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Get ready for school

By ROBERT CRENNAN
Staff Reporter

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CORTLANDVILLE — Co-

lin Spencer of Cincinnati sat in the barber's chair as he got his hair cut. Making his blonde hair shorter was one of the final preparations he wanted to make before he starts the fourth grade.

Colin came to the Believer's Chapel's fourth annual Back 2 School Party to get that haircut, a backpack with pencils and a big eraser. While he was there, he played in a video game truck and a bounce house.

"He's all ready for school now," said Colin's mom, Jenn, who also brought his brothers and sister, Jake, Nathaniel and Rachel. "The backpack was what we needed."

The party at the Believer's Chapel in the Groton Avenue Plaza featured six to eight hair cutters, the video game truck, face painting, a Nerf gun course, a bounce house and family photos to take home as a memento.

The line minutes before the doors opened stretched from the front door to the Valu Home Center two storefronts down.

Every child got a raffle ticket, with the prizes given out at 7 p.m., following the church's Saturday service, including an iPad, drones, toys and candy. A screening of "The Lego Batman Movie" followed.

Pastor Jon North said the church was ready to give away



Joe McIntyre/Staff photographer
Giovanni Dejesus, of McLean, helps his children, from left, Aaliyah, 9, Gianni, 10, Ky, 7, pick out school supplies at Believer's Chapel in Cortlandville on Saturday. They were being helped by volunteer Shelby North, right, wife of Pastor Jon North.

400 backpacks, far more than the 80 it had the first year of the event in 2014 at Court-house Park in Cortland.

"It's just a fun way to end the summer with," North said. The church also plans on helping pick out first-day-of-school outfits for 40 kids on Tuesday from Payless ShoeStore and JC Penney.

Chelsea Evanoff of South

Plymouth brought her two daughters, Dixie and Destiny Jackson, and their cousin, Shelby Bell to get haircuts and backpacks. Dixie and Shelby are going into fourth grade while Destiny will be going into sixth grade at South Orsel-ic Valley Central School. They were more anxious to play in the Nerf room.

"They're just trying to do whatever there is here," Evanoff said. The girl's school also has a similar giveaway of school supplies. The church funds the event several ways: a garage sale during the Route 90 garage sales in Homer, a bottle and can drive and a golf tournament, congregant donations and a grant from the Wilkins Foundation.

- 7 a.m. — Church
 - 10:30 a.m. — Emergency Services
 - 11:30 a.m. — District Attorney
 - 1 p.m. — Probation
 - 2 p.m. — County Clerk
 - 3 p.m. — Public Defender and Assigned Counsel
- Nick Graziano

City ponders food trucks

The Cortland Common Council will consider tonight whether to amend local law Article 263 to allow food trucks to operate within the city of Cortland.

If passed at the 7 p.m. meeting, food trucks will be allowed to operate on Prospect Terrace near SUNY Cortland, the intersection of Prospect Terrace and Tompkins Street, Huntington Street near the KIK building and near Courthouse Park and the County Office Building.

The council will also vote on whether to amend local law Article X — "Planning Commission" — to eliminate the board's power to review the city capital improvements program and make recommendations on capital expenditure priorities to the mayor and council.

It will also set a date for a public hearing on whether to eliminate the role chairman of the Planning Commission.

There will also be a discussion regarding the distribution of sales tax agreement between the city and Cortland County.

— Robert Crennan