare Solutions division. Mary has also helped establish and direct a public accounting practice, adding to the varied and highly beneficial experience she brings to each client relationship. She is the firm's specialist in Medicare.

If you are retiring or turning 65 soon, contact Mary for a consultation on your future healthcare coverage and Medicare options at 440-286-1263.

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