

**Reed Memorial to
close for holidays**

Reed Memorial Library, 167 E. Main St., Ravenna, will be closed Dec. 24, 25 and 31, and Jan. 1.

Normal hours resume Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

For more information, call 330-296-2827, ext. 200.

**Ravenna school
board meets Jan. 6**

The Ravenna Board of Education will hold its organizational meeting at 5 p.m. Jan. 6 in the community room of Ravenna High School, 6589 N. Chestnut St., Ravenna.

New board members Mike Wisniewski and Pamela Nation Calhoun will be sworn in at that time.

**Palmyra trustees
set work session**

Palmyra Township trustees will hold a work session at 6 p.m. Jan. 5 in the fire station meeting room.

The work session is to discuss Road Department rules and regulations and employee compensation.

The fire station is located at 3956 S.R. 225, Diamond.

‘Don’t settle,’ speaker urges newest KSU grads

**ROBERT
GAGE**

Kent State University’s graduating seniors at Saturday morning commencement ceremonies were urged to make a difference by an alumnus who acknowledges he delivered a very similar message 41 years go, when he spoke for his senior class at Kent State commencement ceremonies.

The alumnus, Attorney Robert Gage, who’s a partner in Convington & Burling, an international and well-recognized Washington, D.C.-based law firm, told seniors to, “Try and make a difference in someone else’s life. ... to lead by deed and by example.”

A former KSU student body president, Gage was a freshman during the May 4, 1970, shootings and said the experience

scarred him and many of his fellow classmates for life. He said it gave them to resolve to make a difference in improving the real world they were about to enter.

Speaking in 1973, Gage said he challenged his classmates to improve the lot of the impoverished, clean up the environment, work against injustice, break down racial and gender barriers, improve the lot of those with physical, emotional or intellectual disabilities, and to do so to memorialize the lives of the four students who died on that fateful day.

Flash forward to Saturday, Dec. 19, 2015, and Gage told KSU seniors that the need to make a difference in the lives of others has grown more urgent with a world grown more complex. He pointed to Planet Earth shrunken by technology, threatened by global warming emissions, challenged by a widening disparity in global wealth, confront-

ed by multiple terrorist organizations, and facing enormous global health issues.

To persevere in such a world and want to make a difference, he told seniors, requires passion for what one does.

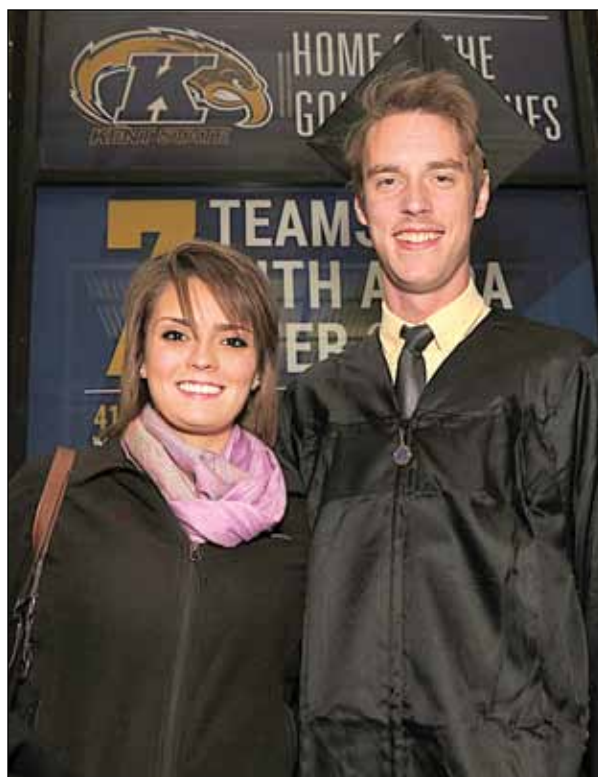
“Don’t lose your passion,” he said. “Select careers, jobs, lifestyles, avocations, volunteer positions and projects that develop and feed your passion.”

“Don’t settle,” he said. “Be inspired. Inspire others. Follow your interest. Pursue that which captures your imagination.”

Gage reminded seniors there is no substitute for hard work or integrity.

“Only you,” he said, “can hold your moral compass in the face of difficult decisions.”

Seniors in an attendance were from the College of Applied Engineering, Sustainability and Technology; College of the Arts; College of Arts and Sciences; College of Business Administration; and the School

**ROBERT J. LUCAS / RECORD-COURIER**

Kyle Kenly was among Kent State University’s proud new graduates receiving their diplomas Saturday. On hand to congratulate him was Kimberlee Barrella.

of Digital Sciences.

Arch Woodside, a professor of marketing at Boston College, and a KSU alumnus from the Class of 1964, spoke at Friday commencement ceremonies for graduates receiving their masters and doctoral degree. Stephanie Danes Smith, an assistant professor at Kent State’s College of Communication and In-

formation who spent 27 years with the CIA, spoke in Saturday afternoon ceremonies to graduates receiving baccalaureate degrees from the College of Architecture and Environmental Design; College of Communication and Information; College of Education, Health and Human Services; College of Nursing; and the College of Public Health.

Judge frees embalmer who poisoned wife

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEVELAND — A former Northeastern Ohio embalmer has for the third time been sentenced to prison for using poison to kill his wife — but then the judge decided to let him out.

Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge Michael Jackson decided

to put former Parma embalmer Robert Girts on probation because he’s already spent more than 16 years behind bars.

Girts, 62, has admitted that he killed his wife in 1992 by putting cyanide in her salt shaker.

Girts pleaded guilty to charges of involuntary manslaughter and insurance fraud.

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